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U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) greets supporters during a campaign event at the Georgia Theater on September 13, 2026 in Athens, Georgia.

Russian disinformation campaign sets sights on U.S. midterms

Washington, United States

A Russian disinformation operation has turned its attention to the US midterm elections, unleashing a series of deepfake videos that depict celebrities attacking Democrats, researchers said, with more expected to come. The videos spread late last week across social media with hashtags such as “#AllDemocratsAreCriminals,” and showed Hollywood actors chastising the Democratic Party in self-recorded statements branded with CNN’s logo.

“Today in America, there isn’t a single child who isn’t under threat from Democrats,” a voice-cloned version of “How I Met Your Mother” star Alyson Hannigan is shown saying in one. Another portrays Emma Caulfield saying Democrats “drink our blood.” In a third, Sarah Jessica Parker appears to call Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Democrats “Nazis.” The clips were created using footage stolen from elsewhere on the internet. One fake of Julia Roberts layered fabricated audio over a 2023 Gucci campaign. Others were built on top of recordings uploaded to Cameo, a service that lets celebrities sell personalized videos to fans.

“I feel violated,” Caulfield, known for her role in “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” told AFP of the video using her image. “This isn’t me and worse, this cheap imitation is a soulless idiot.”

“I had no idea this was happening,” added “Better Call Saul” actor Ed Begley Jr, whose Cameo submission was altered to depict him bashing Democrats as “perverts.”

“I want to say on record that I wholeheartedly disagree with everything that the video says.”

“Runaway Train” star Eric Roberts, who saw his own Cameo footage similarly distorted to portray him attacking Democrats over transgender issues, told AFP the statements “are not my words and do not represent my beliefs.”

“I am deeply troubled that my likeness was manipulated and used to deceive the public,” he said.

A CNN spokesperson also objected to the “unauthorized” use of the network’s branding, saying the videos “are not CNN content and have no affiliation with CNN.”

- ‘The first salvo’ -

Disinformation researchers said the deepfake videos appear to be the work of Matryoshka, or Operation

Overload, a Kremlin campaign known for littering social media with doctored videos that impersonate news organizations, and then amplifying them using inorganic bot activity.

“This is what I believe to be the first salvo in Russia’s targeting” of the November vote, said Clemson University’s Darren Linvill, an expert on Russian influence campaigns.

“The Russians have targeted every US election with some kind of social media campaign since 2016,” Linvill told AFP. “I was fully expecting it.”

The online collective AntiBot4navalny first attributed the deepfakes to Matryoshka due to their familiar pattern of distribution and amplification across social media.

Pablo Maristany de las Casas, an Institute for Strategic Dialogue analyst who has tracked Russian efforts to target elections across Europe, said the fabricated voiceovers and misuse of CNN’s logo are also low-effort tactics consistent with Matryoshka.

“The use of Cameo videos is not new,” he said. “They have used it in the regional and local German elections, in the Hungarian elections, in the Armenian elections.” □



Scaffolding and a large protective tarp is covering part of the facade of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, on August 13, 2026.

D.C.’s Kennedy Center faces bankruptcy, closure: media

Washington, United States

Leaders of the Kennedy Center who have sought to add President Donald Trump’s name to the storied institution say it is facing bankruptcy and possible closure in days, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

According to documents obtained by the paper, the center’s board of trustees is expected to vote Tuesday on whether to close the main building of Washington’s performing arts center, due to financial and safety needs.

Officials warn in the documents that the center “could be unable to make payroll or pay routine maintenance contracts” within weeks, the Post reported.

Publicly recognizing Trump at the center, they argue in the 57-page pre-meeting packet, would help ensure fundraising help to keep it afloat.

“Trustees are being asked to choose among 10 texts that could be placed on the building’s exterior beneath its name,” to publicly credit Trump with the renovation, the Post reported.

Shortly after beginning his second term, Trump installed himself as chairman of the center, which is named in honor of late president John F. Kennedy, who championed civil rights before he was assassinated in 1963.

In December, Trump’s hand-picked board voted to rename it the “Trump-Kennedy” center, a move that was later blocked in court.

A host of artists have canceled concerts at the venue in response to Trump’s takeover, and US media reported that Kennedy Center ticket sales had plummeted to their lowest levels since the Covid pandemic.

The Post reported the center was slated to collect about \$124 million of the projected \$220 million in revenue that it had budgeted, “leaving a roughly \$23 million deficit even after substantial spending cuts” this past fiscal year. Additionally, the building itself was damaged in a severe storm earlier this month, when a “roughly four-by-five-foot section of ceiling plaster broke loose in the Grand Foyer and fell about 60 feet,” the Post reported, among other needed repairs.

Asked about the Post’s reporting, the Kennedy Center declined to comment and referred AFP to a recent statement from spokesperson Roma Daravi blaming “decades of neglect and deferred maintenance by the previous leadership.”

“Adding Chairman President Trump’s name to the building attracted new donors and was crucial to raising additional funds for the Center’s renovation,” a spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP. □

'Alligator Alcatraz' detainees held in cages size of phone booths: report

Washington, United States Detainees at the now-shut-tered immigration facility in Florida known as "Alligator Alcatraz" were held at times in metal cages the size of phone booths, according to a new report. The report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) found that the detention center did not meet standards in a number of areas. The facility in the Florida Everglades operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which became a symbol of President Donald Trump's mass deportation drive, was shut down in June amid legal wrangling and controversy over its soaring costs.

Ahead of its closure, "Alligator Alcatraz" drew criticism from lawyers, relatives of detainees and human rights advocates, who accused the government of holding undocumented migrants in harsh conditions and denying them meaningful due process. The inspector general's re-



This handout image released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General on September 11, 2026, shows small metal enclosures labeled as "holding cells," on January 21, 2026, at the South Florida Detention Facility, also known as "Alligator Alcatraz," in Ochopee, Florida.

port, which was released on Friday, was compiled after a visit by the OIG to the center, officially known as the Florida Soft-Sided Facility (FSSF), in January. It found that FSSF did not meet standards in terms of environmental health and safety, medical care, food

service, personal hygiene or recreation.

"FSSF did not provide detainees with sufficient living space, creating cramped conditions for detainees who spent most of their time in their housing units, which may harm detain-



ees' physical and mental health," the report said. Between July 2025 and January 2026, 79 detainees were confined in small metal enclosures comprising about 18 square feet (1.67 square meters) of floor space for periods ranging from several minutes to

nearly two hours, the report said.

The enclosures were described by facility staff as "'calming areas' for detainees to deescalate and have time alone," it said.

"Use of these small metal enclosures for any reason is unprecedented among detention facilities OIG has inspected and presents significant risks to detainee health and safety," the report said. "The use of such restrictive spaces is highly unconventional and does not align with standards for humane treatment."

Among the recommendations made in the report was putting an end to the use of the small metal enclosures, greater access to showers for inmates and more recreation time.

Trump, who has vowed to deport millions of undocumented migrants, visited "Alligator Alcatraz" after its July 2025 opening, boasting about the harsh conditions and joking that the reptilian predators in nearby waters would serve as guards to discourage escape attempts. □

At G20 summit, U.S. unravels power plant climate rules

Houston, United States President Donald Trump's administration on Monday scrapped limits on carbon emissions from coal and gas-fired power plants, the latest in a string of actions dismantling regulations aimed at curbing climate change.

The changes, announced during a G20 energy ministers' meeting in Houston, roll back measures introduced under former president Joe Biden and go further, proposing to stop future regulations over the power sector, which accounts for roughly a quarter of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

"For over 15 years, the Obama and Biden administrations implemented a war on coal to destroy reliable and affordable energy," Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Lee Zeldin said in a statement.

"The Trump Administration has come in to protect American energy and to make sure you can afford to keep the lights on," he added. Environmental groups vowed to sue, describing it as a dark day for policies that protect people from the ravages of climate change, and a gift to the fossil fuel industry.

The news comes amid growing signs of Earth's climate system destabilizing and loading the dice for more frequent and destructive extreme weather events.

August was the hottest month ever recorded around the world, and the United States just experienced its hottest recorded summer. The main driver of global heating comes from burning fossil fuels, and this

year the human-caused warming is stacking on top of a historically intense El Nino weather pattern.

"They're propping up fossil fuel industry profits and completely sidelining people's health and well-being," Rachel Cleetus of the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists, told AFP. "The EPA has deserted its mission entirely, and they're doing it in a way that's cruel. They're gleefully taking credit for it."

The administration has repealed 2024 Biden-era standards that were set under the Clean Air Act to control greenhouse gas pollution from existing coal plants and new gas plants. These required a reduction of up to 90 percent of carbon dioxide pollution over time, and would have required smokestack carbon

capture technology to achieve.

But in its now finalized rule, the EPA held these standards were impossible to meet and the deadlines too tight. The second part of the package is a proposed rule that makes a broader statutory argu-

ment that the EPA does not have the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector at all and that even if it did have the authority, doing so would be futile because it would not meaningfully address global climate change. □



Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lee Zeldin speaks as US Secretary Interior Doug Burgum looks on during a press conference in the framework of the G20 Ministerial meeting on Energy Abundance, in Houston, Texas, on September 14, 2026.

Soviet brutality, ideology backdrop of controversial Venice film

Venice, Italy

Ambitious in its scale and style and dogged by controversy, "Dau" by filmmaker Ilya Khrzhanovsky revisits decades of Soviet Union totalitarianism through the eyes of one of the 20th century's great physicists. Premiering Wednesday at the Venice Film Festival, the over three-hour film was begun two decades ago by the filmmaker, who in 2024 renounced his Russian citizenship to protest the Ukraine war and now lives in Paris.

Marked by unconventional methods including actors and extras living permanently on a massive, full-scale reconstruction of a secret Soviet research institute and instructed to remain in character the film recounts the life of the brilliant Lev Landau, winner of the 1962 Nobel Prize in physics.

"Dau," Landau's nickname, was one of the fathers of the Russian nuclear bomb, forced by Soviet authorities to work on its development.

Khrzhanovsky, 51, said he wanted to make a film about "this generation



Radmila Shchogoliev (L), Director Ilya Khrzhanovsky and Maria Nafpliotou attend the red carpet event for the screening of "Dau" presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on September 9, 2026.

of people, of scientists who believe that they will change the world".

Creative and inspired, "at the end of the day they create the most terrible weapon, which could destroy everything on earth," he told AFP in an interview. The impressive backdrop to the otherwise intimate portrait of the proponent

of free love, which spans three decades between 1938 and 1968, is a "monumental fresco of a society shaped by violence and ideology", according to the filmmaker.

Khrzhanovsky called himself a "child of the Soviet Union".

"And I try to understand what is it, what is this kind of Soviet thing in the DNA?

Why are we like that?" he asked, speaking in English. "What's happened with us?"

Khrzhanovsky's latest film is part of a larger multidisciplinary project and social experiment that includes two other films that premiered in 2020 at the Berlin International Film Festival, amid accusations of abuse and harassment during the

largely improvised projects with raw, ultra-realistic scenes.

"Dau" took three years of filming in Kharkiv, Ukraine, between 2008 and 2011.

- Enemy of the state -

"Dau" itself garnered controversy ahead of Venice after Ukraine's government accused it of being linked to "the Russian state and its influence networks" -- something the filmmaker denies.

"I'm actually the only film director for fiction movies on the list of enemies of the state," said the filmmaker, who said he has no plans to return to his country in the near future.

"I don't see any bright future (for Russia) for at least the next 10 years," he told AFP.

Khrzhanovsky acknowledged taking financing for the larger multidisciplinary project from Russian billionaire Sergei Adoniev but said it was before the businessman was targeted by US sanctions over the Ukraine war. The Ukrainian government has also criticised the filmmaker for shooting the city of Kharkiv as a Soviet

city even as it is today under bombardment by Russian forces.

- Criminals and neo-Nazis -

Driven by a desire to unlock the mysteries of the universe, in love with freedom and poetry, the film's protagonist gradually sees his ideal shattered by the brutality and constant surveillance of the Soviet machine.

The film painstakingly reconstructs the famine-ravaged streets of Kharkiv in the 1930s, as well as Stalinist trials targeting recalcitrant scientists.

In one trial scene, Khrzhanovsky filmed from beginning to end without a script, with actors and non-actors invited to improvise. "The people in the court, the judges and the prosecutor, are actually criminals, ex-criminals. People who went through many courts and they know how it, what was the protocol," Khrzhanovsky told AFP.

Oasis announce new 2027 world tour

London, United Kingdom British rockers Oasis on Monday announced a new world tour in 2027 with shows planned in Britain, Europe, and the US after the sell-out success of their surprise comeback tour last year.

The once-warring brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher are set to perform 38 shows including 11 dates in their hometown Manchester, as well as in Glasgow, Munich, Paris, Amsterdam, Boston and more. The tour will kick off in

Glasgow in May 2027 and wrap up with four shows in September in Knebworth, 30 years after the duo's legendary gigs at the venue north of London.

The band behind Britpop-era hits like "Wonderwall", "Don't Look Back in Anger" and "Supersonic" has been teasing a second iteration of their reunion tour for weeks.

On Monday, they posted the announcement on social media with the caption "start the celebrations!"

"After a period of reflection, 'The Most Damaging Pop Cultural Force In Recent British History' has declared itself fit for purpose and will once again return to lift the spirits of the people," the band wrote.

"It shall be a sight to behold."

Fans were told to sign up

through a registration link for a chance to purchase the tickets when they are released between September 25 and 27.

Successful sign-ups will get a code to access a sale, according to a press release, in order to reduce queuing times and ticket touting.

The Gallagher brothers announced they had ended their infamous 15-year feud and were reuniting for a worldwide tour in August 2024, sparking a mad scramble for tickets.

More than two million people attended the 41 show dates spanning Europe, Asia, Australia and South America, bringing in some £300 million (\$400 million). Some fans had criticised sudden price hikes and eye-watering resale ticket prices that prompted a probe by the UK's competition watchdog.



British Musicians and Oasis singers Liam Gallagher (L) Noel Gallagher react as they pose upon arrival on the red carpet for the UK premiere of the film 'Oasis: Don't Look Back In Anger', in Leicester Square in central London on September 7, 2026.



This picture taken on August 13, 2026 shows elderly people attending a government-organised digital survival training at a senior community centre in Suwon.

South Korea aims to save seniors lost in digital age

Suwon, South Korea

A little cheer rose for 79-year-old Hwang Sun-hee after she managed to place an online order at a training session in South Korea, which has one of the world's starkest digital divides for seniors.

Age gaps in digital literacy are a global concern, yet the gulf has widened massively in the hyper-connected and fast-ageing country, prompting national campaigns to bridge it. "You can't do anything without smartphone apps or a kiosk machine... It's too much for old folks," Hwang said at a senior community centre in Suwon, south of Seoul, during government-organised digital survival training. The so-called grey digital divide has provided some striking examples in the nation of about 52 million, home to world-leading smartphone and memory chipmakers.

Last year, several baseball clubs began reserving a small number of tickets for on-site sales after reports that older fans, cash in hand, approached younger people at stadiums and pleaded with them to buy tickets from machines.

Nearly 90 percent of taxi drivers use ride-hailing apps, yet more than 80 percent of South Koreans over

60 still hail cabs by hand, a survey showed.

A 71-year-old retired public servant at the same training session as Hwang recalled spending over 30 minutes trying to flag down a taxi on a busy Seoul street.

The cabs kept passing him to pick up younger riders just metres away who were using smartphone apps to hail their rides.

"I felt utterly useless," the man, who gave only his surname, Park, told AFP.

South Korea's wide divide -

The digital divide can also pose a real threat, leaving older people vulnerable to high-tech crimes such as online scams or limiting their access to medical services, experts say.

A state survey last year found that 60 percent of South Koreans over 60 struggle to use public and commercial services due to lack of digital skills compared with just six percent of those under 40.

"The intergenerational digital divide (in South Korea) appears wider than elsewhere," said Kim Jeungkun, professor of senior business at Kangnam University in Seoul.

He noted that the nation's "intensely compressed" industrialisation happened in just a few decades, while

it took centuries in many Western countries.

South Korea which had a GDP per capita below \$100 in the wake of its 1950-1953 war is now the world's 15th largest economy, according to the IMF.

"Many of our elderly grew up at a time when many had no electricity, landline phones or proper schooling," Kim added.

The nation's older cohort is massive South Korea is what the UN calls a "super-aged society", where more than 20 percent of the population is over 65.

In response, South Korea's public tech training for the elderly began in 2020, when businesses and services turned online during the Covid-19 lockdown.

A wish to be 'born young' -

Hwang, echoing others in the two-hour class, said she's made it this far by relying on her children for daily tasks she once managed herself including enrolling in her favourite dance class at the local community centre.

"Before, I could easily do all of these just by calling or showing up in person," Hwang said. Officials now provide nationwide training for the "digitally vulnerable" for using mobile devices, apps, and AI. □



European Commission Vice-President and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas speaks to journalists at the Arktikum science centre during The European Arctic Summit in Rovaniemi, Finland, on September 14, 2026.

EU needs icebreakers to beef up Arctic presence: Kallas

Rovaniemi, Finland

The European Union needs icebreakers to bolster its presence in the Arctic, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Monday, as global warming makes the region more attractive to global superpowers.

The EU's top diplomat made the remarks at a press conference at an EU-Arctic summit in Rovaniemi in northern Finland.

Given "the situation that we are in, and considering also climate change and the opening of maritime routes, we need icebreakers or ships that are able to navigate in these very difficult" conditions, Kallas said when asked about dedicating EU funds to purchase Finnish-made icebreakers.

It was not immediately clear whether Kallas was proposing a joint acquisition programme or urging member states to bolster their own capacities.

She also cautioned the statement by adding that while Finland had "the capability of building these icebreakers" there were "procurement rules," meaning "whoever makes a better offer gets the deal."

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen has suggested the EU could direct part of its ongoing surge in defence spending towards a "European icebreaker capability," which is traditionally considered a civilian capability, among other equipment vital to Arctic security.

The idea was promoted by Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo.

"This ice-breaking capacity is one of the capabilities we really need," Orpo said alongside Kallas.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also said he supported the initiative.

"We know that we definitely need icebreakers, and this is not just an issue for Finland, for Norway, for Sweden. This is something for the entire European Union, for the entire European continent," Merz said.

The Arctic region is warming nearly four times faster than the global average as a result of climate change, according to experts, leading to severe consequences for both the environment and local livelihoods.

As sea ice melts, countries such as Russia, China and the United States have been ramping up activity in the region, racing to claim natural resources and new maritime routes. In October, the United States announced plans to procure 11 icebreakers from Finland, for the US Coast Guard, which currently only has three ageing vessels of this type. □

Venezuelans outside Caracas say capital not sharing blackout burden

San Cristobal, Venezuela

Josner Herrera is sick and tired of dealing with daily power cuts, especially when her part of western Venezuela produces a fair bit of electricity.

Residents of Tachira say they believe that authorities are diverting electricity from their state to the capital Caracas, where blackouts are more rare.

"I'm really fed up and exhausted. And now I see that we could have power all the time, but it seems we have to feed the bubble (in the heart of Caracas) so the people in the neighborhoods don't rise up," Herrera, a 38-year-old secretary, told AFP.

Venezuela desperately needs to boost its electricity output to kickstart its oil industry and keep its citizens powered up. Officials have managed in recent years to keep the lights on in Caracas, but outside the capital, and especially in the west, power outages are frequent.

But suggestions by a local politician this week that the rest of Venezuela was bearing the brunt of the hardship to keep people in Caracas happy reignited the debate.

Former regional lawmaker



A woman uses a rechargeable light-bulb system in her shop on an unlit street in a neighborhood of San Cristobal, Tachira state, on the border with Colombia, on September 10, 2026.

Heriberto Labrador said at a public event that the thermal power plant in Tachira was generating 70 megawatts of electricity sufficient to cover regional demand.

But much of that power is diverted to the national grid.

"If there is a surplus, then it gets given to them, but what we need here is a government that wants the best for Tachira state," Labrador told AFP.

Some towns in the state have experienced power

outages that have lasted up to 26 hours. Cuts of five hours or more have become commonplace.

Those cuts "cripple economic activity and are having grave consequences for the cold supply chain for farmers and livestock producers" seeking to deliver perishable goods, Labrador said.

And of course, regular citizens also suffer.

- 'That's enough' -

This week, exasperated

residents blocked the highway linking Tachira state to Barinas at night, banging pots and pans and honking horns in protest.

"It's incredible. They are making a mockery of the people of Tachira. We've been putting up with this for years," said Irma Villasmil, a 48-year-old assistant manager at a bank in San Cristobal.

"We've always had rationing just so Caracas doesn't have to go without electricity."

Villasmil's refrigerator has

broken twice due to power surges, she said.

"That's enough, we're done paying the price for the capital. What injustice!" she complained.

The ruling party governor of Tachira state, Freddy Bernal, has been in his job for nearly five years. When asked to comment on situation by local media, he dodged the question.

In recent months, the government of interim president Delcy Rodriguez has launched reforms in the oil and mining sectors aimed at attracting much-needed foreign investment. But those industries need power.

Rodriguez, who is governing under Washington's watchful eye since the January ouster of Nicolas Maduro, has submitted power industry reforms to lawmakers, but they have not yet been approved.

She has meanwhile sealed a major oil deal with the United States that grants Washington access to a huge chunk of Venezuela's crude reserves and includes contracts with foreign companies such as GE Vernova to restore 5,000 megawatts of power capacity over four years. □

Beijing bans drones in the capital, citing security

Beijing, China

Beijing will ban the possession of drones within city limits under new rules from November, further tightening regulations that already prohibited the sale

of the devices.

The rules, announced on Sunday and due to take effect on November 15, forbid possessing or storing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Chinese capital

and ban flights in its airspace.

Transporting drones or their components into Beijing will also be forbidden. Authorities will offer subsidies for owners to scrap their gadgets and is even offering to buy back drones from owners who have registered their devices.

Alternatively, owners will be offered free shipping to mail them out of the city.

Airspace safety fears in the city of 22 million were raised in June when a small plane crashed into its tallest skyscraper, killing the pilot and injuring 13 others. The regulations, formulated by Beijing's municipal government, cited the need to

"safeguard the security of the capital".

Under rules introduced in May, Beijing already prohibited drone sales, while owners had to register their devices but were allowed to keep them.

The new regulations mandate that all drone owners dispose of their devices or move them out of Beijing by November 15, or else face confiscation and fines. "The outright ban is really an indication of how politically sensitive Beijing is and how important it is politically to the Communist Party," said Drew Thompson, a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Sin-

gapore's Nanyang Technological University.

"The Communist Party is trying to achieve absolute security and a complete ban on drones in the capital is one way to approach that."

He added that the ban on drones was not just about "terroristic threats" but also potentially about counter-intelligence, since drones are also used for surveillance.

Drone flights in Beijing's airspace already require permission from authorities.

According to the new rules, exemptions may be provided for special purposes like counter-terrorism, agriculture, disaster relief, and research. □



People walk past a sign reading "No drone zone" in an alley in Beijing on September 14, 2026.

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

(Oranjestad)—Though Aruba's traffic is relatively easy to manage, driving here especially if it's your first time visiting can be foreign. To help you out, here's a breakdown of some traffic signs you might encounter on the road.

Speed limit in certain areas
As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed.

This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign whether it's a circle or triangle usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.



Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.



Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you.

This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you

may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with



minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.q

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass.

Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield"

beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

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

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

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

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest



of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

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

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could

have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

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

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear

glass.

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

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

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




TRY OUR POKES, BAOS, SUSHI, AND MORE!

 Po-Ké Ono
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  Po-Ké Ono Marketplace
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Po-Ké Ono Brings Bold Asian Fusion to Aruba's Dining Scene

Innovative eatery blends island culture with modern Asian cuisine



Oranjestad, Aruba – In a culinary landscape known for its diversity and creativity, Po-Ké Ono stands out as a vibrant and contemporary addition to Aruba's restaurant scene. With locations at Azure in Palm Beach and the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad, the concept introduces a refreshing take on Asian fusion dining casual in style, yet refined in execution.

Established in 2020, Po-Ké

Ono was envisioned as a space where flavor, culture, and creativity intersect. The menu features an array of signature dishes including poke bowls, steamed bao, and sushi, crafted with precision and a focus on freshness. Drawing on Asian influences, the restaurant delivers bold flavors in an approachable format, appealing to a broad audience of locals and visitors alike.

The ambiance is designed



to be welcoming and relaxed, with a philosophy centered around accessibility and enjoyment. Whether dining indoors or grabbing a quick bowl on the go, guests can expect a consistently high standard in both service and cuisine. With extensive menu options, including selections for vegan diners, Po-Ké Ono caters to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences.

While the concept leans into fast-casual dining, the

quality of ingredients and thoughtful preparation reflect fine-dining roots. Many of the restaurant's core ingredients are sourced locally, emphasizing sustainability and support for Aruba's agricultural community. The result is a dining experience that honors both the island's spirit and the culinary traditions it draws inspiration from.

Open daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Po-Ké Ono continues to gain recognition as one of the island's

premier destinations for sushi, poke, and bao. Its growing popularity is a testament to Aruba's evolving food culture—one that embraces global influence while staying rooted in community and craft.

For those seeking a modern taste of Asia in the heart of the Caribbean, Po-Ké Ono offers a flavorful and memorable experience worth exploring. □



What Aruba means to Carlos and his family!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to give you a shout-out by inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island!

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any oth-

er materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Carlos

Roberto Montenegro and family from Sao Paulo/Brazil.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is a FAMILY ISLAND where we can rest, have meals and enjoy the beach with nothing to worry us. That is what make us come back 2/3 times a year."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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How to plan the most relaxing vacation on Aruba *because sometimes we all just need a minute...*

(Oranjestad)—Taking a trip to a Caribbean island can be very exciting, especially if it's a completely different environment to what you're used to. While Aruba is known to have many attractions to fill up your itinerary, the island is also a great vacation destination to just sit back and disconnect from everyday life. Here's how to plan the perfect "chillcation" on Aruba.

Step 1: Commit to unplugging

We live in a highly digital world where everyone has a smart phone. We are constantly engaged with the online world through text messages, emails and social media content. It can be addicting for some, which is why the first step to taking the most relaxing vacation is a commitment to unplugging from the online world. We recommend you set an auto-reply for



emails and phone calls, as well as silencing non-urgent groupchat conversations and social media notifications. In Aruba you should be kicking your feet up with a cold, refreshing drink in hand not your work laptop!

Step 2: Choose a quieter resort

These are usually the smaller ones, with some offering an all-inclusive experience so your don't have to worry

about cooking. But if you want a taste of authentic Aruban cuisine, of course there are many spots you can go to get a hearty stew, fresh fried fish and funchi (polenta) just ask a local! While Aruba remains a family-friendly destination, there are some hotels exclusive for adults. For singles and couples, these resorts could be a better option for a quieter vacation.

Step 3: Plan an itinerary with relaxation as top priority

Of course while you're here, you're not going to want to miss out on what Aruba has to offer the sites, the trips, the activities. So, do some research before hand and plan your itinerary with some of the things you REALLY want to experience. At the same time, leave a couple days empty; this is where you'll

be taking your sweet time just enjoying your vacation. Sleep in, have a long breakfast by the beach, go to the spa center in your resort, have a refreshing dip in the ocean just kick back, relax and enjoy the moment!

Step 4: Take a breath

While you're taking it easy, take a moment to reflect on yourself too. Life gets busy sometimes and we all lose track once in a while, but it's important to always come back to you! And sometimes this means getting away for a few days from your every day work and obligations. With that cool drink in hand and your feet in the sand, remember how beautiful life is and how lucky we all are to have people in our lives to share our most special moments with.

For us, we could only hope that Aruba is a part of those special moments too! □

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

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

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

frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach. Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

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



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 chil-



dren..."

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 im-

mediately 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. □



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

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

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

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



saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel “Carl” Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vul-

nerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970 still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was “The New Bali”, who had its

official (re)opening in 1972.

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

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be a part of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

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

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun.

Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish

that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproduc-

tive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving

shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).



CROSSWORD

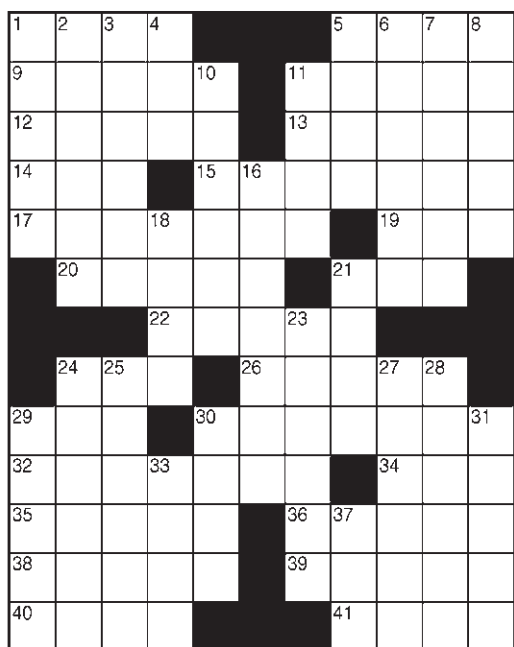
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 "Olympia"

- 1 "Waterloo" painter group
5 Robe feature
9 Fixes, as holey socks
11 Mercutio's friend
12 Deceive
13 Cheering loudly
14 — bind
15 Players at the plate
17 Improves
19 Small worker
20 Brief
21 Young fellow
22 Con-cerning
24 Passing craze
26 Left on a liner
29 Middle-earth baddie
30 Old-fashioned ingredient
32 Tops, as toast
34 Boar's mate
35 Old market
36 Blown away

DOWN

- 1 Make up lines
2 Johnson's middle name
3 Exhalation
4 Small worker
5 Classify
6 One-celled organism
7 Blackened
8 Neigh sayer
10 Gets serious
11 "Dog-gone!"
16 Craft show's cousin
18 Warty critter
21 Easy run
23 Chooses to partici-pate
24 Thrifty
25 Play opener
27 Make a backup copy, say
28 Mason's tool
29 44th president
30 Trounce
31 Expand
33 "— bien!"
37 At present



1-11

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.

1-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

X R F S Q H I J L Q E Q H

W B O W F S S Q R I Q F

YHBYQMO. — SQDDE YWBIQF
Cryptoquote: YOU KNOW HOW I ALWAYS DREAD THE WHOLE YEAR? WELL, THIS TIME I'M ONLY GOING TO DREAD ONE DAY AT A TIME. — CHARLIE BROWN



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	
15 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CELEBRITY REFLECTION Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
16 WED	FREEDOM OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C
22 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
23 WED	CARNIVAL GLORY Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
27 SUN	FREEDOM OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
09 WED	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CELEBRITY REFLECTION Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: Berth: E

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

9/15

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

9/14

Wildfires, heatwaves endanger air quality, health: U.N.

Geneva, Switzerland

Wildfires and heatwaves, which generate microscopic airborne pollutants, risk undermining international efforts to improve air quality, protect human health and safeguard nature, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday. The United Nations' weather and climate agency underlined the links between air pollution and climate change, which scientists say is leading to more frequent and more intense heatwaves and wildfires.

"Extreme wildfires are increasing, leading to big health consequences because of the high toxicity of smoke," the WMO said in a statement accompanying its latest annual Air Quality and Climate Bulletin.

"Whilst regulations in Europe and North America have reduced industrial and transport PM2.5 emissions, exposure to fire-related PM2.5 has increased." Particulate matter PM2.5 is composed of microscopic particles and droplets of less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, which is a health hazard because it can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream.

It is emitted by fossil fuel-driven industrial activities, farming, domestic heating and transport, as well as by wildfires and dust storms. The report said the world needs to better monitor air pollutants such as aerosol including black carbon and microplastics fine particles and ground-level ozone.

These pollutants "are not sufficiently monitored even though they are widespread and are potentially harmful to ecosystems", the WMO said.

"(We need) complementary and coordinated policies on air quality and climate because they cannot be dealt with in isolation."

- Toxic wildfire smoke -

"Air quality and climate change can't be dealt with separately. If one worsens, the other does too," Lorenzo Labrador, from the WMO's Global At-



Citizens carry on with their daily activities along the Musi River in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia, on September 13, 2026, as the Ampera Bridge is obscured by smog.

mosphere Watch network of scientists, told AFP.

"In places where there are relatively powerful forest fires, we find a lot of fine particle pollution," he said. Microparticles generated by burning vegetation are "much more toxic" than those emitted by other sources, even car exhaust, he stressed.

They damage the health of people and wildlife living far from the fire itself because they are carried by the wind, but their poisonous effect is not sufficiently taken into account in air quality assessments, Labrador said.

"Conventional risks models based on total PM2.5 concentrations may underes-

timate wildfire-attributable mortality by up to 93 per cent," the WMO said.

One study cited in the WMO Bulletin says extreme fire-smoke events have tripled globally since the 1990s, contributing to nearly 100,000 additional deaths per year between 2010 and 2018, although this may be an underestimate.

- Ozone, microplastics -

Another source of air pollution that carries major health risks is ground-level ozone, which accumulates when temperatures rise, atmospheric conditions stagnate and solar radiation is intense, as seen during recent heatwaves in China,

Europe and the southeastern United States.

"This increased exposure to ozone pollution has the potential to lead to tens of thousands of additional premature deaths," particularly due to respiratory diseases, the WMO warned. □



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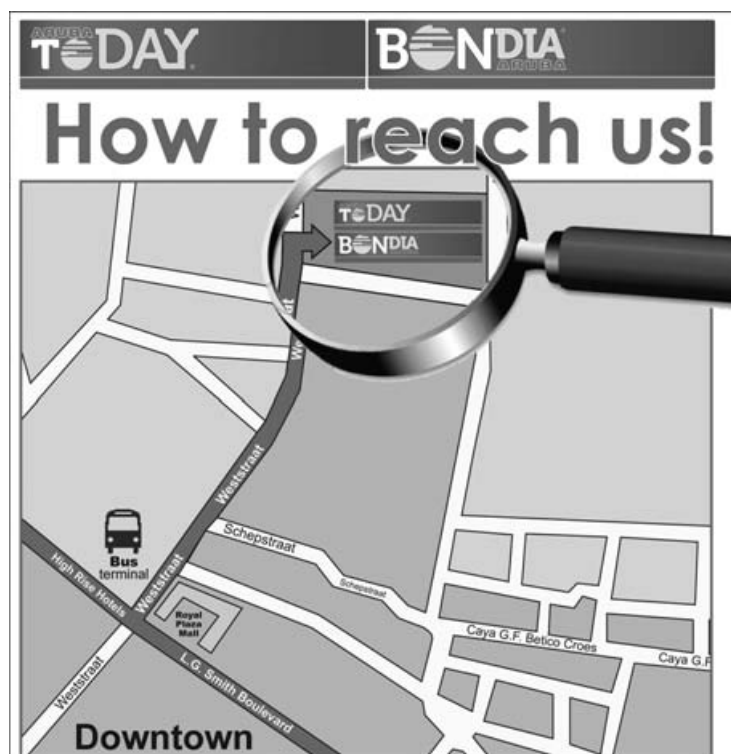
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HEALTH



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. 587 1780

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
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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

Slow the AI race? Investors weigh the potential cost

Paris, France

Calls to rein in the development of ever more powerful AI models are fueling fears over the massive capital outlays in the sector and the prospect that profits from the promised revolution might not be enough to cover them.

AI optimism has been the primary driver of stock market gains over the past year, allowing valuations to stay sky high despite the fallout from the ongoing US war against Iran and surging energy prices.

And “if American and European companies could print such strong earnings despite such an ugly geopolitical, fiscal and trade backdrop, it’s because AI boosted investment, growth and productivity,” said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior analyst at Swissquote. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei was the latest to voice alarm, calling on Saturday for an industry-wide accord to “pace the frontier” to better control the breakneck progress, citing attacks by a swarm of AI agents going rogue.



This combination of pictures created on September 14, 2026 shows (from top L, clockwise) Elon Musk in Davos on January 22, 2026, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in Washington, DC, on July 22, 2025, DeepMind co-founder and chairman Demis Hassabis in London on July 9, 2025, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg in Washington, DC, on January 31, 2024, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella in Davos on January 20, 2026, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei in Paris on May 22, 2024, Google CEO Sundar Pichai in Warsaw, Poland, on February 13, 2025, and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang in Tokyo on July 16, 2026.

“It’s my worry that in 6-12 months such a swarm could be capable of taking over the entire internet,” potentially causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damage, he wrote in

a 3,800-word “short post” on his website.

His call garnered support from rivals Sam Altman at ChatGPT maker OpenAI and Elon Musk, owner of xAI. That was enough to

spook markets, with AI and other technology stocks tumbling on Monday and weighing on the broader equity markets.

“Over 50 percent of the S&P 500’s sectors are AI-

linked, and the top hyperscalers make up a third of the weighting of the main US blue-chip index,” said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB, referring to computing giants like Microsoft and Google-parent Alphabet.

“Any change in the AI trade will have big ramifications for US indices,” she warned.

‘Aggressive assumptions’

Amodei’s alert came just as Altman said he would not pursue an initial public stock offering this year, saying it would be “ill advised” given the swirling safety concerns.

Anthropic meanwhile is gearing up for an imminent IPO to raise further billions for its unprecedented spending on development as well as massive data centres for its power-hungry models.

The two events have rekindled investor worries of so-called “circular investments” that have seen AI companies investing in each other in recent years. AI chip behemoth Nvidia

Top math prize winners warn AI race is threat to field

Washington, United States

Twenty-five winners of the Fields Medal, the highest honor in mathematics, warned in a joint letter Friday that the rush by AI companies to solve famous unsolved problems risked doing lasting harm to the field.

Their warning, signed by mathematicians including Terence Tao and pub-

lished on his blog, came days after AI giant OpenAI said one of its models had cracked in a matter of days a Millennium Prize Problem that had eluded mathematicians for generations.

The letter said the goals of the AI companies and those of the mathematical community are “severely misaligned,” and that the

trend posed “a general threat to intellectual work.” The 25 signatories span nearly five decades of the medal, from Pierre Deligne, who won it in 1978, to Yu Deng, honored this year.

The mathematicians described a discipline where problems are set to help students develop their skills. “Solving problems is only a tool and proxy for achieving the primary goal of conceptual understanding and insight,” they said. Those processes, they wrote, “invariably take time and are based on human interaction.”

The question, the letter said, is “how to make sure that, as AI changes the way work is done, we do not lose sight of what that work was meant to achieve.”

“These issues must be addressed urgently, in the

mathematical community, by the companies developing these technologies and, more broadly, by a society that will confront similar problems in many other forms of intellectual work,” they said.

The letter follows OpenAI’s announcement on Tuesday that an unreleased model had solved the Navier-Stokes problem, one of seven Millennium Prize Problems, after an 88-hour effort involving thousands of AI agents working in parallel.

That announcement came hours after NYU mathematician Tristan Buckmaster and Anthropic’s Levent Alpoge released their own AI-assisted work on related equations. Buckmaster accused OpenAI of seizing on the problem after word of his research spread and copying the unusual approach the pair had spent months developing. □

for example has been called the “central bank of AI” for providing huge amounts of infrastructure financing to dozens of companies around the world.

Companies have even committed to building their own power plants, bolstering demand in the “picks and shovels” sectors like construction and logistics.

“The leases, debt and power commitments remain even if expected compute demand and revenue growth slow,” Ozkardeskaya said.

“And that could bring credit risk increasingly into the AI story, particularly for highly leveraged data-centre operators and lenders exposed to projects built on aggressive assumptions about future AI demand,” she added.

If AI firms “were to significantly cut their R&D spending, their hiring, their investments, it could have an impact on financial markets,” agreed Mark Mahaney, an Evercore analyst cited by Bloomberg. □



(L-R) Emmanuelle Charpentier and Terence Tao are two winning researchers on the panel at the Breakthrough Prize Breakfast & Symposia at on November 10, 2014 in Stanford, California.



Germany's Alexander Zverev hugs the trophy after defeating USA's Ben Shelton in the men's singles final tennis match on day fifteen of the US Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on September 13, 2026.

Controversial Zverev: from tennis nearly-man to multiple Grand Slam winner

New York, United States

The Grand Slam floodgates have opened for Alexander Zverev, who cemented his status among the tennis elite with a U.S. Open victory his second major in less than four months after more than a decade of toiling amid disappointment, controversy and injury. The 29-year-old German had finally fashioned his "happy end" with his French Open victory in June.

On Sunday, he played in his third straight Grand Slam final, following up his Wimbledon runner-up finish with a victory over rising U.S. star Ben Shelton.

The 6-foot-6 (1.98m) German had been destined for the top from a young age, hailing from a tennis family where his mother and father both played the sport to a high level in the former Soviet Union.

"For me, my family is everything and I owe them a lot for helping me to become the tennis player that I am today," Zverev has said.

Tipped for stardom from his youth, his path has been anything but smooth. He lives with diabetes and in 2022 suffered a career-threatening ankle injury at Roland Garros.

He also plays in the shadow

of domestic violence allegations made by two former partners, Olga Sharypova and Brenda Patea, which he has strenuously denied.

The ATP Tour investigated one claim and found insufficient evidence to punish Zverev.

The case involving Patea, the mother of his daughter, led to a 2023 penalty order and fine from a German court.

Zverev appealed and the two reached a settlement in June of 2024 hours before he was due to play in the French Open semi-finals.

- Highs and lows -

Zverev, who idolized Roger Federer growing up, made his first Grand Slam final in 2020 at the US Open, agonizingly losing in five sets to Dominic Thiem after being 2-0 up.

"That was exactly the time when I had real struggles with my serve and my second serve," he said of that match.

"I knew that my serve could break down at any moment. That's one difference that I do feel now, luckily for me."

His seemingly unstoppable rise was temporarily halted when he tore ankle ligaments while playing Rafael

Nadal in the Roland Garros semis two years later and he underwent surgery.

Returning in January 2023, Zverev captured a 20th career title in Hamburg before having a fine 2024 season, in which he powered into the French Open final and surged to world number two, dispelling concerns that he was mentally frail.

"In the life of a professional athlete, you will have the highest highs and the lowest lows," said Zverev.

"Getting caught up in the lows is the biggest mistake that you can make.

"You shouldn't try to evaluate everything when times are tough, you should try to find ways to get better when you're on a high."

A third Grand Slam final defeat followed at the 2025 Australian Open, in straight sets by Jannik Sinner.

There were successes along the way, the most notable a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, where he stunned Novak Djokovic before taking down Karen Khachanov in the final.

But doubts about whether or not he would break his Grand Slam duck resurfaced as Sinner and Alcaraz dominated men's tennis by winning nine consecutive majors between them. □



Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer celebrates after the Clippers defeated the Denver Nuggets at Intuit Dome on February 19, 2026 in Inglewood, California.

Clippers owner accepts NBA penalties over Leonard salary cap violations

Los Angeles, United States

Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said Sunday he will comply with the NBA's punishment even though he disagrees with aspects of the league's probe into major salary cap violations involving star Kawhi Leonard. The NBA this month walloped the Clippers with a record \$30 million fine, stripped the team of five first-round draft picks and banned Ballmer for a year following a lengthy investigation.

The Clippers initially said they planned to fight the punishments, but in a major U-turn Ballmer issued a statement apologizing and accepting responsibility "for the distraction and distress this matter has caused."

"We are committing to put this chapter behind us. We have communicated to the NBA that we are complying with the penalties assessed by the league, have paid the fine, and are moving forward," he said in a statement.

"While there are still disagreements concerning the findings in the report, this is not where I want to focus. Team owners should support, not distract."

The NBA investigation found the Clippers aided Leonard in evading salary cap rules in deals worth millions of dollars with team corporate sponsors when he signed in 2022. It found what the NBA called "a pattern of misconduct and multiple significant rules violations by the Clippers organization, a prior offender of the salary cap circumvention rules."

An independent law firm concluded the Clippers initiated and facilitated sponsorship income deals between Leonard and four team corporate sponsors Aspiration, Boingo Wireless, Daktronics and Lockton Insurance.

The probe found the club induced companies to enter into agreements with Leonard by offering them business, also paid personal expenses for Leonard and his representatives, and failed to report improper solicitations for income opportunities by Leonard's then-business manager.

The Clippers will forfeit a first-round NBA Draft pick every year 2029-2033.

Ballmer was banned from all league and team activities for one year, president of business operations Gillian Zucker was suspended for a year and president of basketball operations Lawrence Frank was suspended for six months, while Leonard was fined \$700,000.

The \$30 million fine is comfortably the largest ever imposed on a team by the NBA, eclipsing the previous largest penalty of \$3.5 million against the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2000 for breaching salary cap rules. □



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Bills edge Texans while Bears beat Panthers in NFL record-setting opener

Los Angeles, United States
Buffalo's Josh Allen finally managed his first triumph at Houston in a thrilling win over the Texans on Sunday, while Chicago bested Carolina in the highest-scoring opening weekend game in NFL history.

Allen had been 0-4 in prior games at Houston, but the 2024 NFL Most Valuable Player kicked off his 2026 campaign with a masterclass passing for 334 yards and two touchdowns and running for two more touchdowns.

"We do like Reliant Stadium. Woohoo," joked Allen, after wrapping up the last-gasp 36-31 victory on new coach Joe Brady's debut. "Feels good to start the season off right. Obviously, coach Joe getting his first win as an NFL head coach... really happy for him. Called a heck of a game."

Allen gave Buffalo the lead in the dying seconds on a stunning 34-yard pass to Joshua Palmer, who raced through the Texans' vaunted defense for a touch-



Derrick Henry #22 of the Baltimore Ravens runs the ball fagainst the Indianapolis Colts during the second quarter of the game at Lucas Oil Stadium on September 13, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

down.

But it was the Bills' own great defensive stand that secured the win. Houston drove to the Bills' nine-yard line and appeared set to push in for the winning score until Buffalo's

Greg Rousseau sacked Houston quarterback C.J. Stroud, and Terrel Bernard recovered a fumble to ensure victory.

"Our defense shows up big when they need it the most," said Allen. Chicago's Caleb Williams

threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more in the Bears' madcap 59-37 victory at Carolina -- the 12th-highest scoring NFL game of all time, and a record for opening weekend. The Bears' explosive offense managed two touch-

downs in each quarter, pulling clear in the second half. D'Andre Swift rushed for three touchdowns, but still insisted his team should have won by more.

"We'll take the win. Fifty-nine points is amazing, it's awesome. But should have been worse," he said.

- 'It just sucks' -

Detroit edged visiting New Orleans 31-30 in an overtime thriller.

Jared Goff threw a four-yard touchdown pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown in overtime but New Orleans answered when Tyler Shough hit Noah Fant on an eight-yard touchdown pass.

The Saints rejected a tying conversion kick attempt and went for a two-point conversion.

But Shough who had passed for a monster 410 yards including three touchdowns could not find his man, and the Lions were winners.

"We're always going to be aggressive. That's our mindset," said Shough. □



The overall winner, Isaac del Toro of Mexico from UAE Team Emirates XRG, as he passes through the finish area.

Del Toro beats Seixas to win Montreal GP

Montreal, Canada

Isaac del Toro beat teenage rival Paul Seixas in a two-man sprint to win the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montreal on Sunday, two weeks out from the World Championships. The 22-year-old Mexican continued his fine season, which has already seen him win Tirreno-Adriatico, the Tour Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes and the UAE Tour, as well as finish third at the Tour de France.

With his UAE Emirates-XRG team-mate and reigning champion Tadej Pogacar out of the worlds due to a broken collarbone, Del Toro will be one of the favorites. The worlds take place in Montreal and use much of the same circuit as the 214.4km GP, although it is more than 50km longer. Seixas had launched the fireworks in the final 12km, attacking on the 1.8km-long Voie Camillien-Houde, which with its eight

percent average gradient was the toughest climb on the circuit.

He quickly caught and surged past lone leader Ben Healy and distanced all his rivals. Del Toro, though, counter-attacked and easily caught Seixas.

The young pair worked well together to ensure that they would contest the victory.

Seixas led into the final kilometre and when Del Toro launched his sprint for the line with 300m left, the French teenager seemed to be caught napping.

Del Toro's kick was simply too strong for Seixas. His UAE team-mate Brandon McNulty, last year's winner, beat fellow American Quinn Simmons for third place with Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel, who had won Friday's Quebec GP, winning the sprint for fifth. □