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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

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

MONDAY:

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

TUESDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

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

THURSDAY:

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

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

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



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Powerful storm pummels northeast US with rain, high winds



A man clears debris in front of a store following heavy rainfall and flooding in Sea Isle City, New Jersey, on September 27, 2026.

New York, United States (AFP)—Heavy rain and strong winds battered the northeastern United States on Sunday as an unusually powerful autumn storm intensified, leaving tens of

thousands without power and US media reporting one person dead. New York, Boston and Philadelphia were all in the firing line of the "Nor'easter" -- so labeled for its northeast-

erly winds -- as authorities warned of potential major flooding and road closures. The storm continued to dump rain during its "churn off the coast of the northern Mid-Atlantic and southern New England Saturday afternoon," the National Weather Service said in its latest forecast. The storm was expected to move toward New Jersey and Long Island "through tonight, resulting in the full force of this Nor'easter" impacting the region by Sunday morning, forecasters said.

Additionally, "major coastal flooding is expected along the Mid-Atlantic Coast over multiple high tide cycles coming off a full moon through the weekend," NWS said.

New York state Governor Kathy Hochul said the storm was bearing down Saturday on coastal areas of New York City and Long Island.

"Conditions are extremely dangerous. Anyone who goes in or near the water this weekend is literally gambling with their life," Hochul said in a press briefing.

In Brooklyn, a 56-year-old man was killed when winds toppled a tree that struck him, US media reported. Nearly 80,000 customers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania were without power as of 1:30 am (0530 GMT) Sunday, according to the monitoring tool poweroutage.com.

Up to six inches (15 centimeters) of rain are expected on Long Island over the next few days.

"We expect waves as tall as 20 feet (six meters) in some areas," Hochul said.

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani warned residents of the country's most populated city about strong wind gusts and the possibility of downed power lines, saying "Don't travel if you don't have to."

The storm forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights on Sunday, with 171 to and from Boston's Logan airport alone, and ongoing delays were reported across the region, according to tracker Flight Aware. Major airlines including Jet-Blue, United and American issued travel alerts allowing passengers to change their flights without incurring fees.

The United Nations, where world leaders are gathered for the organization's General Assembly, urged media outlets covering the event to clear broadcasting equipment from outside the New York headquarters due to strong winds.

- 'Safety has to come first' - Major cultural events were also called off, including the Global Citizen and All Things Go festivals in New

York, and Oceans Calling in Maryland.

"Safety has to come first. This is the first time in 14 years we've had to cancel," said organizers of the Global Citizen event in Central Park, which was meant to feature Lenny Kravitz, Lauryn Hill, Alicia Keys and country stars Lainey Wilson and Shaboozey. About five inches of rain was forecast in areas of Massachusetts including Boston -- the equivalent of more than a month's worth of rainfall.

After much uproar surrounding his tour, British pop singer Ed Sheeran's weekend concerts near Boston were canceled due to the storm, which had whipped up wind gusts of 70 miles (113 kilometers) per hour along the New England coast.

Some coastal areas of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey have already seen flooding this week.

Nor'easters can occur throughout the year but are more frequent between fall and early spring. They are almost always accompanied by heavy rain or snowfall, as well as strong wind gusts.

Earlier this year, a Nor'easter that pummeled the northeast disrupted hundreds of flights and left thousands of homes and businesses without power.

That storm came weeks after the region recovered from a devastating winter weather system that was linked to more than 100 deaths.□

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China, US to open AI 'communication channel' after summit

Washington, United States

(AFP)—China and the United States agreed to set up a "communication channel" for artificial intelligence incidents, both sides said, after a Washington summit short on breakthroughs.

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping discussed matters ranging from AI and trade to the stalled war in Iran, and confirmed that they would meet for a third and fourth time this year at international summits in China and the United States.

Xi's visit to Washington was marked more by pomp than substance, but the White House said on Friday the nations agreed to establish a "bilateral communication channel" for AI incidents.

Chinese state media confirmed the AI hotline was agreed in a report about the summit's outcomes on Saturday.

While billionaire Trump has repeatedly dismissed fears that AI could pose a threat to humanity, Xi took a more measured tone, noting the technology must develop under human control.

The White House also reported some deals from the visit, including China agreeing to import at least 10 million metric tons of coal from the US in 2027 and 2028.

Additionally, the two countries agreed more favorable tariff treatment for \$30 billion of "non-sensitive goods" in each direction and two Chinese pandas were to arrive at a US zoo.



US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan walk down the steps after a visit to the National Archives in Washington, DC on September 25, 2026.

Despite the focus on pomp and ceremony during the visit, the message from the US and Chinese sides was that the summit had nevertheless helped smooth tensions between the rival superpowers over a host of issues.

Trump said the meeting was "one of Friendship, Strength, and Success, for both China and the U.S.A."

"We've made great strides, very positive for both countries," Trump told reporters as he had tea with Xi at the White House on Friday before the archives trip.

- 'Strategic stability' -

Trump rolled out the red carpet throughout the visit, treating Xi to a state banquet full of US tech titans, plus mili-

tary parades, a flyover and even a tour of his new White House helipad and ballroom. For his part, Xi said his Washington trip had added "new substance" to his summit with Trump in Beijing in May.

The Chinese leader added that they had agreed to "strategic stability on the basis of respect, fairness, and reciprocity."

The announcement that the two leaders would continue their dialogue was perhaps the biggest deliverable for both sides.

Both leaders confirmed they would meet again at the APEC summit in Shenzhen, China, in November and the G20 forum at Trump's Doral resort in Miami in December. While visiting the National

Archives in Washington, the leaders inspected the Declaration of Independence, which marks its 250th anniversary this year and which set out the path for American independence from the "tyrant" British king.

Beneath the rotunda, Trump also showed Xi the US constitution, the document that set out the principles of the country's democratic government two and a half centuries ago.

"We're just comparing how this goes 250 years, theirs goes 6,000 years," Trump told reporters, referring to China's ancient roots, as he stood alongside Xi, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, which has ruled China since 1949.

- Iran talks -

Trump confirmed during the archive visit that the two leaders had discussed the US-Israeli war in Iran, which is approaching its seven-month mark.

The Republican has faced pressure from Democrats and his own party to confront Xi over reports that Beijing has supplied Tehran with intelligence for attacks on US troops.

"We did, we did," Trump said at the National Archives when asked if they had talked about Iran.

Asked if he thought there would be progress on re-opening the Strait of Hormuz, which is crucial for the flow of oil, Trump replied: "I think we're going to do great."

Trump's showcasing of US democracy at the National Archives comes a week after he banned three major US media outlets from the White House. They were readmitted on Thursday on the orders of a US judge.

The First Amendment of the US Constitution protects the freedom of the press.

Rights groups criticize China for its lack of press freedoms and the right of free expression.

Trump also publicly mocked his democratically elected predecessor Joe Biden as he gave Xi a tour of the White House on Thursday, showing him a picture of an "auto-pen" that he has mounted in a gallery of US presidents instead of Biden's portrait. □

Jay-Z rape accuser says she made 'false accusations'

New York, United States

(AFP)—A woman who alleged that Jay-Z raped her when she was 13 has said she made "false accusations" and never met the US rapper, according to a court filing seen Friday.

The woman, who has not been identified, had claimed that Jay-Z and disgraced hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs assaulted her following the MTV Video Music Awards in September 2000.

Jay-Z, who was born Shawn Carter, dismissed the accusation as a "fictional tale," and the woman dropped

her civil lawsuit against the pair in 2025.

"I have never met or spoken to Mr Carter. Mr Carter never engaged in any inappropriate conduct towards me," the woman stated in the latest court document. "There is no truth to any of my claims against Mr Carter," she added.

"I understand that my false accusations have caused Mr Carter immense pain, suffering and damage that can never be fully undone." Her statement was filed by Jay-Z's lawyers as part of a counter lawsuit against the woman and her attorneys,

a case that is now being dismissed.

The woman said she made her complaint after seeing a Facebook advert for people with sexual assault claims against Combs, who has faced a raft of allegations in recent years and is in prison for prostitution charges.

"The ad triggered memories of being raped when I was 13 years old," the woman said, adding she then contacted a law firm.

She said she does not recall having given her permission for lawyers to file the legal complaint in 2024, which she later withdrew after



US rapper Jay-Z arrives for the 2026 Met Gala celebrating "Costume Art" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, on May 4, 2026.

having "doubts" about her claims.

The document, partially re-

dacted, suggests that the woman suffered from mental health problems. □

Italy winemakers hail bumper harvest but cut output

Agliano Terme, Italy

(AFP)—Wine growers in Italy's Piedmont region are celebrating a bountiful harvest despite the extreme heat but warn they have to cut production because of trade headwinds and changing consumer habits. In Agliano Terme, where vine-covered hills stretch as far as the eye can see, a dozen farm workers were picking the last Barbera grapes -- a variety behind one of the region's most popular red wines.

"We started harvesting at the end of July, which is unheard of," said Filippo Mobrici, 59, head of the Barbera d'Asti Consortium.

"But I've never seen such a beautiful vintage, both in terms of quantity and quality. It's a five-star harvest," the winemaker said.

The summer of 2026 was the hottest ever recorded in this northern Italian region between the Alps and the Po Valley, with an average temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius and peaks of 40 near Agliano Terme.

But the winter had been rainy, and the beginning of spring as well.

"The vines were able to build up sufficient water reserves so that, despite



Filippo Mobrici, president of the Barbera d'Asti and Monferrato Wines Consortium poses in a vineyard of Agliano Terme in the Monferrato countryside, near Asti, northwestern Italy on September 21, 2026.

the extreme heat of recent months, the grapes reached maturity in good conditions," Mobrici said.

Winemakers also protected the grapes from the sun by keeping more foliage on than usual.

But, like many Italian regions, Piedmont has produced too much wine in recent years and growers are struggling to sell it in markets disrupted by wars, US tariffs, and younger gen-

erations which drink a bit less.

As a result, Barbera d'Asti producers have decided to limit volumes of the variety collected this year from nine tonnes to 8.5 tonnes per hectare.

- 'Bold choices' -

Producers are also putting less wine on the market.

Stocks in Italy, the world's leading wine-producing country, were up 6.9 per-

cent year-on-year in July, according to official data.

The stored volume reached the equivalent of more than 5.6 billion bottles, nearly one year of production.

In Piedmont, some winegrowers have chosen to turn part of their production into vinegar this year.

Italy's Wine Union (UIV) is calling for production to be planned according to the market and for no new

vineyard plantings.

UIV president Lamberto Frescobaldi, a 33rd-generation Tuscan winegrower, said he was also open to the idea of removing old or unviable grapevines.

"It's time to take responsibility for making bold choices, even unpopular ones," he said earlier this year.

In Agliano Terme, Filippo Mobrici refuses to consider the idea of uprooting vines. "For us, vineyards are not just a production tool," he said.

"They are an expression of our culture and a key element in shaping and preserving the land. We do not want to uproot ourselves."

A few kilometres further south, in San Marzano Oliveto, 41-year-old Luca Garberoglio is also pleased with a fine harvest and insists that stocks are "manageable" at the scale of the small Barbera d'Asti area.

Like many neighbouring producers, his family estate Carussin has succeeded in moving upmarket thanks to the production of organic wines exported in particular to Scandinavia.

And, because of climate change, the taste is changing. □

Somali pirates escape with suspected police help



A policeman escorts an accused Somali pirate to board a police van at the Indian naval dockyard in Mumbai on March 23, 2024. India brought 35 accused Somali pirates to Mumbai on March 23, days after they were apprehended when naval commandos recaptured a hijacked bulk carrier and rescued several hostages.

Mogadishu, Somalia

(AFP)—Around 30 suspected pirates, arrested during the rescue of a hijacked oil tanker, escaped while being taken to jail, with suspicions emerging that

police might have assisted their getaway, four security sources told AFP on Sunday. There has been a resurgence in Somali piracy since April, with at least 15 attacks this year, the high-

est since 2013, according to the UN's International Maritime Organisation.

An oil tanker, *Sibu 1*, also known as *Seamull*, was rescued after being intercepted by maritime police on Friday, with 41 suspected pirates arrested and taken to the port town of Garacad.

It was seen as a victory for authorities in the semi-autonomous state of Puntland, who have been criticised for failing to act against the pirates, believed to benefit from protection by the local community.

What came next is likely to trigger further criticism, as 28 of the pirates were able to escape as they were being transferred by road from Garacad to the state capital of Garowe on Friday night.

The four local security

sources interviewed by AFP said the decision to transport the suspects at night was unusual.

Then, along the route, the truck they were in experienced a burst tyre and the suspects found the door was unlocked, allowing them to flee, the sources said.

Police recaptured only 13 of the group, including one who was fatally wounded by gunfire.

"In Puntland, we don't move (suspects) at night across multiple provinces. Then later on the trip, the pirates ran from the vehicle because the lock on the door was missing. I don't need to say anything else. It's obvious," said one source.

Another source said the suspects' hands and feet had been tied during their initial arrest, but the ties were re-

moved before they were transported.

The brother of one of the suspects confirmed to AFP that he had escaped and was "safe".

"There had to be insiders within the armed security detail," one of the four sources said.

"The dirty (police) who were involved in the escape are no better than the pirates on the run," another added. Somalia is ranked last on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, tied with South Sudan.

The *Seamull* tanker is sanctioned by the United States as part of Iran's "shadow fleet", accused of secretly exporting Iranian oil. It was seized by pirates off the coast of Yemen on August 20 and brought to Somali waters. □

Curtain falls on the romance of India's single-screen cinemas

Bengaluru, India

(AFP)—The demolition has begun at Bengaluru's Urvashi Cinema, once a 1,200-seat movie palace where generations of filmgoers cheered and whistled, another casualty of India's vanishing single-screen era.

"The theatre came up in the 1970s... I was so happy when it opened," said Manjunath, watching as seats were ripped out and strewn outside.

Manjunath, who uses one name, recalled its glory days, when the shop he runs opposite was packed with customers buying snacks before and after shows.

"That was the rush... now I have a lot of free time," he said. "But what to do? There is barely any crowd."

The peeling facades, faded signs and cavernous auditoriums of such cinemas are remnants of a time when going to the movies was itself the main event.

"It is a completely different experience," said photographer Hemant Chaturvedi, 58, who has documented what remains during a seven-year odyssey, photographing 1,350 single-screen cinemas across 1,000 towns. His photographs capture not only the movie houses but their ornate facades and decay -- a record of a cultural landscape disappearing as cinemas are demolished, converted into multi-



This photograph taken on August 20, 2026 shows the interior view of the iconic single-screen Liberty Cinema in Mumbai.

plexes or left to crumble.

- 'Ecosystem is fading' -

"People would be cheering, jumping on the seats, even throwing money at the screen," Chaturvedi said.

The old halls offered a collective, interactive experience, with fans applauding at the hero's entrance, clapping to romantic songs and shouting at dramatic twists. "Now that old ecosystem is fading, and the charm is being lost," he said.

India's single-screen cinemas have been steadily squeezed by multiplexes, streaming, rising property costs and the expense of

maintaining ageing buildings and equipment.

Researchers estimate that India had around 14,000 single-screen halls in the 1980s. Only around 2,000 remain today.

Many of the old halls could accommodate around 1,000 people, creating a communal atmosphere rarely found in today's multiplexes.

The decline has also changed the way Indians experience films. New halls offer air conditioning, reclining seats and food delivered to the seat.

"To me, the new cinemas have lost the charm," said

Chaturvedi, a former Bollywood cinematographer who worked on hit movies during a three-decade career.

"The multiplexes are a generic, cold experience."

- 'Old times' -

Some of the old cinemas have been restored and renovated, and the single-screen experience still has its devotees.

In Bengaluru, Mukunda Cinemas still draws crowds -- even for early-morning shows before work.

Hundreds lined up before dawn for a recent 6:00 am screening of the latest re-

lease of film star Yash, who is hugely popular in India's Kannada-language cinema.

Santosh, a 47-year-old businessman who uses one name, queued with hundreds of others as crowds set off fireworks outside while waiting for the show.

"Only in the single screen theatres can they take the cinema to the next level, it increases the tradition of cinema," Santosh said, as cheers and whistles reverberated through the packed hall before the film began.

Veerain Reddy, the third generation of his family running the 50-year-old theatre, said maintaining the establishment "was not an easy task".

Inflation, rising costs and "so much competition" have made business tough.

"But people who are really passionate are still trying to maintain these single-screen theatres, where people come to watch and celebrate cinema," he told AFP. Another survivor in Mumbai -- formerly known as Bombay -- is the Regal Cinema, an Art Deco hall that opened in 1933.

"The rest of them feel very artificial, commercial, very blingy," said 23-year-old fan Vanshika. "But Bombay has little places which remind us of the old times." □

Funny old world: the week's offbeat news

Paris, France

(AFP)—From the slipperiest of superfoods to the cheeky monkeys bringing Pakistanis to their feet... Your weekly roundup of offbeat stories from around the world:

- Eel go far -

Now we know how the Japanese eSports whizz-kid Yuki Kurihara got to have the fastest thumbs in the East. The 11-year-old -- who has so far crushed all comers on his Asian Games debut -- keeps himself sharp by eating eels.

The bespectacled primary school student will become the youngest gold medal winner ever if he wins on Saturday after walloping

opponents nearly three times his age in the Puyo Puyo Champions game, which is similar to Tetris.

Kurihara, who got on the national team at just 10, said he eats the slithery creatures in the run-up to big competitions to increase his stamina and alertness.

- Pakistan goes ape for gorillas -

Pakistani party animals have been going bananas for grooving gorillas in the latest craze to hit the dancefloor in the megacity of Lahore. Entertainers dressed as giant apes have been going viral boogying down to the beat.

"Before the gorilla made its

entrance, we were feeling somewhat bored" at a university bash in the city, student Sirat al-Aruj told AFP.

But revellers went wild when the slick-footed silverback appeared flailing its arms around, and "everyone's energy levels increased significantly", the 21-year-old added.

"We uploaded a reel on Instagram, and within just two days it reached a million views," said Shayan Zahoor, the CEO of the gorilla suit company.

- Singapore's so fine -

Don't be tempted to put your feet up if you ever visit Singapore -- particularly



Japan's Yuki Kurihara competes in the Puyo Puyo Champions final of the eSports event during the 2026 Asian Games at the Aichi Sky Expo in Tokoname on September 26, 2026.

on a bus. It could cost you \$400.

The city-state which likes to make sure everyone's on their best behaviour, revels in the moniker "Fine City", with a whole panoply of them to punish those who

step out of line.

The latest for putting your feet on the seat of a bus comes with an even more stinging penalty of \$3,900 should you vomit, urinate or spit in one of its double-deckers. □

Austria 'ghetto' language classes leave children to repeat school

Vienna, Austria

(AFP)—For two years after he first arrived in Austria, Iraqi pupil Abdulrahman Aljanabi didn't follow maths, science and other subjects like the rest of his peers.

Instead, he was pulled out of his class every day for several hours to learn German under a flagship programme meant to bring newcomers like him up to par with the national language.

But an assessment has shown the programme -- long decried by critics as "ghetto" classes -- leaves a number of pupils to repeat at least one school year, contributing to a relatively high number of over-age pupils in the Alpine EU member.

"I was a bit lost, a bit upset... because I didn't understand why I was the only one who had to leave to go to another class," the 19-year-old refugee, who has yet to take his end-of-school exam, told AFP.

The language classes differ from many other European countries where newly arrived pupils are fully immersed in the regular school system right away.

Introduced eight years ago under a conservative-far-right government, it was



Abdulrahman Aljanabi, a 19-year-old student from Iraq, poses for a photograph during an interview with AFP in Vienna, Austria, on September 9, 2026.

mandatory for schools to provide the programme. But given the assessment that a quarter of students who took the classes lose at least one year, the government has relaxed the rule from this school year onwards.

Schools can now decide for themselves how they want to support non-native German speakers, leading to half of them to abolish the separate classes.

- 'Want to blend in' -

But their legacy is bound to stay for some years to come. Austria has a comparatively large number of over-age

pupils -- those who are at least two years older than the intended age for their grade level -- according to OECD figures.

Between 2015 and 2023, the proportion of such pupils rose from 4.1 percent to 5.8 percent in primary schools and from 6.5 percent to 9.1 percent in secondary school, the OECD says.

In the last school year, there were almost 60,000 so-called "non-regular students" who had to take the special classes. In Vienna, this was every fifth child in primary school.

Among them, 35 percent are from Syria and 27 per-

cent from Ukraine, according to figures from the Austrian Integration Fund (OeIF).

"When you arrive at a school, you just want to blend in," said a 16-year-old Ukrainian student, who only gave his first name Makarii and who fled Kyiv in 2022 at the start of Russia's invasion.

"You spend time in a group that is then dissolved, you lose your friends and you don't know the teachers in the regular class," he told AFP.

A recent assessment by the education ministry found that 22 percent of 22,800 students deemed "non-regular" in the school year 2022-23 had to repeat the year once and three percent twice.

Education Minister Christoph Wiederkehr told Austrian news agency APA this was a "far too high" number.

The ministry did not respond to AFP's questions seeking comment on the programme.

- 'Automatic repetition' -

The programme leads to an "automatic repetition" of pupils who stay in it for a long time because they are not graded in core subjects, like maths, and so cannot move up to the next level, accord-

ing to Susanne Schwab, an education expert of the University of Vienna.

"As a consequence, it becomes apparent that students who attend German support classes are highly likely to suffer a significant learning delay, and repeating a grade is a real part of their educational trajectory," Schwab, who has studied the programme's effects, told AFP.

The programme, adopted against the "scientific consensus", doesn't "create solutions, but generates additional problems", she added.

A 2022 report by experts evoked "racist mechanisms" and "institutional discrimination... under the guise of language support".

The country of nine million inhabitants has long drawn people from poorer nearby nations, as well as asylum seekers, though numbers have slumped due to anti-migration policies.

The anti-immigration far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) has already slammed the change of relaxing the rules for schools.

The FPÖ won the last parliamentary elections, in 2024, for the first-time ever, though it failed to find partners to govern. □

Rare Italian opera returns to Moscow after nearly 120-year hiatus



Abdulrahman Aljanabi, a 19-year-old student from Iraq, poses for a photograph during an interview with AFP in Vienna, Austria, on September 9, 2026.

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Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadiriki Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with an-

ger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here

is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the cham-

bers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to

the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. □





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

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

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

Aruba Online ED Card

The Aruban Government welcomes you and your family to Aruba.

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

What you'll need:

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

What you should note:

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

START

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

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

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

1. A valid passport

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

We mentioned a \$20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that this is a YEARLY fee; so if you

plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

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

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

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

Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make "pan bati"



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1 1/3 cup of milk
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp of granulated sugar
- Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and

beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



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Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches during breeding season? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very

special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual

looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands).

The afore mentioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"



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

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

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



Meet an Aruban trailblazer: Padu Lampe



(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative

seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using

his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the



Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!



(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 "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an

informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyrna barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its

scientific name is Sphyrna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a

crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or cone-fish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaboio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that



has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the Second World War and later, this area was used as a ter-

rain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.□

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our el-

ders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high

blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is

time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very

easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.□

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

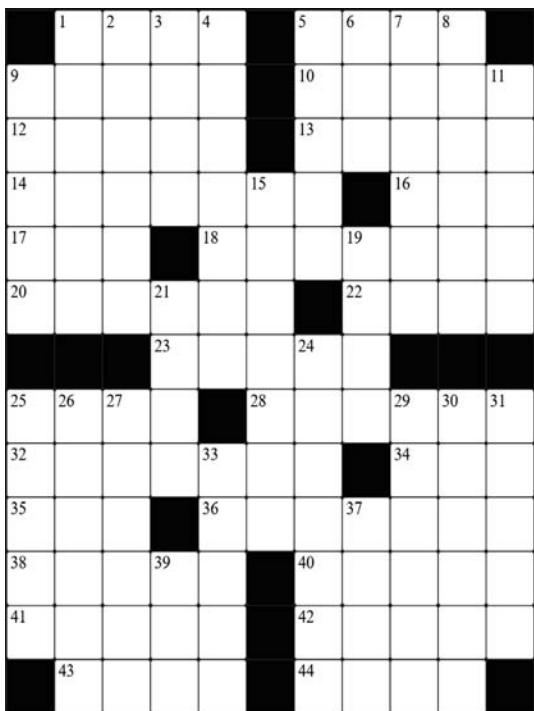
1. Trapper's wares
5. Blacken
9. Roofed patio
10. Caesar, for one
12. "I have half -- to ..."
13. Recital piece
14. Old fashioned ingredient
16. Bar concern
17. Wallet bill
18. Tops, as toast
20. Station worker
22. Wee
23. Band-leader Shaw
25. Iowa State setting
28. Still green
32. Hit seekers
34. German article
35. Volcano product
36. Im-proves
38. Map ratio
40. Wipe
41. Accolade
42. Spoof
43. Phone message
44. Spotted

DOWN

1. Drought byproduct
2. In agreement
3. Crazy talk
4. Courtroom conference
5. Wave peak
6. Sizzling
7. Lucky charm
8. Air traffic aids
9. Toil away
11. Full of info
15. Burst
19. Stadium section
21. Play group
24. Foot parts
25. Dis-concert
26. School symbol
27. Fuel gas
29. Think
30. Chapel worker
31. German steel city
33. Re-viewer Roger
37. Factual
39. Bagel topper



Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for 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.

9-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

O I D U W G T D N , V B E I X
E I N J V E Q X V N J T E W
R H D N T V E N W , Z A N N J H L V Q J N
I O N J H L N T D L U T B H L U H
C D H T U . - - - Y V E R H E N Y T E Q I Q J

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINK WELL OF ALL,
BE PATIENT WITH ALL, AND TRY TO FIND THE
GOOD IN ALL. - MUHAMMAD ALI

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 Tele-



graph, 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
29 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 FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★

9/28

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/27

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Japanese anime actor fights TikTok over AI voice cloning



This photograph taken on April 19, 2024 shows a man holding a smartphone displaying the logo of Chinese social media platform TikTok in an office in Paris. A high-profile Japanese anime voice actor has taken TikTok to court over videos he says feature an artificial intelligence clone of his "lustrous" baritone, with a verdict due on September 30, 2026.

Tokyo, Japan

(AFP)—A high-profile Japanese anime voice actor has taken TikTok to court over videos he says feature an artificial intelligence clone of his "lustrous" baritone, with a verdict due on Wednesday.

AI imitation is a growing concern among performers worldwide, and the threat has roiled Japan's storied animation industry, whose voice actors are sometimes worshipped as much as their characters by fans.

The lawsuit filed by Kenjiro Tsuda, known for his starring roles in mega-franchises including "Jujutsu Kaisen" and "Yu-Gi-Oh!", is believed to be the country's first seeking to defend an individual's vocal identity against AI-generated copies.

Tsuda is demanding TikTok remove a slew of videos narrated by a distinctively "deep" and "lustrous" voice that the 55-year-old says can only be his.

The platform however argues it is a "generic male voice" whose perceived similarity to Tsuda's is subjective at best, according to court records accessed by AFP.

An actor's voice "is the result of years of rigorous training and apprenticeship" to hone talent, Yuko Sasaki, executive director of the Japan Actors Union, told AFP.

"It's something we spend lots of time and money

perfecting," said Sasaki, a fellow voice actor, adding that "we support Tsuda wholeheartedly".

The court should "acknowledge that ownership of a voice is a fundamental right", she said.

An anonymous account, whose picture resembled a "Jujutsu Kaisen" character dubbed by Tsuda, posted the videos in question.

They combined images and seemingly AI-generated speech about urban legends, occult phenomena and conspiracy theories.

The account at one point boasted more than 200,000 subscribers and would have brought in upwards of 500,000 yen (\$3,200) in monthly revenue, the legal complaint argued.

- 'Sordid content' -

The account, whose posts mostly lacked original substance, "only gained popularity because its dubious, sordid content was narrated by the attractive voice of a popular actor," Tsuda's legal team said, according to the court records.

This infringes Tsuda's so-called publicity rights -- the ability to control and profit from the use of aspects of one's identity -- his attorneys said.

Although the account itself is no longer viewable on the platform, the Tokyo District Court will rule on whether TikTok was responsible for deleting the posts. Parallel to the lawsuit, Sasaki and other Japanese voice actors have launched a campaign, called "No More", against using generative AI to mimic performers without permission.

"Our industry can be crushed" if a court win for TikTok triggers "unbridled" AI voice cloning on social media, actor Bin Shimada told AFP.

That could cause younger actors to "lose hope", said Shimada, who is part of the campaign group.

It is also fast becoming a global issue.

"In many countries copyright and data protection laws are not being adequately adapted" to

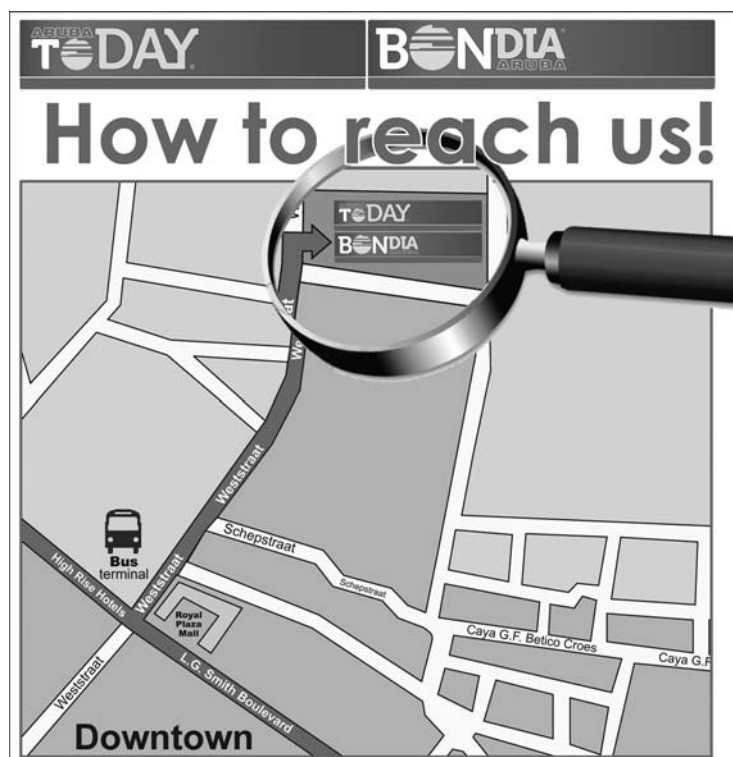
protect performers from AI clones, the International Federation of Actors said last year.

ChatGPT maker OpenAI was forced to apologise in 2024 to star Scarlett Johansson over a synthetic voice that sounded like her, released after she declined to work with OpenAI on the project.

- International interest -

While no law explicitly enshrines a person's voice in Japan, the justice ministry published legally non-binding guidelines last month clarifying its protection under existing rights.

As "the symbol of one's personality" voice is subject to "publicity rights" and "rights to prevent unauthorised use of one's portrait and likeness", the ministry said. But it remains to be seen whether and how the guidelines will influence Wednesday's court decision on Tsuda's case. □



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

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Three talking points from the Azerbaijan Grand Prix

Baku, Azerbaijan

(AFP)—He did not win, but in finishing within a whisker of George Russell's triumphant Mercedes on Saturday, Max Verstappen showed he could be a factor in this year's drivers' title race.

With at least seven races to go, depending on the survival of the season-ending events in the Middle East, the four-time champion's pace and commitment in his resurgent Red Bull could upset Mercedes' supremacy.

As championship leader Kimi Antonelli showed signs of vulnerability in Baku, even with a 66-point cushion, AFP Sport looks at three things we learned from Saturday's dramatic Azerbaijan Grand Prix:

- Verstappen remains a force -

Having signed a new contract to settle his future and driving a car that is rapidly improving, Verstappen is chasing a long-awaited 72nd victory.

He has not won since last year's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and is in danger of completing a season winless for the first time since he joined Red Bull 10 years ago.

Given McLaren's inconsistency and Ferrari's recent



Winner Mercedes' British driver George Russell celebrates after the Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix at the Baku City Circuit in Baku on September 26, 2026.

decline, he and team-mate Isack Hadjar can emerge as the chief threat to Mercedes as the F1 circus flies to Asia for a Bahrain Grand Prix held in Malaysia followed by the Singapore race.

"I was close and it was fun," said Verstappen after a strong drive from eighth on the grid to finish less than two-tenths adrift of Russell. "For most of the race, we were on the wrong tyres because the medium, unfortunately, didn't work like a lot of people expected."

"Once we swapped to the soft, you could see George

and I were pulling away. Can we win a race? We'll keep trying, and we'll see what happens!"

Hadjar returned from injury to finish third.

"The car is great," he said. "This weekend it was the second-fastest. I took it easy to avoid the walls and it was my comeback."

"I had the better grip, but honestly I was fine to sit behind Max. Third was my target and I'm satisfied."

With a power unit that the team has developed into one of the strongest, Red Bull could shake up the run-in.

- Briatore ponders Colapinto future -

Alpine team boss Flavio Briatore said he will reflect before deciding what action to take after Franco Colapinto's "rush of blood" crash into his team-mate Pierre Gasly, who then smashed into world champion Lando Norris's McLaren, wiping all three out of the race.

It cost Alpine a solid points haul. Norris called for a one-race ban for Colapinto but race stewards settled for a 10-second time penalty, converted into a five-place grid drop for the next race.

"I feel very sorry for the team and for Pierre and my apologies also go to Lando and McLaren for ruining their race," said Briatore. "I know that Franco has taken full responsibility for it, as he should -- he braked far too late considering the context of the race and the safety car restart. It was a very poor move for a driver of his experience."

"I want to take time to reflect and consider what action should be taken." The Argentine driver was fortunate to keep his seat this year and Briatore will surely consider alternatives for 2027.

- Russell can press Antonelli

Kimi Antonelli faces a test of his composure and emotions after Mercedes team-mate Russell ramped up the pressure for the run-in. The 20-year-old Italian's 66-point lead looks solid enough, but Russell returned to winning form with his first 'grand slam' of pole position, fastest lap and leading from lights to flag.

"I never lost faith in myself," said Russell, after his eighth career win. "Even in the tough moments. So I am confident and I've been on the front row of the grid in three of the last four races and had three podiums." □

How young is too young as child prodigies win big at Asian Games



Japan's Yuki KURIHARA poses for photos with his gold medal after the Puyo Puyo eSports competition at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 at Aichi Sky Expo in Tokoname City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on September 26, 2026.

Nagoya, Japan

(AFP)—The Asian Games has crowned teenage champions before, but this edition has witnessed stunning successes by child prodigies, culminating in Yuki Kurihara

standing atop the podium aged just 11.

The Japanese primary school student demolished opponents three times his age on the way to a historic gold in eSports in Aichi-Nagoya.

He is Japan's youngest Asian Games champion in history and almost certainly the youngest the Games have ever seen. Kurihara did not even react after winning Saturday's final in Puyo Puyo Champions, a puzzle game where players try to clear their screen of coloured blobs by lining them up and popping them.

The boy, who does not turn 12 until June and wants to be a train driver when he grows up, later explained that he felt "embarrassed".

Kurihara's face was splashed across national newspapers on Sunday.

There is no publicly available official list of the youngest medallists ever at the Games, which were first contested in 1951. But the introduction in recent editions of events in-

tended to attract younger viewers has resulted in some eye-catching displays by children.

In skateboarding, Taiwan's 12-year-old Ku Yong-yan took home silver on Friday in the "men's" park final.

The winner, Japan's Izuru Nagahara, was a relative veteran at 15.

Nagahara had anaesthetic injections in his knee to dull the pain from injury before his winning run.

Also in the skateboarding was Mazel Paris of the Philippines, who was just nine when she competed at the previous Asian Games.

Asked what has changed since Hangzhou in 2023, the 12-year-old replied: "I got taller for sure."

This week will see another teenage phenomenon enter

the fray with India's 15-year-old cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

- Abuse concerns -

But the presence of young children competing on the international stage against adults and under expectations to win for their country comes with a caveat.

Kanae Doi, Japan director at Human Rights Watch, said ahead of the Games that "moments of triumph do not come easily. They are built on years of disciplined training, often beginning in childhood".

"At its best, that journey should provide children with the joy of play and competition, along with opportunities for physical, mental and personal growth," she wrote in the Japan Times. □

Assefa's world record bid at Berlin Marathon foiled by injury

Berlin, Germany

(AFP)—Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa narrowly missed out on breaking the women's world record at the Berlin Marathon on Sunday, battling through injury to cross the finish line after being on record pace for much of the race.

Assefa was on track to break the record and accelerated in the final 10 kilometres, but faded in the closing stages, visibly limping across the finish line before collapsing on the road. The Ethiopian missed the podium ceremony as she was receiving medical treatment at the time the honours were handed out. She finished in a time of 2hr 11min 04min, the third best in history and breaking her personal best and course record of 2:11:53, set in 2023.

Race director Mark Milde confirmed to AFP that Assefa was suffering from an injury to her Achilles tendon in her right leg.

"We have to bow our heads to this performance. She was on a world record course for most of the race but then something happened to her tendon," said Milde.

"To finish like this, I've never seen something like this. The pain is hard to imagine.

"With a heavy heart, we saw her set a course record, but it could have been a lot more."

Assefa's late fade means the women's world record of 2:09:56 remains in the possession of Ruth Chepngetich, a mark clouded by the Kenyan's three-year doping ban handed down in 2025.

It was an all-Ethiopian podium as Bedatu Hirpa finished second in 2:16:53 and Dera Dida came third in 2:16:55. Ethiopia's Guye Adola won the men's race in 2:02:50, adding another Berlin crown after his 2021 victory in the German capital.

Adola's time was comfortably short of world record pace and outside the course record of 2:01:09, set in 2022 by five-time Berlin winner Eliud Kipchoge.

- 'Worked wonderfully well' -
The 35-year-old did not take

the lead in the race until the 30-kilometre mark but was able to emerge with a lead of almost 30 seconds when he crossed the finish line.

"My goal was to hold back a bit and see what the pace-makers did so I could know exactly what was happening -- and that worked wonderfully well," Adola said to Germany's RTL.

"I love Berlin, totally. I love being back here and there's a pretty good chance I'll be back again."

Gemechu Dida took second in 2:03:19, continuing an impressive event for the Ethiopians, with Gabriel Geay of Tanzania third in 2:03:59.

Held in temperate September, the Berlin marathon is considered the fastest of the major courses. The world



Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa (C) runs along a pack of male elite runners competing in the women's race at around 23km mark during the 52nd Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany on September 27, 2026.

record has been broken 13 times in Berlin, more than anywhere else.

The late withdrawal of men's world record holder Sebastian Sawe, the 2025 Berlin winner who became the first man to crack the two-

hour barrier earlier this year, meant hopes of another world mark shifted to Assefa. Paris Olympics silver medalist Assefa, now a three-time winner in Berlin, pledged to run "better than my best" before Sunday's race, with the

world record on her mind.

Assefa began strongly and had already opened up a lead of 25 seconds by the 5km mark which grew to a minute at 15km.

Assefa largely stayed on world record pace throughout, only dropping below around the 25km mark at the flat course's only incline, before returning to record speed.

The Ethiopian was still on track for the record at 35km, pulling 15 seconds clear of the pace needed. She was still 10 seconds ahead of the required tempo with just two kilometres to go.

But with the finish line almost in sight, Assefa began to be troubled by a foot problem and started limping. She gamely fought on but her hopes at the record were dashed. □



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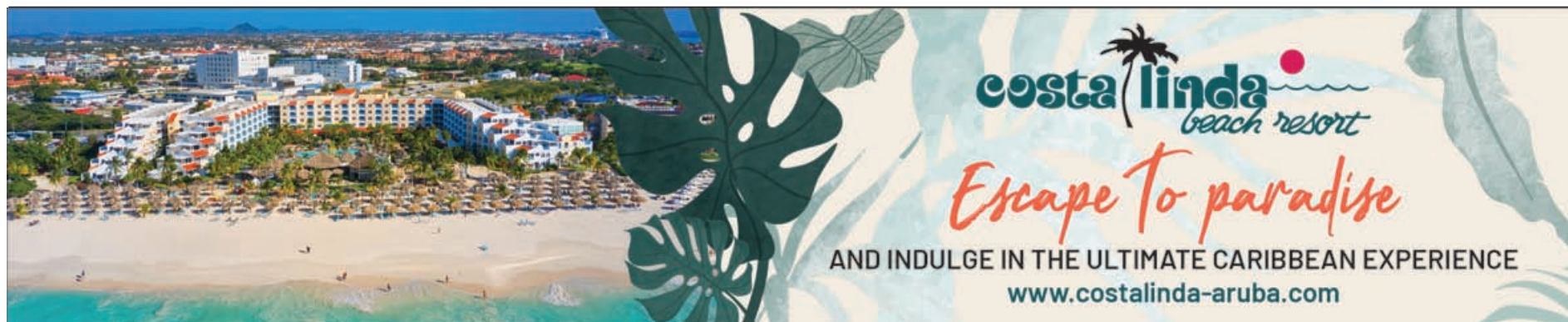
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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp.

You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glaze, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.



End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers

three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com

