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U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer speaks during the second day of the G20 Trade Ministerial Conference at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 1, 2026.

U.S. to exclude South Africa, Rwanda from Africa duty-free trade deal

Washington, United States
The United States trade representative on Monday said Washington would exclude South Africa and Rwanda from a major Africa-U.S. duty-free trade deal, a blow to both economies, over practices "inconsistent" with the deal's eligibility criteria.
"These concerning and pervasive practices include, but are not limited to, barriers that undermine American trade and investment and practices that pose a threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests in the region," Jamieson Greer said in a statement.
The exclusions will take effect from January 1, the statement said.
The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which grants eligible sub-Saharan African countries preferential access to the U.S. market, has been renewed until the end of 2028, but is reviewed annually.
South Africa is the program's largest beneficiary but its eligibility has come under scrutiny as Washington steps up criticism of Pretoria, including false allegations of discrimination against white Afrikaners that South Africa rejects.
The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) called the exclusion "a serious blow" to the industry, warning that jobs and the economies of entire towns were at stake.

South Africa is the world's second-largest citrus exporter after Spain, and citrus is its largest agricultural export sector by value.
Growers cannot easily redirect fruit to alternative markets because importing countries have different phytosanitary requirements and consumer preferences, said Gerrit van der Merwe, the association's chairman.
"That entire value chain, on both sides of the Atlantic, is now under threat," CGA said in a statement.
On Thursday, South Africa's trade minister said the country hoped for a favorable decision from Washington on the issue, arguing that continued market access would be in the best interest of both countries.
A little over a week earlier, however, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the country should "prepare" for an adverse decision.
The U.S. president reviews countries' eligibility for AGOA annually.
Any removal requires 60 days' notice to Congress and the country concerned.
South African Trade Minister Parks Tau told reporters in Johannesburg last week that regardless of Trump's decision on AGOA, his country's economy would remain stable as it seeks other international markets.

- Increasing pressure on Rwanda -
Washington has been increasing economic pressure on Rwanda over its alleged backing of the armed M23 rebel group in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.
Last week, the United States sanctioned the Rwandan defense ministry over those ties, which the Rwandan government denies.
With Rwandan help, the M23 movement has seized swathes of the eastern DRC home to valuable minerals coveted by world powers since it took up arms again in 2021.
Rwanda's foreign minister told AFP last week that his country should not be a "scapegoat" for events in DR Congo.
"The situation in the DRC, the political situation, the security situation, is mainly a Congolese issue," Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe told AFP on the sidelines of a Russia-Africa summit in Moscow before the US sanctions were imposed.❑



This ABC World New Tonight handout photo shows Abd al-Rashim al-Nashiri, al-Qaeda's chief of operations for the Gulf and a suspected mastermind of the USS Cole bombing in Yemen.

Trial of accused USS Cole attack mastermind opens at Guantanamo

Washington, United States
Jury selection began on Monday in the long-delayed trial of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the accused mastermind of the 2000 attack on the USS Cole warship that left 17 American sailors dead.
Nashiri was captured in Dubai in 2002 and underwent harsh interrogations in a secret CIA prison before being transferred to the US military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba 20 years ago, where he has been held ever since.
"Panel selection began" on Monday afternoon, Ronald Flesvig, spokesperson for the Office of Military Commissions, told AFP.
The attack on the USS Cole was carried out by two militants in a speedboat laden with explosives that detonated near the warship -- a guided missile destroyer -- as it took on fuel in the harbor at Aden, Yemen.
Nashiri was charged in April 2011 with offenses including murder in violation of the law of war and terrorism, but his case has been mired in pre-trial proceedings for years.

Several of the charges faced by Nashiri -- a Saudi national who was considered close to late Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden -- can carry the death penalty.
His case has been complicated by abuse during his detention, with defense lawyers unsuccessfully arguing that Nashiri was not competent to stand trial due to trauma he suffered.
He was subjected to so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" on at least four occasions during his detention, according to a US Senate report released in 2014.
During one session in December 2002, Nashiri was blindfolded by a CIA officer who put a pistol near his head and "operated a cordless drill" close to his body.
An internal CIA investigation found that the officer, among others, slapped Nashiri "multiple times," blew cigar smoke in his face, and implied his mother would be brought in and sexually abused in front of him.

They also subjected him to "improvised stress positions" causing cuts and bruises, before a medical officer expressed concern that his shoulders could end up dislocated.❑

Snap settles U.S. social media trial days after Meta

San Francisco, United States
Snap has settled what would have been another landmark trial over the alleged harms of social media, lawyers for the plaintiffs said Monday, just days after Meta reached its own settlement and two days before opening statements were due to begin in a Los Angeles courtroom.
The case was to be the latest in a series of bellwether, or test, trials whose outcomes are expected to guide the resolution of hundreds of similar lawsuits across the United States.



In this photo illustration, the Snapchat app is seen on a phone on April 15, 2026 in New York City.

"We are proud to have achieved justice for our bellwether clients so far, including K.D.B. and S.J.," the lawyers said in a statement, referring to the plaintiffs, who are identified only by their initials.
"Our ultimate goal is to hold these social media companies accountable for how their actions have impacted millions of children across the country, and these settlements allow us to keep building toward that goal."

Snap, the maker of Snapchat, said in a statement that it was "pleased to have been able to resolve this matter in an amicable manner."
Meta confirmed a settlement with KDB on Friday, after previously settling with SJ, which left Snap as the sole defendant in the case which consolidated claims from two lawsuits.
Sources close to Meta told AFP the company decided to settle for business reasons.

TikTok and YouTube were also named as defendants in the case, but both had already reached settlements as well.
Lawyers for SJ and KDB were expected to argue that their clients were exposed to "addictive and problematic" social media apps when they started using them at ages 13 and 15, respectively, according to court documents.

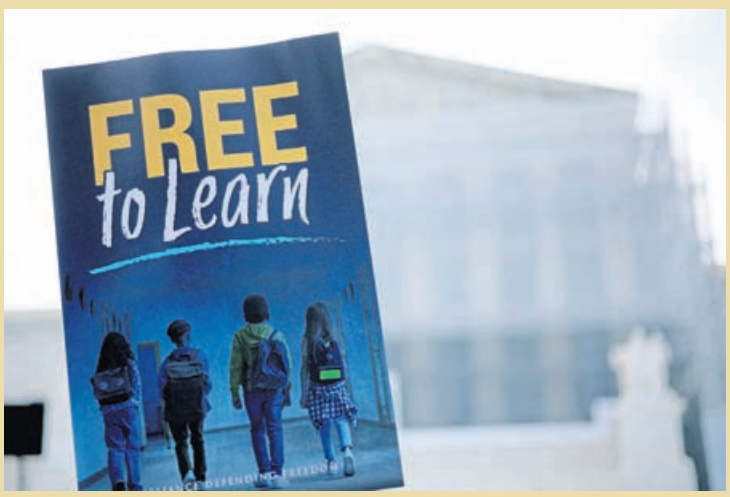
-Twists and turns-
Thousands of lawsuits have been filed in recent years in local, state and federal courtrooms across the country with various claims about alleged harms to children and teenagers caused by social media companies.
The cases the first of which went to trial earlier this year in Los Angeles -- have taken twists and turns.
Meta and YouTube lost the first so-called bellwether case earlier this year, when a jury found them collectively liable for harming a young user known by the initials KGM, and ordered the tech companies to pay a combined $6 million penalty.
Snap and TikTok settled with KGM ahead of that trial.
Months later, Snap, TikTok and YouTube settled another case that was set to go to trial in August; that plaintiff, known as RKC, then withdrew their remaining claims against Meta, allowing the Instagram and Facebook maker to avoid trial without a settlement.
By settling before a trial kicks off, the social media companies contain costs from lawyer fees and potential penalties.
Another benefit is that it shields their executives from testifying in court or insider documents spilling into the public domain.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Instagram chief Adam Mosseri and Snap CEO Evan Spiegel had been expected to be called as key witnesses in the upcoming Los Angeles trial.❑

Top U.S. court to hear case of Catholic schools excluded from state funding

Washington, United States
The U.S. Supreme Court hears a challenge on Tuesday by two Catholic preschools to a state requirement that they enroll children of gay or transgender parents in order to receive public funds.
Colorado provides state funding for tuition at public or private preschools, including faith-based institutions, but has withheld it from the Catholic preschools for violating anti-discrimination laws because they ban children of such parents.
The Catholic Archdiocese of Denver, two Catholic parishes and two parents, Dan and Lisa Sheley, filed a lawsuit seeking a religious exemption but lost in lower courts, prompting the appeal to the nation's highest court.
"All we want is the freedom to choose the best preschool for our kids without being punished for our faith," the Sheleys said in a statement at the time. "Colorado promised families a universal preschool program, then cut out families like ours because we chose a Catholic education."
Mark Rienzi, CEO of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing the plaintiffs, said Colorado is opening the door to families with "religious beliefs that are satisfactory to the government... when it comes to sex and marriage."

"But if you've got different religious beliefs, and you're a parent, you're just out of luck," Rienzi said. "The religious beliefs that fit with the government of Colorado are acceptable and those parents can get reimbursed but not the other ones."
In a filing with the Supreme Court, Colorado said participants in the preschool program must enroll children regardless of the race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity of the child or their parents.
"Petitioners seek an exemption from this law to allow them to receive public funding while turning away preschoolers because of their, or their parents', gender identity or sexual orientation," the state said.
The conservative-dominated Supreme Court, which includes three justices nominated by Republican President Donald Trump, has sided with religious rights claims in a number of high-profile cases, several of which have involved Colorado.
In 2018, the court ruled in favor of a Colorado baker who declined to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, and more recently the court backed a Christian therapist who challenged a Colorado law banning "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ minors.
The Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling in the preschools case by June 2027.❑



A supporter holds a sign outside the U.S. Supreme Court on April 30, 2025 in Washington, DC.

Irish bookshops help meet UK demand for Sally Rooney novels

Londonderry, United Kingdom

Irish bookshops are helping readers in Britain and elsewhere obtain novels by Sally Rooney after her publisher halted UK supplies because of complications arising from the author's support for a pro-Palestinian group.

Publisher Faber said it could no longer distribute Rooney's books in the United Kingdom because it could not transfer UK earnings to the author after she announced plans to donate those proceeds to Palestine Action, which is banned in Britain.

But Jenni Doherty, owner of Little Acorns Bookstore in Londonderry, has continued stocking Rooney's bestselling books through suppliers in the Republic of Ireland.

"We're not banned from selling the books. We can still have access to the books," Doherty, 55, told AFP, surrounded by Rooney titles such as "Normal People", "Intermezzo" and "Beautiful World, Where Are You".

Londonderry, known as Derry to republicans within Northern Ireland, is part of the United Kingdom but lies next to the border with EU member Ireland.



Owner of Little Acorns Bookstore Jenni Doherty poses with books by Irish author Sally Rooney at her bookstore in Londonderry, Northen Ireland on October 30, 2026.

Its position allows Doherty to order stock through Irish distributors before sending books to customers around the world, including in Britain.

"To sell a writer's work and not be able to pass on earnings is an unconscionable situation for a publisher," Faber said, as it announced its decision in mid-October.

The decision, made in agreement with Rooney, followed the author's declaration that she would donate her earnings to the pro-Palestinian direct action group.

- 'New customers' -

Palestine Action was banned by the UK government in July 2025 under anti-terrorism laws, but is not prohibited in Ireland, where Rooney lives.

Its proscription, which places it on the same list as Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah and the Palestinian militants Hamas, makes it illegal in Britain to belong to, support or finance the group.

Faber said it remained Rooney's publisher and would continue selling her work outside Britain.

The books themselves have not been banned, and copies already held by British retailers can remain on sale.

But shops cannot replenish them through Faber's normal UK distribution network. The supply restrictions have now drawn new business to Doherty's shop.

"I've had a lot of new customers who've never been in before," she said, adding that the controversy had brought Rooney's work to a broader range of readers.

Before, the books were placed on the general shelves in alphabetical order.

Now they are displayed prominently on the front counter, often sparking "honest, personal conversations" with customers, said Doherty.

She has also received inquiries from British booksellers looking for alternative suppliers.

"You don't have to read it if you don't want it. You don't have to buy it if you don't want it," she said.

- 'Silencing' -

The boom has extended across the Irish border, with Kenny's Bookshop in Galway reporting a tenfold increase in sales of Rooney's novels following Faber's decision.

Doherty said the dispute resonated strongly in a city shaped by civil-rights campaigns and Northern Ireland's decades-long Troubles conflict.

The controversy also reminded her of Ireland's history of literary censorship, which affected famous writers including Edna O'Brien, Samuel Beckett and John McGahern.

"It's as if we're going backwards rather than forwards," she said.

But restrictions often pique readers' curiosity and could introduce them to Rooney and other Irish writers, Doherty said.

"A banned book is a bought book," she said. "It just attracts a whole new attention."

Palestine Action's proscription is being challenged by co-founder Huda Ammori, with Britain's Supreme Court due to hear an appeal on Wednesday and Thursday.

Rooney's novels have sold millions of copies internationally, gaining a cult following for their observations of modern relationships before the BBC television adaptation of "Normal People" brought her wider fame.❑

Kennedy Center names Paul Anka, Andy Garcia among 2026 honorees

Washington, United States

The Kennedy Center, the famed Washington arts hub that President Donald Trump has sought to overhaul, on Monday named singer Paul Anka and actor Andy Garcia among five honorees recognized for lifetime artist contributions.



Honoree Paul Anka attends the 2026 BMI Pop Awards at Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel on May 12, 2026 in Beverly Hills, California.

Composer and producer David Foster, playwright David Mamet and musician Barbara Mandrell were also listed as recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors, one of the United States' highest arts awards.

This year's ceremony will for the first time be hosted at Washington's Capital One Arena rather than the Kennedy Center, which has been shuttered since September amid a legal battle over renovations.

The Kennedy Center -- inaugurated in 1971 following the assassination of U.S. president John F. Kennedy -- is also the target of Trump's contested effort to rename it the Trump-Kennedy Center.

Trump hosted last year's awards program, which included "Rocky" actor Sylvester Stallone, country singer George Strait, disco legend Gloria Gaynor and rock band KISS.

The Kennedy Center had long enjoyed bipartisan support before Trump appointed himself board chairman in February 2025, pledging to end "woke political programming" at the site.

A host of artists canceled concerts at the venue in response to Trump's takeover, while U.S. media has reported that Kennedy Center ticket sales have plummeted.❑



"Polaco" Rodriguez (R), 29, walks with his family as the Casavalle sector prepares for the upcoming Pope Leo XIV visit in Montevideo on October 27, 2026.

'Seen and heard': Uruguay neighborhood places hopes in pope

Montevideo, Uruguay

In one impoverished neighborhood of Uruguay's capital, Catholics and evangelical Christians are unusually harmonious ahead of Pope Leo XIV's visit, with both communities viewing it as an opportunity to shed light on local suffering.

On November 7, Pope Leo XIV will head to Montevideo, the capital of Latin America's most secular country and the launchpad for his tour of the region. The Casavalle neighborhood is plagued with rampant drug use and violent clashes between rival trafficking gangs.

Local Catholics say they are eagerly awaiting the pope's arrival.

"We're going to be seen and heard thanks to the pope's visit," Janet De Leon told AFP after attending mass at the Our Lady of Guadalupe parish.

"A person who has always felt marginalized, whatever their religion or lack of religion, feels important, feels acknowledged in this moment," said parish leader Father Pablo Coimbra.

- 'Forgotten corner of the world' -

Leo will come right up to the doors of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a neat brick church where workers are racing against the clock to build a stage for his arrival.

For Coimbra, it is difficult to grasp that the pontiff is coming to "a neighborhood as humble as this one, in a forgotten corner of the world."

The area's growing evangelical population meanwhile is reserving judgment on the visit.

A few streets away from the Catholic church, pastor Javier Roque highlighted the neighborhood's challenges. While he was out visiting members of his congregation, Roque voiced hope that all the fuss would bring people closer to God.

The two clergy agree that many locals view their respective communities as "a refuge" against life in an area with poverty rates far above the national average.

Uruguay is considered one of Latin America's most stable countries.

Of its 3.5 million inhabitants, 14.8 percent live below the poverty line, official figures from the first half of the year show.

- 'The same God' -

Laura Lemos says joining Roque's El Camino church gave her hope when crime threatened to destroy her family.

The 41-year-old has three sons aged 24, 21, and 19.

She recalls the anguish she felt when the youngest landed in prison.

My children "are alive today thanks to God and thanks to the support we also received from the church," Lemos told AFP.

She does not believe any rivalry between her faith and Catholicism exists.

"It's the same God in a different place, isn't it?"

Her neighbor, known as "The Pole" Rodriguez, says faith pulled him out of a life of crime, although he doesn't see the need to attend church regularly.

The papal trip "will serve as a reminder that we're not as forgotten as we think," said the 29-year-old father of six, who works informal jobs.

- 'No hostility' -

A recent religious survey shows that 35 percent of Uruguayans identify as Catholic.

"Other Christians" including evangelicals account for 13 percent, while other religions make up seven percent.

Agnostics and atheists account for 29 percent, and 15 percent did not respond to the pollster Equipos Consultores.

Coimbra believes that this religious mix coexists well in Uruguay.

"I am part of this culture, of secular culture, and I feel very connected to my country and don't feel uncomfortable at all," he said, adding that "there is no hostility" toward his church.❑



This photograph shows the BHV store (Bazar de l'Hotel de Ville) in Paris on October 5, 2025.

Storied Paris department store receives bankruptcy protection

Paris, France

A court on Monday granted bankruptcy protection to iconic Paris department store BHV Marais, which sparked controversy last year over a partnership with Asian fast-fashion giant Shein, as it aims to safeguard its operations and jobs.

The move comes after the company announced last week that it had sought such protection as part of a "relaunch" of BHV, whose landmark department store has stood in central Paris for around 170 years.

The Paris court granted bankruptcy protection to SEGM BHV, which notably includes the store opposite Paris City Hall and another west of the capital, according to a court document seen by AFP.

SEGM BHV, which employs 660 people, posted a net loss of 1.85 million euros ($2.1 million) last year on revenues of 170.3 million, it said.

The retailer "is in a state of insolvency, notably due to a significant drop in turnover, excessive liabilities and disputes with the landlord", the document said.

Both management and trade unions had requested that the retailer be placed in bankruptcy protection, with the unions saying the company was unable to make payments. Management had disputed that contention.

The court-supervised restructuring allows for a six-month observation period renewable for a further six months to assess whether the company can be turned around.

BHV's management said it "welcomed" the court's decision. "The protection afforded by the Commercial Court should very quickly enable us to finalise discussions with Brookfield, the property owner, which we have been awaiting for several months," it said on Monday.

BHV Marais would remain open, the company added.

- Brand departures -

The store's previous owner already had problems with brand-name boutiques it hosted over payment delays before it sparked controversy last year by announcing that BHV Marais would host Shein's first permanent physical store.

The announcement struck a raw nerve with a French public concerned about the disappearance of local jobs amid a flood of Asian imports, and triggered the departure of a number of brands.

The owner finally sold the business to a number of its managers in June, who promptly parted ways with Shein. The new owners said that as part of that deal the ownership of part of the building was transferred, but they had yet to receive the funds, which adversely affected their plans to revamp the business.❑

Fridge cyberattack hits supermarkets across Europe

Stockholm, Sweden

Grocery stores in at least seven European countries saw temperatures in their cold cases soar on Monday, with several confirming they had been hit by a cyberattack similar to one three weeks ago in France.

Supermarkets in Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden were among those affected in the latest hacker attack.

Stores were forced to throw out food that had spoiled or risked being spoiled and restock their refrigeration units with fresh items.

Major French retailers said on October 12 that hundreds of store refrigeration systems were hit by a cyberattack, which also forced them to toss food and raised concerns about food security.

No one has claimed responsibility for either attack.

Carrefour Belgium on Monday reported disruption in about 15 of its 700 stores. "It's a cyberattack, there is no other reason," said spokesman Mich Vergauwen.

An Ikea Belgium spokeswoman likewise said a cyberattack hit its store in Mons, southwestern Belgium, causing the temperature of freezers to rise suddenly in the early hours of Monday.



This photograph shows empty refrigerators in a Delhaize supermarket in Boortmeerbeek some 30 km from Brussels, on November 2, 2026 following an IT incident.

Chains Delhaize, Colruyt and Intermarche also experienced technical problems affecting their fridges in Belgium, while Delhaize reported that four of its stores in Luxembourg were also affected.

Belgian industrial refrigeration group Sabcobel said it had begun securing its installations after the October 12 attack in France, but around 10 percent were still not fixed and some were in the shops affected on Monday.

"If Sabcobel hadn't started this operation ... the impact would have been much more important," chief executive Stephan Moelans told AFP.

Musgrave, which owns Supervalu in Ireland, said 13 of its stores were affected, as were a small number of corner shops in the Netherlands.

In Sweden, chain Coop confirmed six of its around 800 stores had been hit by a cyberattack early Monday.

"We can confirm that it is a cyber incident. The problem has now been resolved and the fridges and freezers are working as normal," spokesman Carlos Cancino told AFP.

He said Coop did not know who was behind the attack, but noted that the affected stores had been connected to a 4G mobile network, not the updated 5G system, which made them "more exposed" to hackers.

- 'Vulnerabilities' -

Swedish chain Ica also said "a limited number" of its stores experienced refrigeration problems, but the group could not confirm a cyberattack was the cause. According to Ica spokesperson Helena Johansson, the affected stores were all connected to an external refrigeration control system provided by Danish manufacturer Danfoss -- the same supplier targeted in the October 12 cyberattack on French retailers. She referred all queries to Danfoss.

It has not responded to AFP's request for a comment.

One Ica store located in Sjobo, in southern Sweden, posted on Facebook that its fridges and freezers had "been hacked and they set the temperature at 50 degrees" Celsius (122 Fahrenheit). In Finland, irregular temperatures had also been detected in a few smaller grocery stores belonging to the Kesko group.

"We are currently investigating the cause, and interference via the network has not yet been ruled out," Petri Kayhko, head of Kesko's corporate security, told AFP.

Roni Kokkola, an information security specialist at the National Cyber Security Centre at Finland's Transport and Communications Agency Traficom, would not rule out cyber interference "as far as Finland is concerned."❑

Laden with eggs, robots race up sacred Chinese mountain

Beijing, China

Dozens of robots took on more than 3,000 steps up one of China's most famous peaks Monday, carrying eggs and watermelons in a race organisers billed as a test of real-world machine endurance, state media showed.



A humanoid robot prepares to walk up steps while competing in the CMG World Robot Mount Tai Competition in Tai'an, in China's eastern Shandong province on November 2, 2026.

For hundreds of years, Mount Tai the tallest peak in China's eastern Shandong province was an important pilgrimage for Chinese emperors and features prominently in Chinese mythology.

But the rugged terrain would prove a stern test for some competitors. One humanoid robot wearing a bandana collapsed in a heap on the cobbled route before engineers rushed in to repair it, while another tumbled down a flight of stairs and came to rest beside a rubbish bin.

The UNESCO World Heritage site hosted technologies of the future as part of a new World Mountain Robot Challenge, footage from state broadcaster CCTV showed.

Over a 3.9-kilometre (2.4-mile) course with more than 600 metres (1,970 feet) of ascent, robots and their engineers from around 90 teams were tasked with either completing the route as fast as possible or transporting fragile goods like fresh eggs and watermelons to the summit.

A canine robot made by Beijing Lingyi Technology a subsidiary of industry giant Unitree completed the course in 43 minutes, 41 seconds, to win the four-legged speed category.

Most tourists take at least two hours to complete the route, according to CCTV.

The fastest humanoid robot belonging to Beijing-based team Zhishen Lingyue completed a shorter race course in 27 minutes and 26 seconds.

Organisers called Mount Tai's rocky terrain a "natural extreme testing ground" that could help train robots for real-world use, local media reported.

The race, organised by the state-run China Media Group, featured cash prizes for winners in several categories, including the fastest robots and the best load-carrying four-legged machine.❑

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.





Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

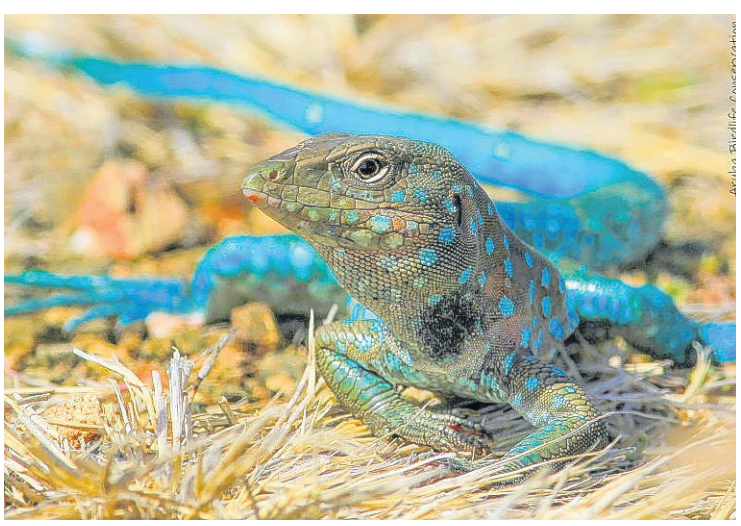
Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.❑

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.







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

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

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

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

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



Happy Sweet Sixteen to Stella!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today would like to give a birthday shout-out to Stella from New York, who is here with friends and family to celebrate Stella's Sweet Sixteen.

Stella, your Nonna and Poppy have a special message for you:

"Poppy and Nonna have been amazed at what an amazing woman you are becoming, between your athleticism, your volunteer work—it's amazing what you were doing. Everything that you were doing has been a breath of fresh air!"

Stella volunteers with autistic children and loves to work with disabled children. She also plays soccer and is a great student, so her Nonna says. "Everybody that sees her and knows her just loves her."

We are glad to celebrate your birthday with you, Stella. We hope you have a great couple of days on the island with your friends and family. ***Happy birthday!***❑





A quick snack for the road

Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:
Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.
Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few.❑

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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
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The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.



Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

•The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
•Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
•Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
•Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.
These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.
Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.❑

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.

Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba



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

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

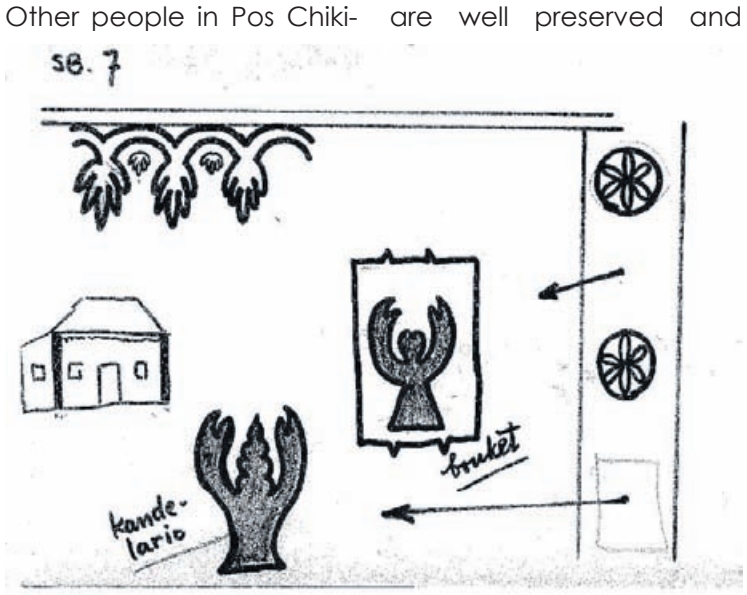
In his book Millefiori di Aruba, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the home of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of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

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

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

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

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



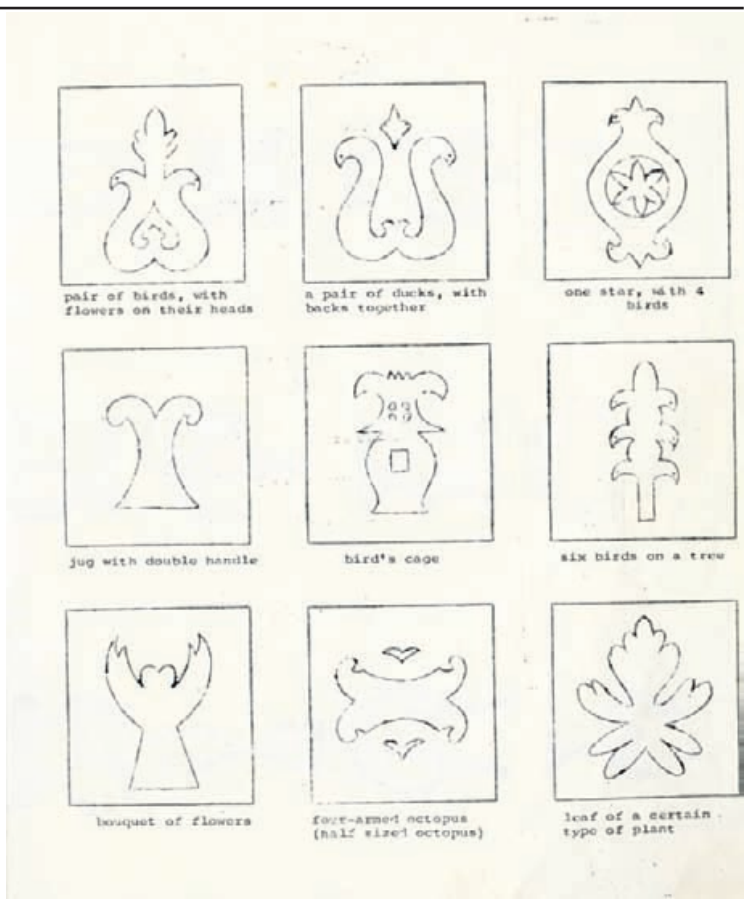
Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination into expressive art.

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

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

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

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.



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

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

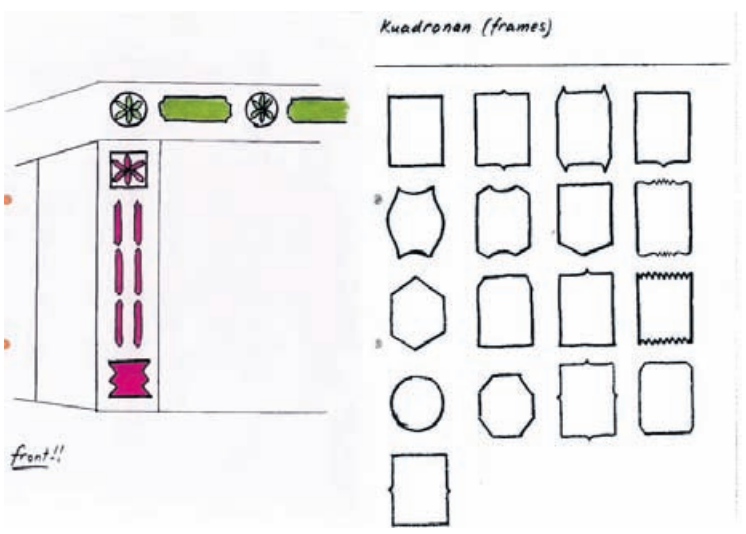
It was also said that these designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

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

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

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

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



Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.



Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate…

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!❑



ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



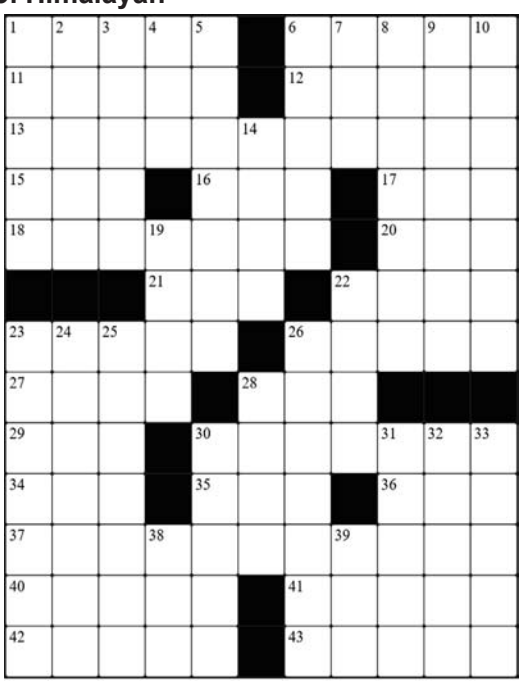
Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

1. Mrs. Eisenhower
6. Despised
11. Squirrel's find
12. Full of energy
13. Uncredited author
15. Charged particle
16. Flock father
17. Singer Grande, to fans
18. Scene sharers
20. Homer's neighbor
21. Make a choice
22. Stand
23. Lion features
26. Summit goals
27. Warring god
28. Relatives
29. Slangy denial
30. Eats like a bird
34. Play part
35. Caribou's kin
36. Sense of self
37. Hot salsa ingredient
40. Boredom
41. Pollute
42. Fix, as a clock
43. Louver parts

DOWN

1. Orlando team
2. Allergy sound
3. Planet circlers
4. Form 1040 org.
5. Catches
6. Injures
7. Boxing great
8. Ship in 1912 headlines
9. Himalayan peak
10. Mocks
14. Toad feature
19. Low digits
22. Army level
23. Baseball team VIP
24. Weaver of myth
25. Units of force
26. Strikers
28. Brown seaweed
30. Minor, in law
31. Brown shade
32. Insurance seller
33. Civil wrongs
38. Take to court
39. Chum



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-31 CRYPTOQUOTE

FHY TNXLTLBU LV L YGKPRT TINYY HY DHSCHB KI YQLTNI-CHB VKI GHRRKFNNB, FGNB L INHRLMNT L'C H UIKFB CHB. YK, DHSCHB.

— YSNQGNB XKRDNIS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BEWARE! AS YOU TRICK-OR-TREAT. THESE CREATURES WILL FIND YOU AND MAKE YOU SMELL THEIR FEET. — CASEY BROWNING

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

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/3

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★ 11/2

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U.S. approves cheap generic of breakthrough HIV shot for poorer countries

Washington, United States
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Monday approved a low-cost version of a twice-yearly HIV prevention shot, bringing the breakthrough drug closer to market in low-income countries.

The tentative approval was announced by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, the Indian maker of the generic version of lenacapavir, and by Unitaid, a global health initiative.

The generic will be available for $40 per person per year in 120 countries, under a pricing agreement announced in September 2025 between Unitaid, the African health research institute Wits RHI, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Dr. Reddy's.

Lenacapavir was first developed by US pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences and approved in June 2025 after proving more than 99.9 percent effective in large clinical trials.

"This is an extraordinary milestone for global health. For too long, people in lower- and middle-income countries have had to wait a decade or more to access breakthrough medicines already available elsewhere," Carmen Perez-Casas, Unitaid's senior strategy lead for HIV and pandemic preparedness, told AFP.

"With lenacapavir, we've reduced that gap to little more than a year. Having an FDA-approved generic at $40 per person per year a price comparable to daily HIV prevention pills is a remarkable achievement."

A twice-yearly injectable that is akin to a vaccine -- albeit without training the immune system -- can be a more effective way to administer HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) than daily pills, which first won U.S. approval in 2012 but only work if taken consistently.

But lenacapavir's high cost roughly $28,000 per year in the US, though insurance lowers what patients pay was a major obstacle to its becoming a game-changer against a disease that has killed over 40 million people in four decades.

In late 2024, Gilead granted voluntary licenses for lenacapavir to six generic manufacturers, including Dr. Reddy's.

Even before generic availability, more than 125,000 people in 10 early adopter African countries have already started Gilead's lenacapavir, Unitaid's statement said.

"This is a moment of immense pride for all of us at Dr. Reddy's," said Deepak Sapra, CEO of Pharmaceutical Services and API at Dr. Reddy's, in a statement.

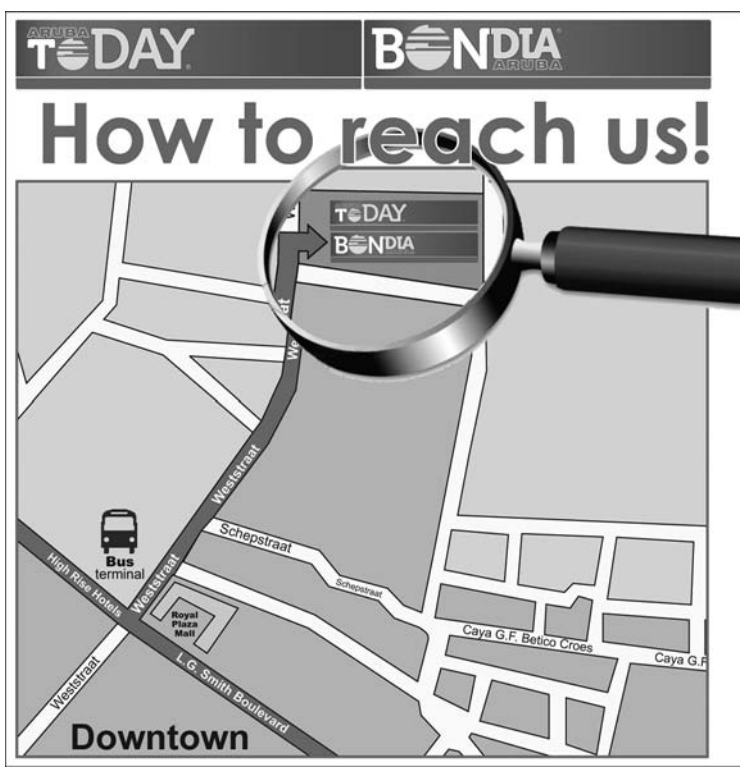
The generic was granted "tentative approval" by the FDA, Unitaid said, under an accelerated pathway that allows sponsors to use existing data.

- From approval to rollout -

Lenacapavir was named "Breakthrough of the Year" in 2024 by the prestigious journal Science, which hailed the basic research underpinning the drug, specifically a new understanding of HIV's capsid protein, which forms a protective shell around the virus's genetic material and which lenacapavir targets.❑



A vial of Lenacapavir, a drug taken twice a year that has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV transmission by more that 99.9% is held by a nurse at the Phedisong clinic in Ga-Rankuwa, northwest of Pretoria, on December 2, 2025.



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

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ARUBA TODAY

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OpenAI partners with state oil firm among raft of UAE deals

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

UAE state oil company ADNOC on Monday announced a partnership with OpenAI, saying it would be the world's first energy firm to deploy OpenAI Frontier, an advanced artificial intelligence platform.

The deal was among a raft of agreements announced with the UAE as OpenAI CEO Sam Altman attended its flagship oil industry event in Abu Dhabi, which has bet heavily on the technology in a bid to diversify its economy away from energy.

Gulf countries have been struggling to export oil since Iran began blockading the Strait of Hormuz and targeting tankers in the area, but the US military has been escorting ships through the route. The blockade has caused a spike in oil prices.

ADNOC said in a statement that OpenAI's models would enable it to be "the first energy company in the world to use this technology to value every barrel while it is still in the ground".



A visitor uses his mobile phone during the opening ceremony of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) in Abu Dhabi on November 2, 2026.

The deal will also see ADNOC and OpenAI partner with G42, an Emirati AI company chaired by the brother of the UAE's president. No financial details of the deal were disclosed.

Altman met with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khaled bin Mohamed al-Nahyan, signing a number of agreements to incorporate AI into government institutions, investment funds and companies.

The Abu Dhabi government and OpenAI were launching "the world's first AI-native Machine-Readable Government initiative", the emirate's media office said in a statement.

The initiative will enable "AI-powered systems to assist officials with routine regulatory compliance assessments, including those related to issuing permits and certificates", it added.

A pilot is already in production with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority focused on food imports, the statement said.

State-backed fund Mubadala, OpenAI and Inception42, part of G42, also signed a deal to apply advanced AI capabilities to "investment analysis, opportunity identification and risk assessment", as well as a five-year agreement to adopt Frontier AI "across government, enterprise and education".

- 'Forward-looking' –

The oil-rich UAE is a top AI player in the Middle East and has been seeking to become a dominant force in the field globally.

"From the moment ChatGPT was born, the world has asked what energy can do for AI, and now together we will find out what AI can do for energy," said ADNOC's managing director and CEO Sultan Al Jaber at the ADIPEC oil conference.

Altman praised the UAE as having "consistently been the most forward-looking country in the world for AI adoption".

According to the ADNOC statement, "interconnected AI agents will continuously forecast crude oil supply, demand, prices and margins, predict their impacts before they occur, and weigh the commercial and operational impact of every decision as one integrated process".

The UAE has been betting heavily on AI since 2017, when it named the world's first AI minister and became the second country after Canada to unveil a national AI strategy.

A year later, G42 was founded with backing from Abu Dhabi-based sovereign wealth fund Mubadala. Chaired by the UAE president's brother, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, it offers a range of AI products and employs more than 23,000 people.

Last year, intense lobbying bore fruit when the US approved the export of advanced Nvidia chips to both the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

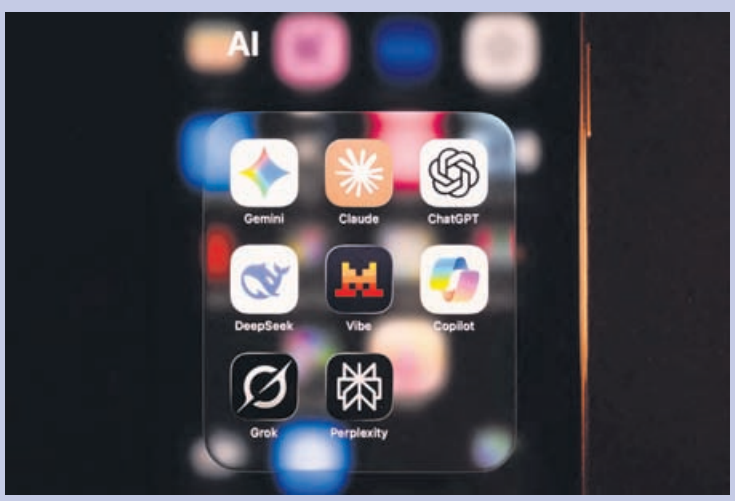
On Sunday, Saudi state oil firm Aramco said it was taking a 49 percent stake in Saudi state-backed AI company Humain, injecting cash and assets as the tech firm tries to scale up to meet rising demand.❑

AI giants promise publishers new way to block some scraping

San Francisco, United States

OpenAI, Google, Microsoft and Anthropic pledged on Friday to give media outlets and other websites a single way to prevent their content from being scraped to train artificial intelligence (AI) models, amid growing criticisms and legal battles from news publishers.

Publishers currently have to implement multiple blocking commands for every bot that crawls the web to collect data, but the new proposed solution will allow them to enter a single, standardized instruction that's recognized and honored by any AI company that adopts the protocol.



A selection of AI applications, including Gemini, Claude, ChatGPT, DeepSeek, Mistral, Copilot, Grok and Perplexity, appears on a smartphone screen in Creteil, France, on September 11, 2026, as Anthropic announced that it had blocked several accounts that used its artificial intelligence models for research that could contribute to the development of biological weapons.

The solution will not fully take effect for months, though.

Microsoft will implement it beginning February 1, 2027, and Google sometime in 2027. ChatGPT-maker OpenAI said it will roll it out "in the coming months," while Claude-maker Anthropic said it has "already started" rolling it out.

The announcement comes as publishers are facing a surge in bots that scrape their articles to feed AI models. Some, like the New York Times, have taken the matter to court.

In December 2023, the Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft for allegedly using millions of its articles without authorization or payment to train ChatGPT.

The two tech companies are invoking an exception to copyright law known as fair use.

Meanwhile, internet infrastructure provider Cloudflare has blocked AI bots by default on new customer sites since July 2025, and a standard called Really Simple Licensing already allows publishers to charge bots that visit their pages.

The new setting will apply only to future training of models but does not prevent bots from crawling otherwise, and content scraping will be allowed by default until the setting is changed by a publisher, Microsoft said in a blog post.❑



Calais Campbell #93 of the Baltimore Ravens tries to tackle Josh Allen #17 of the Buffalo Bills as Allen runs the ball during the second half at Highmark Stadium on November 1, 2026 in Orchard Park, New York.

Vikings suffer first loss while Broncos edge Chiefs in NFL

Washington, United States
Minnesota became the last NFL club to tumble from the unbeaten ranks on Sunday while Denver made a game-ending defensive goal-line stand to deny Patrick Mahomes and edge Kansas City in a thriller.
A dramatic day also saw Josh Allen make history in sparking Buffalo over injury-hit Baltimore, which might have lost quarterback Lamar Jackson for the rest of the season.
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.
Kyler 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 Detroit the victory.
"Too much inconsistency. We didn't deliver at a high enough level," Murray said. "We had our opportunities to get it done. We just didn't."

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, where the club said he will stay overnight for observation and evaluation.
Denver rallied with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat the visiting Chiefs 28-24, only the third loss for Mahomes in 83 games with a lead of 10 or more in the final period.

Bo Nix threw a touchdown pass and two-point conversion and Jonah Coleman had a five-yard touchdown run with 1:56 to play to put Denver ahead.
The Chiefs (5-2) drove to the Broncos' one-yard line only for Mahomes to be sacked by Malcolm Roach on the final play.
Denver's Nix completed 20 of 32 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns.
"I'm so proud of our team," he said. "It was a big win for us. I can't say enough about our team fighting. It's an awesome feeling."

- Jackson hurt in loss -
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 rout of the Ravens.
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 will require thumb surgery and be placed on injured reserve, potentially ending his season, Ravens coach Jesse Minter said.
"That's a tough deal," Minter added. "We'll see where that's at."
Reserve Tyler Huntley replaced Jackson only to suffer a foot injury that forced emergency quarterback Joe Fagnano into his first NFL game.
"We'll figure out what we have and try to put together the best plan," said Minter, whose team play against Jacksonville on Thursday.
Allen broke Jim Kelly's team record for career touchdown passes on an 11-yard connection to DJ Moore with 12:18 remaining and added a 23-yard TD throw to Dalton Kincaid.
"To break the records, it's cool, but it's not just me," Allen said. "A lot of guys have put in the work to get me here."

- Overtime thrillers -
At Dallas, Chad Ryland kicked a 42-yard field goal in overtime to deliver Arizona a 33-30 victory, after he had missed a conversion that would have won the game in the dying seconds of regular time.❑



Russell Westbrook attends Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) Road to 2028 Summit at Intuit Dome on July 14, 2026 in Inglewood, California.

Thunder to retire Westbrook jersey '0' in February

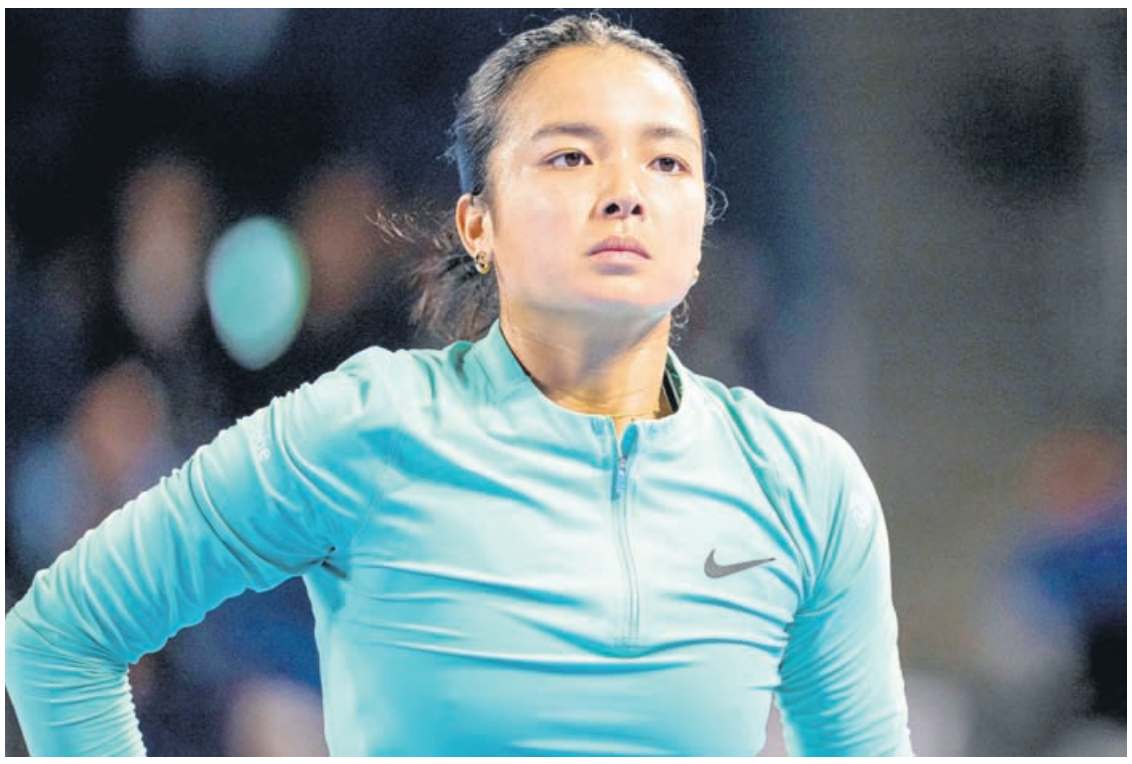
Washington, United States
The Oklahoma City Thunder will retire the number "0" jersey of star guard Russell Westbrook at a February 7 home game against New York, the NBA club announced on Monday.
The 37-year-old guard announced his retirement in August after 18 NBA seasons in which he became the all-time league leader in triple doubles with 209.
Westbrook spent 11 seasons with the Thunder from 2008-2019 and had stints with Houston, Washington, the Los Angeles Clippers and Los Angeles Lakers, Denver and Sacramento.
Westbrook won the 2017 NBA Most Valuable Player award with the Thunder and led the club into the playoffs nine times, including four trips to the Western Conference finals and a run to the 2012 NBA Finals, where Oklahoma City lost to Miami.
"We are incredibly proud to retire Russell's number," Thunder chairman Clayton Bennett said.
"Russell made a lasting mark on the city and state during his time with the team, and his involvement in the community has endured long after.
"We are deeply grateful for his genuine care for the people of Oklahoma and he will always be considered a member of the Oklahoma City community."

Westbrook, the fourth overall pick in the 2008 NBA Draft, retired as Oklahoma City's all-time leader in games played (821), points (18,859), rebounds (5,760), assists (6,897), steals (1,442), field goals made (6,626) and minutes played (28,329).
"Many players make an impact but only great players leave a legacy. Russell Westbrook's legacy was built both on the court and in the community," Thunder executive vice president and general manager Sam Presti said.
"His mindset was relentless, his commitment deep. For all those reasons, Oklahomans consider him one of their own and his number will be raised to the rafters in Oklahoma City forever."
In the 2016-17 campaign, Westbrook averaged an NBA-best 31.6 points, 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists a game to become only the second player to average a triple double for a full season. He had a single-season record 42 triple doubles in that MVP season.
Westbrook was a two-time NBA scoring champion, in 2015 and 2017, and a nine-time NBA All-Star plus a three-time NBA season assists leader -- 2018, 2019 and 2021.
Westbrook appeared in 1,301 regular-season games, 1,133 as a starter, and had career averages of 20.9 points, 8.0 assists and 6.9 rebounds.❑

Eala talks 'intimidating' Nadal, fan frenzy in breakthrough year

Hong Kong, China
Philippines tennis trailblazer Alex Eala remembers the moment it struck her just how wildly popular she had become, telling AFP: "It was shocking."
It was a hot and sunny January day in Melbourne this year and the Filipina was playing in the main draw at the Australian Open for the first time.
Huge lines of fans from her country queued up to catch a glimpse of her and the intimate court used for the first-round match against the American Alycia Parks was packed beyond bursting.
Eala lost and, after spending some time greeting her supporters, she was whisked out of the arena by the kind of security detail usually reserved for heads of state.
"Hard to forget," the 21-year-old said in an interview at this week's Hong Kong Open, reminded of the episode.
"Yeah, it was shocking.
"I've experienced crowds before but I think that was probably my first experience where it was of that magnitude.

"And I think those moments kind of hit a bit stronger when they're unexpected."
Back in the Philippines, which has never had a world-class woman tennis player before, Eala was already on the way to becoming a superstar.
Then at Wimbledon in July she reached the last 16 her best performance at a Grand Slam and a photo of her diving full-length to make a shot went viral.
Next came history as she beat four-time major champion Naomi Osaka in the semi-finals in Washington, DC and defeated top seed Jessica Pegula for the title.
Eala was the first player from the Philippines to win a WTA singles crown.
She is now at a career-high 17 in the world and it has become a feature of women's tennis that wherever she plays she is mobbed by huge crowds of her compatriots.


Philippines' Alexandra Eala looks on during her quarter-final match against Russia's Diana Shnaider at the WTA Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament at Ariake Coliseum in Tokyo on October 28, 2026.

- Learning from Venus -
Part of Eala's charm in the eyes of her followers is that she does not shy away from engaging with her many fans.
How does she do it even after losing?
"I do my best to give back to them," said Eala, who is the second seed in Hong Kong and starts her title bid against Parks.
"It's something that I can do to show them that it (their support) is appreciated."
Eala's rise to prominence has seen her play alongside multiple Grand Slam winner Venus Williams in doubles.
The 46-year-old Williams is also playing in Hong Kong this week.
"I think when you're able to work so closely or be in the vicinity of someone of that magnitude or someone like Venus, you notice a lot of things, and I try to be a little observant," said Eala.
"The mindset that she has of aggression on court is amazing and the work ethic is incredible.
"I think the work ethic is something that is difficult to achieve."

- 'Intimidating' Nadal -
Rafael Nadal is another legend of the game that Eala can draw knowledge from, having come through at his academy in Mallorca.
When Eala was named in September by Time magazine in a list of most influential rising stars in the world, Nadal fondly recalled she was the first player he shared a tennis court with since his retirement two years ago.❑

'Remarkable' rookie Lendeborg scores 37 as Warriors beat Clippers

Los Angeles, United States
Rookie Yaxel Lendeborg poured in 37 points as the Golden State Warriors shrugged off the absence of Stephen Curry to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 124-112 on Sunday.
Lendeborg, who was picked 11th overall in the 2026 NBA Draft, racked up the highest points tally yet of his fledgling career while also providing six assists and grabbing four rebounds, as the Warriors snagged a fourth straight win.
His 37 points were the most by a Warriors rookie in a game since Curry had 42 in 2010.
Curry, now a 38-year-old veteran, had averaged 33 points over the past three games, including 44 against the Timberwolves on Wednesday, but missed Sunday's game to manage his troublesome right knee. With Draymond Green also out, 24-year-old American-Dominican forward Lendeborg was the linchpin of a Warriors attack that has bounced back emphatically from losing its opening three games, after missing out on last season's playoffs.
"I'm gonna just continue to try to keep playing with a smile on my face. Maybe throw little dance moves like Steph in once in a while, but I'm gonna just keep trying to find my joy," said Lendeborg.
Coach Steve Kerr praised Lendeborg for adapting so quickly to the NBA.
"He's playing this way and he really doesn't know the NBA game yet... The game is still really fast for him. But he's so skilled and so talented that he's making all kinds of plays out there," said Kerr.
"I think he's going to get a lot better... But it's remarkable the impact he's making on these games in the first couple weeks of the season."
Elsewhere on Sunday, Luka Doncic racked up 45 points and 15 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers bested the Toronto Raptors 131-125.
The Lakers took the lead early in the first quarter and never surrendered it, even as the Raptors rallied from a 26-point deficit to create a few late nerves in Los Angeles.
As Toronto's Jamison Battle scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, Lakers coach JJ Redick was forced to sub his starters back into the game in the final minute to close out victory.

The Boston Celtics racked up a fifth straight win, beating the Orlando Magic 108-97.
Celtics star Jayson Tatum led the scoring, with 32 points and seven assists.
Some wayward Celtics shooting allowed a 15-point lead to evaporate in the third quarter.
But Boston's defense stayed resolute, forcing 18 turnovers for 21 points to pull clear again down the stretch. Paul George had 17 points, eight assists, two steals and two blocked shots.❑


Isaiah Jackson #23 of the LA Clippers falls to the court while guarding Yaxel Lendeborg #1 of the Golden State Warriors during the first half at Chase Center on November 01, 2026 in San Francisco, California.