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Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now









Trump says U.S. ending $3.8B in annual aid for Israel

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that Washington would end its annual $3.8 billion in aid to Israel, on the day of midterm elections in which support for Israel has been a contentious issue.

"We give Israel $4 billion a year, and we made a deal months ago that we're stopping," Trump said during a phone interview with Fox News.

Trump said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "fine" with the decision to end the aid.

Under the deal, Israel receives financial assistance for the purchase of around $3.8 billion in weapons a year.

"Now we'll help Israel if they need it," Trump said. "Israel is a very thriving country. They don't need it."

The announcement came as Americans voted in crucial midterm elections that will determine control of Congress for the last two years of Trump's presidency, and soon after parliamentary elections in Israel that did not produce a clear winner.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has received more than $300 billion, adjusted for inflation, in US economic and military assistance, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, far more than any other country in that time period.



An aerial view shows a campaign billboard depicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud party and US President Donald Trump in Tel Aviv on October 26, 2026, on the eve of the Israel's legislative elections.

Netanyahu has in the past expressed a desire to end Israel's dependence on US aid. In May, he told US broadcaster CBS that he wanted to reduce U.S. support to zero.

Tuesday's announcement was met with backlash from Israeli opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot, who said it showed that Netanyahu must go.

"The fact that Israel's defense establishment is learning of a shift in our strategic relationship through the media at the same time as the Israeli public shows just how dangerous Benjamin Netanyahu's conduct is," Eisenkot said in a statement. "He can no longer be trusted and must be replaced."

It was not immediately clear when the U.S. aid to Israel would actually end.

- Deep divisions -

The Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, launched in response to Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel has created deep divisions within the United States, with polls showing a growing number of Americans in favor of cutting aid to Israel.

The announcement also comes amid an eight-month war against Iran, with Trump confirming on Tuesday that the American military had carried out new strikes there.

Trump cited criticism from leftist Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed, who is running for US Senate after harnessing popular discontent and anti-Israel sentiment, as part of the reasoning behind the decision to end the aid package.

"Why should we suffer the slings from lunatics like an El-Sayed when they don't need it? It's a bad talking point," Trump said on Fox, referring to the aid for Israel.

The debate over support for Israel, which divides both Democrats and Republicans, is raging in El-Sayed's home state of Michigan, where there is a large Muslim community.

If he wins, El-Sayed would become the first Muslim member of the US Senate. He has been a vocal critic of the US alliance with Israel, calling for a halt to aid to the country.

His criticism of Israel was one factor behind Sunday's unexpected endorsement by Democratic congresswoman Haley Stevens -- El-Sayed's main rival in the party's primary -- of his opponent, Republican Mike Rogers, illustrating divisions within the party on the issue.❑

U.S. regulator advances route to 24-hour stock trading



Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Paul Atkins (L), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Chairman Michael Selig attend a summit of crypto and technology leaders in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on August 19, 2026 in Washington, DC.

New York, United States

American regulators gave the green light Tuesday for continuous trading of equity futures on U.S.-registered exchanges in a step that moves 24-hour trading of stocks closer to the mainstream.

The action opens up trading for "perpetual futures contracts" on individual shares, said Michael Selig, commissioner of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

"This expansion marks a significant step towards allowing U.S. market participants, consistent with applicable law, to avail themselves of the advantages of perpetual futures that have led to their emergence as widely sought tools for risk-management and price-discovery," Selig said in a statement.

These products are better suited to operating within "the protections of the CFTC's proven regulatory framework, rather than being forced to turn to offshore, and often unregulated, venues," he said.

The CFTC action opens up a pathway for much higher volume in securities tied to underlying stocks outside of the hours of traditional trading of between 9:30 am (1430 GMT) and 4 pm (2000 GMT) when the New York Stock and Exchange and Nasdaq sessions are held.

Last week, Intercontinental Exchange, which owns the New York Stock Exchange, announced plans to bring perpetual trading "onshore in the United States, subject to regulatory approvals."

The venture with Trade{XYZ} aims to serve a growing market and the meet demand for "retail traders increasingly seeking short-duration exposure, often around the clock, across crypto, equities, commodities, foreign exchange and other real-world assets," ICE said in an October 29 press release.

ICE described the venture as "a new retail growth opportunity, operated separately from ICE's institutional core."❑

Americans vote in election that could reshape Trump presidency

Washington, United States

Millions of Americans voted Tuesday in a midterm election seen as a referendum on Donald Trump that could wrest control of Congress from Republicans and impose major restraints on the president's remaining two years in office.

Polls predict the Democrats will win a majority in the House of Representatives and possibly seize the Senate on the back of voter resentment at an unpopular president, soaring energy costs and the ongoing conflict with Iran.

Republicans losing the House would give Democrats the power to stall Trump's legislative agenda and launch sweeping investigations of his administration.

A Senate defeat would threaten his ability to appoint Supreme Court justices and senior officials -- and signal that Trump's overwhelming dominance of US politics is finally fading.

Gabrielle Schlueter, a 69-year-old retiree casting her ballot in Atlanta, Georgia, told AFP that she was voting a straight Democratic ticket.

"The way the country is going is not very good. The economy. The prices of everything," Schlueter said. "Healthcare. I'm not suffering from it but others shouldn't have that worry."

Trump, 80, defended his record in a final TV phone-in pitch to voters on Tuesday, saying he had rebuilt the country through his immigration crackdown, war on Iran and tariffs.

"We have to keep America great. We're great now. We were terrible two years ago," Trump told "Fox & Friends."

All 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are at stake, along with governorships in 36 states. Democrats need only three House gains and a net four seats in the Senate to take control of both chambers from the Republicans.

Trump returned to office promising to bring down prices, but inflation, tariffs and fuel costs inflated by the Middle East conflict have squeezed Americans.



People vote a polling location on Election Day during the midterm elections in Anchorage, Alaska on November 3, 2026.

- Economic discontent -

Republicans insist that Trump's tax cuts and anti-migrant stance will benefit voters, and they have portrayed Democratic candidates as left-wing radicals -- a message that has seemed to resonate with some voters.

"Democrats used to be decent in the past but they became very socialist," Maru Restrepo, a 70-year-old voter of Colombian origin, told AFP in Miami. "The Republicans maintain America's values. They love the country."

In his final public campaign appearance on Monday, Trump barely touched on the election and gave a rambling talk about his problem-plagued renovation of Washington's Reflecting Pool.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer branded it a "pathetic closing message."

Republicans currently hold a 53-47 Senate majority, but the battlefield has extended into once reliably conservative states like Kansas, Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska.

Democrats must also defend competitive seats, including in Michigan, where a bitter internal dispute saw congresswoman Haley Stevens endorse Republican Mike Rogers rather than the Democratic nominee, Abdul El-Sayed.

Decision Desk HQ's final forecast projected 241 House seats for Democrats against 194 for Republicans, and a narrower 52-48 Democratic Senate majority.

- Disputed results? -

More than 57 million Americans had already voted early before Tuesday, indicating high engagement.

The campaign has attracted more than $11 billion in political advertising, and mega-rich Trump ally Elon Musk has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Republican efforts.

As soon as polls close, concerns will mount over whether results will be accepted by the Republicans.

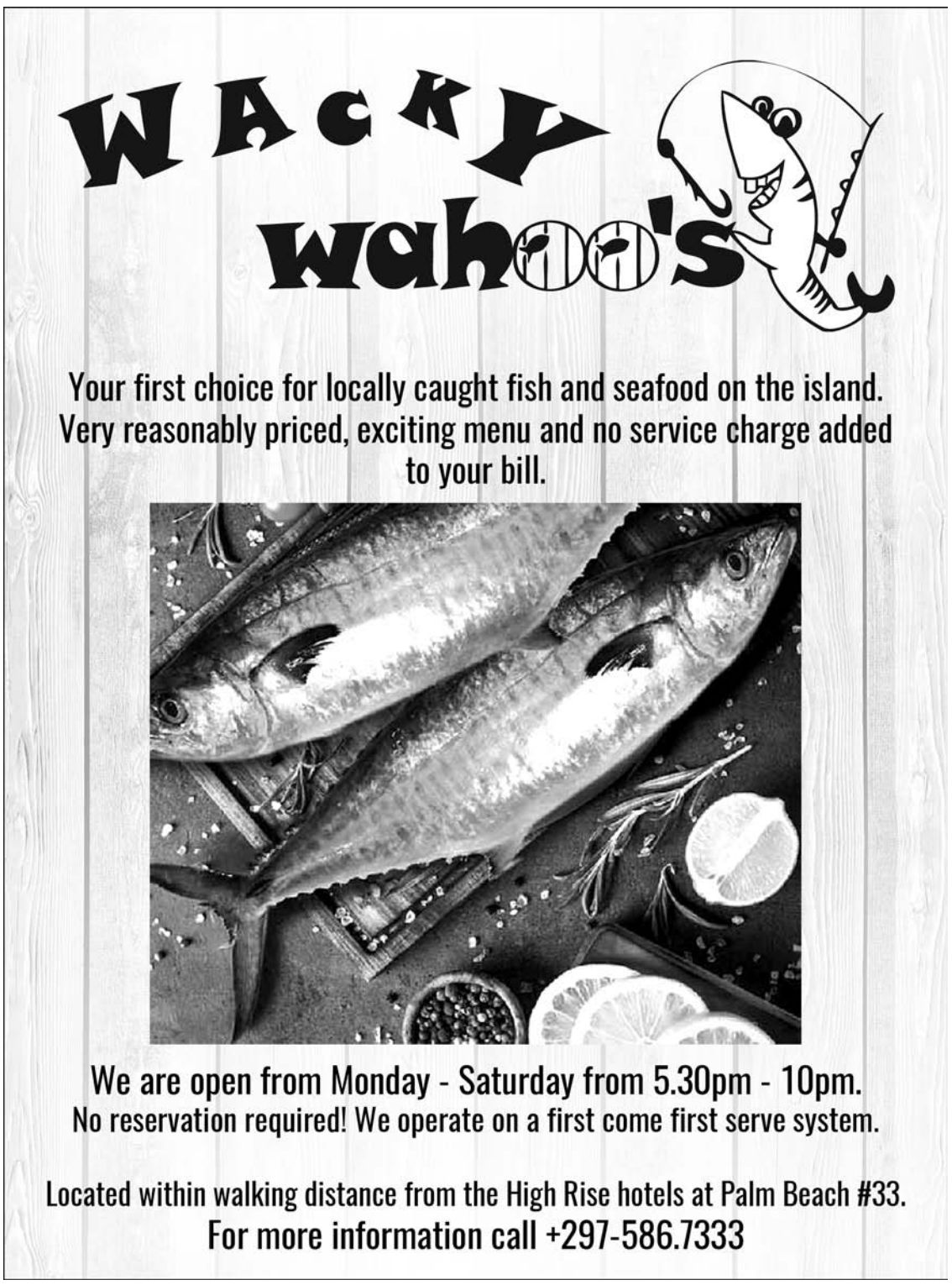
Trump, who tried to overturn his 2020 presidential election defeat, has repeatedly alleged widespread voter fraud and accused Democrats -- with no evidence -- of cheating.

Voting machines malfunctioned in a hotly contested House race in New York state on Tuesday, prompting right-wing influencers to fling unfounded allegations of fraud even as local election officials insisted all ballots would be counted.

The Justice Department, run by Trump's former personal lawyer, has already sued to potentially block certification of Alaska's Senate race if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan narrowly loses, although a court ruled against the effort.

And the Supreme Court rejected on Monday an emergency bid to force California to set aside the mail-in ballots of more than 20,000 people on the grounds they may not be American citizens.

Trump, who will watch the midterms results at the White House on Tuesday night, said that if he does lose control of Congress he has a plan to defy Democrats. "I veto everything," he vowed.❑



Egyptian mummy portraits show antiquity's piercing gaze in new Rome show

Rome, Italy

An elegant woman gazes out from her portrait with expressive eyes, a gilded wreath worn in her hair and a gentle, questioning look on her face.

She is one of the 2,000-year-old "Faces of Fayum", startlingly realistic funerary -- or mummy -- portraits painted after Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.

The fragile portraits dating from the first to third centuries AD painted on thin wooden panels and designed to be placed over the face of mummies will go on display in Rome in what organizers hail as a "milestone" collaboration between Italy and Egypt.

"Egypt and Rome, the Faces of Fayum", opening Wednesday at Rome's Ara Pacis museum, also includes mummies, masks, shrouds, jewelry, marble busts and statuary.

The majority of the artifacts come from Egypt, with some allowed to leave the country for the first time.

Such is the case of the "Tondo of the Two Brothers" from Cairo's Egyptian Museum, a freshly restored double portrait from the time of Emperor Hadrian that depicts two curly-haired young men, possibly brothers, with soulful eyes.

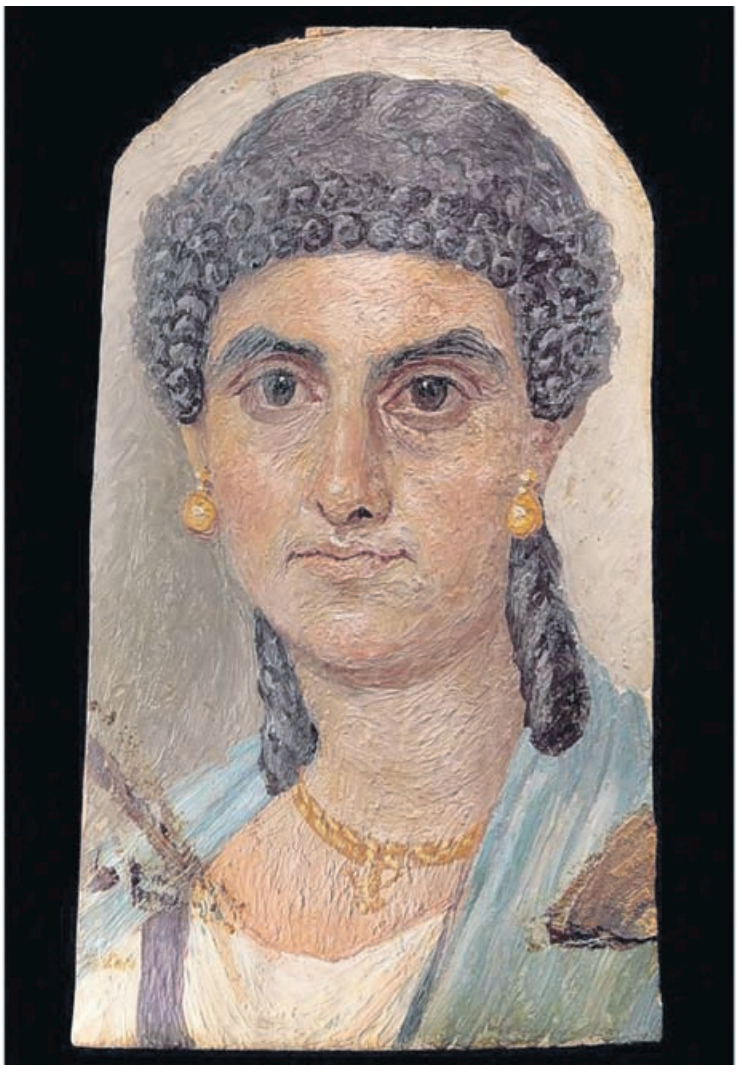
Rome's top official for cultural heritage, Claudio Parisi Presicce, called the work an "absolute masterpiece, perhaps the most important pictorial work to have survived from antiquity".

"These are simple wooden panels, often just a few millimeters thick, made of wood... and they were used to depict, through extremely naturalistic painting, the faces of the individuals who were being buried," Parisi Presicce told a press conference Monday.

Rooted in the tradition of Hellenistic painting, the portraits placed over the head of the mummy and secured into its wrappings come from a relatively brief period between the first and third centuries AD, after Egypt became a province of Rome.

In a fusion of two great civilizations Egyptian and Roman the men, women and children portrayed often bear Egyptian features, but wear Roman dress.

Their faces are vivid, and haunting, whether bearing signs of graying hair and wrinkles, or the long eyelashes and chubby cheeks of a child.



This evidence image released in a Search Warrant issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York on May 19, 2022, shows a painted portrait of a woman of the Fayum type, dated AD 54-68, and valued at approximately 1,245,350.

"These people are not dead," Italian figurative painter Amedeo Modigliani once said of the Fayum portraits.

"They are more alive than those who gaze upon them."

- Ushering the dead -

Works from the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Landesmuseum Württemberg and other international museums round out the exhibit.

A fertile area of Egypt on the edge of the desert, Fayum's arid climate helped preserve the delicate painted wood, textiles and papyrus on display in the exhibition.

One work, on loan from the Louvre, is a spectacular, near-pristine linen shroud depicting a man standing between the mummy he will become and Anubis, the jackal-headed god who helped usher the dead into the Afterlife.

Some of the female portraits are adorned in sumptuous jewelry, such as that of the woman "Isidora" from the first century AD, whose three-tiered gold necklace adorned with precious stones, pearl earrings and elaborately curled hairdo project her status.

Parisi Presicce said that "countless questions" remain about the compelling portraits.

"Were they made earlier and kept until the moment of death? Were they painted at the time the deceased was buried? Were they panels that were hung in homes, in residences?" he asked.

A nail found at the top of one of the portraits makes this theory plausible, he said.

Hisham El-Leithy, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the images from so long ago have an uncanny power to move us.❑

Music links past, present for Pedro Pascal's cellist in 'Behemoth!'

New York, United States

Pedro Pascal learned to play the cello for his starring role in upcoming film "Behemoth!" from Oscar-winning writer-director Tony Gilroy. "I was so taken by what the story was and the... intimacy of all of it, in the way that I guess how intimate it can feel to listen to music and to be guided by music," the 51-year-old actor told an audience at a showing of the movie at the New York Film Festival on Friday.



Chilean-American actor Pedro Pascal arrives at the 2026 AFI (American Film Institute) Fest Presented By Canva - Special Screening Of Searchlight Pictures' 'Behemoth!' held at TCL Chinese 6 Theatres at Ovation Hollywood on October 23, 2026 in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, United States.

Jumping between past and present, the film tells the story of Alex Serian, a cellist who moves to Los Angeles to care for his dying mother and escape an overbearing ex played by Olivia Wilde.

While there he joins an orchestra that performs film scores, and the music they play serves as a link for both Alex and the audience, connecting fragments from his past that appear to have overwhelmed him.

Chilean-American Pascal said his character "just seemed like a person who is as much of a kind of passenger to his life as you are a passenger to his experience...as a viewer."

As he goes from city to city, lover to lover, the score for "Behemoth!" written by nine composers and which serves as the score performed by the orchestra in the film -- triggers the main character's memories.

The film marks a departure for Gilroy, who cut his teeth writing action movies like the "Bourne" films and legal thrillers like "Michael Clayton."

"I never wrote a character quite like this before that wasn't escaping or rushing towards" crises, the 70-year-old filmmaker said, adding that he was inspired by the legendary Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni, who "manages to be... a passenger in the movie, but never passive."❑



Relatives burn pinewood sticks next to the graves of their loved ones as part of a tradition locally called Panag-aapoy "to light a fire" ceremony to commemorate All Saints Day in the tourist town of Sagada, Mountain province, northern Philippines on November 1, 2026.

On All Saints' Day, Philippine mountain town honors dead with fire

Sagada, Philippines, Philippines

Tiny pinewood bonfires burned through the night at a mountain cemetery as the largely Christian Philippines remembered its dead, turning the fog-shrouded hilltop into a vast, fragrant altar of light.

The eerie Panag-aapoy ("to light a fire") ceremony in the tourist town of Sagada has marked All Saints' Day for the past 122 years, said Winston Garlejo Menong, director of the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, which owns the cemetery.

As night crept in and darkness blanketed the four-hectare burial ground, the hum of activity and thick smoke gave way to a sepulchral glow as fires burned for its more than 2,000 dead.

The Cordillera mountain region's animist residents adopted Christianity only after Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States in 1898, four centuries after Spanish friars had converted the people of the coasts to Catholicism.

US Protestant missionaries encouraged Sagada's residents to bury their dead and light candles on their graves, he said.

"In our Biblical context, Christ is the light," Menong said.

Be it with candles or the pine sticks preferred in Sagada, lighting a flame is "inviting the presence of Christ with us, having fellowship with our departed loved ones", he said.

- Respecting boundaries -

Sagada's first Christians burned pinewood because candles were expensive and their flames were easily snuffed out by wind -- unlike the brisk burn of the aromatic, sap-rich pines that cover the Cordilleras, Sagada tourism officer Maria Teresa Abad told AFP.

The practice echoes the burning of incense in Buddhist rituals, though pine's sharp natural scent makes it stand out from the aromatic powders used in joss sticks. Cybil Domoguen returned to Sagada this year with her father and a bundle of 20-inch (51 centimetre) pine sticks to honour the grandparents who had raised her there.

"It's very unusual that people actually come here to watch. Usually one comes to the cemetery to pray for a dead relative," the 31-year-old teacher told AFP.

"If a grave does not have any visitors, people make sure to light some sticks for them."

Like others participating in the ceremony, she has conflicted feelings about the growing tourist presence.

"Last year, there were tourists who were taking pictures of us, which was uncomfortable," she added.

"We have no problem with strangers as long as they respect boundaries."

- Hanging coffins -

The people of Sagada did not always light flames over their dead, or even bury them.

Before the missionaries arrived, the preferred practice was to hang coffins from the walls of cliffs or wedge them into the mouths of caves, a custom that only fully died out in 2010, Abad, the tourism officer, said.

Some of the "hanging coffins" can still be seen on nearby Sagada cliffs.

"Traditional burial beliefs associate caves and elevated burial places with the spirit's passage toward the ancestral realm", something burial would hinder, she said.❑

More women in top management, but inequalities persist: U.N.



A photograph taken on September 7, 2026 shows a boardsign of the International Labour Organization (ILO) ahead of the election of the United Nations agency's next Director-General, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Geneva, Switzerland

The number of women in top leadership jobs at companies worldwide has risen since 2013, but inequalities remain at lower managerial levels, the International Labor Organization said Tuesday.

The share of companies with a female board chair surged from 13.1 percent in 2013 to 30.9 percent last year, the United Nations agency said in a report.

The share with a woman chief executive rose from 23.4 percent to 28.2 percent in the same period.

But the report found women remain under-represented in the corporate hierarchy overall, holding just 30.5 percent of managerial positions globally -- up from 24.5 percent in 2000.

"Gender equality is a fundamental right, and the evidence is clear that it is also a powerful driver of sustainable enterprises and economic growth," ILO Director-General Gilbert Houngbo said in a statement.

The report was based on a survey of 11,957 companies in 99 countries.

It found a "growing gap" between companies' commitments on gender equality and implementation on the ground.

While nearly three-quarters of firms had a gender equality and diversity policy or equivalent measure in place in 2025, the share implementing such initiatives -- such as maternity leave and equal pay programmes -- fell from 37.4 percent in 2018 to 26.5 percent last year, it said.

"At a time when enterprises are competing for skills and talent, leaving women's potential untapped makes little business sense," said the ILO's Maria Paz Anzorreguy. "The evidence increasingly tells us what works. The priority now is to put it into practice and scale it."

The report recommended bolstering leadership pipelines for women, using gender metrics and voluntary targets, and improving women's access to roles where they remain under-represented.

It also called for "action to address structural barriers outside the workplace, including unequal care responsibilities, occupational segregation and persistent social norms".❑

Tourists star in personal microdramas in 'China's Hollywood'

Hengdian, China

Inside the ornate imperial chamber of a replica Chinese palace, tourists twist their faces in feigned anger and mimic the movements of a director as they star in their own personalized microdramas.

Gao Saifei, a 19-year-old aspiring actor among the group, told AFP she travelled to Hengdian World Studios -- often referred to as "China's Hollywood" -- for the chance to act out a scene from a popular Chinese period drama.

Clad in a yellow Chinese imperial robe and furrowing her brows, she pretended to slap a kneeling concubine, while a crowd of enraptured tourists filmed the scene.

"It felt so liberating," Gao told AFP excitedly, after her scene was met with applause from onlookers.

The sprawling studio in Zhejiang province, which includes a replica of Beijing's Forbidden City, has drawn visitors like Gao, who want the chance to act in short microdramas for social media.

These mostly vertical soap opera-like series with episodes as short as 30 seconds have taken China by storm, with people across the country watching them on ByteDance-owned apps like Hongguo and Douyin.



This photo taken on October 23, 2026 shows extras performing for tourists at Hengdian World Studios in Hengdian, in eastern China's Zhejiang province.

Microdrama productions in Hengdian for tourists like Gao operate seamlessly, with a team including camera operators, lighting assistants, a director and sometimes extras assigned to each film set.

The director demonstrates the lines, actions and facial expressions of each character for tourists to mimic.

"Playing the emperor... allowed me to be a bit arrogant and dramatic," said Gao, who studies acting in Sichuan province.

"It really helped me let loose and break out of my shell."

- 'Back in time' -

At another studio in Hengdian, tourists sat at vanities as make-up artists powdered their faces and styled their hair in intricate designs.

Customers pay 388 yuan ($58) for the studio's full microdrama package, which includes a costume, hair and make-up services, and an edited video at the end of the filming.

The affordable rates have also drawn foreign tourists such as Kinjal Patel from London, whose $150 package includes English translators.

Patel, 35, who described herself as a microdrama and period drama fan, was playing the role of an innocent older sister defending herself against a manipulative, evil younger sister, who accuses her of breaking their mother's teacup.

"I... wanted to experience the architecture, the culture, the history and just walk through it because you feel like you're back in time," said Patel, donning a red Ming dynasty dress.

Microdramas are a hit because their content often "leans toward the realm of dreams and fantasies", said Wu Yizhuo, who was directing Patel's video.

"For instance, stories where a security guard is pursued by a beautiful female CEO, or a cleaning lady is wooed by a handsome, domineering CEO -- these are essentially escapist fantasies," Wu told AFP, referring to some popular microdrama tropes.

"Even though we know full well that what we're watching is fictional, our emotions still get swept up in the plot, allowing us to release some stress," he said.

- 'AI falls short' -

Microdrama production companies have been increasingly harnessing artificial intelligence to replace actors and screenwriters with algorithms, slashing costs in the process.

AI-generated content accounted for 95 percent of the 128,000 microdramas released nationwide in the first quarter of 2026, state broadcaster CCTV said in June. ❑

Ahead of COP31, Brazil offers a global fossil fuel exit plan



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks during a press conference at the COP30 UN Climate Change Conference in Belem, Para state, Brazil, on November 19, 2025.

Paris, France

Last year's U.N. climate summit host Brazil released Tuesday a roadmap for countries to transition away from fossil fuels, saying the endeavor was "necessary, urgent and yet possible" as nations prepare for next week's COP31 conference.

The COP30 conference in the Amazon city of Belem in 2025 ended with a final agreement that failed to explicitly mention fossil fuels after fierce opposition from major oil producers such as Saudi Arabia and Russia.

As an alternative, the Brazilian hosts offered to launch a roadmap for countries to shift away from oil, gas and coal on a voluntary basis.

"Taken together, the evidence and analysis in this Roadmap lead the COP30 Presidency to a clear conclusion that transitioning away from fossil fuels is urgent, inevitable and yet possible," the text released Tuesday said.

The document, however, acknowledged that "there is no unique solution for this complex puzzle" and suggested that countries tailor measures suited to their circumstances.

The roadmap proposes a "collective agenda" in three phases, from 2028 to 2033, during which countries should draw up plans and transform their energy systems.

"Countries differ in how fast they can move and in the support they need, but every country gains from immediately planning its transition away from fossil fuels," the document said.

Brazil also published a roadmap on halting deforestation by 2030.

"The transition is inevitable, so start planning now and as soon as possible, because this will be good for your country, for your society, for your economy," COP30 chief executive Ana Toni said in a media briefing.

But current policies and plans that have been announced so far "still leave the world short of the energy outcomes agreed in Dubai", the COP30 presidency document said.

- 'Act now' -

A new agreement on fossil fuels is unlikely at the two-week COP31 conference, which begins on Monday in Turkish Mediterranean resort Antalya.

Instead, COP31 president Turkey and Australia, which is steering the negotiations, are championing a voluntary programme aimed at boosting "electrification" in efforts to cut heat-trapping emissions.

While Toni said the fossil fuel roadmap would be discussed in Antalya on November 10, Brazilian officials stressed that their initiative was a call to action, not a document to be negotiated at COP31.❑

PSA for off-roaders:

Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today recently received a message from a reader about the rough terrains and dirt roads on the northern side of the island, worried about how they may damage you car.



We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if you are traveling by (regular) car. These holes often occur after heavy rain or during the raining season, primarily because Aruba is a hilly island with a lot of downward streams, so rain water travels downward creating cracks and holes along the way.

For your own safety, please be advised to not drive on potentially dangerous terrains or dirt roads with deep holes if you are traveling by regular car. We advise you to rent a 4x4 vehicle instead or better yet, plan your off-roading trip with a tour guide who can provide proper vehicles and assistance. ❑

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:



•Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
•Along the main road next to the airport field.
•At the California Light House.
•At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!❑

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Fun facts about the "transhi" hedges!

(Oranjestad)—When off-roading, you may encounter some houses that have rock hedges, aligned perfectly and held together by cement—or sometimes nothing at all.

These hedges are called "transhi," and have a historical and cultural meaning on the island. Used by cunukeros* around the island back when agriculture played a more dominant role in day-to-day life and survival, these stone hedges represent the resilience of our great-grand parents, who had to make do with what nature gave them.

These stone structures are traditionally placed carefully on top of each other. No cement or other binding mixture was used to hold the structure together. Though not commonly used for modern homes, the few structures that remain around the island stood the test of time, some completely intact even after decades of rain, wind and urbanization.

These stone hedges are a representation of the Aruba's unique farming culture-which valued durability, sustainability and resilience.

*cunukero: Aruban farmers. ❑

Pictures extracted from the 'Plantage Zorg en Hoop' collection on Coleccion.aw



Aruba's first Ombudsman and what she can mean for you

(Oranjestad)—Ombudsman Mrs. Jurima Bryson, appointed on October 1st 2024, is proud to represent Aruba and is prepared to help both locals and tourists with their concerns.



What is the role of the Ombudsman?
In a nutshell, the Ombudsman is the middle man between you and government or semi-government agencies. This means that as a local or as a visitor of Aruba, you can file a complaint to the bureau of the Ombudsman against government and semi-government agencies. Already left the island? No problem. The Ombudsman of Aruba can still receive and handle your complaint even from abroad. You only have to reach you.

To contact the Ombudsman, you can visit the office located at Caya G.F. Betico Croes 149, Oranjestad, Aruba. You can also call at +297 281 6800 or email @ombudsman.aw. for more questions or complaints.

Opening hours
The Ombudsman office is open to the public with no appointment from Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 am.

Follow the ombudsman on Instagram: @ombudsmanaruba and Facebook: Ombudsman Aruba❑

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!
To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also…kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day
Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influences from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi
In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.
You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".



Yes…no…maybe?
The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man…
Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".❑

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How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches. How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to sick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present they were swept away with the current!



Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.❑

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



Fun facts about the 'Lisinbein'

The 'Lisinbein' (Scolopendra gigantea), also known as the Giant Centipede, is one of the largest centipedes in the world and is found in Aruba. Its size and hunting prowess make it a fascinating, if often misunderstood, creature.

Despite its fearsome reputation, it plays a crucial ecological role that often goes unnoticed.

As an apex invertebrate predator, Scolopendra gigantea helps maintain balance in the ecosystem. Moreover, they themselves are a food source for birds such as the Crested Caracara (Warawara) and the Aruba burrowing owl (Shoco).

It controls populations of smaller invertebrates and even small vertebrates, ensuring that no species overpopulates, which could disrupt local biodiversity.

Its presence can indicate a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Its sensitivity to environmental changes makes it a bioindicator of ecological balance.

It can reach an impressive length of up to 30 centimeters (approx. 12 inches) and live for around 5 to 10 years in the wild. Its size and longevity makes it a significant and long-term part of the ecosystem.

A mother's love

In Scolopendra species, the 'mother' typically exhibits maternal care by curling around her eggs and newly hatched young. She stays coiled around the clutch, protecting it from predators and fungi, which are serious risks in the moist environments these centipedes often inhabit. The mother maintains a clean environment for the eggs by carefully grooming them, which helps prevent fungal growth that could endanger the brood. This behavior may continue until the young centipedes have undergone their first molt, making them more capable of independent survival.

This form of parental care is beneficial in increasing the survival rates of offspring, as the mother's protection provides a safe 'environment' during their vulnerable developmental stages. It's a fascinating adaptation because it shows a form of care that resembles more complex behaviors observed in vertebrates.

No bark, but all bite!

The lisinbein is known locally for having a really painful sting. While venomous, the Lisinbein is generally not aggressive toward humans unless provoked. Its role as a guardian of balance in the ecosystem helps protect the natural beauty of Aruba by keeping the ecosystem in harmony. ❑

Editor's note: Information and pictures provided by Ms. Natasha Silva from the Aruba Conservation Foundation.

ARUBA TODAY

ISLAND INSIGHT



Article by Etnia Nativa
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Episode CCCLXXVI - 376

Nature's Survivors: Can Some Corals Adapt to a Warming Ocean?

Through this space, Etnia Nativa shares stories rooted in Aruba's native heritage, encouraging a deeper appreciation of the island's natural environment, cultural richness, and ancestral traditions.

In this episode, we explore one of the Caribbean's most valuable natural treasures: coral reefs, the vital role they play in our oceans, and the growing threats they face as the planet warms.

Surrounding Aruba and the wider Caribbean, coral reefs support marine biodiversity, sustain fisheries and tourism, and protect our coastlines. However, rising ocean temperatures are putting these fragile ecosystems at increasing risk, causing coral bleaching and reef degradation.

Corals are living animals that depend on a close relationship with microscopic algae, known as zooxanthellae, which live within their tissues. Through photosynthesis, these algae provide much of the energy corals need to survive and give reefs their vibrant colors. When ocean temperatures remain unusually high, this relationship becomes stressed, causing corals to expel their algae and turn white in a process known as coral bleaching.

Bleaching does not necessarily mean a coral is dead. If temperatures return to normal quickly enough, corals can recover. However, prolonged heat stress can weaken them, increase their susceptibility to disease, and eventually lead to death. As reefs deteriorate, countless marine species also lose essential habitats and food sources.

Yet, not all corals respond to extreme heat in the same way. Some naturally possess a greater ability to withstand unusually warm ocean temperatures. Scientists believe this resilience may be influenced by genetics, the microscopic algae living within coral tissues, and the environmental conditions in which corals grow.

These naturally heat-tolerant corals offer a glimmer of hope for the future of Caribbean reefs. By studying what makes them more resilient, researchers hope to identify beneficial traits that could help strengthen vulnerable coral populations. They are also investigating whether heat tolerance can be inherited, allowing resilient parent corals to pass these characteristics on to future generations.

Can Science Give Reefs a Helping Hand?

Scientists are exploring how naturally heat-tolerant corals could improve reef restoration. One approach involves growing resilient coral colonies in nurseries and transplanting them onto damaged reef areas.

Another developing field is known as assisted evolution, which investigates ways to support natural processes that help organisms adapt to changing environmental conditions. These approaches include selective breeding, identifying heat-tolerant genetic traits, and studying beneficial microorganisms associated with coral health.

However, natural resilience is not a guarantee of survival. Even heat-tolerant corals may struggle with repeated, prolonged, or increasingly intense marine heatwaves. Some may also possess other vulnerabilities. Scientific innovation can support conservation, but it cannot replace the urgent need to address climate change and reduce ocean warming.

For Aruba, protecting coral reefs means safeguarding much more than a beautiful underwater landscape. These ecosystems are essential to marine biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection. Understanding how our local coral populations respond to rising ocean temperatures is therefore an important step towards developing effective conservation strategies.

Scientific research offers reasons for cautious optimism. Nature has remarkable adaptive abilities, and science is gradually uncovering how these mechanisms might help protect vulnerable ecosystems.

The future of Caribbean coral reefs remains to be written. Perhaps these natural survivors can teach us how to better protect them. However, their survival will depend not only on their ability to adapt, but also on our commitment to protecting the oceans.

Because beneath every Caribbean Island lies a natural treasure worth safeguarding — and its future is closely connected to our own.

At Etnia Nativa, we believe that understanding and appreciating Aruba begins with discovering the deep connections between its nature, culture, history, and ancestral knowledge.

We invite you to continue this journey of discovery with us, not only through the stories we share here, but also by visiting Etnia Nativa, our unique cultural sanctuary in Noord, Aruba. Step into a space where the island's natural and cultural heritage comes to life through stories, traditions, knowledge, and experiences that celebrate the richness of our native roots.

Discover Aruba beyond its beaches. Discover its soul, its heritage, and the stories that connect us to this land.❑



By appointment only.
WhatsApp: +297 592 2702.
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Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

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



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

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera"' ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.



The 21st century

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

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

ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



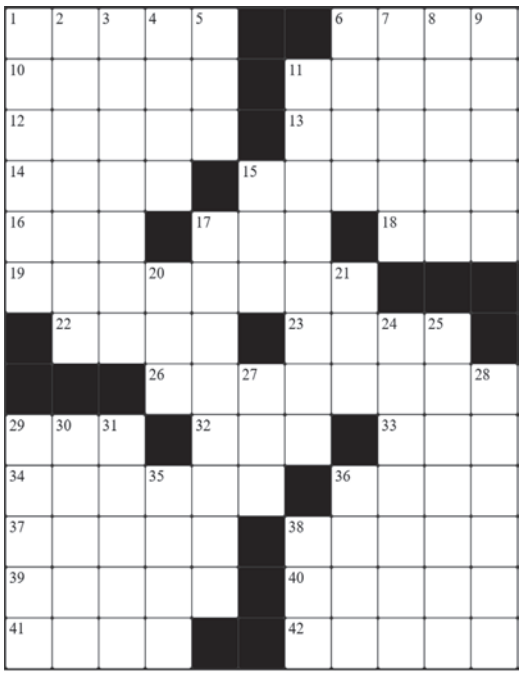
Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

1. Sing like Bing
6. Thin cut
10. Slow tempo
11. Piano piece
12. Squashed circles
13. Beat at chess
14. Fill up
15. Butter or jam
16. Swelled head
17. Tiny
18. Cunning
19. Small dogs
22. Salon collection
23. Gumbo base
26. Behind
29. -- Alamos
32. Methane, e.g.
33. Mend
34. Intensifies
36. Tag info
37. Add the score
38. California grape
39. Lack of order
40. Singer Cara
41. Loathe
42. Lebanon tree

DOWN

1. Storage site
2. Laid waste to
3. Speaker's skill
4. Eyeball
5. Simple denials
6. Sirius, for one
7. Mandolins' cousins
8. Exemplary
9. Lingerie item
11. Montezuma and Napoleon
15. View
17. Mob men
20. Cardinal
21. Enjoy Aspen
24. Elegant
25. Tombstone setting
27. Eminem's music
28. New Hampshire town
29. Gate feature
30. Cornhusker city
31. Dropped-tomato sound
35. Tart fruit
36. Royal address
38. Snap



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.

11-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

LJAIGSIB UYOUQT TIIGT FJ GI

FEI LJBOUQ JX FEI QIUB.

— IGDYQ VDRCDLTJL

Saturday's Cryptoquote: WAS DECIDING IF I SHOULD DRESS AS BATMAN OR SPIDER-MAN FOR HALLOWEEN, WHEN I REALIZED I'M A GROWN MAN. SO, BATMAN. — STEPHEN COLBERT

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/4

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/3

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U.N. reports warn of large-scale damage to Earth's ice from climate change

Paris, France

Exceeding 1.5C of global warming will have "irreversible" consequences for glaciers, sea ice and the Earth's frozen regions, two UN reports warned on Monday, calling for urgent action.

The landmark 2015 Paris Agreement commits the world to limiting warming to well below 2C and pursuing efforts to hold it at 1.5C to try to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

One of the reports said overshooting the 1.5C target "will bring large-scale and in many cases irreversible impacts" for the cryosphere Earth's ice in all its forms.

Melting of glaciers and sea ice, the thawing of permafrost and the accelerating rise in sea levels, will have widespread repercussions, from flooding to water shortages.

Some of the effects of the rise in temperature are already visible, such as the 20-percent loss in glacial mass in Switzerland.

But even if the 1.5C target remains relevant, it is already too high for the cryosphere, as current levels of warming were "already unsafe" for the Arctic, Antarctic, mountain glaciers and polar oceans, the UN warned.

"Although returning to 1.5 C will slow ice loss, a truly 'safe' temperature for Earth's ice is now thought to be closer to 1C or even below over the coming centuries," it added.

Global warming has already reached 1.37C above pre-industrial levels and according to the European Copernicus network, the 1.5C threshold could be exceeded around 2030.

"There are no good outcomes in exceeding 1.5C," said glaciologist James Kirkham, lead author of one of the reports, entitled "Overshoot and the Cryosphere", which was written with 80 scientists.

"To contain the global fallout and damage from ice loss in the world's polar and mountain regions, overshoot needs to be kept to the absolute minimum," he said.

"Every extra fraction of a degree and every year spent in overshoot means more devastating impacts."



Water, meltwater on rock, melting, thawing permafrost, ice, underground tunnel in the permafrost rock of the Zugspitze with supply lines and lighting. Prime Minister Dr. Markus Soeder and Environment Minister Thorsten Glauber consult with geologist Prof. D

- Urgency -

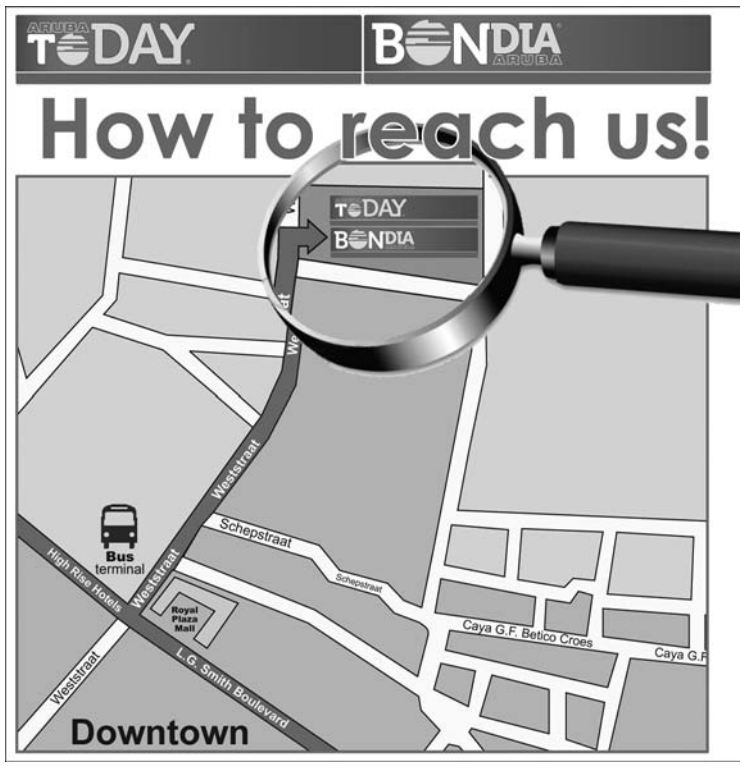
Scientists warn in particular about the risks of crossing certain tipping points and say that, even if temperatures were to return to below the 1.5C threshold, recovery would be very slow.

Reducing warming to under 1.5C and even 1C could see some glaciers partially regenerate, while there could also be benefits for sea ice.

But Matthew England, an oceanographer and climatologist at the University of New South Wales in Australia, said recovery could take "decades to centuries".

The second report -- "State of the Cryosphere 2026. The Cost of Overshoot" -- shows that exceeding 2.8C into the next century would have significant consequences.

Sea levels could rise by up to five centimeters a year by 2150, compared to the current 0.45 centimeters while the thawing of permafrost could release as much carbon dioxide each year as the United States, the world's second-largest polluter.❑



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Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

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Police Noord	527 3200
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Sea drone makers compete in Taiwan for soaring investment

Tainan, Taiwan

Silver-hulled sea drones skim across the water as part of an exhibition in Taiwan where local and foreign companies are competing for a share of surging government investment in un-crewed vehicles to deter China.

As Chinese military pressure increases, Taiwan is pouring billions of dollars into aerial and sea drones, which have been widely used in Russia's war in Ukraine and in the Strait of Hormuz with devastating effect.

Taiwan's military has said it wants to acquire more than 1,400 coastal surveillance and reconnaissance drones, over 200,000 coastal attack drones and 1,320 one-way attack un-crewed surface vessels (USVs).

Despite political divisions over how much to spend on Taiwan's security, the parliament recently passed a NT$240 billion (US$7.4 billion) drone defense bill, with more spending expected to be approved this month.

At a yacht resort in the southern city of Tainan, sea drone manufacturers from Taiwan, the United States and Singapore introduced USVs and un-crewed underwater vehicles (UUVs) to Taiwanese government and other officials on Monday.



A Ghostwake unmanned surface vessel (USV), developed by U.S.-based STR8 Industries and manufactured in Taiwan, performs a high-speed maneuver during the Taiwan Marine Tech and Unmanned Robotics Expo in Tainan on November 2, 2026.

USVs several meters long and capable of carrying bombs churned up the marina's still waters as they showed off their speed and agility, while UUVs, designed to inspect the seabed hovered below the surface.

Taiwan has "the largest procurement for USVs in the world right now... and that's why all the companies come here", Cathy Fang, a policy analyst at the government-backed Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology, told AFP on the sidelines of the demonstration.

Taiwan aims to become an "Asian hub" for the production of drones free of Chinese components, capitalising on the island's dominance of AI technology and semiconductor manufacturing.

While Taiwan already has the know-how to make high-tech sea drones due to its experience in shipbuilding and remote-controlled toys, the island is keen to work with foreign firms whose systems are battle-tested and have better software.

In a recent deal, Florida-based Maritime Tactical Systems announced Taiwan's coast guard will buy 25 of its USVs that will be made in the United States and Taiwan.

"We're making an investment in Taiwan," Seamus Flatley, chief growth officer for the company, told AFP in Tainan.

"If you've got a lot of small USVs out there doing a lot of different missions, it really takes a load off of the coast guard and the Navy and what some of their grey hull ships are doing."

- 'Game changer' -

Virginia USV maker STR8 Industries CEO Phil Ho said un-crewed sea drones would enable Taiwan to "project scalable force".

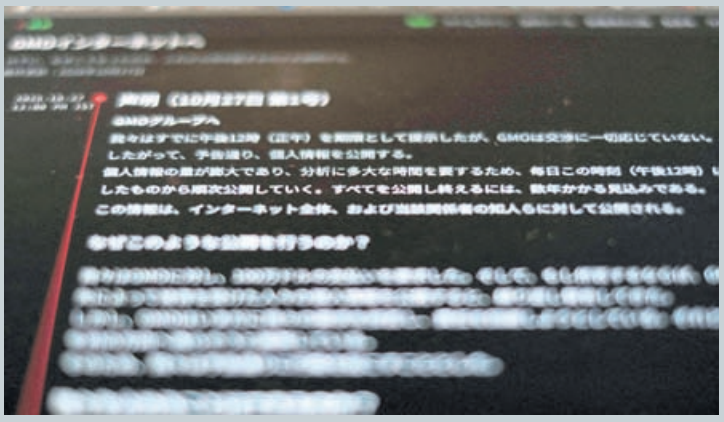
Depending on the model, a sea drone can cost anywhere from thousands to millions of U.S.dollars, and take weeks or months to build -- still much cheaper and faster than a warship or submarine.That makes them a relatively low-cost "game changer" in a conflict with China, said Bryce Barros, a former U.S. Senate national security adviser and currently at the Global Taiwan Institute.

"Using USVs and UUVs are really important because they definitely complicate Chinese military operations and the calculus for it."

They can also "address Taiwan's manpower shortage caused by its declining birth rate," said Su Tzu-yun, a military expert at the Taipei-based Institute for National Defense and Security Research.

Global interest in UUVs has soared since the start of the Middle East war when Iran claimed control of the Strait of Hormuz, said Grace Chia, chief executive of Singapore autonomous underwater vehicles firm BeeX.❑

UK risks 'unprecedented rise' in cyber incidents: security boss



This photo shows a crime statement by an unauthorized access hacker on the website, directed at GMO Internet Group, Inc., on October 27, 2026. (Photo by Hiroto Sekiguchi / Yomiuri / The Yomiuri Shimbun via AFP)

London, United Kingdom

Britain is at risk of "an unprecedented rise in... cyber incidents" over coming months, while China "highly likely has the intent" to carry out AI operations against critical infrastructure, its cyber security boss warned Tuesday.

Richard Horne, chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre, gave his warning following the release of the latest annual NCSC report on threats, which stated that "malicious" activity costs UK organisations about £14.7 billion ($19.7 billion) annually.

"Cyberattacks are wiping out value equivalent to the size of the UK's cyber security sector annually," it added.

The report stated that "by 2028, it is highly likely China, Russia, and other nation states will routinely use AI cyber to achieve their geopolitical goals with the UK facing an increase in scale and speed of sophisticated cyberattacks".

Elaborating on the point, it stated:

"China highly likely has the intent and is best positioned to use AI for operations against critical national infrastructure and other strategic targets."

Horne meanwhile stated in his speech that Iran is "carrying out malicious cyber operations globally" amid the Middle East conflict.

The CEO called on UK organisations to make cyber "security and resilience a fundamental requirement, not an afterthought".

Horne spoke one day after a suspected cyberattack hit grocery stores across at least nine European countries.

He said failure to invest in the right technology to address such rising threats will result in leaders having to explain themselves, in particular "when food isn't on the shelves, when lights aren't on (and) businesses have gone under".

"In the coming months, we face a real prospect of an unprecedented rise in the number of cyber incidents.

"But we must be clear that is not because AI has invented new ways to attack us," Horne said.

"It is because vulnerabilities that have been tolerated for far too long can now be discovered and exploited at a scale that was once unimaginable."❑



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Monaco's Valentin Vacherot during their men's singles match on day two of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament at the Plenitude Arena in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, on November 3, 2026.

Djokovic battles through Paris Masters opener

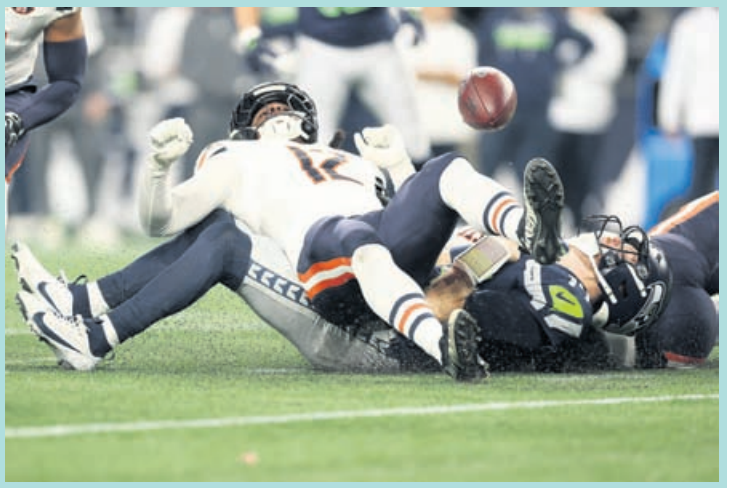
Paris, France
Novak Djokovic battled from behind to beat Valentin Vacherot 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 6-1 in the first round of the Paris Masters on Tuesday.
For the 24-time Grand Slam winner, it marked a return to winning ways at ATP 1000-level tournaments for the first time since his run to the fourth round at Indian Wells back in March.
Djokovic also enacted his own bit of revenge on Vacherot in just the second meeting between the pair the Monegasque downed the 39-year-old on his way to a sensational Shanghai Masters title last season.
"I knew that coming into the court it was going to be a very tight match as it was," Djokovic told reporters.
"He's very confident and he's one of the best servers we have in the game," he added of Vacherot, who lifted the second title of his career last week in Basel.
Victory also kept alive Djokovic's chances of landing a spot in the season-ending ATP Finals later in November.
Djokovic is currently 11th in the race to the eight-man tournament in Turin.
However, he insisted his main focus was not the ATP Finals but "to win every match" on his return to the Paris Masters.

In his last appearance at the tournament in 2023, he lifted the trophy for the seventh time.
In an even opening frame, Vacherot got his nose in front at the end of an error-strewn first-set tie-break as he put together a run of four points to take the lead.
After going down a break early in the second set, Djokovic called for a medical timeout during which he received a massage on his right shoulder.

The short stoppage seemed to break Vacherot's concentration as he dropped his serve straight away.
On Djokovic's second break point, the 27-year-old completely misjudged a routine return from his opponent and could only watch in disbelief as the ball bounced on the line right in front of him.
Vacherot then received treatment for a foot issue and soon found himself level at one set each as Djokovic displayed his trademark killer instinct to seize his first break opportunity in the 12th game of the set and send the match to a decider.
The 10th seed ground down Vacherot in his first service game to get his nose in front before then running away with the match.
He will next meet Rinky Hijikata in the second round.

- Rune out -

Holger Rune, who defeated Djokovic in the 2022 final, exited at the first hurdle in this edition as he continues his return from injury.
The Dane lost 7-5, 6-4 to Tommy Paul.
Former world number five Andrey Rublev lost in a third-set tie-break to Tomas Martin Etcheverry, while 15th seed Learner Tien fought past lucky loser Adolfo Daniel Vallejo in a three-setter.
Matteo Berrettini edged out 14th seed Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8).
Rising French star Moise Kouame was unable to recreate his Roland Garros heroics as the 17-year-old went down 6-3, 6-1 to lucky loser Nuno Borges.
But it was better news for 46th-ranked home player Quentin Halys, who eliminated Wimbledon semi-finalist Arthur Fery in straight sets.
French world number 68 Arthur Rinderknech -- Vacherot's cousin -- progressed through to the next stage, after Argentine 16th seed Francisco Cerundolo retired early in the third set of their encounter.❑



Sam Darnold #14 of the Seattle Seahawks drops the ball against Devin Bush #12 of the Chicago Bears during the first quarter of the game at Lumen Field on November 02, 2026 in Seattle, Washington.

Swift, Simmons star as Bears maul Seahawks

Los Angeles, United States
D'Andre Swift rushed for three touchdowns as the Chicago Bears overpowered the Seattle Seahawks 34-17 in a statement road victory over the reigning Super Bowl champions on Monday.

Chicago running back Swift scored all three of his touchdowns in the second half at Seattle's Lumen Field, two of them coming in the fourth quarter as the Seahawks threatened a comeback.
A rampant Chicago defense led by newly signed defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons also helped shut down Seattle's offense.
Simmons, traded to the Bears last week from the Tennessee Titans, enjoyed a dream debut with six tackles and a sack.

"I'm so excited to be a Chicago Bear man," Simmons told ESPN.
"This is just the beginning. We've got some stuff to clean up but it's a good football team and I'm happy to be a part of it."
Chicago quarterback Caleb Williams finished with 247 passing yards with 24-of-34 completions and one touchdown.

Swift had 69 yards from 27 carries for his three touchdowns.
Seattle fell to 4-4 to lose further ground in the NFC West behind San Francisco (6-1).

The Bears set the tone for an impressive win in the first quarter when Williams led a 17-play 80-yard drive that ended with a touchdown pass to Luther Burden.

Seattle kicker Jason Myers got Seattle's first points with a 27-yard field goal but Chicago responded with back-to-back three-pointers from Cairo Santos to leave the Bears 13-3 up.
Seattle quarterback Sam Darnold found Jaxon Smith-Njigba with a 43-yard pass to leave Seattle only four points adrift at the break.

But Swift capped another long Chicago drive to score his first touchdown in the third quarter and give the Bears a comfortable 20-9 lead.

Seattle responded with a Cooper Kupp touchdown early in the fourth quarter but Chicago's defense took over and Swift bagged two touchdowns to seal victory.❑



Gilgeous-Alexander leads Thunder past Cavs, Grizzlies beaten



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander #2 of the Oklahoma City Thunder goes to the basket around James Harden #1 of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the third quarter at Rocket Arena on November 02, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Los Angeles, United States

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander erupted for 43 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder halted their two-game losing streak with a battling 117-112 road victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday.

Oklahoma City had been rocked after suffering a slew of injuries followed by back-to-back 20-point defeats heading into Monday's showdown with last season's Eastern Conference finalists.

But a sublime performance from two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Gilgeous-Alexander carried the Thunder to a morale-boosting win at Cleveland's Rocket Arena.

Gilgeous-Alexander's points haul came from 14-of-35 shooting from the field with four three-pointers and eight assists.

Oklahoma City, missing three starters in Chet Holmgren, Jalen Williams and Cason Wallace, were also boosted by 20 points from Ajay Mitchell and 12 from Kenrich Williams.

Cleveland's points were spread through the line-up with seven players reaching double figures, including Donovan Mitchell and Meleek Thomas with 17 points apiece.

"You never know what the future has in store for you, and all you can do is play the cards you're dealt, that's what we try to do," Gilgeous-Alexander said of the Thunder's response to their injury crisis.

"Whatever the game needs we try to play to the best of our ability and come out with a W (win). And tonight we did that."

Oklahoma City's victory, which lifts the Thunder to 4-2, launched a packed slate of Monday fixtures across the NBA as the league prepares to take a rest day on Tuesday due to the US mid-term elections.

The league's last unbeaten record fell as the Memphis Grizzlies were upset 135-134 at home by the New Orleans Pelicans.

Ty Jerome sparked a thrilling late fightback for Memphis with 15 points in the fourth quarter to send the game to overtime, but the Grizzlies rally fell just short.

The Philadelphia 76ers improved to 7-1 to stay on top of the Eastern Conference with a 126-107 defeat of the Chicago Bulls.

Tyrese Maxey scored 26 points and Jaylen Brown added 25 to guide the Sixers to a fourth consecutive win.

V.J. Edgecombe scored 21 points and LeBron James and Joel Embiid added 15 points each.

James stole the show in an incident during the third quarter, taking a sip of a courtside fan's cup of wine after landing in the seats.

"I wanted to see if it was worth it on my arm and how good it was. It was all right," James joked.

The Houston Rockets improved to 7-1 with a 109-93 wire-to-wire defeat of the Boston Celtics.

Alperen Sengun led the Houston scoring with 26 points, with Jabari Smith Jr. and Amen Thompson each adding 14 points.

The San Antonio Spurs moved to 5-2 with a 119-97 victory over the Utah Jazz.❑

