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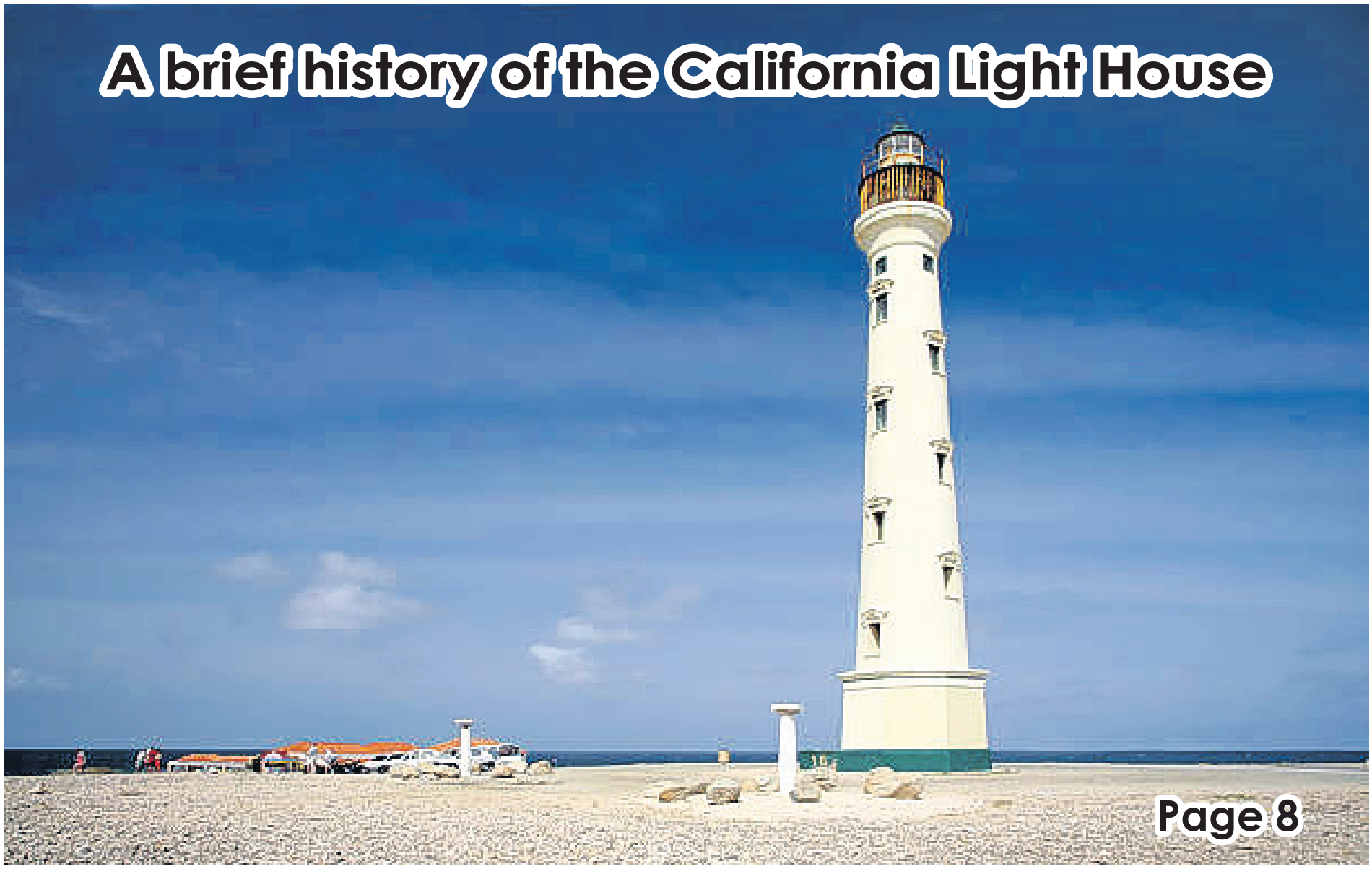
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Page 7

A brief history of the California Light House



Page 8

'Human' is Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year



Page 3

Latin America finds new rhythm in Cuban reparto music



Page 4



Anthropic prices blockbuster IPO as Nvidia scandal rattles AI stocks

New York, United States

Anthropic prices its blockbuster IPO on Wednesday, giving ordinary investors their first direct bet on a stand-alone AI giant in a market rattled by the Nvidia spy scandal that toppled its chief executive.

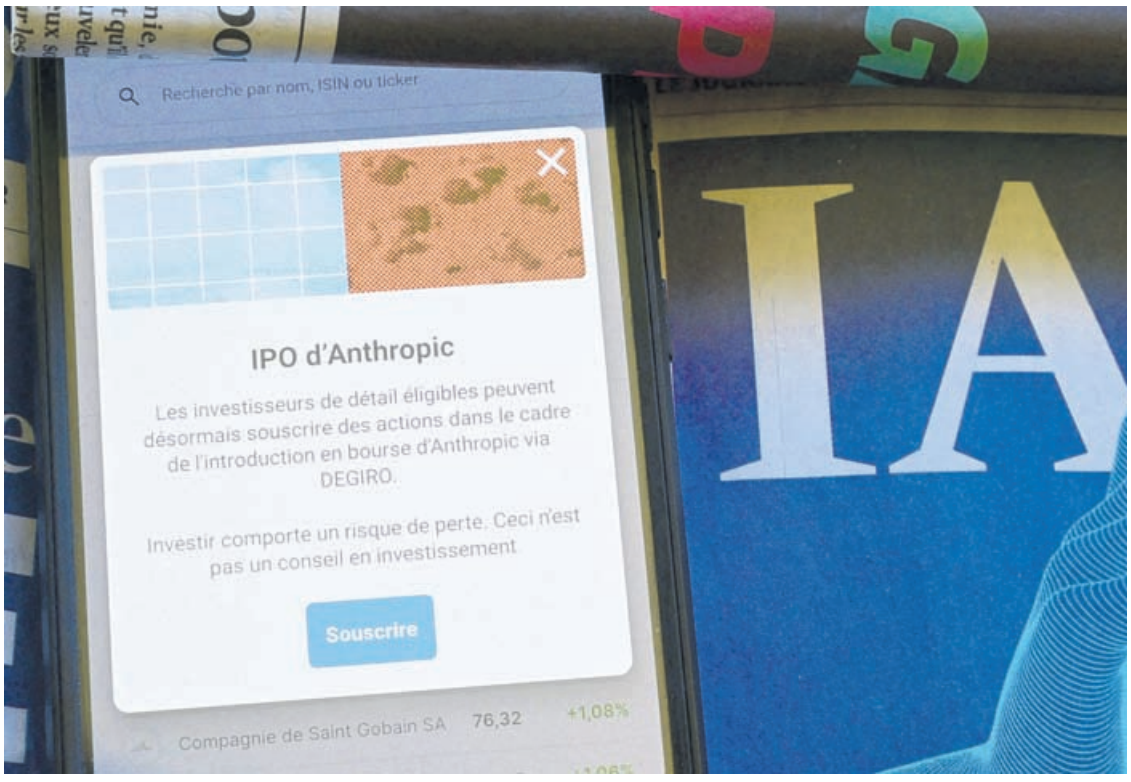
AI stocks have swung sharply as investors question whether heavy spending on the technology will pay off.

Wall Street is also digesting the US midterm election results, which gave control of both chambers of Congress to Democrats, who are more wary of AI.

Nvidia, the chip giant at the center of the AI investment boom and an investor in Anthropic and dozens of other AI companies, has been shaken by the resignation of chief executive Jensen Huang after he admitted to an affair with a woman whom US intelligence reportedly believes could be a Chinese spy.

Despite the headwinds, strong investor demand is expected to push Anthropic to price its shares above the range it set last week.

Institutional investors have placed about $400 billion in orders for the shares and retail investors about $100 billion, according to CNBC, leaving the offering roughly eight times oversubscribed at the top of the initial range.



Infographic showing the 10 largest stock market listings of all time and the $64.4 billion capital raising target of artificial intelligence company Anthropic, maker of the Claude AI agent, for its debut on New York's Nasdaq exchange.

The maker of the Claude chatbot could price its shares at more than $80 each, above the initial range of $70 to $78, the Wall Street Journal reported. That would value the company at around $1.5 trillion to $1.6 trillion.

Earlier estimates had put Anthropic's valuation as high as $2 trillion, but they fell as AI stocks slid on Wall Street.

Pricing is the step at which Anthropic and its underwriting banks set the final price for shares sold to investors who placed orders in the offering, typically after markets close the evening before trading begins.

Trading is expected to begin Thursday on the Nasdaq under the ticker "ANT," and the shares could quickly rise above the offering price.

Anthropic's Claude models are among the most powerful in the world, hailed for their potential to help cure diseases and solve hard problems but also feared for their capacity to destabilize societies and replace human workers.

The five-year-old company's revenue has surged at a pace few US companies have matched, reaching $17 billion in the third quarter, up from $1.4 billion a year earlier. That revenue comes mainly from customers paying to use its AI models for computer coding.

Siblings Dario and Daniela Amodei, now the company's chief executive and president, founded Anthropic with several colleagues in 2021 after leaving ChatGPT-maker OpenAI. The offering could approach the record $75 billion that Elon Musk's SpaceX raised in June at a valuation of $1.77 trillion. SpaceX's total later rose to $86 billion after its underwriters exercised an option to buy additional shares.

Seven tech companies, including Google, Nvidia, AMD and Microsoft, have agreed to buy $26 billion of non-voting shares at the IPO price in a separate private placement. The companies are investors in Anthropic or major suppliers of its computing power.

- 'Catastrophic risks' -

Anthropic's IPO filing gives extensive space to the risks of the technology, reflecting the company's focus on safety even as it builds ever more powerful models.

It warns that advanced AI systems "could pose catastrophic or existential risks to society if not developed and deployed responsibly."❑

Waymo pulls self-driving cars from U.S. freeways after California ban

Los Angeles, United States

Waymo on Tuesday said it's pulling its driverless vehicles from US highways, following incidents that led the state of California to temporarily ban the ride-hailing service from freeways over safety concerns.

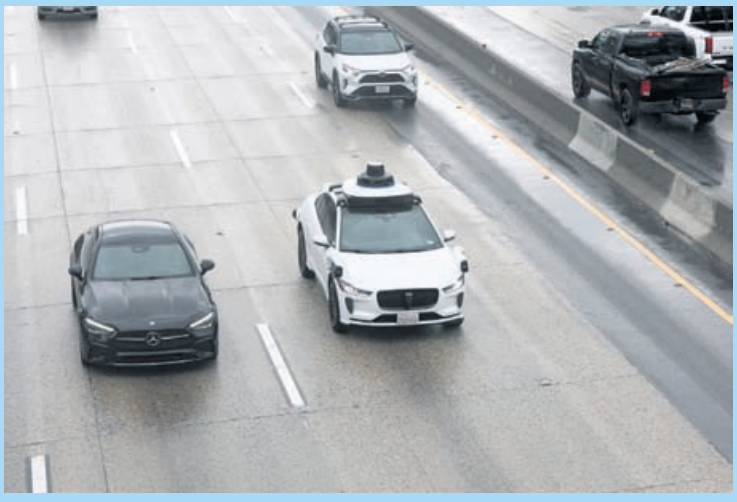
The company a subsidiary of Alphabet, Google's parent company has "temporarily restricted freeway operations," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Along with California, the driverless vehicles will pause highway services in other municipalities where it operates including Phoenix, Austin and Miami.

The news is likely to add fuel to debate over the risks of driverless taxis, which are beginning to expand into Europe.

The Waymo spokesperson said the suspension of freeway services would allow the company to "evaluate our performance" following the California incidents and the company prioritizes safety.

One such occurrence went viral last week after video captured on a San Francisco highway showed a Waymo vehicle approaching at speed and attempting to pass two police cars, even as their lights were flashing in an intentional bid to slow traffic.



A Waymo vehicle drives along Interstate 10 in Los Angeles, California, on October 21, 2026.

The officers were driving behind a slow-moving construction truck.

The episode led California to temporarily ban Waymo vehicles from its highways, effective November 11.

The decision was also prompted by a separate incident, according to the state's Department of Motor Vehicles tasked with road safety.

In that instance "three Waymo autonomous vehicles entered an active construction closure" in the San Francisco Bay Area, an agency spokesperson said in a statement.

"Waymo's driverless freeway operations pose an imminent hazard to public safety due to recurring incursions by its vehicles into active construction zones where construction workers, vehicles and equipment are present," read the statement.

The restrictions "will remain in place until Waymo demonstrates...it has taken effective corrective actions," it continued.

The company emphasized that the construction zone incident did not result in injuries or collisions.

Waymo currently completes half a million trips each week, and says it has demonstrated a 95 percent reduction in serious crashes versus human-driven vehicles.

Waymo has been testing its vehicles in London since 2016, and has plans to expand into Munich and Madrid in 2027.❑



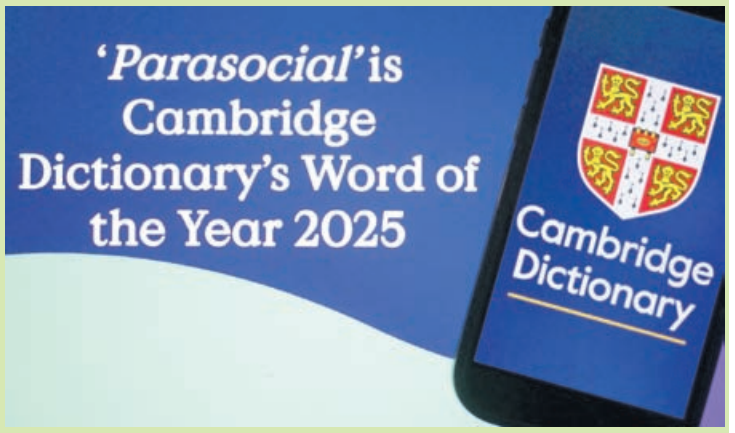
Protect Our Care shines light on the growing measles crisis under HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. with a projection on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services building on January 20, 2026 in Washington, DC.

'A ghost from the past': U.S. doctors lament measles resurgence

Washington, United States
Many U.S. doctors learned about measles as a disease of the past, but its recent resurgence across the country due to declining vaccination rates has made it a very real problem in the present.
"Measles was like a historical disease, and it was something that you just didn't see in the United States," Trahern W. Jones, a pediatric infectious disease specialist in Utah, told AFP.
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) declared Tuesday that measles was no longer eradicated in the United States, with more than 5,400 cases reported nationally this year including over 500 recorded in Utah, where Jones practices medicine.
"It was like encountering a ghost from the past, something you're never supposed to see in real life," he said.
Jones believes the reported cases are a significant undercount of the highly contagious disease, having treated many children infected with it this year.
Instantly recognizable for the red spots it generates on an infected person's body, measles also causes fever, respiratory symptoms, and in some cases more serious complications such as pneumonia and brain inflammation, which can lead to severe long-term health problems or even death.

- 'The worst illness' -
Jones said measles patients are usually "extremely miserable," adding "it is often the worst illness the child will have ever gone through in their life."
Jessica Ericson, a pediatric infectious disease physician at a children's hospital in Pennsylvania, has seen around 30 measles patients arrive in her department since the spring.
This year more than 1,500 cases have been reported in Pennsylvania, which has a large Amish population that avoids vaccinations on religious grounds. Seven cases have been fatal -- all in unvaccinated patients.
"The fevers do tend to be more extreme than most viruses," she told AFP, adding that they are "much, much higher than we're accustomed to seeing with a typical illness."
Ericson explained measles has a high incidence of complications "because the measles infection itself severely injures the immune system," estimating some 10-20 percent of cases cause health complications beyond the original disease.
"You might have measles causing permanent, irreversible brain injury that you won't notice until 10 years later," she added.

- A misinformation 'epidemic' -
Paul Offit, a doctor who remembers the previous measles outbreak over 30 years prior, laments how little the general public knows about the risk of measles.
"I don't think people remember how sick or dead that virus can make you," he told AFP.
"There's so much medicine we don't know...This we know, and if people simply choose not to do it in the name of medical freedom, it shouldn't be your freedom to catch and transmit a potentially fatal infection." For Jones, the blame lies with what he describes as "an epidemic of terrible misinformation."
Although many unvaccinated children belong to religious communities, many others simply come from families that "have had very confusing messaging and very confusing information from social media and the federal government about how important measles vaccination is," he said.❑



In this photo illustration, the logo of The Cambridge Dictionary is displayed on a mobile phone screen next to the tag phrase in Ankara, Turkiye on November 25, 2025.

Human' is Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year

London, United Kingdom
"Human", meaning to have the "qualities, faults, and feelings that people have, as opposed to gods, animals, or machines" has been named Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year.
In an era of rapidly expanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and dire warnings it could even wipe out humanity, the word captured "the 2026 zeitgeist", Cambridge University Press board member Francesca Woodward told AFP.
Over the past 12 months, she said, people had been "really considering what it is to be human" in particular due to concerns about AI taking over their jobs.
"I think people are trying to remind themselves of ... what human means," she said.
The word beat off competition from other words related to AI and the online world, reflecting intense global interest in how technology is changing our lives, she said.
The dictionary's lexicographers had also observed an increased used of "human" in compound words such as human-made or human author, she added.
Tom McClelland, a philosopher of science at the University of Cambridge, described "human" as a "really interesting choice ... because right now our understanding of humanity is changing".

- Global AI debate -
"We're trying to understand the difference between a human mind and an artificial mind, between living beings like us and artificial beings that we're creating. What sets us apart, is it consciousness, creativity or compassion?" he said.
The focus on what it means to be human has seen global leaders and prominent figures such as Pope Leo XIV, Bill Gates, classicist Mary Beard and actor Cate Blanchett weigh in on the debate.
Other contenders for the word of the year crown included "agent, meaning an artificial intelligence system that can operate in a complicated way without human control. Also in the running was "wholesome", defined as "good for you, and likely to improve your life either physically, morally, or emotionally".
"Dusking" was also in contention, the practice of watching daylight turn to darkness as a form of relaxation.

A Dutch tradition, it has been revived as a way of reconnecting with the natural world.
Other new words added to the dictionary in 2026 included "aura farming", doing things to show a personality that people will admire, and "looksmaxing", making yourself as physically attractive as possible.
The word of the year and new additions are selected using a range of criteria including the words searched for on the Cambridge Dictionary website.❑

Latin America finds new rhythm in Cuban reparto music

Havana, Cuba

Cuba's "reparto" genre has soared from humble beginnings to center stage of the Latin American music scene, counting Spanish superstar Rosalia and Puerto Rican artist Daddy Yankee among its fans.

Emerging roughly two decades ago in so-called "repartos," working-class neighborhoods on the outskirts of Havana, the genre did the rounds on cell phones and USB sticks before blowing up on social media.

A slick blend of energetic rhythms, catchy hooks and a generous dose of slang about money, parties and sex, reparto draws inspiration from Cuba's timba style and Latin America's world-famous reggaeton.

Bebeshito, Charly & Johayron, and Ja Rulay are some of its most popular artists of the moment, with their success driven by better internet access on the island, the arrival of Tiktok, and Cuban migration to Miami.

"After we Cuban artists set up shop in Miami and started to understand this (the music industry), that's when everything happened," Carlos Eduardo Perez told AFP at Miami's Billboard Latin Music Awards gala last month.



Cuban Reparto musician Maykol Blanco (2nd-R) performs for a social media video with partners on a street in Havana on September 26, 2026.

Listeners might not recognize his real name.

In the music world he goes by "Helabusador" one of many flashy nicknames that complement the extravagant clothing, thick chains, gold teeth and tattoos quintessential to "reparteros."

Although no representatives of the genre featured among the nominees, several performers walked the event's red carpet, possibly due to the raging success of "Dichavate," a track by Helabusador, Rey Tony and Ya Ice Dilan that has racked up 170 million YouTube views.

- Trying to make it -

"Everybody likes reparto," said Maykol Blanco, a 24-year-old engineer who left his career to devote himself to music.

He is one of hundreds of young people trying to make it in the world of reparto, seen as a fast track to a better life in the economically battered country.

"If I land a hit, it would be amazing... I could help a lot of people," said Alianny Jaime, 19, as she recorded a song she wrote in an independent studio on the edge of the capital.

The studio, operating out of a bedroom, usually charges $100 per recording session, but Jaime has been given a free shot.

"Having money, having talent or having contacts" are the recipe for success, said studio owner Roberto Gomez.

- 'Looked down on' -

Much of the music came to life in Cuba, but many artists rely on collaborators abroad to distribute their music and manage their income from digital platforms a service blocked on the island due to US sanctions.

The rise of reparto has fueled a network of producers, videographers, promoters and influencers, as the unconventional genre becomes an increasingly profitable business.

Its influence has spread to unexpected places.

In recent months, so-called "Christian reparto" has emerged, a variant that adapts the genre's rhythms to religious messages.

"If the devil is maybe using this genre so that this generation is lost... we're using it to win over this generation," said one of Christian reparto's pioneers Ayamey Smith.

Cubans are not holding back with reparto dance moves either, and every hit has its own choreographed steps.

The dance group Los Datway got down to business in front of a camera in central Havana, drawing a crowd as they meticulously repeated quick shoulder, leg and hip movements.

"Dance challenges have really helped musicians get their songs to catch on, to go viral, not only here in Cuba but internationally," said one of the dancers, Paloma Duarte.

The video will end up on TikTok and Instagram within minutes.

"Being a repartero used to be looked down on. But not anymore. Now everybody dances it, everybody feels it," said Duarte.❑

Harry Styles, Cher to headline Glastonbury

London, United Kingdom

The UK's iconic Glastonbury Festival on Wednesday unveiled its 2027 line-up with top names Harry Styles, Billie Eilish and Sam Fender, set to headline alongside veteran star Cher. Tickets for the event next June sold out in 45 minutes last month with thousands rushing for sought-after places despite the hefty price tag.

Other big names on the bill include Massive Attack, Lily Allen, Lola Young, Kraftwerk, Texas and De La Soul, according to the line-up poster released on the festival's website.

Country star Kacey Musgraves, rising star FKA twigs and newcomer Adela also make the cut, with more acts still to be announced.

Cher, 80, will play the legend slot on Sunday. Aged 81 by the time she performs she will be the oldest artist to do so, taking the crown from Rod Stewart.



British singer Harry Styles performs on stage during BRIT Awards 2023 ceremony and live show in London on February 11, 2023.

The festival held at Worthy Farm in southwest England has become a fixture of the international musical calendar, after first launching in 1970 inspired by British hippie and counterculture movements.

Prices have risen steadily in the last decade, with standard tickets costing £408 ($539) for the June 2027 iteration, which follows the "fallow year" of no festival in 2026.

"We are so happy to be coming back after our fallow year," said organiser Emily Eavis on Instagram, describing the line-up as an "incredible" spread of artists.

- Glasto -

Once a mecca for legendary British rockers, Glastonbury's line-up in recent years has veered to include global pop stars alongside festival veterans, with the likes of Charli XCX, Dua Lipa and Olivia Rodrigo gracing the stages.

The festival, popularly known as Glasto, courted controversy in 2025 after two acts offered messages of support for Palestinians in Gaza, where the United Nations says there are "reasonable grounds" to conclude that Israel's authorities and security forces "have continued to commit the crime of genocide".

Police assessed comments made on stage by Irish rappers Kneecap and the London-based duo Bob Vylan but ultimately took no action against either band.❑



Plaintiffs Tida Ravn, Dorthea Josefsen and Klaus Frederiksen pose for a photo before the court in Copenhagen, Denmark, on November 18, 2026.

Greenland's 'fatherless' sue Denmark

Copenhagen, Denmark
A trial opens Tuesday in Denmark where a group of Greenlanders are suing the state, saying their rights were violated when they could not legally establish their filiation to their Danish fathers.
Between 1938 and 1963 in western Greenland, and until 1974 in the rest of the territory, children born out of wedlock to a Danish father did not have their paternity legally recognised, unlike children living in Denmark.
The 26 plaintiffs argue this difference in treatment, based on their origin, constituted discrimination and deprived them among other things of their inheritance.
According to an estimate by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, 8,000 people born between 1911 and 1974 in Greenland can be considered "legally fatherless".
Mads Pramming, the lawyer representing the 26 plaintiffs, is optimistic.
"The case is very strong when it comes to human rights," he told AFP.

- 'Legally fatherless' -
Klaus Frederiksen is one of the spokespeople for the "legally fatherless". He has come to Copenhagen for the trial and is due to testify on Wednesday.
He was born in 1962 in Qullissat, a small mining town in western Greenland, to a Greenlandic mother and Danish father.
His father was a labourer who had come to help modernise housing and infrastructure on the vast Arctic island.
While his parents lived together, and had two children, they never married.
In 1964, Frederiksen's father returned to Denmark where he already had a family and never made contact again.
"He acknowledged his paternity but it is written clearly, in black and white, that I have no right to inherit from him," Frederiksen told AFP.
"The word of the Dane was law, everyone had to fall in line." Denmark adopted legislation on paternal filiation as early as 1937, but it took decades before it was extended to Greenland for both logistical reasons and local reluctance.
"The Danish government was the one that could effectively decide on the regulations, but because of these obstacles, it chose to maintain this legal difference between children born out of wedlock in Denmark and in Greenland," said historian Sniff Nexo, who wrote a report on the subject in 2011.
Following the report, the "legally fatherless" were given the possibility to initiate paternity proceedings and inherit from their father, provided the estate had not yet been settled.

– 'You are nothing' –
Frederiksen explained that growing up fatherless in Greenland was tough.
"You are nothing. You are neither Greenlander nor Dane, I experienced enormous discrimination," he said.
Being born out of wedlock was taboo in Greenland, and unmarried mothers were stigmatised.
"In a small village where no one had seen a pregnant woman, one day newborn twins were found dead in a dog enclosure," the 64-year-old recounted emotionally.
He said this was the "kind of extreme step the mother felt forced to take."
"We never found out who she was," he added.
Placed with a foster family in Ikamiut, in the north, as the only child without a legitimate father, Frederiksen was constantly mocked.
He had always known the name of his biological father and eventually met him before he passed away, but he felt he never got any real answers.
"The trial is about putting an end to all this."
"Some of us are approaching 90, and they have lived since childhood with this immense burden on their shoulders.❑



Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham departs 10 Downing Street in central London on November 18, 2026, to take part in the weekly session of 'Prime Minister's Questions' (PMQs) at parliament.

No ban on smoky bacon crisps! UK govt slams 'myths' over EU talks

London, United Kingdom
No, the UK won't have to ban smoky bacon crisps, and no, British breakfast favourite marmalade won't need to be renamed.
As Brexit wars return to the British political discourse, the government has hit back at claims fuelled by this week's crunch UK-EU summit aimed at forging closer ties with the 27-nation bloc.
In its "factsheet and mythbuster" released late Tuesday, Prime Minister Andy Burnham's government said it wanted to clarify "several points" about a package being negotiated with the European Union.
Friday's Brussels summit is set to focus on securing three agreements - cutting red tape for food exports, linking the two sides' emissions-trading schemes and finalising a "youth experience" scheme.
The UK government says the food and drinks deal alone could add £5.1 billion ($6.7 billion) to the country's economy.
But pro-Brexit campaigners fear Burnham will push at some point to rejoin the bloc.
The UK voted by a knife-edge in 2016 to leave the EU.
In a reminder of the bitter Brexit battles which have plagued the UK, claims have been re-surfacing mostly in the UK media that the talks will usher in a new era of EU influence on Britain.
"Smoky flavours in crisps, sauces, and soups will remain on UK supermarket shelves," the government statement said.
And "British marmalade will not need to be relabelled, as most British marmalade brands on supermarket shelves already meet European labelling rules," it insisted.
It also stressed that a ban on small sachets of ketchup and mayonnaise or on single-use plastics like straws, cutlery and cotton buds was not part of the draft agreements on the table.
The statement also dismissed "largely speculative" reports that the UK would have to pay millions of pounds into the EU budget under the new package.
Burnham has committed to his predecessor Kier Starmer's "red lines" on Europe for this parliament, meaning no return to the single market, customs union or freedom of movement.
In a foreign policy speech Monday he said discussions about the long-term relationship with the EU beyond the next election due by 2029 would only begin after Friday's summit.❑

From Hong Kong to Africa: humble bag carries history of migration

Accra, Ghana
From the dusty, bustling markets of Accra to the busy streets of Hong Kong, the ubiquitous red-white-and-blue, chequered stripes of the "Ghana Must Go" bag have crossed borders and generations.

An everyday utility used to carry anything from clothes and household goods to food, the bag also carries painful memories of mass expulsion and displacement.
"Ghana Must Go is here, come and buy. It's good, it's good," Agnes Ambomah called out in a rhythmic sales pitch from her roadside stall in the Ghanaian capital.
"This red one is very good quality. This one is original," she said, lifting one for a customer.
At the age of 38, she is too young to remember the events that gave the bag its dark name.
But for 70-year-old Bashiru Tahiru, the sight of the bag brings back memories he would rather forget.
"It's a bad luck bag. I don't use it," Tahiru told AFP from his clothing shop in Accra's sprawling Makola market.

Tahiru was among the roughly one million Ghanaians forced to leave Nigeria during a government-ordered expulsion of undocumented migrants in



This photo taken on September 13, 2026 shows Jenalyn Polinar (C), a migrant domestic worker from the Philippines, sorting through the items which are expected to send to her family in the Philippines on a street in Hong Kong.

the early 1980s.
Working as a port labourer in Lagos, he remembers packing his belongings into one of the striped bags as he prepared to leave.
He was afraid to be seen carrying it on the streets as it had already become a marker of migrants that the nation had suddenly turned against.
Decades later, the anti-migrant tensions that flared up in South Africa this year including against Ghanaians in the country brought those memories back.
"It reminds me of the kind of suffer I suffered in Nigeria," he told AFP in Pidgin English.
Sporting a black-and-white chequered shirt and a black skullcap, Tahiru recalled leaving Nigeria aboard one of several cargo evacuation ships organised by the Ghanaian government.
This time, Ghana and Nigeria were allies, leading a diplomatic charge against Pretoria and organising flights to evacuate their nationals.

- Anti-migrant tensions -
The unrest sparked debates on social media about the symbolism of the bag.
Some South Africans said that the Ghana Must Go bag's origins were a reminder that every nation Nigeria then, South Africa now has the right to say "enough was enough".

The iconic bags were not spotted among those returning to Ghana and Nigeria, as some carriers, such as Ethiopian Airlines have "prohibited" checking them in, unless secured in a hardcover container, citing frequent damage to airport conveyor belts.
The chequered stripes were seen however being hauled by road as immigrants fled South Africa to Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
The bag's history stretches back to Hong Kong in the 1960s during the city's economic boom.
Craftsman Lee Wah, founder of Wah Ngai Canvas, is widely credited for transforming the material, which was sourced from Taiwan and Japan, into durable, waterproof bags.
As China gradually opened up in the 1970s, thousands of Hong Kong residents used them to ferry goods when visiting mainland relatives.
The bags are still hailed as embodying the city's resilience, although mass production has moved to mainland China.
"The Hong Kong spirit is an indomitable spirit... It means that no matter how hard life gets, you can still see it through," Lee's son, who took over the family business but shies away from the limelight, told AFP.

- Bags filled with 'love' -
In west Africa, the bag once associated with humiliation of expulsion and poverty has over the years become an indispensable staple.
"It has become a utility bag," said University of Ghana historian Kweku Darko Ankrah. "The negative connotation attached to migration is no longer there."❑

Climate pressures hit global wine production again: report

Paris, France
lobal wine production is expected to decline again in 2026 as climate change continues to disrupt grape harvests around the world, a report by the International Organization of Vine and Wine said Wednesday.



A winegrower prepares bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau wine in Vaux-en-Beaujolais, eastern France on November 16, 2026, a few days before its traditional world wide release.

"Overall, global wine production reflects climatic pressures on yields alongside a longer-term contraction of vineyard area in several major producing countries", the OIV said in its annual report.
Production and harvesting decisions were also factors, along with "a backdrop of declining global wine consumption and changing patterns of demand", it added.
Wine production is estimated at between 220 and 230 million hectoliters, broadly in line with 2025 levels, the report said.
Using the midpoint estimate of 225 million hectoliters, output would be 7 percent below the average of the past five years.
World wine production fell to its lowest level since 1961 in 2024

In Europe, grape harvests are expected to be 6 percent below their five-year average in 2026 after France and Italy were hit by drought and heatwaves, while Spain and Portugal also struggled.
If the OIV's estimates are confirmed, the last three years would mark the weakest run of wine production this century in Europe, which still accounts for more than 60 percent of global production.
Italy remains the world's leading wine producer, ahead of France and Spain.
Wine production in the US, the world's fourth-largest producer, is running 18 percent below its five-year average.

- Climate impact -
"The most noticeable thing about this year is, as in the previous three years, the impact of climate events", John Barker, OIV's director general, told AFP.❑

Need a ride down town? Now you can check taxi rates from you phone!

(Oranjestad)—If you were planning on taking a trip downtown but want to check how much a taxi ride costs, do we have great news for you. Now you can plan your trip ahead on taxi.aw. With just a few clicks, you'll know exactly how much it costs to take you to your destination.



Although an official fare list already existed, the previous version was very outdated and created confusion among both drivers and customers. The lack of updates and easy access to the official fares contributed to situations where some taxi drivers charged arbitrary or excessive prices, particularly in tourist areas.

The fare is calculated based on the distance and number of kilometers between different locations on the island. The digital system allows customers to use the same calculation to determine the official fare that the taxi driver must charge during a trip.

The website also incorporates different surcharges that officially form part of Aruba's taxi system. The system provides a range of different locations and zones to select. Be mindful that there are also conditions that apply to the rate of your trip, all of which are explicitly explained on the website's home page.

With an easy interface that's accesible to everyone, taxi.aw can make planning a trip easier, secure and reliable. ❑

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).

A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.❑



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Beautiful areas around Aruba

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

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

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





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



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



ORANJESTAD—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamento.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:
Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:
Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. ❑

ARUBA TODAY

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

Food culture in Aruba



(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner
The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast
Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal
The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can are largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time
Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays
Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably form Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights
Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.❑

***ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao**
***Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)**
***Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.**

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

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.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



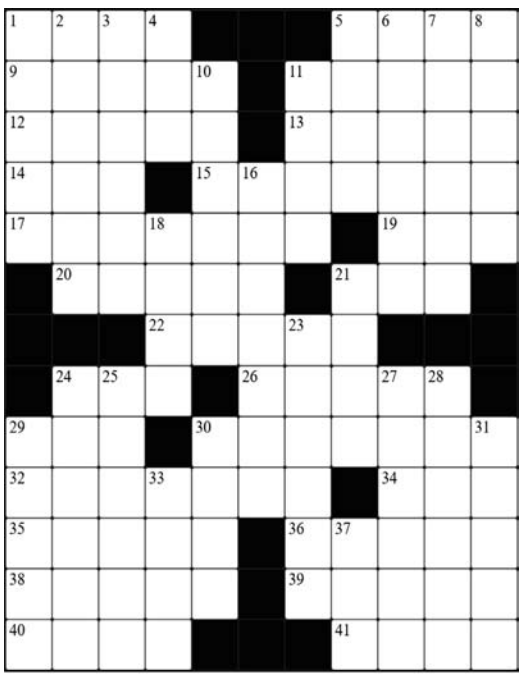
Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

1. Rx info
5. Research settings
9. Some swords
11. Thoroughly disgusted
12. Singed
13. Battery end
14. Purpose
15. Blow up (anagram of 17-Across)
17. Military rank (anagram of 30-Across)
19. Homer's neighbor
20. Witch trial town
21. Braying beast
22. Castle surrounders
24. Argon or xenon
26. Short
29. Team supporter
30. Field worker (anagram of 32-Across)
32. "Let's Stay Together" singer (anagram of 15-Across)
34. Expected
35. Two-dot character
36. Unrefined
38. Put up
39. Engaged
40. Editor's spot
41. Garden areas

DOWN

1. Work on code
2. Masterworks
3. Venus's sister
4. Poet's contraction
5. Musical Horne
6. Decorates
7. Gives a little ground
8. Velocity
10. Sound system
11. Plummet
16. Worthy of mention
18. Shade trees
21. China setting
23. Big ditch
24. In abundance
25. What protractors measure
27. Bear
28. Engaged in a vendetta
29. Stood up to
30. Nice guy
31. Oboe parts
33. Music genre
37. Vault part



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.

11-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

KXBP AXB JHKBU HW ZHCB

HCBUEHIBL AXB ZHCB HW

JHKBU, AXB KHUZO KTZZ GPHK

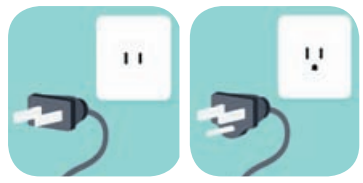
JBVEB. — NTIT XBPOUTQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOUSEWORK CAN'T KILL YOU, BUT WHY TAKE THE CHANCE? — PHYLLIS DILLER

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/19

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/18

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Homo erectus was more adaptable than previously thought



Paris, France

Homo erectus our distant relative adapted to an environment in the dense forests of southern China, according to two studies published on Wednesday that challenge the prevailing theory about how it went extinct.

Our ancestors survived for nearly two million years far longer than Homo sapiens, the only human species in existence today, which has only been around for some 300,000 years.

The ancient humans migrated from the grassy savannas of Africa, across Asia, to the open environments and light forests of Java, where the most recent fossils dating back 108,000 years have been found. Until now, scientists thought that their disappearance in Asia was due to their inability to adapt when their environment began to transform into a tropical rainforest.

"The prevailing view about Pleistocene hominins in East and Southeast Asia is that, other than Homo sapiens, they couldn't exploit forest environments," said palaeontologist Yingqi Zhang, from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"They couldn't survive in the subtropical forest environments in southern China. So the forests in southern China formed a barrier for them to migrate. That's the former view. But our findings turn that around completely," he told reporters. The two studies, published in Nature, focus on the discovery of nine fossilised hominin teeth in two neighbouring caves in southern China.

Analysis of their proteins has made it possible to unambiguously attribute eight of them to Homo erectus, while the ninth remains unidentified for the time being.

Using several dating techniques, the scientists were able to show that the fossils date back to between 324,000 and 184,000 years ago. Until now, the most recent fossils attributed to Homo erectus in China dated back to about 400,000 years ago.

"Our research fills that gap," said the researchers, who in the second study were able to reconstruct the environment in which the hominins lived.

- Porcupines -

In total, nearly 20,000 animal teeth were found in the two caves and were likely accumulated at the time by porcupines that collected bones to eat and sharpen their teeth.

"Basically, these teeth we found in the caves are the things they left behind," said Zhang.

The collection of animal remains included fossils of orangutans, elephants and rhinoceroses.

They also found fossils of the elephant-like Stegodon and Megalovis, which resembled a large goat, both of which are now extinct. The researchers analysed the carbon isotopes present in the animals' tooth enamel to uncover clues about their diets.

Renaud Joannes-Boyau, a geoarchaeologist at Southern Cross University in Australia, said food, drink and other elements in the environment are absorbed by various parts of the body.

"If it's in your teeth, it stays forever," he added.

"That carbon tells us what kind of plants in the environment are there and what kind of ecosystem. And then what we see is a very, very dense rainforest."

Because teeth grow in a manner similar to tree rings, scientists were also able to reconstruct the early years of these individuals, with even more surprising results. Analysis of specific isotopes, which can be used to identify the environment, revealed that Homo erectus migrated long distances during childhood, from present-day Vietnam, some 250 kilometres (155 miles) away from the caves.

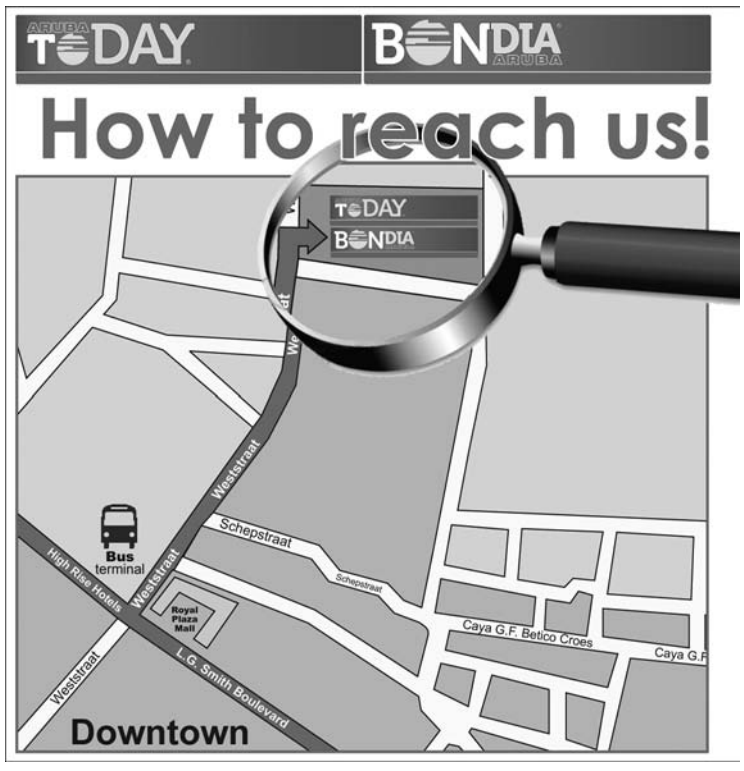
"Homo erectus was a survivor, a champion of resilience and adaptation to a lot of different climates. He was probably very resourceful," said Joannes-Boyau.

Kira Westaway, a researcher from Macquarie University in Australia, said the prevailing view of Homo sapiens was of adaptability and flexibility as well as skilfulness.

"Now as we start to do this kind of study in this kind of depth... we start to see other ancient humans having similar skill sets," she added.

"It really just throws up that question: if we're not as unique as we have always thought ourselves, what was the actual cause of it, why we survived and the others didn't.

"This really throws up a lot more questions than it answers."❑



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Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
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Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Chinese robots learn from humans in tech hub Shenzhen

Shenzhen, China

At a park refreshment stand in China's tech capital Shenzhen, a humanoid robot grabs a cup and pulls a lever to form an ice-cream spiral, then hands the customer their order.

It's the kind of futuristic scene the country is keen to showcase as world leaders including Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin head to Shenzhen, a manufacturing hub north of Hong Kong, for this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Chinese robots are famous for their slick dance moves, but artificial intelligence engineers are trying to train them up to join the workforce using reams of data captured by humans in headcams to help hone the machines' skills.

Although they still struggle with complex tasks like cleaning or ironing on their own, robots are already taking on more simple roles across the country.

"Mum, look!" a girl exclaimed when she spotted the ice-cream humanoid and its colleague that makes coffee treats on sale for around $4 each as passersby film the spectacle on their phones.



This picture taken on November 10, 2026 shows a robot being trained in a showroom at a robot company in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province.

A human must regularly refill beans and empty coffee grounds for the robo-barista, but the pair's movements are driven by an AI model, according to maker AI² Robotics.

The startup said 200 of its humanoid servers are deployed in China, and up to 300 coffees are sold each day in the Shenzhen park.

"We're getting data feedback from many real scenarios," said CEO Guo Yandong, such as different light conditions that could help robots adapt to unpredictable environments.

- 'Workshop of the world' -

In China, 83 percent of people surveyed by Ipsos this year said they were excited by products and services that use AI, the highest of 32 countries including the United States, where just a third of people agreed with the statement.

Industrial spending in China on robots using so-called "embodied AI", which allows them to perceive their surroundings and act accordingly, leaped 230 percent year-on-year in January-May 2026, tax authorities said.

China is "the workshop of the world", said Dermot McGrath of strategy and innovation advisory firm ZenGen Labs.

So robot makers "can draw on decades of manufacturing experience" in the world's second-largest economy, which has many skilled workers and supply chains for everything from motors and sensors to batteries.

Suppliers are often grouped in industrial hubs like Shenzhen, home to 18 million people meaning developers can produce and test a part, then put it into action "faster than almost anywhere", McGrath told AFP.

In a Shenzhen logistics centre, two robotic arms made by X Square Robot, another of the city's AI startups, handle parcels of different shapes on a moving belt, flipping them over if needed so the label faces up.

"If it's a soft bag, the robot grabs it with its grippers. If it's a cardboard box, it coordinates its two arms to move it," Arnold Pei, vice-president of X Square, explained.

An AI robot can ideally "decide by itself what it needs to do", Pei said, although it's more challenging for them to operate in a less controlled settings like different homes, where lighting, floors and objects vary.

- 'Like babies' -

In a supermarket in Dongguan, near Shenzhen, 23-year-old Wang Lin stocked shelves wearing sensor gloves and a helmet fitted with a camera.

Her movements were recorded and processed by Strange Attractor, one of many Chinese startups that resell the data to companies developing AI models that act as a robot's brain.❑

Canada PM says lack of global governance on AI an 'enormous risk'

Shenzhen, China

The lack of global governance on artificial intelligence poses an "enormous risk" and "it is past time" to develop frameworks to rein it in, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Wednesday.

Carney made the remarks at a press conference during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in the southern Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen.

"We are of the view, and many others share this, that the absence of any global governance around AI is an enormous risk," the Canadian leader said.



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks at a press conference during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province, on November 18, 2026.

"It's (an) enormous economic risk, but it's (also) a biohazard risk, and it's a risk to democracy, human dignity, other factors," he added.

"That isn't just our view. That is the view of the individuals who run the world frontier labs, you know who they are."

"It is exceptionally rare in my experience that leaders of an industry are amongst... those warning of risks in their own industry," Carney said.

"So it is past time to develop global governance frameworks for these sectors."

Carney said he had shared his views with China's President Xi Jinping on how such a framework could be developed.

The aim of such cooperation should be "at a minimum" to develop monitoring methods and share lessons on how to respond to AI "incidents", he added.

AI safety risks in the global spotlight range from infrastructure hacking to people using the technology to help build bioweapons.

Another problem is out-of-control AI agents tools that complete real-life tasks which came to the forefront after US lab OpenAI acknowledged its autonomous bots had hacked into websites, including an Australian government data portal.

The development of AI is one of several issues on the agenda at the annual APEC meeting of 21 member economies.

But the centrepiece is an unprecedented three-way meeting between Xi, US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday.❑



Mauricio Pochettino, Head Coach of United States, reacts prior to the CONCACAF Nations League Quarterfinal match between United States and Haiti at TQL Stadium on November 17, 2026 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pochettino wraps U.S. reign with 2-0 Haiti win, heads to Manchester

Los Angeles, United States
Mauricio Pochettino's reign as United States coach ended with a simple 2-0 win over Haiti on Tuesday, sent off in style by a Christian Pulisic bicycle kick as he heads to his new role at Manchester United.
Teenager Julian Hall also added his fifth goal from six games to secure an 8-0 aggregate victory in the CONCACAF Nations League quarter-final second leg in Cincinnati.

Set to fly to England just hours after the final whistle, Pochettino exchanged bear hugs, jokes and smiles with players and staff on the pitch after the game.
"We wanted to finish in a good way... Of course it's tough, because it's emotional. Because I really love these guys, and I love the players, I love the staff," said Pochettino.
Admitting he had shed tears moments before his final U.S. press conference, Pochettino added: "The connection with the fans really touched me in the end. I am so grateful.
"Always, I'm going to be so grateful about the way that everyone treats us in this country."

Pochettino, who steered the U.S. to the last-16 of a home World Cup this summer, picked a strong lineup for his swansong and his favored stars appeared determined to wave their coach off with a win, beginning with high intensity.
A bright Weston McKennie missed two good early chances, before turning creator in the 25th minute for Pulisic's opener.

Pulisic stole possession on the halfway line and surged up the left flank before feeding the ball inside. McKennie crossed back into the box from the right and Pulisic, running away from goal, improvised a bicycle kick over his left shoulder that bounced in off the far post.

Hall doubled the lead in the 43rd minute. McKennie again provided the assist, chipping the ball over the Haitian backline.
Hall did well to trap the ball, chest it down and then lift it over the goalkeeper. The 18-year-old has scored on all four U.S. starts.

- 'You will see' -
After the break Auston Trusty had a header acrobatically cleared off the line by Martin Experience. Video replays seemed to show it crossing over, but no goal was awarded.
Defensive midfielder Sebastian Berhalter picked up a yellow for a sliding challenge that rules him out of the semi-final in March.

Alex Freeman, the 22-year-old defender given his debut by Pochettino who has become a stalwart at right-back, did superbly to intercept a clear-cut chance for Josue Casimir.
Hall's header in the final few minutes bounced off the crossbar.
More testing challenges lie ahead for Pochettino, with United languishing in 18th place in the Premier League and due to face bitter rivals Liverpool on Sunday.

Pochettino is expected to head directly to United's Carrington training facility on arrival.
"We know that the situation is not a situation that deserves to be a club like Manchester United," Pochettino told TNT Sports.
Teased by a presenter about Manchester City's recent dominance, Pochettino jokingly responded: "No way. You will see. Give me time. Give me time and that is going to change."❑



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz hits a return to Russia's Daniil Medvedev at the ATP Finals tennis tournament, in Turin on November 18, 2026.

Alcaraz closes in on ATP Finals last four with Medvedev win

Turin, Italy
Carlos Alcaraz moved to the brink of qualifying for the last four at the ATP Finals as he brushed aside world number five Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday.
The seven-time Grand Slam champion needed just over 70 minutes to beat the Russian in Turin.
"A little bit of problems, you know, physically, in the match," Alcaraz said on-court after receiving some treatment in the second set.
"But I think everybody could see that I was able to still play good tennis, I could still move well."
By winning in straight sets, the 23-year-old will secure his spot in the semi-finals if Frances Tiafoe defeats Flavio Cobolli later or if the Italian beats the American in three sets.
Alcaraz has never won the season-ending Finals, finishing runner-up last year to Jannik Sinner.
But with Sinner injured and the Spaniard entering this season's edition on the back of a nine-match winning streak that earned him indoor titles in Vienna and at the Paris Masters, Alcaraz is considered the favourite to lift the trophy this year.
Since returning in August from a wrist injury that kept him off the tour for four months and prevented him from defending his French Open title, Alcaraz has won three of the five tournaments he has entered.

After easing past Tiafoe in his opener in Turin 6-2, 6-2, the third seed carried that ominous form into the first set against 2020 Finals winner Medvedev.
Alcaraz broke the Russian in successive games midway through the first frame to claim the opener.

He continued by breaking Medvedev in the very first game of the second set and proceeded to serve out, despite a brief stoppage to have his left thigh taped up.
"I didn't want to force myself to the limit physically. I was a break-up at that time. And I just tried to keep up my serve... play chill, smoothly, relaxed and just happy about it," Alcaraz said.
"So, I'm going to look at it with my team and I will see."
Medvedev, 30, is still in with a chance of advancing after winning his opening match against Cobolli in straight sets.
Later in the Ivan Lendl Group, seventh seed Tiafoe will meet French Open finalist Cobolli.
World number one Alexander Zverev is the man to beat in the John McEnroe Group and became the first player to book his spot in the semi-finals after beating Ben Shelton on Tuesday.❑

Pistons snaps Spurs streak, Lakers rally to beat Hornets in OT

Los Angeles, United States
Cade Cunningham scored 27 points as the Detroit Pistons ended the San Antonio Spurs' 12-game winning streak with a gritty 105-93 victory on the road Tuesday.

A dogged Detroit twice climbed out of double-digit deficits in the first half against the NBA Western Conference's form team, who slipped to second behind the Los Angeles Lakers.

While Cunningham and Daniss Jenkins combined for 52 points, the Pistons' relentless defense laid the foundations for a win which saw Detroit improve to 9-4 in the Eastern Conference.

San Antonio's 93 points was their lowest total of the season, the first time they had been held to fewer than 100 points.



Victor Wembanyama #1 of the San Antonio Spurs tries to tip in a shot against the Detroit Pistons in the second half at Frost Bank Center on November 17, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.

Victor Wembanyama led San Antonio with 25 points, while Dylan Harper added 20.

The evening ended on an alarming note for San Antonio, with Harper hobbling off the court after suffering what appeared to be a leg injury late in the fourth quarter.

Cunningham reflected on what he described as a "group effort."

"Everybody had to bring it," Cunningham told NBC. "I like my guys, man.

"We do this together every day. We love basketball and we all come with a little bit of grit, earning our way to get to this point.

"We told ourselves if we weren't a brotherhood we're gonna be a brotherhood by the time we left today. I think we got a little closer today. It's a good win for us."

San Antonio surged into a 18-6 lead midway through the first quarter and pulled 14 points clear early in the second.

The Pistons took advantage of the temporary absence of Wembanyama to go on a 19-5 run to inch into a 55-54 lead at the break.

San Antonio quickly erased that deficit in the second half but were never able to pull clear decisively.

Instead Detroit slammed the door late in the fourth with a Jenkins three-pointer that left them 10 points ahead with just under a minute remaining.

- 'Man, that's crazy' -

The Lakers rallied from an 18-point second-half deficit to beat the Charlotte Hornets in overtime 118-114, led by Quentin Grimes' 47 points.

Charlotte led 111-108 with 12 seconds remaining when Coby White missed his second free throw, Matisse Thybulle grabbed the rebound and fed Luka Doncic who raced up the court and passed to Grimes, who sank his 10th three-pointer of the night and forced overtime.❑

