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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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Binance resumes withdrawals after more than $6B stolen in hack

New York, United States

Binance said that it had seen withdrawals of around $4.7 billion on Sunday, after more than $6 billion in virtual assets were stolen from the cryptocurrency exchange in a major hack the FBI said North Korea was responsible for.

Binance is the world's largest crypto exchange by daily trading volumes. News of the hacking attack, which is thought to be the biggest-ever crypto heist, caused the prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall sharply on Friday.

The company has offered reassurances it will cover the losses from the attack, saying it has used company funds to buy tokens to replenish 90 percent of what was stolen.

Binance suspended user withdrawals after the attack but said they would be resumed in phases, the first of which began on Sunday.

Between 0600 GMT and 1530 GMT, the platform said it had processed $4.65 billion in withdrawals and $1.01 billion in deposits.

The net outflow of $3.64 billion amounted to about 2.1 percent of the total assets the company manages.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation accused North Korea of being behind the hack in a statement on Saturday, confirming earlier suspicions from private investigators and analysts that a Pyongyang-affiliated group called TraderTraitor was responsible.



In this photo illustration, the Binance logo is displayed on a screen on June 06, 2023 in San Anselmo, California.

TraderTraitor is the same group blamed for a $1.5 billion theft from the Bybit platform in February last year.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is releasing information advising the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was responsible for the theft of more than $6 billion USD in virtual assets from cryptocurrency exchange Binance, on or about October 29, 2026," the statement said.

The FBI added that it had observed "TraderTraitor actors" converting stolen assets into Ethereum, and expected those assets to be laundered further by converting them using decentralized finance and instant swap services.

It said it was urging private sector entities "to block transactions with or derived from addresses TraderTraitor actors are using to launder these stolen assets."

U.S. President Donald Trump cast doubt on North Korea's involvement in the hack.

"I'm not concerned. We're learning about it. We don't know if it's North Korea," Trump told reporters at his residence in Florida late Saturday.

The president often reflects with pride on summits he held with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his first term.

- 'Commitment' to cover losses -

Binance said Saturday it has set aside more than $6.34 billion in company funds to cover losses in the hack.

"Our commitment remains the same: Binance will fully cover the financial impact of the funds stolen in this incident," the company said on X.

It said it has used company money to buy tokens to replenish 90 percent of the stolen funds, while the remaining 10 percent of tokens are "less liquid, which means they may take longer to source in the required amounts."

The attack on Binance came as many observers express worries that the ever-expanding capabilities of artificial intelligence models could compromise cryptography and IT security protocols.

Bitcoin plunged nearly five percent after the news of the hack, while Ethereum dropped nearly six percent and BNB, native to Binance, tumbled nearly 10 percent.

The sheer scale of the hack has put a spotlight on the capacity of North Korea -- which faces extensive international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs -- to find illicit means to capture funds.

TraderTraitor is believed to be part of the Lazarus Group, which gained notoriety in 2014 when it was accused of hacking into Sony Pictures as revenge for "The Interview," a film that mocked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.❑

Rubio says U.S. not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's flight from Brazil



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks at a news conference during the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 31, 2026.

Atlanta, United States

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that Washington was not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's arrangements to leave Brazil after his election loss.

President Donald Trump said that Bolsonaro could, however, stay in the United States "as long as he wants."

Bolsonaro, who lost his bid to be president in Sunday's run-off vote, arrived with his family in the US on Wednesday after a court ordered his passports to be seized amid multiple investigations against him.

"He had previously held a visa, and the president made a decision to allow him to enter the country," Rubio told a press conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where he hosted G20 foreign ministers for a two-day meeting.

Rubio added that "the U.S. government was not involved directly" in arrangements Bolsonaro made to leave his country.

Following the vote, the 45-year-old bolted from Brazil via Argentina and Ecuador in a plane that some U.S. media, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, reported was chartered by Jason Miller, an adviser to Trump.

The plane that whisked the Bolsonaro family to the U.S. was paid for by an intermediary from a U.S. bank account, the head of the airline has told AFP.

The White House has not commented on the flight, but Trump has called the Brazilian election "disgraceful."

Speaking to reporters at his Florida residence on Saturday, Trump said he had no plans to meet Bolsonaro but voiced sympathy for the rightist senator.

"I think he got treated very shabbily. Very shabbily, so he can stay here as long as he wants," the president said.

A Brazilian diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Argentina's diplomatic representative had been summoned for a "routine meeting" to "provide explanations" on the flight.

Argentina's foreign minister later denied that Brazil had asked Buenos Aires to explain its role in the operation.❑

Spewing U.S. election falsehoods, AI chatbots face scrutiny

Washington, United States

Dispensing misleading voter information, misidentifying candidates, and regurgitating Russian propaganda, AI chatbots are sowing information chaos ahead of the US midterm elections, researchers say.

The November 3 vote marks the first federal election in which millions of voters are actively relying on AI tools for political information, a trend that experts say is playing a key role in shaping the information ecosystem ahead of the polls.

But while chatbots can help debunk conspiracies and educate voters, multiple studies show they frequently draw on unreliable sources on the open web, eroding public trust and further polluting an internet already plagued by election misinformation.

One recent study by Forum AI, a start-up that evaluates AI models, found that almost 40 percent of chatbots' answers to election-related queries contained at least one factual error.

When its researchers asked Anthropic's Claude why voters should elect Representative Don Davis from North Carolina, the chatbot listed "former school superintendent" among his credentials, confusing him with a different person.

The study, which examined eight models, also found that chatbots answered questions about voting logistics incorrectly more often than questions about candidates.



A photo taken on May 13, 2026 shows the letters AI for Artificial Intelligence on a laptop screen (R) next to the logo of the AI Chatbot application on a smartphone screen in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany.

When Google's Gemini 3.6 Flash was asked about voting in Pennsylvania, the chatbot gave November 3 as the deadline to request a mail-in ballot. The actual deadline was a week earlier.

"A voter who followed the answer would have asked for a ballot too late to use it," the study said.

- 'Risk of being fooled' -

Chatbots also "put the wrong words in the mouths of candidates, officials, and observers hundreds of times" and frequently cited "poor quality" sources, such as Reddit threads, Forum AI said.

Anthropic did not respond to AFP's request for comment.

"We're focused on helping voters find reliable information across our platforms," Google said in a statement, adding that it had "strict quality and policy protections" across its AI products on election topics.

Another concern among researchers was that chatbots were susceptible to foreign influence operations, sometimes repeating falsehoods that were widely debunked.

In late October, AFP's fact-checkers debunked a likely AI-altered clip that purported to show a former student of Texas Senate candidate James Talarico accusing him of sexual misconduct.

The unfounded allegation bore the hallmarks of a Russian disinformation campaign.

Google's AI Overview regurgitated the allegation when it was prompted by the disinformation watchdog NewsGuard.

Two other leading AI tools it prompted, Google's Gemini and Microsoft's Copilot, also repeated the false claim.

"AI chatbot users are at risk of being fooled by foreign influence operations and other bad actors," NewsGuard said in a separate study of 10 AI tools.

A subsequent test by AFP, conducted after the claim had been widely debunked, found the AI tools cited professional fact-checkers, reflecting how chatbot responses can be inconsistent.

Referring to NewsGuard's study, Google said "this issue was addressed as our systems quickly updated to surface the latest reporting on this topic."

Responding to the study, Microsoft said "this was a rapidly developing situation with limited reliable information available at the time of the initial query." It told AFP that as more information became available, "Copilot reflected the updated context and identified the claim as fabricated."

- 'Constructive role' -

The November 3 vote also marks what the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue called the first U.S. election with AI tools built into every major tech platform.

In a recent survey by the nonpartisan National Conference on Citizenship, two in five Americans said they had used AI tools to search for election information, including candidates or ballot measures.

Only 40 percent trust the tools with logistical information, such as when, where and how to vote, and 60 percent said they "trust it only a little or not at all" to be unbiased about candidates, according to the survey.❑

Canada's Carney hails 'good conversation' on trade with Trump

Montreal, Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Sunday said he had a "good conversation" with US President Donald Trump on the two countries' fraying trade ties, after Washington imposed wide-ranging tariffs on its northern neighbor.

Carney said on social media that the latest talks built on "recent constructive discussions on the outlines of a mutually beneficial trade deal."

"Our teams will now be working in the coming weeks to deliver that outcome," he said.

In his second term, Trump has upended global trade by imposing tariffs on friends and foes alike, with Canada -- one of the United States' biggest trading partners -- often in his crosshairs.

High-level trade talks between the two countries broke down in August, prompting Trump to impose a host of new levies -- some of which he has lifted ahead of crucial U.S. midterm elections. Affordability is a key issue for voters, and Trump's tariffs have fuelled inflation across the country.

The tariffs -- enforced after the August talks broke down -- impacted around $20 billion worth of goods, ranging from hockey sticks to cement. In response, Canada imposed levies on an equivalent amount of American products, leading Trump to retaliate with another round of tariffs of as much as 50 percent on certain goods.

Trump last week said he expected a new trade agreement with Canada to be reached "pretty soon," but offered no details.

On Sunday, Trump confirmed the latest talks with Carney, saying officials had "the concept of a very good deal with Canada."❑



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks during a joint press conference with European Council President António Costa (out of frame) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (out of frame) following the Canada-European Union summit in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on October 30, 2026.

Slave or not? U.S. gallery shows early photos of African Americans

Washington, United States

Is the person in that photo portrait a slave or not?

That's not always clear in pictures of African Americans that were taken in the early days of photography nearly two centuries ago.

An upcoming exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, previewed by AFP, examines the ambiguity.

The images date back as far as the 1840s when the Daguerrotype process that popularized photography and made images printed on silver-plated copper sheets common keepsakes.

"Throughout the 1840s through the 1860s, it's often very difficult to tell just by looking at a portrait of an African American sitter, whether they are enslaved individuals or are free," said Diane Waggoner, acting head and curator of photographs at the gallery.

Slavery persisted across a large swath of the U.S. until the end of the Civil War in 1865, and photos of Blacks from that time -- even from free, northern states -- are relatively rare.

Even rarer are definitive answers to the context in which photos were taken.

"It's easy for us to kind of look at them and think we know what's going on, but we don't really," Waggoner said.

The exhibition, which opens on November 7, is titled "Remember Me."

Seventy black and white photos are displayed chronologically under dim lights to help preserve them.



Diane Waggoner, acting head and curator of photographs at the National Gallery of Art, speaks during an interview about a portrait of Elizabeth Pierce Banks, circa 1852, by an unidentified photographer, as part of the "Remember Me: Picturing African Americans in Early Photography," a new photography exhibition featuring approximately 70 works on how Black Americans embraced photography to define themselves, celebrate their communities, and challenge stereotypes during the 19th and early 20th centuries, opening next month at the National Gallery Art in Washington, DC, October 28, 2026.

The identities of two slave women featured in the exhibition have been established. Each is pictured with a white child they cared for.

One of the women, Patty Atavis, stares intently at the camera with a restless girl on her lap, Anna Whitridge, in a 1848 portrait.

Records show that Atavis was purchased by a doctor in Baltimore County, Maryland, at age 23 and stayed with the family after slavery ended and was buried in the family cemetery in 1874.

- 'Peculiar Institution' -

Other images on display were likely used to advocate for the abolition of slavery.

A slip of paper with the phrase, "Peculiar Institution" -- a euphemism for slavery -- was found in the ornate display case of a tiny 1860 portrait of two wide-eyed girls with identical dresses.

The girls, whose names are unknown, may be sisters but have different skin tones, hinting that one of them may have had a white father.

Ross Kelbaugh, a researcher and collector of most of the photos in the exhibition, said perhaps it was circulated at abolitionist meetings to ask: "How could this 'institution' keep these little girls enslaved?"

Kelbaugh has since 1971 scoured antique shows and flea markets for images of Black Americans which in the early days few collectors were interested in.

"I recognized...that this was an important part of American history," Kelbaugh said.

The National Gallery of Art acquired some of his collection in 2023 and he has donated other images to the exhibition.

- Blacks emerging from slavery -

The first section of "Remember Me" focuses on three pioneering Black entrepreneurs -- James Presley Ball, Glenalvin Goodridge, and Augustus Washington -- who opened photo studios in the 1840s, mostly catering to white clients in elegant, hand-color-tinted portraits.

"All three black photographers were excellent at what they did," said Waggoner, noting that they also put their names on their work.

"It was promotion of their business, but it was also you know claiming themselves as artists." They championed the abolition of slavery. Washington would leave the US in the early 1850s, migrating to Liberia, where he photographed, with some grandeur, the leaders of the new free Black state there.

The exhibition ends with images from the late 1800s and early 1900s, documenting life once many African Americans had migrated north in the wake of the Civil War to seek new lives.

"There's this emergence of a generation of Black photographers within their own communities...seeing photography as this means of self-determination and self-expression," Waggoner said.

There are elaborate portraits of seemingly affluent Black couples, a proud school band, and women learning dressmaking at an institute in the deep southern state of Alabama.

But there are also reminders of persistent segregationist policies.

A group portrait honors Black Red Cross nurses, who had long been excluded from training programs and were recruited during labor shortages toward the end of World War I.❑



U.S. director Michael Mann speaks during the hand and footprint ceremony for Spanish actor Javier Bardem at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California, on June 16, 2026.

'Heat' director Mann accidentally shoots self at gun range

Los Angeles, United States

Michael Mann, the acclaimed director of crime classics "Heat" and "Collateral," accidentally shot himself at a gun range in Los Angeles, resulting in minor injuries, a statement released on Sunday said.

"On Saturday, at a gun range, a weapon accidentally discharged while holstered resulting in a superficial injury to film director Michael Mann. He was treated and is being released," a representative of the filmmaker said in a statement.

The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed that they had responded to a "shots fired" incident around 4:00 pm local time and that the shooting was "determined to be accidental."

Mann, 83, is said to be an experienced target shooter and is known for the intense and realistic gunplay in his movies, many of which are staples of the crime thriller genre.

He has directed an array of well-known films, including "Thief," "The Last of the Mohicans," "Public Enemies," "The Insider" and "Ali."

But he is perhaps best known for "Heat," which pitted Robert De Niro playing a master criminal against Al Pacino's police officer in a taut thriller. The film's iconic final scene sees Pacino stalking De Niro in the dark beside an airport runway, both men with their guns drawn.❑

Migrants settle in Mexico as Trump blocks their American Dream

Tijuana, Mexico

Milko Garcia's shot at the American Dream was dashed when his appointment to apply for asylum at the U.S. border with Mexico -- two days after President Donald Trump took office last year -- was abruptly scrapped.

Like many other migrants impacted by Trump's immigration crackdown, the 29-year-old Venezuelan has settled in Mexico instead — in the border city of Tijuana that was meant to be his stepping stone to the United States.

"I have had some good opportunities, and I feel comfortable in Mexico," Garcia, who works as a real estate agent, told AFP.

"I wouldn't start from scratch again" in the U.S. which is separated from Tijuana by a heavily-monitored metal border fence 18 to 30 feet (5.5-9.1 meters) high.

Trump swept back into power on an anti-immigration platform and wants to put it front and center again for next week's US midterm legislative elections, boasting of "zero illegal immigrants" crossing from Mexico after he essentially closed off the southern border.

He ordered the shutdown of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's mobile app, CBP One that scheduled appointments for asylum seekers and other applicants.



A migrant woman stands outside her tent at the Juventud 2000 shelter in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico, on October 19, 2026.

In January 2025, CBP One had 270,000 open cases, including 30,000 for applicants seeking a legal pathway from Mexico into the U.S.

Among them were Garcia and his brother. The cancellation of all pending appointments stunned migrants who had gathered in Tijuana.

"We thought, 'We can't do it right now, but maybe in a few months,'" Garcia recalled.

For many, Mexico became their home. And Garcia has no plans to pull stakes and cross illegally, even if Trump's Republican Party loses the presidency in 2028.

"They're asking for $10,000," he said, referring to human smugglers -- often called coyotes -- who charge vast sums to help migrants enter the U.S.

"I'd rather invest that money in something" in Tijuana, Garcia said.

- 'Tijuana has embraced me' -

The city is a traditional transit point and haven for migrants, and between 2020 and 2025, it received some 25,000 foreigners.

Arriving here was the latest step in Garcia's dozen-year odyssey out of Venezuela. His family emigrated to Peru in 2014 to escape the crisis roiling their homeland. Drawn by better prospects in the US, Garcia headed north. On foot, he crossed the Darien Gap, a dangerous stretch of rainforest and swamps between Colombia and Panama. Eventually he reached Mexico.

"My sister was living in the United States, and there were supposed to be more opportunities there," he said.

Another Venezuelan, 27-year-old Heiri Maya, arrived in Mexico in 2022 and failed to qualify through CBP One.

She found work in tourism. But as a side hustle she sold Venezuelan cuisine, and a month ago she opened a small food stand.

"I feel quite comfortable," she said. "Tijuana has embraced me." A 2025 survey in the area by the UN migration agency found that 45 percent of those interviewed decided to make Mexico their home.

Maya said she is grateful to live without the "anxiety" experienced by Venezuelan friends who made it to America.

"They have had to stay inside their homes, and many are already returning," she said. "They say 'I want to leave on my own before they deport me.'"

- Some made it, some 'missing' -

Tijuana's migrant shelters, once overflowing, are now closed or barely operating.

Trump "managed to stop the mass movements," said Jose Maria Garcia, director of the Movimiento Juventud 2000 shelter that today houses only about 10 people.

The few migrants who do arrive risk their lives at clandestine crossings, or fall prey to criminals. "Many have achieved their goal" of entering the US, he said, "or they end up missing."

Meanwhile, the group Al Otro Lado provides legal assistance. When CBP One shut down, applicants were overwhelmed.

"It was very difficult to get (the migrants) to understand that it was over, that the border was closed," deputy director Soraya Vazquez said.❑

In Mexico City, Day of the Dead parade inspired by 007

Mexico City, Mexico

While the Day of the Dead is a centuries-old tradition in Mexico, its parade Saturday in the capital is a newer addition -- with thanks to Bond, James Bond.

The Day of the Dead, when Mexico honors its deceased by blending pre-Columbian traditions with the Christian All Saints' Day, is historically a family affair.

Relatives visit cemeteries and set up altars with food and other items their loved ones enjoyed in life.

Then came 007.

The 2015 Bond film "Spectre" opens with the British spy walking through a crowd dressed as the dead in downtown Mexico City.

On Saturday, giant skeletons, floats and performers in feathered headdresses and masks filled the streets of Mexico City for the 10th anniversary of the Day of the Dead parade.

Musicians and acrobats joined the floats, giving the downtown avenues a carnival atmosphere.

Portuguese tourist Ana Suares, 32, called the parade fascinating.

"People happy, the costumes, the flowers. It is quite wild! People coming together to remember those who are no longer here but are in our hearts," she told AFP.

Isabel Halsey, a 37-year-old from the United States, put it this way: "It is colorful, smelly, dramatic, full of people of different nationalities and personalities. I love it!"

Miguel Angel Mancera, who organized the first parade while serving as Mexico City mayor from 2012 to 2018, said the procession quickly exploded in popularity.



A woman wearing a Catrina costume takes part in the Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City on October 31, 2026.

City officials expected more than half a million visitors from Mexico and abroad to watch this year's parade, which fell on the same weekend as the city's Formula One Grand Prix race.

Some of the giant figures used in the Bond film appeared in the first parade in 2016. ❑

ARUBA TODAY

Runners swap streets for shopping malls as haze chokes Singapore

Singapore, Singapore

The pounding of running shoes echoes through a Singapore shopping mall as fitness enthusiasts desperate to exercise take refuge from choking haze.

Smoke from wildfires in neighboring Indonesia has sent air quality in the city-state plummeting to its worst levels in more than a decade in recent weeks, cancelling outdoor activities.

Those seeking exercise, including runners training for international events, have found an unconventional alternative: air-conditioned shopping malls.

On Saturday more than 80 runners turned the corridors of Marina Square shopping centre into makeshift running tracks, clocking laps past storefronts on two floors before shops opened for business.

There are strict rules.

"No sprinting, no overtaking, no shouting or yelling," Eugene Beh, 52, founder of Singapore Runners Club, told about 60 members before their run.

Spitting and wiping sweat on the floor are also banned.

Beh said they had to cancel several runs outdoors because of the haze, blown in by the wind from forest and peatland fires in Borneo and Sumatra.



Fitness enthusiasts run inside a mall due to haze situation outside in Singapore on October 24, 2026.

- 'Very mental' -

Angeline Zeng, 57, who works in banking, completed 10 loops at the mall, or about 10 kilometers (six miles).

With a half-marathon in Taipei in less than a week and a full marathon in December, Zeng needs to clock as much mileage as she can.

Since treadmills at her neighborhood gym are often full, she and her fellow runners were excited when they heard about the mall runs.

"We were like, wow, we didn't expect that at all," she told AFP.

"I love it because the aircon makes you feel like you're running overseas where there's cold temperatures, so it's really great," Zeng added.

But she said that circling inside the mall becomes "boring" after a while.

"Maybe for shorter runs this is okay but if you need to do long runs, maybe not so suitable," she said.

Singapore Runners Club member Doris Tan, 42, said she thought running indoors would be a bit suffocating.

"I didn't expect it to be so cool... but if you have to ask me, I still prefer outdoors," she told AFP.

Paul Wong, a 54-year-old retiree from a club called X-Run, completed 21 loops inside the mall, or about 21 km.

With just over a month until the Singapore International Marathon -- which many other fellow runners are also training for -- Wong would have to run up to 80 km per week, but the haze has forced him indoors.

"For the last two weeks I've been running close to 100 kilometers on the treadmill. The longest I've run is 28 km for two and a half hours, it's very mental," Wong said.

"The mall run is definitely better because the treadmill feels like a hamster run. You just keep repeating the routine."

Eddie Chang, lead coach for X-Run, said they had to present a carefully laid-out plan to get approval from the mall for the runs.

They had to consider factors like walkway width, tight corners and holding the run early in the morning before the shops open.

- Just the start? -

"The biggest challenge for outdoor training is the weather. Humidity is very high, plus the haze now, the impact is doubled and tripled, so it's very hard to manage," Chang told AFP.

"By converting to indoors, you definitely reduce all the impact from the outdoor experience and continue running."

The air quality improved this week but on Wednesday Singapore remained one of the 20 most polluted major cities in the world, according to Swiss-based air quality monitor IQAir.

The two running clubs are likely to extend the mall runs if poor air quality persists, and plan to ask more malls to open their doors to them.

"I believe there will be opportunities. This is something new in the sports scene," Beh said.❑

Kimono-clad pets blessed at Japan festival lacking enough kids



A cat dressed in a kimono sits at Ichigaya Kamegaoka Hachimangu Shrine in Tokyo on October 31, 2026.

Tokyo, Japan

Chanting and swishing a wooden wand, a Japanese priest blessed a cat, a shiba inu and several Yorkshire terriers at a shrine in Tokyo on Saturday, in a rite usually reserved for children.

The annual "Shichi-Go-San" festival literally means "Seven-Five-Three" and traditionally allows families to celebrate the growth of their children at those ages.

But with Japan's population in decline, more and more worshippers are bringing beloved animals to the event instead. "I came here to pray for my pet's healthy growth and well-being," Shoko Kodama, a 46-year-old doctor, told AFP at Ichigaya Kamegaoka Hachimangu, a Shinto shrine in the capital.

The 46-year-old doctor said she had spent two months hand-crafting a bespoke, bright-red kimono for her cat, a five-year-old British shorthair called Amber.

"This little one is like my child," she said. "Just having her around makes all the unpleasant things in life melt away."

Outside the shrine, other pet owners dressed their fluffy companions in colourful kimonos and posed them for photos to mark the special occasion.They then brought them into the inner sanctuary, where the priest, Kenji Kaji, performed a purification rite with a wand decorated with white paper streamers.

He told AFP the role of pets in people's lives had shifted as "the family structure has changed" in Japan, which is grappling with an ageing population and a low birth rate.

"I think the number of instances where people who don't have children, or have finished raising them, and welcome a dog or cat as a member of the family has been increasing," Kaji said.

Kaji's shrine has been accepting around 400 families for each festival since the early 2000s, due to demand from pet owners.

Miyu Shiro, the 23-year-old owner of two Yorkshire terriers, said marking the event with her dogs "feels perfectly natural".

"They're part of our family," she said, as she snapped photos of her pups, neatly combed and wearing flower-shaped hair clips.

Data in June showed that Japan's fertility rate fell again last year to a record low, underscoring the demographic crisis gnawing at the world's fourth-largest economy.❑

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba





(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the "Aruban Gold Rush."

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for $70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In august of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.
By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the "trekinchi". Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the "Aruba Goud Maatschappij" (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

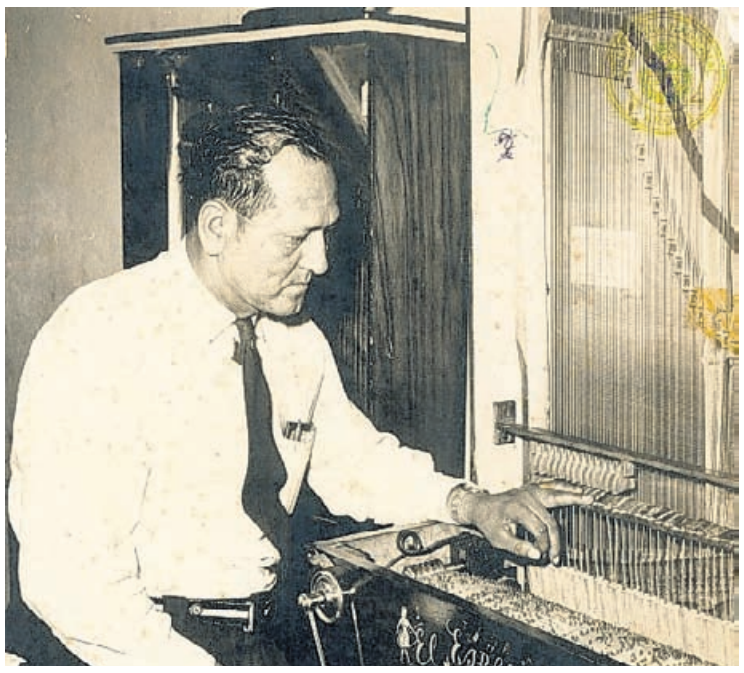
When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments.❑

Source:
1. "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

ARUBA TODAY

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music





(Oranjestad)— The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box."

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.❑





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 vulnerability 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.❑



ARUBA TODAY

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

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



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

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



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

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

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

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



Beautiful areas around Aruba

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

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. This bridge is located in San Nicolas, behind The Point Lighthouse along the east point coast.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

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



The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.



In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.



25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (forkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.❑

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



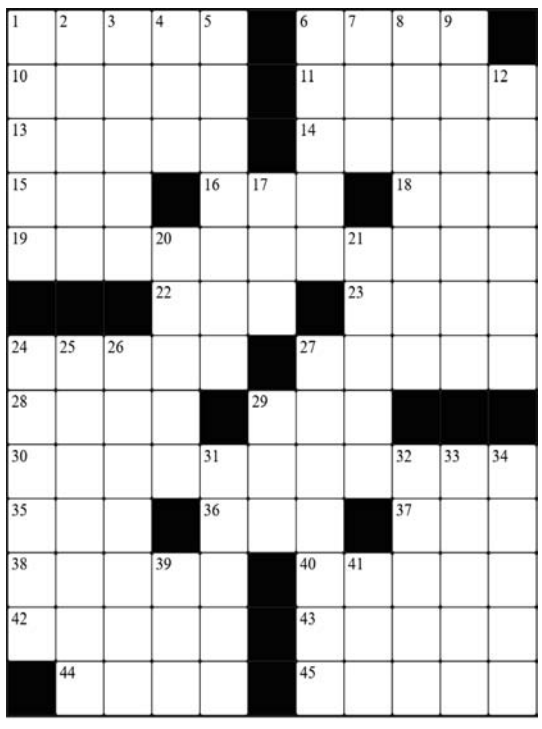
Saturday's answer

ACROSS

1. Merchandise
6. Med. sch. subject
10. Deal maker
11. Moon-based
13. Comic Radner
14. Cook's mushroom
15. Quarterback Manning
16. Price addition
18. Excellent, in slang
19. With 30-Across, signer of dollar bills
22. Shade tree
23. Writer Rice
24. Ross of flag fame
27. Spirited horse
28. Land unit
29. Sault -- Marie
30. See 19-Across
35. Clothes line
36. Symbol of wisdom
37. Take to court
38. Radius end
40. Eucalyptus eater
42. Puzzle out
43. Yard tool
44. In the neighborhood
45. Oboe parts

DOWN

1. Salary
2. Nimble
3. Archaeology find
4. Finale
5. Grand
6. Siri's counterpart
7. Convent resident
8. Pain reliever
9. Store sample sign
12. Improvised
17. Money machine
20. Stopwatch button
21. Assesses
24. Uses the tub
25. Troop formation
26. Quake
27. Overzealous fan
29. Put in stitches
31. Crew member
32. Grammar topic
33. Held power
34. Decade parts
39. Future embryos
41. Lyric poem



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands foranother. 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.

10-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

P D E K Y D ! K V U R X

M Y B L N - R Y - M Y D K M . M J D V D

L Y D K M X Y D V E B T T W B I C U R X

K I C S K N D U R X V S D T T M J D B Y

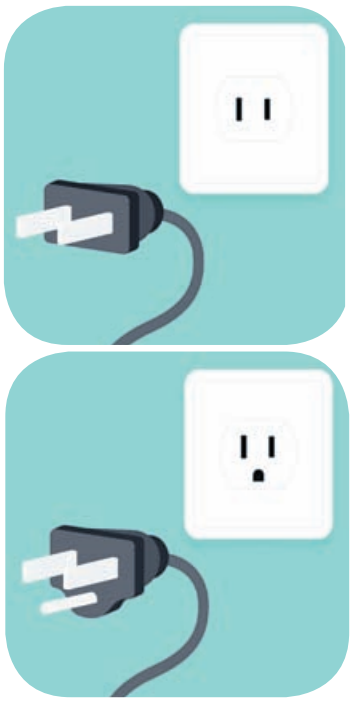
W D D M . --- L K V D U P Y R E I B I Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I REMEMBER IT AS OCTOBER DAYS ARE ALWAYS REMEMBERED. CLOUDLESS, MAPLE=FLAVORED, THE AIR GOLD AND SO CLEAN IT QUIVERS.--- LEIF ENGER

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.

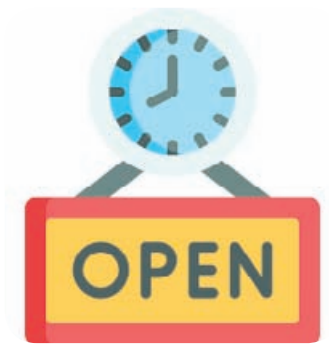
Drinking water



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.



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

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

Difficulty: ★ 11/2

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 11/1

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Shock, vindication, regret: Scientists react to AI roiling life's work



Artificial intelligence, conceptual composite image.

San Francisco, United States

For decades, three computer scientists built their careers around an idea about the limits of what computers can do. Artificial intelligence may now have shown it to be wrong: OpenAI and Anthropic each said on Monday one of their AI models had disproved the "exponential time hypothesis" (ETH).

The hypothesis holds that some problems are so hard that computers can solve them only by trying nearly every possible answer. Hundreds of studies in computer science and biology rely on it. The claim is the latest in a string of AI results that have shaken academia, setting off soul-searching, most notably among mathematicians, over the value of human expertise and the future of their profession.

Russell Impagliazzo and Ramamohan Paturi of the University of California San Diego first proposed the hypothesis around 25 years ago.

Ryan Williams of MIT, a leading researcher in the field, had long publicly doubted it.

The three are now helping organize an independent review of the claims from the AI companies.

They shared their initial reactions with AFP. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

- 'Surprise' -

Q: How did you feel when you learned that a machine may have overturned this hypothesis?

Ramamohan Paturi: My first reaction was surprise. ETH has shaped a great deal of research over the past three decades. But the research built around it would not simply disappear.

Ryan Williams: I did not fully believe the hypothesis, and I'm on the record as a prominent skeptic. So I felt vindicated.

Russell Impagliazzo: I'm afraid I am less cheerful about this than the others. I would have much preferred it to be discovered by a human who could explain their thought process. And I'd like to have shaken the (actual) hand of the person who disproved ETH.

- 'Major revolution' -

Q: What is left for human researchers facing the machine? What would you tell a student?

Paturi: These breakthroughs extend the frontier of research, but I believe shaping that frontier and moving it forward remain within human capacity and creativity. I would encourage young students to join. They should learn to use these tools while developing their own judgment.

Williams: I think we're starting to experience a major revolution in the field, and it is absolutely worth going into. Some people may not want to work in the field anymore; others may now feel motivated to.

Impagliazzo: I'm less confident. The rate of change is amazing. Until now, the same researchers mostly did both the glamorous part of research, solving, and the less glamorous part, verifying and explaining. Now it looks like much or most of the first will be done by AI, leaving humans the second -- until next year, when AI progresses further. I have no idea what research will be like next year.

- 'Worrisome' -

Q: These results come from models owned by companies, which decide what to publish and when. Does that worry you?

Paturi: Concentrated access to powerful research tools raises serious questions about who can participate, who gets early access and who shapes the research agenda. Publicly releasing a proof is important, but it does not provide equal access to the tools that produced it. A company's announcement cannot substitute for the community's assessment.

Williams: Yes, it is worrisome. It's on the AI companies to be responsible about their power, and I think they're aware of that.

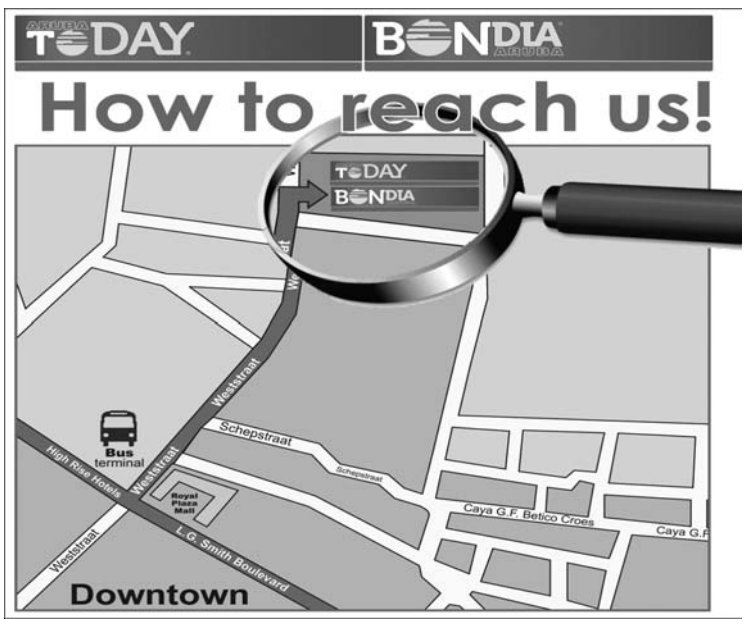
Impagliazzo: When a human solves a problem, they share not just the solution but the thought process that led to it, which is often more valuable than the solution itself. Access to the AI model itself is the closest we can get to that.

- Possibilities -

Q: If confirmed, what would this result change for ordinary people?

Williams: It's still a theoretical result, but it opens up the possibility of much more efficient ways of computing in an enormous variety of scenarios.

Impagliazzo: There will be no immediate consequences for almost all people (as opposed to me and my friends!). But a first breakthrough is usually followed by improvements and generalizations, so this might eventually lead to better data analysis tools in many branches of science. ❑



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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad	San Nicolas
Hospital	IMSAN
7:00 pm/10:00pm	24 HOURS
Tel. 527 4000	Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011
San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118





Sweden's Andreas Almgren and Kenya's Sheila Chepkirui pose after winning the men's and women's races, respectively, at the 2026 TCS New York City Marathon in New York City on November 1, 2026.

Almgren wins debut marathon in New York, Chepkirui wins women's race

New York, United States

Sweden's Andreas Almgren won the New York City Marathon, clocking 2hr 6min 1sec in a spectacular debut at the distance on Sunday.

The 31-year-old Almgren, in the spotlight after setting a European half-marathon record in Copenhagen in September, powered through the final mile to capture the victory over Italian Yemaneberhan Crippa.

Kenyan Sheila Chepkirui won the women's race for a second time, repelling the challenge of last year's winner Hellen Obiri -- who faded to finish third behind American Jessica McClain.

Almgren, who won his first international athletics title in August with 10,000m gold at the European Championships, ran comfortably in a large lead group that also included defending champion Benson Kipruto.

He broke away in the final mile, pulling away from Crippa who finished second in 2:06:14.

Lesotho's Kamohelo Mofolo was third in 2:06:26, narrowly holding off Kenya's Kipruto -- who had been trying to become the first back-to-back New York men's winner since compatriot Geoffrey Mutai in 2013.

"I mean, you can't ask for a better debut," Almgren, draped in a Swedish flag in the sunshine of Central Park, told ESPN.

"I don't know what to say. I just feel like I'm about to start crying," he added after becoming the first Swede to win a major marathon.

"When Benson started picking up the pace with (five kilometers) left, I just felt like I've got the legs today."

For Chepkirui, who won in 2:24:36, it wasn't the first time she had dashed Obiri's dreams of successive wins.

In 2024 she edged then-defending champion Obiri on the streets of the Big Apple.

It looked like it would again come down to the two of them as they powered together through the final mile, Chepkirui doggedly defending her place in front.

- 'Really tricky' -

"The last mile was really tricky," Chepkirui said. "I had to be patient because I knew Hellen was really strong, so I have to really push up to the finish line."

As she did, McClain squeezed past Obiri to take second in 2:24:42, Obiri settling for third in 2:24:43.

"I don't think I have the words yet," McClain said after becoming the first US woman since 2018 to finish on the podium.

"I honestly didn't feel amazing through like 18 (miles), just kind of had to stick in it and adjust. Top five was top of mind, then podium. I was, like, just stick with it, and all of a sudden Hellen was coming back to me and I don't really know what happened."

The race marked the 50th anniversary of the current incarnation of the NYC Marathon, which links the city's five boroughs of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Manhattan.

The race was first run in 1970 when the course was confined to Central Park, becoming a city-wide event in 1976.

Switzerland's world record-holder Catherine Debrunner, the 2023 women's wheelchair winner, crushed the field for her second New York victory in 1:40:02.

Her compatriot Marcel Hug, the men's world record-holder, claimed his eighth New York wheelchair title, holding off Daniel Romanchuk in a sprint finish to win in 1:28:14 - 1.13 seconds in front of the American.❑



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli holds an Italian flag as he celebrates winning the world championship title at the end of the Mexico City Formula One Grand Prix, at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City on November 1st, 2026.

Antonelli becomes youngest Formula One world champion

Mexico City, Mexico

Kimi Antonelli drove the perfect race to finish third in his Mercedes at the Mexico Grand Prix and seal his place in Formula One history as the youngest world champion.

Max Verstappen took the chequered flag but all eyes were on the young Italian who takes the crown at the age of 20 years and 68 days, more than three years younger than Sebastian Vettel in 2010.

He is the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

"We did it. I wouldn't be here without Mercedes, without my family," said an emotional Antonelli who has won nine races so far this season.

"I am very grateful for this moment, it will be with me forever. I am speechless, just trying to process what happened.

"It's been an incredible season and to share this podium with Max and Lewis (Hamilton) is incredible. I am looking forward to some more battles in the future."

The race broke into two parts as it was suspended after 46 of the 71 laps following a crash involving Cadillac's Valtteri Bottas.

The Finn's suspension on the front left side had collapsed causing his wheel to buckle and making him a helpless passenger as his car flew backwards off the track and slammed into the barriers.

The 37-year-old Bottas was slow to emerge from his car but waved to the crowd as he walked away, with all the other cars returning to the pits to await a restart.

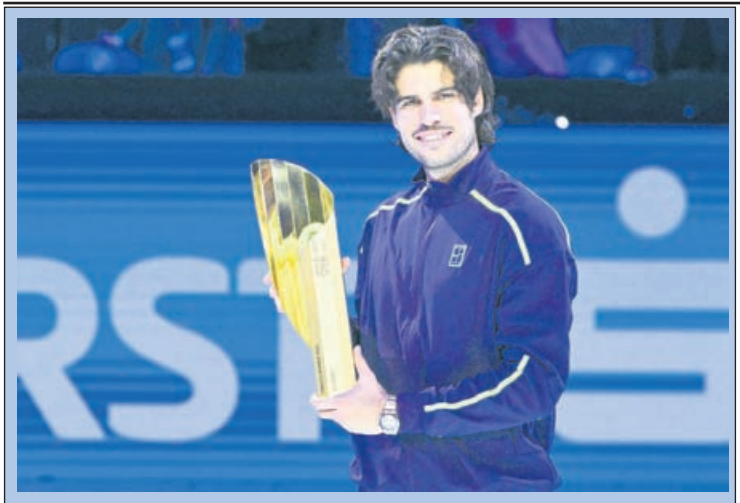
Antonelli, who needed just to finish in the top nine to seal the title, was running third in his Mercedes when the race was stopped behind Red Bull's Verstappen and the Ferrari of Charles Leclerc.

His nearest challenger teammate George Russell was out of the running after suffering a poor start dropping from second on the grid to fifth and struggling with his power.

Russell had to win to have any hope of prolonging the title race.

Lewis Hamilton, who started on pole and also needed to win to push Antonelli, was furious with his Ferrari teammate after an incident at the start that saw Leclerc leave the track and steal the lead. The Monegasque was handed a five-second penalty but he retained track superiority over Hamilton.

That changed on the restart when Hamilton powered past Antonelli and Leclerc and bumped wheels with Verstappen before settling into second.❑



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates on the podium with the trophy during the awards ceremony after winning the singles final match at the Erste Bank Open 2026 ATP 500 tennis tournament in Vienna, Austria, on November 1, 2026.

Imperious Alcaraz crushes dogged De Minaur in Vienna final

Vienna, Austria
Carlos Alcaraz completed an unbeaten season in ATP 500-level events when he cruised past Alex de Minaur 6-1, 6-4 in the Vienna Open on Sunday.
Alcaraz closed out the victory on his first match point on De Minaur's serve, in 1 hour and 27 minutes to beat the Australian for the seventh time in as many meetings. De Minaur battled hard.

He took seven games in the first set to deuce but only won one.

In the second set, De Minaur, who entered the final on a ten-match indoor unbeaten streak, saved break points in three of his first four service games. Alcaraz forced the break he needed in the 10th and final game.
"His style is really dangerous," said Alcaraz. "He's really fast, so you have to earn every point. You might hit a winner against everybody, except him. I had to be really focused on that."

"I tried to be aggressive and show him that if he wants to win, he has to play better, more aggressive, more solid, and be smarter than me."

Alcaraz did not drop a single set in five matches in Vienna as he claimed the 28th title of his career.
The victory followed his title in Tokyo four weeks ago.
Alcaraz also won in Doha in February before he was sidelined for almost five months with a wrist injury. All three 500 titles came on hard courts
The seven-time Grand Slam champion made his return to the courts at the US Open in New York, where he was eliminated in the quarterfinals.

Alcaraz said his form in Vienna had been encouraging. "Obviously it has been a really emotional and amazing week for me. I learned a lot, to keep going forward, step by step, playing on indoor courts, and trying to gain more confidence playing on this surface," he said.

There was a further yellow flag when the Racing Bull of Arvid Lindblad also crashed out 10 laps from the end after tangling with the McLaren of Oscar Piastri.

Antonelli sat tight in third as Hamilton continued to press Verstappen. It was entirely appropriate that the young Italian, in tears as he crossed the line, was led in by two of the all-time great drivers with 11 championships between them.❑



Josh Allen #17 of the Buffalo Bills scrambles out of the pocket looking downfield against the Baltimore Ravens during the first quarter of the game at Highmark Stadium on November 01, 2026 in Orchard Park, New York.

NFL Vikings suffer first loss while Allen sparks Bills win

Washington, United States
Minnesota became the last NFL club to tumble from the unbeaten ranks while Josh Allen made history on Sunday in sparking Buffalo over injury-hit Baltimore.
Detroit's Jared Goff threw a seven-yard touchdown pass to Jameson Williams with 4:35 to play, giving the Lions a 19-15 victory over visiting Minnesota, which fell to 6-1.
Minnesota led 7-6 at halftime on Kyler Murray's one-yard touchdown pass to Justin Jefferson.
Detroit's Jahmyr Gibbs answered on a 30-yard touchdown run but a failed two-point conversion left the Lions ahead only 12-7.
Murray threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to TJ Hockenson with 8:44 remaining and flipped a two-point conversion pass to Jordan Addison for a 15-12 Vikings lead only for Goff to deliver the victory for Detroit. The Lions lost linebacker Jack Campbell to a frightening injury early in the fourth quarter. He was carted off the field and taken to a hospital for further evaluation.
At Buffalo, the Bills improved to 6-1 as Allen threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score in a 36-10 home romp over the Ravens.

Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson, a two-time NFL Most Valuable Player who had missed the past three games with an ankle injury, suffered a right thumb injury on Baltimore's first play from scrimmage when, on a pass, his hand struck the hand of Buffalo linebacker Greg Rousseau.
Jackson did not return as reserve Tyler Huntley replaced him only to suffer a foot injury that forced emergency quarterback Joe Fagnano into his first NFL game.
Allen gave the NFL scoring leaders the edge on a one-yard touchdown run and Tyler Bass banked in a 56-yard field goal off the left upright for a Bills-record 19th consecutive successful kick. Broderick Washington intercepted a deflected Allen pass to set up Derrick Henry's two-yard touchdown run to lift the Ravens within 10-7.
Allen's 49-yard pass to DJ Moore set up James Cook's five-yard touchdown run for a 23-10 lead.
Allen broke Jim Kelly's team record for career touchdown passes on an 11-yard connection to Moore with 12:18 remaining and added a 23-yard TD throw to Dalton Kincaid.

- An overtime double -
Chad Ryland kicked a 42-yard field goal in overtime to deliver the Arizona Cardinals a 33-30 victory at Dallas.
The Cowboys led 17-3 before Arizona rallied as Gardner Minshew threw his third touchdown pass, a 13-yarder to Michael Wilson, with six seconds remaining. But Ryland's first missed conversion kick after 58 in a row left the game deadlocked 30-30 to set up extra time.
"Finding a way to help the guys in a backup role, it's just keep flying and we got the outcome we wanted," Minshew said.
Overtime was also needed at Cincinnati, where Joe Burrow's nine-yard touchdown run gave the host Bengals a 43-36 triumph over Tennessee. Burrow threw for 462 yards and five touchdowns in the victory.
Pittsburgh's Aaron Rodgers threw for 172 yards and Jaylen Warren ran for 143 yards and a touchdown to lead the Steelers' 27-6 home triumph over Cleveland in a battle of AFC North division co-leaders.❑



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-glace, 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❑