

International NEWS MEDIA

APRIL 2023



Former President Donald Trump sits with his defense team in a Manhattan court on Tuesday, April 4. (Seth Wenig/AP)

A HISTORIC FIRST

FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP CHARGED WITH 34 FELONY COUNTS

Former President Donald Trump was charged in an indictment unsealed Tuesday with 34 felony counts of falsification of business records in the first degree. He pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

The criminal charges — a historic first against a sitting or former president — are the culmination of an investigation into hush-money payments that Trump paid prior to the 2016 election to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels to cover up an alleged affair.

Trump and his allies have called the charges politically motivated. The charges were made public days after a Manhattan grand jury indicted Trump.

Under New York state law, it is a felony to falsify business records with

intent to defraud, intent to conceal another crime," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a news conference after Trump's arraignment. "That is exactly what this case is about: 34 false statements made to cover up other crimes. These are felony crimes in New York State no matter who you are. We cannot and will not normalize serious criminal conduct."

"Today's unsealing of the indictment shows that the rule of law died in this country," Trump's lawyer Joe Tacopina said outside the courthouse. "If this man's name was not Donald J. Trump there is no scenario we'd all be here today."

The charges allege that, beginning in mid-2015, Trump orchestrated

a scheme with others to influence the 2016 presidential election. They allegedly identified and bought negative claims about him to suppress their publication to boost his electoral prospects. By doing this they allegedly violated election laws and made false entries in the business records of various entities in New York. They also allegedly took steps that mischaracterized, for tax purposes, the true nature of the payments made in the scheme.

The next court date is Dec. 4. The prosecution said it hoped to have trial in January 2024; the defense asked for the spring of 2024. Trump is the frontrunner in the Republican presidential field ahead of the November 2024 election. - NPR

Four of Chapo's sons indicted for large-scale drug trafficking, money laundering and violent crimes

SAN DIEGO — Four sons of Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the imprisoned former Sinaloa Cartel leader known as El Chapo, were indicted by a federal grand jury for large-scale drug trafficking, money laundering and violent crimes in connection with their assumption of cartel leadership following their father's arrest and extradition to the United States.

The defendants, known collectively as the "Chapitos," are Ivan Guzman Salazar, Alfredo Guzman Salazar, Joaquin Guzman Lopez, and Ovidio Guzman Lopez. Three brothers remain at large; Ovidio Guzman Lopez was arrested Jan. 5, 2023, by Mexican authorities in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico. He remains detained in Mexico pending extradition proceedings.

The charges, unsealed on Friday, April 14, were announced by Attorney General Merrick Garland,

U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman and others at a news conference at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. The charges stem from a decades-long, multi-district investigation by the Southern District of California, the Department of Justice Criminal Division's Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, the Northern District of Illinois, and their law enforcement partners. A related indictment charging three of the brothers was also unsealed by the Southern District of New York.

According to the indictment, filed in the Northern District of Illinois, the defendants are charged under the "Continuing Criminal Enterprise Statute," which targets large-scale drug traffickers who are responsible for long-term and complex drug conspiracies. They are also charged with additional drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms and violent crimes.

US Navy veteran who fought in the Philippines During WWII honored

NEW YORK — The Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) and Sentro Rizal New York (SRNY) commemorated "Araw ng Kagitingan" (Day of Valor) by honoring decorated U.S. Navy Combat veteran, Arthur Grabiner, in a simple recognition ceremony at the Philippine Center on Wednesday, 05 April 2023. Mr. Grabiner, onboard USS Laurens, fought during the Allied Operations in Lingayen Gulf, Province of Pangasinan in the Philippines during World War — a critical military campaign that led to the liberation of the major island of Luzon from Japanese imperial forces.

"War is an ugly thing. But when war comes knocking on the door, gallant men heed the call and rise to the occasion to stand against tyranny and oppression. Such is the case with our honoree... A fighter and defender of the Free World, Mr. Grabiner, responded to the call of duty despite knowing that this would separate him from his family and loved ones and all things comfortable and familiar to him — by thousands of miles and by the great Pacific Ocean," said Consul General Senen T. Mangalile during his speech. "We will make it our mission to ensure that future generations to come will know of all these acts of courage by our armed forces, including that of Mr. Arthur Grabiner. And we the Filipino People will always remember, on this day most of all, the valor, service, and sacrifice of Filipino soldiers, of whom we are so very proud."



Arthur Grabiner, a 97-year old U.S. Navy Combat Veteran, who fought during the Allied Operations in Lingayen Gulf, Province of Pangasinan in the Philippines, during World War II, was recognized in a simple ceremony at the Philippine Center on Wednesday, 05 April 2023, to commemorate Araw ng Kagitingan. Consul General Senen T. Mangalile (middle) and Deputy Consul General Adrian S. Cruz (left) present a portrait of the honoree to Mr. Arthur Grabiner (seated). (Photo by Mae Ermita Manubay)

NewsBriefs

9 additional states join DOJ's suit vs. Google

The Attorneys General of Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Washington and West Virginia today joined a civil antitrust lawsuit filed by the Justice Department's Antitrust Division along with the Attorneys General of California, Colorado, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia, against Google for monopolizing multiple digital advertising technology products in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act.

European Council approves 1 billion euros to support Ukrainian Armed Forces

The Council has adopted an assistance measure worth €1 billion under the European Peace Facility (EPF) to support the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This measure will allow the EU to reimburse member states for ammunition donated to Ukraine from existing stocks or from the reprioritization of existing orders during the period 9 February to 31 May 2023.

DOJ seizes over \$112M linked to crypto schemes

The Department of Justice announced that it has seized virtual currency worth an estimated \$112 million linked to cryptocurrency investment scams.

Seizure warrants for six virtual currency accounts were authorized by judges in the District of Arizona, the Central District of California, and the District of Idaho. According to court documents, the virtual currency accounts were allegedly used to launder proceeds of various cryptocurrency confidence scams.

Two co-conspirators indicted for role in prolific, global human smuggling conspiracy

Extensive coordination and cooperation efforts between U.S. and Mexican law enforcement authorities culminated in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Mexico and the Fuerza Estatal de Seguridad Ciudadana (FESC) executing the arrests of Ofelia Hernandez-Salas, 60, and co-conspirator Raul Saucedo-Huipio, 48, who allegedly conspired with other smugglers to facilitate the travel of large numbers of migrants from and through Bangladesh, Yemen, Pakistan, Eritrea, India, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Russia, Egypt, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and ultimately, into the United States.

JAPAN STARTUP EYES MOON LANDING LATE APRIL



ISTANBUL — A commercial space startup in Japan on Wednesday said its Hakuto-R Mission 1 Lunar Lander is expected to touch surface of the moon late April, making it the first private company in the world to reach the celestial body.

The lander took off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida in the US aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in December, and is orbiting the moon since March, capturing its images.

The spacecraft is expected to touch down at around 1:40 a.m. (1640 GMT) on April 26, Japan Standard Time, Ispace said in a statement. (Anadolu)

FBI statement on arrest of Jack Douglas Teixeira

On Thursday, April 13, the FBI released an official statement regarding the arrest of the suspect who is accused of leaking classified documents:

"Today, the FBI took 21-year-old Jack Douglas Teixeira into custody without incident at a residence in North Dighton, Massachusetts, for his alleged involvement in leaking classified U.S. government and military documents. Since late last week, the FBI has aggressively pursued investigative leads, and today's arrest exemplifies our continued commitment to identifying, pursuing, and holding accountable those who betray our country's trust and put our national security at risk."

Governor Abbott Announces record seizure of deadly fentanyl in mission

On April 12, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) seized over 3.1 million lethal doses of fentanyl, or about 14 pounds, during a single Operation Lone Star (OLS) traffic stop in Mission. This seizure marks one of the largest single fentanyl seizures by OLS to date.

"Fentanyl is the single greatest drug threat our state and country has ever known, and this record amount of fentanyl seized would have otherwise made its way into communities across Texas and the nation because of President Joe Biden's open border policies," said Governor Abbott. "Through Texas' historic Operation Lone Star mission, a DPS trooper prevented 3.1 million lethal doses of fentanyl—enough to kill every Texan in Austin, Dallas, and El Paso combined—from taking more innocent lives during a single traffic stop. I thank our brave DPS troopers, and all Operation Lone Star mission personnel, for their work to secure our border and keep Texans safe."



TEXAS GOV. GREG ABBOTT

THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL TURNS 80

As the Thomas Jefferson Memorial turns 80 on April 13, its stewards are taking steps to ensure that visitors can continue to enjoy it and the beauty of the Tidal Basin where it is situated for decades to come.

The Tidal Basin, adjacent to the National Mall, is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, attracting huge crowds each spring when its cherry blossom trees — a gift from Japan to the United States — are in bloom. The Jefferson Memorial, dedicated in 1943 to the third U.S. president and principal author of the Declaration of Independence, anchors the site.

But as sea levels rise, the walkways flood frequently. What's more, the ground beneath the Mall is dipping due to heavy traffic. In places, pathways have become too narrow, forcing pedestrians onto grassy areas, where too often tree roots get trampled.

'A sacred civic space'

Over the past 80 years, the Tidal Basin and National Mall area have "evolved to become a highly symbolic, national landscape, a sacred civic space," says Teresa Durkin, project director for the Trust for the National Mall. But "this landscape is fragile and vulnerable."

The National Park Service is taking a big step to confront rising water levels with a \$5.7 million project to fix the seawall around the Tidal Basin. Spokesman Mike Litterst said the Park Service seeks to fix the immediate problem and handle rising sea levels "for the next 25, 50, 75 years." Construction will begin in late 2023.

Recognizing the larger problems, the Park Service has joined with two organizations — the National Trust for



The Jefferson Memorial is framed by emerging cherry blossoms along the Tidal Basin in Washington. (© J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

Historic Preservation and the Trust for the National Mall — to create the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab to put forth innovative, longer-term solutions.

As much as \$500 million needed in upgrades for the Tidal Basin area to remain viable for future generations, according to Lab estimates.

APPEAL FOR HELP

Mga Kababayan,

A blessed Easter Season to all of you.

While we rejoice in the goodnews of the Resurrection during this Easter season, one of our kababayans is mourning the loss of a daughter and a sister, Christy Bautista. She was 31 yrs old.

You may have read about Christy and how she was brutally murdered in a hotel in DC, stabbed over 30 times by a man who happened to be on bail for robbery charges. This took place on March 31. You can google her name and news about what happened her are getting national attention about crimes in the nation's capital.

The Bautistas are Arlington residents. Christy graduated from Yorktown HS. They are parishioners of St. Ann. She was confirmed at St. Ann. Jimmy, her dad, told me that they were visited by the police in their Arlington home late at night on March 31 to inform them about what happened to Christy.

No one among us can possibly feel what the Bautista family is going through. So, first, we pray for the repose of the soul of Christy and for her family: parents, Jimmy and Arlene; sisters, Emily and Ashley.

Second, the funeral mass is scheduled on May 19, Friday at 11am at St. Ann Church in Arlington.

There is a GoFundMe for Christy Bautista set up by her youngest sister, Ashley. The funeral services of embalming and cremation do cost a lot. Those who are able to contribute, the Bautista family would be grateful.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/3pavf-christy-bautista?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unknown&utm_campaign=comms_gfm+3pavf-christy-

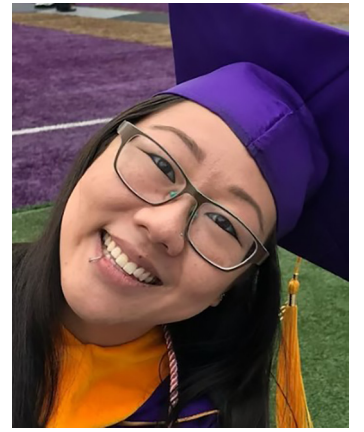
This is one of those times that the Filipino American community can be one and express solidarity with one of our own whose daughter and sister was taken so abruptly and unjustly.

Maraming Salamat. Feel free to respond with your thoughts and suggestions on how to proceed.

Fr. Mel O. Portula, CICM

Pastor

St. Ann Church, 5300 10th St. N, Arlington, VA



The Salvation Army serves communities devastated by deadly tornadoes across the South

In three days, 27 tornadoes touched down in the southern region of the U.S., killing at least 26, causing an unknown number to go missing, and destroying homes, businesses, and entire towns. In response to the need in affected communities, The Salvation Army has activated its Emergency Disaster Services protocol in Mississippi and Georgia. The Salvation Army's extensive network of trained disaster experts and volunteers are on the ground, providing items such as food, water, clean-up support, and emotional and spiritual care to both survivors and first responders.

The Salvation Army is working with state and local emergency management agencies, other social services organizations, and corporate partners to monitor ongoing impacts and respond as necessary. Currently, they have seven mobile feeding units operating and providing survivors and first responders with much-needed hot meals.

"We're doing everything we can to get resources and support to survivors. We've already served over 4,500 meals and our work is just getting started," said Jeff Jellefs, EDS Director for The Salvation Army's Southern Territory.

D.C. murder victim was a Yorktown High School alum and Arlington native

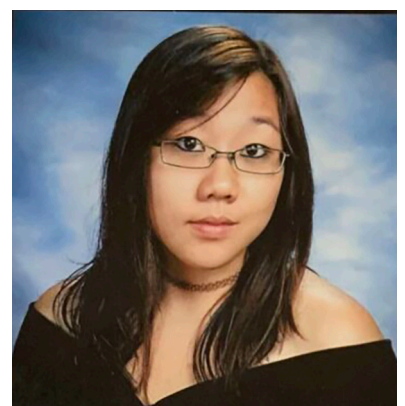
The woman murdered in a D.C. hotel room on March 31 was an Arlington native who attended Yorktown High School.

Christy Bautista was a student at Yorktown High School from 2007 to 2010, per high school yearbook photos, and was in orchestra her freshman year. She previously attended Swanson Middle School, confirmed by other former students and address records.

Bautista was a graduate of James Madison University in Harrisburg. Bautista, 31, was in the city to attend a concert, her family told NBC4, and had checked into the Ivy City Hotel on New York Avenue in Northeast D.C. at around 6 p.m. Friday night (March 31).

Less than an hour after arriving, a man brutally attacked her with a knife inside her hotel room. Security cameras showed the man entering the room, followed by an audible struggle, court records note.

Thirteen minutes later, District police entered the room and arrested a 43-year-old man. Bautista was pronounced dead at the hotel at 7:10



Christy Bautista in the 2010 Yorktown High School yearbook (photo courtesy of Arlington Public Library's Center for Local History)

p.m. The suspect is being charged with first-degree murder, per court documents. It's believed that he and Bautista did not know each other.

A GoFundMe campaign has been established to help Bautista's family with funeral expenses. As of midday Wednesday (April 5) it has raised nearly \$10,000. (ARLNow)

AI-equipped eyeglasses read silent speech

Cornell University researchers have developed a silent-speech recognition interface that uses acoustic-sensing and artificial intelligence to continuously recognize up to 31 unvocalized commands, based on lip and mouth movements.

The low-power, wearable interface -- called EchoSpeech -- requires just a few minutes of user training data before it will recognize commands and can be run on a smartphone.

Ruidong Zhang, doctoral student of information science, is the lead author of "EchoSpeech: Continuous Silent Speech Recognition on Minimally-obtrusive Eyewear Powered by Acoustic Sensing," which will be presented at the Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) this month in Hamburg, Germany.

EchoSpeech could be used to communicate with others via smartphone in places where speech is inconvenient like a noisy restaurant.

Heart tissue heads to space to aid research on aging

Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers are collaborating with NASA to send human heart "tissue-on-a-chip" specimens into space as early as March. The project is designed to monitor the tissue for changes in heart muscle cells' mitochondria (their power supply) and ability to contract in low-gravity conditions.

The tissue samples were launched into space aboard SpaceX CRS-27, a resupply mission to the International Space Station on Tuesday, March 14.

Astronauts on board during the mission introduced three FDA-approved medicines to the samples in efforts to prevent heart cell changes known or suspected to occur in those undertaking long-duration spaceflights.

To develop the microengineered human heart tissue-on-a-chip, researchers begin with human induced pluripotent stem cells grown in the laboratory. Such cells are able to develop into nearly any type of cell, and are coaxed biologically to develop into beating human cardiomyocytes, the muscle cells that make hearts contract.

BATAAN DEATH MARCH
Remembering Their Legacy

91st Anniversary Commemoration

Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 10AM
San Francisco National Cemetery
1 Lincoln Blvd, San Francisco, CA

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& COL JOSEPH R. MCMICKING, GHQ SWPA
- CONSUELO HALL MCHUGH & FAMILY
FOR MEMORARE MANILA 1945
- THE JOSEPH & MERCEDES MCMICKING
- IN MEMORY OF LT. ALFRED MCMICKING
51ST INFANTRY DIV. SURVIVOR OF BATAAN DEATH MARCH
EXECUTED WITH HIS FAMILY BY THE KEMPEITAI IN 1945

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CALLE DE JOSE RIZAL IS NOW A FAMOUS LANDMARK IN MADRID, SPAIN

A La Presidenta de la Comisión de la Memoria Historica, Doña Francisca Sauquillo, y a la Alcaldesa De Madrid, Doña Manuela Carmena



El 30 de diciembre se cumplirá el 120º aniversario del fusilamiento en Manila del Dr. JOSÉ PROTASIO MERCADO RIZAL, Oftalmólogo, escritor y gran intelectual filipino-español, pues escribía en el idioma de Cervantes. Fue víctima de la incomprensión y del tradicional odio a la inteligencia que tantos españoles han sufrido como le sucedió a José Rizal.

José Rizal estudió en la Universidad Central de Madrid y vivió en la capital de España, y entonces Filipinas era parte del Imperio español. Por lo tanto, fue un madrileño de gran prestigio y, por ello, debería ser reconocido con un permanente recuerdo en las calles de Madrid.

Creemos que, en este momento en que se está discutiendo la sustitución del nombre de algunas calles de Madrid, que recuerdan a quienes atentaron contra la libertad de los españoles, se dedique una a la persona del intelectual filipino que sí luchó para que Filipinas fuera una provincia española, y no una colonia, y para que los filipinos tuvieran las mismas libertades que el resto de los españoles.

Aunque en Madrid existe un monumento a José Rizal, en la avenida de las Islas Filipinas, es un homenaje del gobierno de la República de Filipinas, en la época del presidente de la Comunidad, señor Gallardón, y el alcalde, Álvarez del Manzano, estamos convencidos de que la dedicación de una calle a JOSÉ PROTASIO MERCADO RIZAL. (19 junio 1861-30 diciembre 1896) sería el reconocimiento justo de la capital a uno de sus más egregios ciudadanos madrileños del siglo XIX.

DR. CARLOS PUENTE

On August 18, 2016, a proposal to name a street in Madrid after Dr. Jose Rizal was submitted by Carlos Puente, PhD to the jurist, Doña Francesca Sauquillo, Presidente del Comisionado de la Memoria Historica who he knew personally and to the Alcaldesa de Madrid, Doña Manuela Carmena. After continuous follow-up and finally receiving favorable approval in 2018, what was formerly Calle de Algabeco in Barrio de Hortaleza was renamed CALLE DE JOSE RIZAL.

"Dr. Jose Rizal is truly deserving of this honor to be recognized and for his memory to live on forever," stated Dr. Puente during his interview with Awee Abayari of *International News Media*.

Thank you to Dr. Carlos Puente for his vision, hard work and determination to make this a reality with historical significance for the Philippines and Spain and the entire world.
Awee Abayari, INM



INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

An Exclusive Interview by **AWEE ABAYARI** WITH **DR. CARLOS PUENTE**

International Lawyer, Economist, PhD in Economics, Master's Degree in Law, Master's Degree in Political Sciences, Book/Author & Lecturer, Resource Expert: Print, Radio & Television Stations, Speaks Various Languages

For more of the interview: www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari • www.youtube.com/AANewsMedia



AWEE ABAYARI: You are a European and you were the person who proposed the renaming of one of the streets in Madrid after Dr. Jose P. Rizal. What inspired you and what did it take to make your vision into a reality?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: José Protacio Rizal was a Spanish-Filipino intellectual citizen of the world. He was a great traveler, visiting and studying in several European countries and he lived in Madrid during his student days at the Universidad Central (now Universidad Complutense), where he studied with other Spanish intellectuals. Curiously, other intellectuals from Spanish overseas territories are remembered in the Madrid street map but a street was missing in honor of Dr. José Rizal.

AWEE ABAYARI: What was your first reaction upon learning that after all your hard work and consistent follow-up with an intense determination, a street formerly known as Calle del Algabeco will be renamed after Jose Rizal?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: When I learned that the Madrid City Council would replace the names of some streets in Madrid, I thought it was the occasion to dedicate a street to Dr. José Rizal, who was a Madrid citizen as well. I prepared a memorandum with information on the life and work of José Rizal in Spain and in Europe and presented it to the Comisionado para la Memoria Histórica, chaired by a well-known jurist whom I knew personally, Francisca Sauquillo. She was in favor of my initiative and considered that the documentation I provided was very interesting. She agreed with me that an injustice committed by politicians at the end of the 19th century had to be repaired. I felt great satisfaction from the recognition of my initiative.

AWEE ABAYARI: What does this mean for the Philippines and Spain and its people? Historically? Culturally?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: The Philippines, like other overseas Spanish territories, Cuba and Puerto Rico, was considered a Spanish province, but in reality its importance in Spanish politics was negligible. In the Cortes of Cádiz in 1812, only 3 deputies representing the Philippines were present, although according to the population there should be 20. The three deputies who took possession of their seat were José Manuel Couto, from the Vicerainado de Nueva España (Mexico), Pedro Perez de Tagle and Ventura de los Reyes. Only the latter was active in defending the rights and claims of the distant province of the Philippines. Therefore, the Philippines and Spain were historically and politically united and shared the same culture that still exists today. The Philippines was very proud to have the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, founded in 1611, the oldest in Asia and older than the first university established in the United States. Rizal acquired a Spanish culture at the Ateneo de Manila, the Universidad de Santo Tomás and the Universidad Central of Madrid.

AWEE ABAYARI: In your passion for Rizal and his works, what for you are his most outstanding accomplishments that make him worthy of being called not only the National Hero of the Philippines but also of the world?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: To understand the merits of José Rizal as a writer and poet, it is necessary to read his work. He is a figure of the same importance like Rubén Darío and the other Spanish writers of the 19th century. He wrote in fine Spanish with a sublime sensitivity. Rizal was not a politician, although he collaborated with associations that fought for the complete equality of Spaniards in Europe, America and the Far East. He was the great intellectual of the Asian countries of Malay origin and was known in Germany, France, Austria, etc., and, of course, in Asia, where there are monuments and plaques in squares and streets to honor his name.

AWEE ABAYARI: In your studies about the life and works of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, what did you discover about him that inspired you the most and that not too many people know about?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: José Rizal was the forerunner of the fight for equality and Human Rights because most of the imperialist countries (United Kingdom, France and the United States) discriminated against citizens who were not of European origin. The Japanese diplomat and politician Makino Nabuki probably inherited this philosophy from Rizal when he proposed at the Paris Conference of 1919 that a racial equality clause should be included in the Statutes of the League of Nations. Nabuki suffered discriminatory treatment from French President Georges Clemenceau, British Prime Minister Lord Balfour, Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes and US President Woodrow Wilson during the Paris Conference.

AWEE ABAYARI: Dr. Jose P. Rizal died at 35 years old. He was executed by the Spanish colonial government for the crime of rebellion. As you research about him delving into his life what questions come to your mind that you wished you had the chance to ask him to give people who admire and respect him additional information about his innermost thoughts and feelings and goals?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: Dr. José Protacio Rizal was a victim of the incomprehension of his time, of

the political-religious alliance and of the political corruption in Madrid. The power of the Catholic Church in the Philippines was very important and had great influence over the political and military authorities. Rizal defended equality of the Filipinos with other Spanish citizens in America and the Peninsula. His political thought was far away from his contemporaries: Andrés Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo, the latter deceived and persecuted by the United States, country that replaced Spain in the government of the Philippines. Rizal was tried by a military court without evidence and sentenced to death on December 30, 1896. He was executed after a mass that he attended with his sentimental partner, the Belgian Josephine Braecken. In a note addressed to his Austrian friend Fernando Blumentrit Rizal said: "Dear brother, when you receive this letter I will already be dead; tomorrow at 7 I will be executed, although I am not guilty of rebellion". Neither the Spanish governor of the Philippines, the general Ramón Blanco y Erenas, nor the general and politician Camilo García de Polavieja guaranteed Rizal's rights to a fair trial. The Spanish government of Antonio Cánovas del Castillo in Madrid did nothing to pardon him.

AWEE ABAYARI: In conclusion, as an intellectual and a researcher, who for you is Dr. Jose P. Rizal and what was his most important contribution to the world that was relevant then and even today.

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: I would remember the message that appears at the foot of his statue in Manila's Rizal Park: "I want to show those who deprive people of the right to patriotism that we do know how to sacrifice ourselves for our duties and principles. Death does not matter when you die for what you love: the country and loved ones." Rizal was not only a writer and poet, he was a doctor, ophthalmologist, and practiced other arts. He was a Renaissance intellectual and should be considered part of the 19th century Golden Age of Literature. His work should appear in the books of Spanish Literature in the educational centers of Spain and Latin America.

AWEE ABAYARI: Indeed, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, is a world hero who lived and left us with a legacy that will inspire us forever. Rizal died at exactly 7:03 AM and his last words were: *Consummatum Est!* (It is finished). What is your message for all of us on how we can make our lives significant and contribute to humanity to make sure that Rizal's death was not in vain?

DR. CARLOS PUENTE: El mensaje que deben aprender las generaciones futuras debe ser que los hechos negativos de la Historia no deben repetirse. La libertad debe ser un valor que tiene que estar situado por encima de las ideologías y creencias religiosas.

The message: Future generations must learn not to repeat the negative facts of history. Freedom must be above ideologies and religious beliefs.



Rizal Monument, Luneta Park, Philippines

FACTS ABOUT RIZAL

Born: José Protasio Mercado y Alonso Realonda
June 19, 1861
Calamba, Laguna, Captaincy General of the Philippines, Spanish Empire
Rizal wrote "Ultimo Adios" (Last Farewell) on the eve of his execution while confined in Fort Santiago.



Where Rizal lived in Vienna.



Rizal Monument in Madrid.



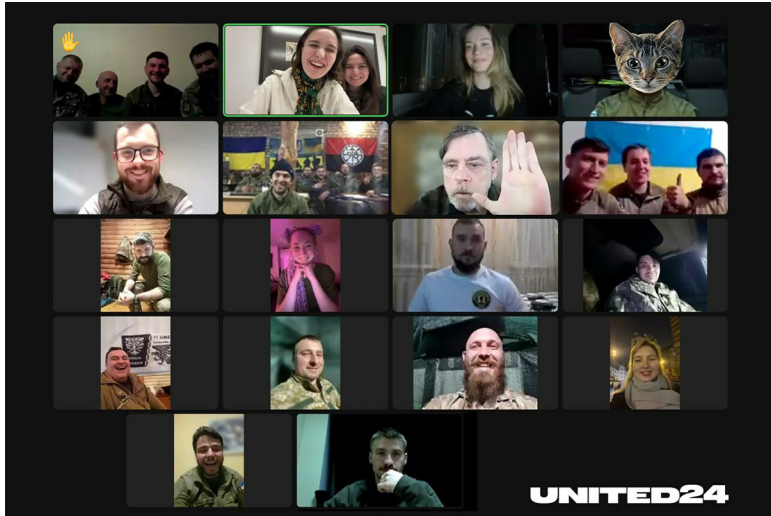
RIZAL IN FRANCE. Location: 9e Arrt in Rue De Maubeuge, Paris, France. (Wikimedia Commons)



RIZAL IN HEIDELBERG, GERMANY Location: University Eye Clinic at Berghheimer Straße 20, Heidelberg, Germany

UNITED24 ambassador Mark Hamill met online with the Ukrainian military

KYIV, Ukraine and MALIBU, Calif. , American actor Mark Hamill, known for his role as the Jedi, Luke Skywalker, held an online meeting with Ukraine's defenders. The UNITED24 ambassador listened to their stories, discussed their need for UAVs -- including RQ-35 Heidrun reconnaissance drones, for which he is raising funds, and said he'd love to visit to Ukraine after the war. PRNewswire



UNITED24 ambassador Mark Hamill met online with the Ukrainian military: & "I am a pretend warrior in the movies. But you are the real heroes of a real war" (PRNewswire/UNITED24)

US further sanctions Russian businesses

WASHINGTON – On April 12, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is further curbing Russia's access to the international financial system through facilitators and their businesses. The United States, in coordination with the United Kingdom, is targeting the facilitation network of Alisher Usmanov, who is subject to sanctions in multiple jurisdictions. Today's action also includes designations to reinforce existing measures and further disrupt Russia's importation of critical technologies used in its war against Ukraine. In total, OFAC is designating 25 individuals and 29 entities with touchpoints in 20 jurisdictions. The U.S. Department of State is concurrently designating several entities operating in the defense sector of the Russian Federation economy and entities supporting Russia's war against Ukraine, as well as additional entities associated with Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom). For more information on these State actions, see this Fact Sheet. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Commerce will take concurrent action to add 28 entities to its Entity List.

"As the Kremlin seeks ways around the expansive multilateral sanctions and export controls imposed on Russia for its war against Ukraine, the United States and our allies and partners will continue to disrupt evasion schemes that support Putin on the battlefield," said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson. "Today's action underscores our dedication to implementing the G7 commitment to impose severe costs on third-country actors who support Russia's war."

ALL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

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ITALY DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY AMID SURGE IN MIGRANT ARRIVALS

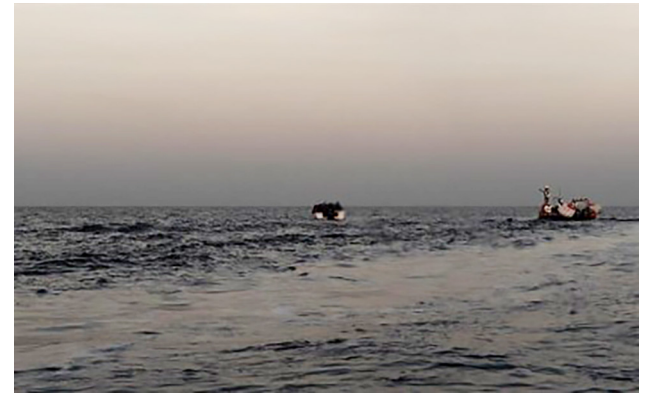
ATHENS – Italy declared a six-month state of emergency recently to address the surge in the number of migrants arriving in the country via the Mediterranean Sea, local media reported.

The government approved the measure following a proposal by Civil Protection Minister Nello Musumeci, said the state-run ANSA news agency.

With the state of emergency, faster procedures and actions can be implemented to offer migrants reception solutions in a short time with adequate standards, according to the agency.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said the decision aims to enable more effective and timely responses to the management of the migrant flow.

In recent weeks, Italy has seen a significant rise in the number of migrants and refugees arriving on its southern shores from North Africa. (Anadolu)



EMERGENCY. Italy has declared a state of emergency to address the rising number of migrants in the country. (Anadolu)

GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE



The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses, governments and other tourism stakeholders to lead by example in the shift towards a circular economy of plastics.

Over 100 organizations have become signatories of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative and disclosed their ambitious commitments with regards to the elimination of unnecessary single-use plastics, transition to reuse models and use of reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging and items.

Global Tourism Plastics Initiative signatories make the following actionable commitments by 2025:

- Eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and items;
- Take action to move from single-use to reuse models or reusable alternatives;
- (Engage the value chain to) move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable;
- Take action to increase the amount of recycled content across all plastic packaging and items used;
- Collaborate and invest to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics; and
- Report publicly and annually on progress made towards these targets.

I'm a great BELIEVER in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

— THOMAS JEFFERSON, American Founding Father

Japanese PM Kishida safe after blast before speech: NHK

NEW YORK – On Saturday, April 15, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was evacuated after a loud explosion was heard at a venue, national broadcaster NHK reported. The incident took place right before he was scheduled to give a speech in Wakayama.

Fumio was uninjured and left the city, said NHK, citing sources.

Police said a suspect has been arrested who appears to have thrown a bomb at the port where the prime minister was set to give his speech.

The incident comes nine months after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. (Anadolu)

National Press Club applauds State Dept. finding of wrongful detention in Gershkovich Case

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2023 – Following is a statement by Eileen O'Reilly, President of the National Press Club, and Gil Klein, President of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, on the announcement by the U.S. Department of State to classify as a wrongful detention, the arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich by the Russian government.

"In our first statement on this matter, we called for the U.S. government to declare the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal Reporter Evan Gershkovich a wrongful detention. Today, 13 days later, we are happy they have done so. While this case has moved at a record pace, it still took almost two weeks for our government to make this determination. We must do more to streamline the process – especially as it relates to journalists. We believe it is always a wrongful detention when a journalist is held for doing their job.

While it is good news that the case is moving to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, we note that this office has

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

undertaken a huge burden of consular affairs cases in recent years. SPEHA no longer appears as focused on wrongful detention as it once was, and has not shown a willingness to prioritize cases of journalists. One need look no further than the case of Austin Tice, a Polk Award-winning journalist and the Club's 2015 John Aubuchon honoree, to see that cases of detained journalists are not a priority of SPEHA. Austin has been held more than 10.5 years, and we have not engaged with Syria to negotiate for his release.

We call on SPEHA to move swiftly to refer Evan's case to the National Security Council for a quicker resolution."

Founded in 1908, the National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists. With more than 3,000 members representing nearly every major news organization, the Club is a leading voice for press freedom in the U.S. and worldwide. - PRNewswire

Dutch Tulip Days 2023 presents more than 15,000 flowers to highlight tulips and bicycles at the Ambassador's Residence

Flowers and bicycles are iconic images of the Netherlands. These two components of Dutch society take center stage during the 2023 Dutch Tulip Days, April 5-7, at the residence of Ambassador André Haspels.

The Dutch, world renown for their expertise in horticulture and floral production, export over 450 million tulip bulbs to the United States annually.

More than 15,000 flowers, including tulips, cut flowers, and horticulture plants, will be on display during Dutch Tulip Days. These floral arrangements will be interspersed between and on



Dutch Tulip Days 2022

a variety of Dutch bicycles, including e-bikes.

In the Netherlands, there are more bicycles than people and cycling is deeply ingrained in Dutch culture.

INM Book Choice

MARIE KONDO'S KURASHI AT HOME: How to Organize Your Space and Achieve Your Ideal Life By MARIE KONDO

"Encouraging readers to take an even more holistic and personal approach to curating their environments, [Marie] Kondo shares a visual guide featuring more than 100 photographs to inspire them to envision, and then create, more fulfilling and joyful lives."—J.P. Morgan's nextlist 2023

Inspired by the Japanese concept of kurashi, or "way of life," Kurashi at Home invites you to visualize your best life from the moment you wake up until the end of each day. By applying Marie Kondo's time-tested query—"Does it spark joy?"—to your mindset and behaviors, you are invited to take an even more holistic and personal approach to curating your environment by imagining what your life could look like full of connection and free from any limitations. This ideal vision then becomes a touchpoint that helps you make conscious, mindful choices—from how you use every corner of your living space to how you take advantage of every moment.



activities, and relationships, like creating a calm nook for working, scheduling weekly get-togethers with family or friends, or having relaxing nighttime rituals that promote a restful sleep.

Your newfound clarity will inspire you to clear out the unneeded clutter so you can appreciate the inviting spaces, treasured belongings, and peaceful moments that remain.

At its core, the KonMari philosophy focuses not on what to get rid of, but on what sparks joy in your life. In this inspirational visual guide, beautiful photographs and Kondo's unique suggestions empower you to embrace what you love about your life and then reflect it in your home,

TECH TALK

Robots predict human intention for faster builds

In a new paper, USC computer science researchers 'teach' robots how to predict human preferences in assembly tasks.

Humans have a way of understanding others' goals, desires and beliefs, a crucial skill that allows us to anticipate people's actions. Taking bread out of the toaster? You'll need a plate. Sweeping up leaves? I'll grab the green trash can. This skill, often referred to as 'theory of mind,' comes easily to us as humans, but is still challenging for robots. But, if robots are to become truly collaborative helpers in manufacturing and in everyday life, they need to learn the same abilities.

Computer science researchers aim to teach robots how to predict human preferences in assembly tasks, so they can one day help out on everything from building a satellite to setting a table. *Source: University of Southern California*

Your Health

TIPS TO MANAGE DAILY STRESS

We know stress is an unavoidable part of everyday life. While some stress is considered normal, and even positive at times, it isn't healthy to let stress build up. Since April is Stress Awareness Month, check out these tips that can help you manage daily stressors:

- **Accept your needs and limits.** Recognize situations that make you feel physically and mentally agitated so you can avoid them when possible, and cope when you can't.
- **Manage your time.** Prioritizing your activities can help you use your time well. Making a day-to-day schedule helps ensure you don't feel overwhelmed by everyday tasks and deadlines.
- **Practice relaxation.** Deep breathing, meditation, and progressive muscle relaxation are good ways to calm yourself.

- **Exercise daily.** Schedule time to walk outside, bike, or any physical activity you can do. Daily exercise naturally produces stress-relieving hormones in your body and improves your overall physical health.

- **Set aside time for yourself.** Schedule something that makes you feel good: read a book, watch a movie, or take your dog for a walk.

- **Eat well.** Eating unprocessed foods like whole grains, vegetables, and fresh fruit is the foundation for a healthy body and mind.

- **Get enough sleep.** Symptoms of some mental health conditions, like mania in bipolar disorder, can be triggered by getting too little sleep.

- **Avoid alcohol and drugs.** They don't reduce stress: in fact, they often worsen it. If you're struggling with substance abuse, educate yourself and get help.

- **Talk to someone.** Whether to friends, family, a counselor, or a support group, airing out and talking can help.

- **Know when to get help.** If the steps you've taken aren't working, it may be time to talk to a mental health professional.

To live without hope is to cease to live.
 - FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

Americans turn to poems in April

Poetry is sprouting everywhere in April. It's National Poetry Month in the United States, a time set aside to celebrate an art form that is not only one of humankind's oldest but also more relevant than ever, according to Ydalmi Noriega of the Poetry Foundation, a Chicago-based group that promotes poetry.

During the pandemic, she says, people had the time and the need to find meaning in what they were experiencing, and poems provided them insights and connections across languages, cultures and eras.

Poetry, once seen as elitist in the United States, is more popular than ever, particularly among young people.

Supporting the trend is the fact that more state and local governments recently created poet laureate positions to popularize poems. Spoken word poetry — that performed in "poetry slams," for one example — has grown more prevalent. Presidential inaugural ceremonies have publicized particular poets' work. And social media users employ platforms like Instagram to share their favorite poems.

(The Poetry Foundation sends anyone interested a poem a day, as does the Academy of American Poets, with the choices this month curated by the poet laureate of the United States, Ada Limón.) - *ShareAmerica*

Veggies

BROCCOLI A Nutrient Dense Food



Known for its anti-cancer properties, broccoli has tons of nutrients including vitamins A and C, fiber, folic acid, calcium, and potassium.

One half cup of steamed broccoli provides 80 % of the recommended daily allowances (RDA) for vitamin C, almost 15 % of the allowance for folate, 10percent for vitamin A, and 7 % for iron. It is also a good source of several B vitamins, other minerals and dietary fiber. All this for only 23 calories per half cup serving!

When selecting broccoli, select heads with tight buds which range from dark green to purple in color. Avoid those that have spreading buds, are yellow in color and look wilted.

Source: University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture

Recipe

SPINACH AND MEAT CAKES



Enjoy these spinach and meat cakes over brown rice, and with a side of roasted sweet potatoes.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef, or turkey, 7% fat (93% lean)
- 16 oz. frozen spinach chopped (may substitute a 2 bunches of fresh spinach)
- 1/2 onion (small, finely chopped)
- 2 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- black pepper (to taste)
- 3 c. brown rice

Directions:

1. Preheat frying pan (no oil).
2. Combine all ingredients except brown rice in a large mixing bowl. Mix well.
3. Form mixture into 12 small balls. Place in frying pan and flatten into patties using a spatula.
4. Cook over medium heat until cooked on both sides.
5. Serve over brown rice.

Source: Food.gov

English language training market size in China to grow by USD 70.81 billion between 2021 & 2026

NEW YORK -- The English language training (ELT) market in China is set to grow by USD 70.81 billion from 2021 to 2026, progressing at a CAGR of 19.75% during the forecast period. The report offers an up-to-date analysis regarding the current market scenario, the latest trends and drivers, and the overall market environment.

The market is driven by the rise in the number of international schools. A large number of students in China are opting to enroll in international schools. This can be attributed to the growing demand for ELT and increasing job prospects for English-speaking individuals.

In addition, the market is witnessing the emergence of several private-owned bilingual schools in China. To enroll in such schools, students must be fluent in the English language. These factors have increased the number of students opting for ELT training, which is driving the growth of the market. -*PRNewswire*



VATICAN CITY

Vatican City, in full State of the Vatican City, Independent papal state, southern Europe, within the commune of Rome, Italy.

Area: 109 acres (44 hectares).
 Population: (2019 est.) 453.

Its medieval and Renaissance walls form its boundaries except on the southeast at St. Peter's Square. Within the walls is the world's smallest independent nation-state, with its own diplomatic missions, newspaper, post office, radio station, banking system, army of 100 Swiss Guards, and publishing house.

Extraterritoriality of the state extends to Castel Gandolfo and to several churches and palaces in Rome proper. Its independent sovereignty was recognized in the Lateran Treaty of 1929. The pope has absolute executive, legislative, and judicial powers within the city. He appoints the members of the Vatican's government organs, which are separate from those of the Holy See,



the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church.

The many imposing buildings include St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Palace, and the Vatican Museums. Frescoes by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel, by Pinturicchio in the Borgia Apartment, and by Raphael in the Stanze (rooms in the papal apartments) are also there.

The Vatican Library contains a priceless collection of manuscripts from the pre-Christian and Christian eras. The pope and other representatives of the papal state travel widely to maintain international relations.

-- *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*



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AG Bonta warns Californians about tax fraud scams, other government imposter scams

OAKLAND – California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a consumer alert warning Californians about common tax fraud scams that are particularly prevalent during tax season. Tax fraud scams are a variety of scams which can occur through various forms of communication including phone calls, text messages, email, social media, or mail. The consumer alert provides Californians filing taxes with tips to avoid falling victim to tax fraud scams and other government imposter scams.

claim that you either owe money or are due a refund. They will include links to official-looking websites and ask for either money outright or personal information that will allow them to steal your identity.

- **Stolen Refunds:** Identity thieves will use stolen personal information to file false tax returns in your name and steal your refunds.

Protect Yourself from Tax Fraud Scams

- Protect your personal information.
- Be wary of unsolicited communication.
- Hang up the phone. If you suspect a scam call, immediately hang up or do not respond.
- Find a trusted tax preparer.
- File your own taxes.
- Use a unique strong password.
- Never sign a blank return.
- Always seek a second opinion from your friends and family.

If you suspect you have been a victim of a tax-related scam, report the scam and any losses to the Internal Revenue Service and/or the California Franchise Tax Board.

Types of Tax Fraud Scams

Tax-related scams take on various forms and show up every year, especially around tax season. The most common tax-related scams include:

- **Fake IRS Phone Calls**
Demanding Money: Scammers will call claiming that they are from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and say that you owe them money. The scammer will harass you and use high-pressure tactics claiming that you will be arrested, deported, or will lose your driver's license if you don't pay right now.
- **Fake IRS Emails:** Scammers will send out "phishing" emails that look like they are from the IRS or FTB and

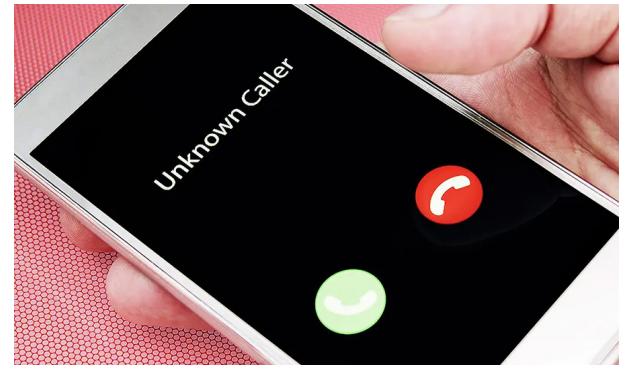
FTC ramps up fight to close the door on illegal robocalls originating from overseas scammers and imposters

As the menace of unwanted illegal robocalls continues, U.S. consumers are bombarded by millions of these calls each month, both to their landlines and cell phones. Data show that a significant proportion, if not the majority, of illegal robocalls originate from overseas.

To stop these illegal overseas calls, the Federal Trade Commission has implemented Project Point of No Entry (PoNE), targeting "point of entry" or "gateway" Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers and warning they must work to keep illegal robocalls out of the country.

Project Point of No Entry
Through Project PoNE, the FTC is disrupting foreign-based scammers and imposters responsible for blasting U.S. consumers with annoying and unwanted calls. Through Project PoNE, the Commission:

- 1) identifies point of entry VoIP service providers that are routing or transmitting illegal call traffic,
- 2) demands they stop doing so and warns their conduct may violate the Telemarketing Sales Rule, and then
- 3) monitors them to pursue recalcitrant providers, including by opening law enforcement investigations and filing lawsuits when appropriate.



Project Point of No Entry delivers strong message to "gateway" voice service providers to stop bad traffic from entering the United States or face the consequences

The FTC can seek civil penalties and court injunctions to stop TSR violations. It can also seek money to refund to consumers who were defrauded via illegal telemarketing calls. The FTC coordinates directly with the agency's federal and state partners, which support the program and pursue their own actions to fight illegal telemarketing robocalls. - FTC

POWER OUTAGE TIPS

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but ONLY outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Check with local officials about heating and cooling locations open near you. - Source: Ready.gov

DISTRACTED DRIVING



Visual and mental attention is key to safe driving, yet many in-vehicle technologies can cause drivers to lose sight and focus of the road ahead. Hands-free, voice-command features and other interactive technologies increasingly common in new vehicles may create visual and mental distractions that unintentionally provide motorists with a false sense of security about their safety behind the wheel. Just because a technology is available in your vehicle, does not mean it is safe to use while driving.

USCIS redesigns Green Card and Employment Authorization Document

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced new designs to improve security of Permanent Resident Cards (also known as Green Cards) and Employment Authorization Documents (EADs).

The new Green Card and EAD designs contain state-of-the-art technology that continue to safeguard national security and improve service for our customers. Changes include improved detailed artwork; tactile printing that is better integrated with the artwork; enhanced optically variable ink; highly secure holographic images on the front and back of the cards; a layer-reveal feature with a partial window on the back photo box; and data fields displayed in different places than on previous versions.

"This redesign further demonstrates USCIS' commitment to taking a proactive approach against the threat of secure document tampering, counterfeiting, and fraud," said USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddou. "Consistent updates to secure documents, informed by our knowledge of the latest methods of bad actors and the innovation and ingenuity of our staff, ensure the continued integrity of secure documents issued by our agency."

The two most powerful warriors are patience and time." - LEO TOLSTOY

IMMIGRATION UPDATE



HOSTED BY AWE E ABAYARI



JACK GOLAN
50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

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Buying a Home With Bad Credit: 5 Tips to Make It Work

Buying a home with bad credit can sound impossible, but there's good news. It can be done. One thing to keep in mind: Lenders don't like surprises when it comes to mortgage applicants—especially when it comes to buying a home with bad credit.

If there are any problems on your report, you'll want to fix them beforehand. Here are five tips on how to handle your credit and your credit report when it's time to buy a home .

1. Don't lie or hide the truth
2. Don't mess around when buying a home with bad credit
3. Dispute errors
4. Wait, if necessary
5. Show responsibility with a mix of credit

Source: Realtor.com

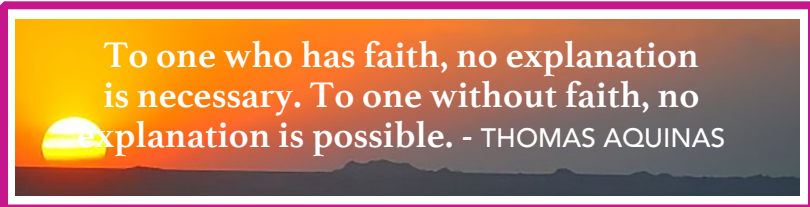
Real Estate

Large mortgage rate swings but more pressure on the downside

Mortgage rates increased the week of April 12 as the latest jobs report pointed to a tighter than expected labor market and perhaps more resilient inflation pressures. But Wednesday's news that inflation eased sharply in March is causing mortgage rates to tick down.

Despite the falling employment growth headline, last week's jobs report signaled that the labor market remained very tight with high wage growth in services – a signal that inflation could remain elevated. Core inflation, especially rent inflation, tends to respond more to a tight labor market than other components of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Combined, these signals pushed the yield on longer term rates, including mortgage rates, higher. However, mortgage rates began to reverse course on today's news that headline inflation fell substantially in March.

Of course, much uncertainty remains, and mortgage rate volatility could remain elevated as core inflation remains well above the Federal Reserve's inflation target. -Source: Zillow



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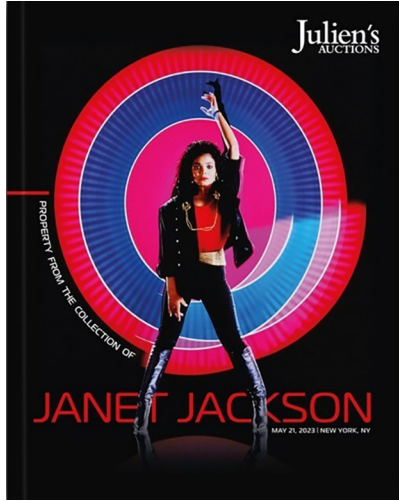
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Hard Rock International kicks off Janet Jackson's "Together Again" Tour

HOLLYWOOD, Fla.-- Hard Rock International kicks off the five-time Grammy® Award-winning singer Janet Jackson's tour, "Together Again," at Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida on April 14.

In conjunction with her tour, and in partnership with Julien's Auctions, the auction house to the stars, her memorabilia is on display in a public exhibition. Aligning with Janet Jackson's birthday on May 16, the memorabilia will also be featured at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on May 8, followed by a performance at the property on May 20. - PRNewswire



Kelly Clarkson headlines Las Vegas engagement at Bakkt Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino



GRAMMY Award-winning global superstar Kelly Clarkson has announced that she will headline an exclusive Las Vegas engagement chemistry... an intimate night with Kelly Clarkson, opening Friday, July 28, 2023 at Bakkt Theater at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. Kelly and her longtime band will immerse fans in an intimate music experience that spans her two-decade long catalog of award-winning hits. Show dates include July 28, 29 and August 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 18 and 19, 2023.

South Korea reclaims spot as PH top foreign tourist source

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu – South Korea is again the Philippines' top source of foreign visitors so far this year.

Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco bared this on April 13 when she greeted a batch of 300 travelers from South Korea at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport.

The travelers are members of the Korea branch of UNICITY, a direct selling company on health functional foods, cosmetics and household items and with over 60 markets globally.

Department of Tourism data showed a significant pick up in Korean arrivals since last year, with 428,014 or a 16.13 percent share of the country's arrivals received between Feb. 10 -- when the country eased its borders for leisure travelers -- up until Dec. 31, 2022. - PNA

Las Vegas surpassed its previous record of visitors' spending by over 20%

LAS VEGAS – A new report from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) revealed total economic output related to visitor spending reached a record \$79.3 billion in 2022, a 24.7 percent increase from the previous record set in 2019. The annual Economic Impact of Southern Nevada's Tourism Industry report outlines economic impacts associated with the region's tourism industry and convention travel, including visitor spending on rooms, dining, shopping, sports, local transportation and other activities and amenities.

Las Vegas, as a tourist destination, has experienced dramatic growth in recent years with the addition of new resort properties, expanded convention and meeting space, professional sports teams, and new venues such as Allegiant Stadium.

TIME reveals the 2023 TIME100

NEW YORK -- On April 13, TIME revealed the 2023 TIME100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

The issue has 4 worldwide covers, each highlighting a member of the TIME100: actor Jennifer Coolidge, recording artist Doja Cat, CEO of The Walt Disney Company Bob Iger, and actor Michael B. Jordan.

To celebrate the 2023 TIME100 list of the World's Most Influential People, TIME will host the annual TIME100 Summit Featuring TIME CO2 on April 25 and the TIME100 Gala on April 26.

For the fourth year in a row, TIME Studios and ABC will present a "TIME100" primetime television special, and for the second year in a row, the television special will bring viewers inside the 17th annual TIME100 Gala, airing Sunday, April 30 (7:00-8:00 p.m. EDT), on ABC, which will be available to stream on Hulu and Disney+.

The gala will be hosted by Jennifer Coolidge, and feature performances by Doja Cat and Lea Michele, as well as honorary tributes from members of this year's list, remarks from TIME CEO Jessica Sibley, and more.

The third annual TIME100 Summit Featuring TIME CO2 will convene leaders from the global TIME100 community to spotlight solutions and encourage action toward a better world. -- Source: PRNewswire



Romantic works of Tchaikovsky, Schumann and Casals featured in Bion Tsang's CANTABILE

AUSTIN, Texas -- In his newest release, cellist Bion Tsang returns to Glasgow, Scotland for his second recording with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and conductor Scott Yoo.

CANTABILE, available from Universal Music Group on digital platforms on April 14, and on CD in May 2023, features two works by Tchaikovsky, Variations on a Rococo Theme (Op. 33) and Andante Cantabile (Op. 11), and Schumann's Cello Concerto, bookended by two renditions of Pablo Casals' "Song of the Birds."



CANTABILE is the newest release by American cellist Bion Tsang with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra under the direction of Scott Yoo.

LUCID AIR WINS 2023 WORLD LUXURY CAR OF THE YEAR



In the World Luxury Car category, Lucid Air was chosen from an initial entry list of sixteen vehicles from all over the world. World Car jurors announced Lucid's win at an awards ceremony at the 2023 New York International Auto Show. The World Car Awards are voted on by a jury of 100 distinguished international automotive journalists from 32 countries who selected the winners by secret ballot based on their evaluation of each eligible vehicle. (PRNewsfoto/Lucid Group)

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. – MATTHEW 5:44 (KJV)

Music legend Randy Jackson curates themed music playlists for Unify Health Labs

LOS ANGELES -- Unify Health Labs™ now has themed Spotify playlists in collaboration with music legend Randy Jackson. Randy Jackson's and Unify Health Labs' goal is to help people reclaim their health so they can live their life to the fullest. Through these heart-pumping, feel-good playlists on Spotify, they hope to get listeners up and moving more often to support their overall health.

This goal stems from Randy's experience after being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Following this diagnosis, he began a journey to revitalize his health but was faced with complex and confusing health-related information. He decided to do his own research by collaborating with physicians, nutritionists, fitness experts, and more, and he discovered the secrets to achieving great physical and mental health. As a result of his findings, he created Unify Health Labs to help people gain control of their health, just like he did. One of Unify Health Labs best selling products is Multi-GI 5, a powerful gut-health booster designed to improve weight management, increased energy, a healthy GI lining, and balanced gut flora for a renewed sense of whole-body health. - PRNewswire



Siesta at the Oasis

Monday, May 1 – Friday, May 26
Oasis Wellness Center, University Student Union

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- 1 NAP Sleep Mask
- 3 NAPS Lavender Scented Spray
- 6 NAPS Sleeping Shirt
- 10 NAPS Cozy Blanket

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Happy Easter



Last Supper, Italian Cenacolo, one of the most famous artworks in the world, painted by Leonardo da Vinci probably between 1495 and 1498 for the Dominican monastery Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. It depicts the dramatic scene described in several closely connected moments in the Gospels, including Matthew 26:21–28, in which Jesus declares that one of the Apostles will betray him and later institutes the Eucharist. According to Leonardo's belief that posture, gesture, and expression should manifest the "notions of the mind," each one of the 12 disciples reacts in a manner that Leonardo considered fit for that man's personality. The result is a complex study of varied human emotion, rendered in a deceptively simple composition. --
Encyclopedia Britannica