

# International NEWS MEDIA

APRIL 2024

## ISRAEL-GAZA WAR PROTESTS SPREAD ACROSS U.S. UNIVERSITIES

What began last week at Columbia University, where students refused to end their protests against Israel's war in Gaza despite pushback from the New York school and arrests by police, has spread across the country. Students at various college campuses are staging similar demonstrations that are also being met with police response.

In one of the latest incidents, on Thursday, April 25, police responded as student protesters at Princeton University in New Jersey began setting up an encampment, according to media reports.

In Massachusetts, police forcibly removed an encampment set up by students at Emerson College in Boston and arrested more than 100 people, according to media and police reports.

Students at Harvard University, Tufts University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology set up similar encampments.

Meanwhile, Atlanta police and Georgia state troopers removed a camp on Emory University's quadrangle on Thursday

(April 25) morning.

in Washington on Thursday, hundreds of demonstrators gathered at George Washington University to call for universities to divest from companies linked to Israel and to drop disciplinary charges against pro-Palestinian student protesters. The protest was organized by students from George Washington, Georgetown University and others in the region.

Last week, tensions escalated on Columbia's Manhattan campus when city police arrested more than 100 pro-Palestinian protesters.

In New Haven, Connecticut, on April 22, police arrested 48 protesters, four of whom were not students, at Yale University after they refused to leave an encampment on a plaza at the center of campus.

Two days later at the University of Texas at Austin, hundreds of protesters were met with university officers as Texas state troopers responded in riot gear. Dozens of students who did not leave the area were arrested.

On Wednesday (April 24) police peacefully arrested stu-



George Washington University students set tents in the campus during a pro-Palestinian protest against the Israel-Hamas war, April 25, 2024, in Washington. - AP photo via VOA

dent protesters at the University of Southern California.

A day later, USC announced it would cancel its main graduation ceremony, scheduled for May 10. The university had already canceled a commencement speech by the school's pro-Palestinian valedictorian, citing safety concerns. Source: VOA with some reports from AP & AFP

### THE APRIL 8 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE: Through the Eyes of NASA



A total solar eclipse was seen in Dallas on April 8, 2024. A total solar eclipse swept across a narrow portion of the North American continent from Mexico's Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada. A partial solar eclipse was visible across the entire North American continent along with parts of Central America and Europe.

### Gov. Abbott one of 2024 TIME 100 List of Most Influential People in the World

Governor Greg Abbott was named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by TIME in their 2024 TIME100 list.

"We have worked tirelessly to ensure Texas remains a beacon of freedom and opportunity for the entire world, and it is an honor to be recognized for all we have accomplished by being named as one of the most influential people in the world by TIME100," said Governor Abbott. "From building the eighth-largest economy in the world to leading a historic border security mission amidst the most prolific border crisis our nation has ever seen, one thing remains clear: where

Texas leads, others follow. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and look forward to building an even bigger, better Texas for generations to come."

According to TIME, Governor Abbott is one of the world's top leaders, particularly for his efforts on the border crisis, bringing national attention for bus-ing migrants to sanctuary cities through Operation Lone Star.

TIME's annual TIME100 list recognizes the 100 most influential individuals from across the world who have made a profound impact in business, entertainment, politics, science, and more.



TEXAS GOV. GREG ABBOT

### Hamas says it received Israel's response to its cease-fire proposal

CAIRO — Hamas said it had received on Saturday, April 26, Israel's official response to its latest cease-fire proposal and will study it before submitting its reply, the group's deputy Gaza chief said in a statement.

"Hamas has received today the official response of the Zionist occupation to the proposal presented to the Egyptian and the Qatari mediators on April 13," Khalil Al-Hayya, who is currently based in Qatar, said in a statement published by the group.

After more than six months of war

with Israel in Gaza, the negotiations remain deadlocked, with Hamas sticking to its demands that any agreement must end the war.

An Egyptian delegation visited Israel for discussion with Israeli officials Friday, looking for a way to restart talks to end the conflict and return remaining hostages taken when Hamas fighters stormed into Israeli towns on October 7, an official briefed on the meetings said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel had no new proposals to make, although it was willing

to consider a limited truce in which 33 hostages would be released by Hamas, instead of the 40 previously under discussion.

On Thursday, the United States and 17 other countries appealed to Hamas to release all of its hostages as a pathway to end the crisis.

Hamas has vowed not to relent to international pressure, but in a statement it issued Friday, it said it was "open to any ideas or proposals that take into account the needs and rights of our people." - VOA/Reuters

### Pope Francis appeals for de-escalation of tension in Middle East

ISTANBUL — Pope Francis on Sunday said he is watching the developments in the Middle East with concern and pain.

"I make a heartfelt appeal to halt any action that might fuel a spiral of violence, with the risk of dragging the Middle East into an even greater military conflict," Pope Francis said on X.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched a barrage of drones and missiles at Israel late on Saturday, in response to the April 1 attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that killed several Iranian commanders.

Saying that no one should threaten the existence of others, Pope Francis appealed to all nations to take the side of peace.

"May all the nations instead take the side of peace and help Israelis and Palestinians live in two States, side by side, in safety. It is their deep and legitimate desire, and it is their right! Two neighboring States."

"Let there be a cease-fire in Gaza



POPE FRANCIS

soon, and let us pursue the paths of negotiation, with determination. Let us help that population, plunged into a humanitarian catastrophe; let the hostages kidnapped months ago be released! So much suffering! Let us pray for peace," he said.

"No more war, no more attacks, no more violence! Yes to dialogue and yes to peace! Let us pray together for peace." - Anadolu

### MT. RUANG ERUPTION DAMAGES 498 HOUSES, PUBLIC FACILITIES



Mount Ruang in Sitaro Islands, North Sulawesi, spewing volcanic ash as seen on Friday, April 19, 2024. The eruption damaged 498 houses and public facilities. (Antara)

JAKARTA — The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) recorded at least 498 houses and three public facilities were damaged due to the eruption of Mount Ruang in Sitaro Islands District, North Sulawesi.

The head of BNPB's Disaster Data, Information and Communication Center, Abdul Muhari, on Sunday, said in addition to 135 mildly damaged houses and 363 moderately to severely damaged houses, two churches and one elementary school building in Tagulandang, Sitaro Islands were affected by the eruption.

### NewsBriefs

#### US, Chinese defense chiefs hold 1st talks since 2022

WASHINGTON — US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke via video teleconference on April 16 with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in their first engagement in more than a year, the Pentagon said.

They discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and global security issues, Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said.

According to Ryder, Austin reiterated that the US remains committed to its One China Policy, which is guided by the Three Joint Communiques, the Taiwan Relations Act, and the Six Assurances. He also discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as well as concerns about North Korea, Ryder added.

#### US House passes \$95-B aid to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan; threatens TikTok

WASHINGTON — The US House of Representatives on April 20 passed a USD95 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel, and other US allies overseas.

House Speaker Mike Johnson unveiled a plan to hold votes on four separate foreign aid bills, to later come together into a package, a move that has angered some far-right House Republicans.

Besides aid for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, the fourth bill includes other national security priorities, including a possible TikTok ban, a provision to help pay for aid by using seized Russian assets, and sanctions and other measures to confront Russia, China and Iran. - Anadolu

#### N. Korea says it will carry on its space monitoring duty

North Korea says it will carry on its "important duty," as planned, to monitor the military maneuvers of the United States and other hostile forces to enhance its space reconnaissance capabilities, North Korea's National Aerospace Technology Administration, which is responsible for launching military reconnaissance satellites, said in a statement.

Countries concerned are on heightened alert as the North is believed to be preparing for another military spy satellite launch in the near future. North Korea revealed plans to launch three more military spy satellites this year, following what it calls a successful launch of its first military satellite, the Malligyong-1, last November. - NHK

#### UN welcomes creation of transition council in Haiti

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has welcomed the establishment of a transitional council in Haiti tasked with choosing new political leadership and setting up elections in the crisis-torn Caribbean country, the UN spokesman said in a statement.

"He urges all Haitian stakeholders to continue making progress in putting in place transitional governance arrangements, including the timely appointment of an interim Prime Minister and government, and the nomination of the members of the Provisional Electoral Council," said the statement.



## The First Space Shuttle

In this image from April 12, 1981, the first space shuttle, STS-1, launches from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida with NASA astronauts John W. Young, commander, and Robert L. Crippen, pilot, aboard.

STS-1 was meant to demonstrate a safe launch into orbit and a safe return of the orbiter and crew, as well as verify the combined performance of the entire shuttle vehicle – orbiter, solid rocket boosters and external tank.

The first space shuttle landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California on April 14, 1981, after having successfully tested its major systems.



Image Credit: NASA

## Many new graduates in Japan quit soon after joining companies

In Japan, it is common for new university graduates to join a company in April, which is at the start of a new business year. But a growing number of such new employees are resigning after less than a month on the job.

Japan's labor ministry says more than 30 percent of recent graduates leave the workplace within three years.

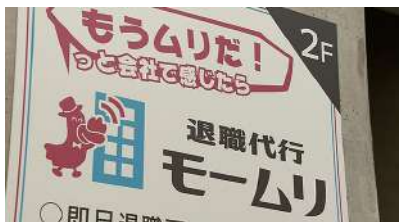
### Resignation agency services see booming business

A resignation agency service in Tokyo's Ota ward helps clients notify, on their behalf, companies that they wish to resign. The most common reasons given for quitting were duties and work conditions.

Some clients say the work was not what they were promised before they joined the company, and that they were also worried about their career plans. Others say they were unable to attend their company's entrance ceremony due to having the wrong hair color, even though there were no dress code or hair requirements.

### Woman left the company soon after joining

Yamamoto Nana joined a company as a new graduate two years ago, but left less than two months later. She says she had asked during training to be assigned to a specific section, but was assigned to a different section, so she quit.



The company's sign says, "If you feel you can't endure it at your company, please consult us."

The number of people who want to quit soon after joining a firm is rising every year.

A leading recruitment agency says thousands of new workers registered with the firm in April last year, marking a record high. The firm, which is headquartered in Osaka, launched a service five years ago to help people resign. It says that at the beginning, people said they were afraid of their bosses,

### Measures: Companies need to change

A consulting firm specializing in human resources recruitment in Tokyo hires around 15 fresh graduates every year.

The firm has 180 workers. But in 2015, about half of the new recruits quit after less than one year. So the company decided two years ago to be honest about workplace issues starting at the recruitment stage. - NHK

## University of the Philippines College of Law triumphs at 2024 Jessup Cup in Washington DC

WASHINGTON D.C. - The University of the Philippines College of Law emerged victorious on 06 April 2024 at the prestigious 2024 Jessup Cup held in Washington DC. The team showcased exceptional legal prowess and skill throughout the competition, ultimately clinching the championship title.

The team, consisting of UP law students Ignacio Vilareal, Chinzen Viernes, Pauline Sagayo, Pauline De Leon, and Regine Dadole, under the guidance of their esteemed coaches Prof. Rommel J. Casis and Prof. Marianne Vitug, displayed exemplary performance and dedication throughout the competition. Their comprehensive understanding of international law and persuasive advocacy strategies propelled them to success, earning admiration from judges and competitors alike.

Consul General Iric Arribas expressed his pride and congratulated the University of the Philippines team.

The victory at the Jessup Cup not only highlights the exceptional talent within the University of the Philippines' law program but also underscores the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence and preparing students for success on a global stage.



The winning UP team together with Consul General Iric Arribas (rightmost). (Contributed photo)

The Jessup Cup is the world's largest moot court competition, bringing together law students from around the globe to simulate a hypothetical international legal dispute. Organized by the International Law Students Association (ILSA), the competition challenges participants to apply principles of international law and advocacy skills in a simulated courtroom setting.

## SAGRADA FAMILIA, BARCELONA, TO BE COMPLETED BY 2026

Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica is set to be completed by 2026, 144 years after construction first began.

The completion of the building will coincide with the centenary of the death of its architect, Antoni Gaudí,

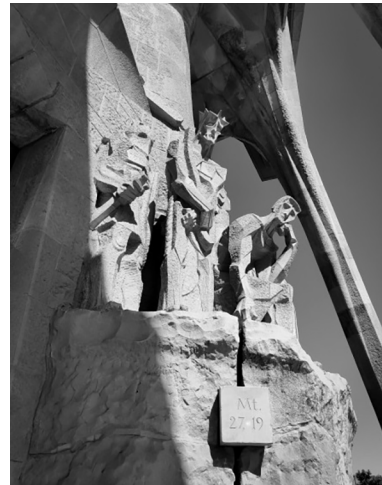
Esteve Camps, Executive Chairman of the organisation tasked

with completing Antoni Gaudí's masterwork, stated that the organisation has the money and material to complete the construction, including the 172.5-metre central tower dedicated to Jesus Christ. This tower will make the Sagrada Familia Barcelona's tallest building.

Following its completion, set for 2026, the organisation will continue to work on sculptures and decorative de-

tails of the building as well as a stairway that will lead to the newly constructed main entrance, until 2034.

Antoni Gaudí is one of the most universal figures of international architecture and Spanish culture, devoting more than 40 years to the construction of the Sagrada Familia and having spent twelve years working exclusively on this project.



## RUSSIAN TROOPS ADVANCE IN EASTERN UKRAINE



Russian troops are making significant gains in Ukraine's eastern region near the Russian-occupied industrial town of Avdiivka, Ukraine's commander-in-chief, Oleksandr Syrskiy said on his Telegram channel.

"The situation on the eastern front has deteriorated significantly in recent days," said Syrskiy, adding that the Russian army intensified its offensive along several stretches of the more 1,000 kilometer-long front line after the presidential elections in Russia last month.

Warmer, drier weather also is playing a factor in Russia's surging offensive, allowing its heavy vehicles to move more quickly across the drying terrain.

Russia's defense ministry announced its troops had "liberated" the village of Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region, about 11 kilometers west of the largely destroyed town of Avdiivka, which was captured by Russia in mid-February. - VOA

## 13 Filipinos secure Olympic berths

By JEAN MALANUM, (PNA)

MANILA – Thirteen Filipinos have secured berths at the Paris Olympics while more are hoping to qualify for Team Philippines, which is celebrating its 100th year participation in the Games.

The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) has formalized negotiations with a month-long training camp in a world-class facility at Les Arenes de Metz in France ahead of the July 26 to Aug. 11 Paris Olympics.

Those who earned direct qualification to Paris were pole vaulter Ernest John "EJ" Obiena; boxers Eumir Felix Marcial, Nesthy Petecio and Aira Villegas; weightlifters Vanessa Sarno, Erleen Ann Ando and John Febuar Ceniza; and gymnasts Carlos Yulo and Aleah Finnegan.

Tolentino said weightlifter Rosegie Ramos is technically qualified in the women's 49 kgs class although she is No. 11 in the world rankings after the Phuket World Cup, the final Olympic qualifying event for weightlifting.

The POC chief said swimmers Kyla Sanchez and Jarrod Hatch have qualified under the universality rule.

Hoping to qualify are Robyn Brown (athletics), Kurt Barbosa (taekwondo), Cris Nievarez (rowing), Joanie Delgaco (rowing), brothers Keisei and Shugen



OLYMPIC TALK. Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (center) presides over the first POC Journey to Olympic briefing on Friday (April 12, 2024). With him are Team Philippines chef de mission Jonvic Remulla (left) and POC secretary-general Atty. Wharton Chan. (Contributed photo)

Nakano (judo), Yuta Watanabe (judo), Jericho Francisco (skateboarding), Patrick Coo (BMX cycling), Shagne Yaoyao (MTB cycling), Emma Malabuyo (gymnastics), Bianca Pagdanganan (golf) and Carlo Paalam (boxing), Criz Laurente (boxing), Hergie Bacayan (boxing) and Rogen Ladon (boxing).

Tolentino also announced Signal as the official sponsor of the Les Arenas Metz training camp, Peak as the official apparel for the camp and pre-Olympic preparations, with Smart and Standard Insurance as major backers. - PNA

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An Exclusive Interview by **AWEE ABAYARI** WITH **ROD B. TUAZON**

For more of the interview: [www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari](http://www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari) • [www.youtube.com/AANewsMedia/AweeA](http://www.youtube.com/AANewsMedia/AweeA)



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"Follow your dreams, no matter what obstacles you may encounter. Pursue your goals that can ultimately provide you with happiness and a sense of fulfillment. When you enjoy what you do, everything else follows". -- ROD B. TUAZON

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**AWEE ABAYARI:** What was your ultimate goal in pursuing various degrees and how useful are they now in your present career?

**ROD TUAZON:** Other than the desire to learn new things, my goal in attaining multiple degrees is to enhance my ability to better serve my clients and the public in general, with knowledge and information that cater to their specific needs.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What advice would you give to anyone on choosing a certain career?

**ROD TUAZON:** Follow your dreams, no matter what obstacles you may encounter. Pursue your goals that can ultimately provide you with happiness and a sense of fulfillment. When you enjoy what you do, everything else follows.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What is your formula for success?

**ROD TUAZON:** I do not think there is one standardized formula for success. Some define success in terms of wealth, some relate it to being happy and fulfilled, and some link it to status and accomplishments. But the best way for me to describe success is being able to do what I want to do, when and where I want, with whom I want, and as much as I want.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What is the current real estate situation?

**ROD TUAZON:** Real estate varies by location. Some areas may still experience fluctuations in prices depending on the affordability of buyers. In my area, I have seen reductions in prices, but not as drastic as we have seen in the past. The housing market is likely to continue to face the dual affordability constraints of high home prices and elevated interest rates.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** In your opinion, is home ownership still a good investment?

**ROD TUAZON:** Long term, owning a home is a good investment overall, but there is no guarantee like any other investments. When you rent, the money goes to the landlord whereas if you buy, you may build equity and benefit from the property appreciation. But if you are the type that dislikes permanency, owning a home may not be a choice.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What has to happen to make housing more affordable?

**ROD TUAZON:** Increase the housing supply – but I realize it is not as simple as it sounds. There are many ways to solve the housing crisis and they vary depending on the area. To name a few, I think there should be more tax credits designed towards homeownership; more funding to local jurisdictions that can implement the housing program closer to home; revise zoning laws allowing denser development in high opportunity areas; and keep interest rates as low as economically feasible.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What is the impact of the recent NAR settlement on buyers and sellers? Can commission rates be negotiated and when will it be implemented?

**ROD TUAZON:** Misinformation has been pervasive in the media over real estate commissions. Commission rates have always been negotiable long before the settlement. Realtors have traditionally been charging anywhere between 5% to 6%, but it is not a rule, but rather an industry practice. The settlement protects member-realtors by avoiding costly litigation and preserves cooperative compensation as an option for consumers looking to buy or sell a home – as long as such offers of compensation occur off the MLS.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** Please explain in simpler terms; Estate planning, living will, trust financial power of attorney etc.

**ROD TUAZON:** Estate planning is a process involving the counsel of professional advisors who are familiar with your goals and concerns, your assets and how they are owned, and your family structure. It can involve the services of a variety of professionals, including your lawyer, accountant, financial planner, life insurance advisor, banker and broker. It covers the transfer of property at death, as well as a variety of other personal matters, and

may or may not involve tax planning. In California, it includes the living trust, will, durable power of attorney and advance health care directive.

1. The main purpose of the Trust is to avoid probate of assets placed in the trust, and the time and expense involved in a probate proceeding. The Trust essentially acts in place of a will to make sure that your property passes to your beneficiaries with a minimum of hassle and expense. Another important advantage to the Trust is that it allows your designated successor Trustee to promptly take over the management of your affairs if you should become unable to manage your affairs due to illness, accident, Alzheimer's, etc. This avoids the potentially embarrassing, expensive, and lengthy court process of a conservatorship.

2. Your Will is commonly referred to as a "pour-over" will. Under the terms of the Will, any assets held by you which have not previously been transferred into your Trust will be added to the Trust at the time of your death (but may have to be subject to a probate administration in order to do so). The purpose of this is to make sure all of your assets (whether in your Trust or not) are distributed according to the dispositive plan set forth in the Trust.

3. The Durable Power of Attorney is a "general power of attorney" that gives your named agent the power to deal with any assets and may or may not give your agent broad powers to dispose of, sell, convey, and encumber your real and personal property. It becomes operational when you are incapacitated and can no longer make financial decisions.

4. The Advance Health Care Directive is also a power of attorney that gives your named Agents the power to make medical decisions, sign consents and/or releases with hospitals and/or doctors when you are deemed incapacitated or in a coma. It also acts as your "living will" for end-of-life decisions.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** Are all of the above "must" for all people? What are the exceptions?

**ROD TUAZON:** I would recommend all four above, but minimally the last three. Generally, everyone does not need a living trust, but there are many benefits for having one because it provides a flexible and efficient way to manage and distribute assets after the grantor's death while avoiding the cost and time-consuming probate process. But if probate avoidance is the only reason to set up a living trust, there are other ways to avoid probate, such as transfers on death (TOD) and setting up joint ownership, but I recommend consulting an attorney to learn the pros and cons of a stand-alone TOD.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** What are your tips for small business owners?

**ROD TUAZON:** There are many tips available for small business owners available online, but to name a few: automate as many as possible, create an interactive website, stay organized and flexible, cut costs as needed to increase your bottom line, focus on your goals and limit distractions, take care of your customers first and foremost, find your niche, know your competitors, stay on top of marketing trends, be passionate about your business, and have lots of fun.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** Who is required to file income tax return?

**ROD TUAZON:** Your requirement to file a tax return depends on your age, filing status, or income. Generally, most U.S. citizens and permanent residents who work in the United States need to file a tax return if they make more than a certain amount depending on their filing status on the last day of the year; have over \$400 (2023) in net earnings from self-employment; or had other situations that require them to file. Even if you make less than the filing threshold, you may want to file if you are eligible to claim refundable tax credits, such as earned income credit, child tax credit, etc.; you had federal income tax withheld; or made estimated payments.

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### QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM VIEWERS/SUBSCRIBERS

#### • REAL ESTATE

**Should I wait for the interest rates to go down before I buy a home? Why yes? Why not?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Interest rates should not only be the only consideration when buying a home. Timing is everything in real estate. Understanding market conditions, interest rates, and your personal situation are essential in making an informed decision. There are windows of opportunity and homebuyers can easily miss these moments if they are not attuned to what is going on in the real estate market. They need to understand whether they are in a buyer's market (where they can negotiate the price down) or a seller's market (where competition is fierce). If it is a seller's market, speed and a strong offer are equally important. If it is a buyer's market, consider other factors such as interest rates, and whether or not prices continue to fall. There is no right formula of the timing, other than "buy low and sell high." To me, the right time to buy is when you are financially ready and there is a need to own a home.

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APRIL 2024, WASHINGTON, DC

**I am selling my property through a realtor but so far, no offers are available. Many investors were interested but HOA does not allow it to be rented. I already agreed to lowering the price making me negative. What else can be done to sell it? Should I sell it first before buying another property?**

**ROD TUAZON:** The HOA restriction is definitely limiting your ability to sell your property. And the market has slowed down because of rising interest rates. So, that is a double negative for you. Unless you have additional funds to cover buying another property without selling it, I suggest you sell first before you commit to buying a replacement. Try offering buyer incentives, such as paying some of their closing costs, or providing an allowance for newer flooring or amenities. But other than that, you just have to wait until the right buyer comes in. Remember, you only need one buyer, but it has to be the right one.

**What do you think of those ads offering to buy your property in cash / as is / fast closing without hassle and no fees?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Be careful of those ads, as they are looking for relatively cheap houses to buy so they can flip and make money from reselling them. But, as long as the offer is within your acceptable range, it would not hurt to take a look, but be cautious.

**Will I be able to buy with only 3% down on a conventional loan for \$450,000-\$500,000 home? Is PMI required?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Mortgages requiring 3% down is a special program with requirements, such as income limits and first time home buyer requirement (or have not owned a home in a few years), etc. The conventional 97 program is backed by Fannie Mae, and the down payment does not have to come from your savings. It can be a gift, grant, or other form of assistance. Because you are putting less than 20% down, you will need to pay private mortgage insurance (PMI) to protect the interest of the lender.

#### • ESTATE PLANNING

**Do I need estate planning even if I only have one property and moderate cash plus life insurance? How much does it cost to create estate planning through a lawyer?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Estate planning is not mandatory for everyone, but if you want to avoid probate on your real property, you need a living trust or TOD (see explanation above). You can create a living trust cost-free if you do it yourself and do not need to transfer real estate into the trust. But for a more complicated or larger estate, you may want to hire an attorney to advise you. This will likely cost at least \$900 and perhaps several thousand dollars, depending on your situation and location, and the attorney's expertise, experience and hourly rate. Attorneys set their own fees, so you may find one that is more expensive than others. If you can afford it, it may be worth paying because an attorney can ensure that forms are filled out and recorded properly, and help address complicated scenarios, such as transferring business ownership into the trust. If your situation changes, an attorney can advise you on updating and revising your trust. Mistakes may happen if you do not seek legal help. Sometimes mistakes can be costly because the trust was not set up properly or the trust was not funded correctly, which could end up in probate. Creating a trust without an attorney may be less expensive, but doing so leaves the trust much more vulnerable to trust contests and other legal litigation.

**Is it enough to put the name of my beneficiary in all my bank accounts and avoid having to do a living trust?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Creating a living trust should always be a consideration depending on the type of assets you own. You do not need a living trust if you already have a named beneficiary in your bank accounts. If you have a large amount of money in the bank, I recommend putting it into a living trust. The specific accounts that will be included in a trust are always determined by the individual establishing the trust. While some accounts, like retirement, health savings accounts, life insurance policies, or vehicles should not be included in a trust, there are several account types that are beneficial. Some of the most common accounts included in a trust are safety deposit boxes, stocks and bonds, checking or savings accounts, and annuities.

**How much money can a relative legally transfer money to my bank account in the U.S. without too much paperwork requirements?**

**ROD TUAZON:** Your relatives can send an international wire of as much as they like, provided that it is within the maximum wire transfer limits set by your bank. The originating bank may require additional paperwork such as source of funds. However, you should be aware that transfers over \$10,000 will automatically be reported to the IRS.

**AWEE ABAYARI:** Thank you very much for a very informative interview.



## SECURITY ALERT: US EMBASSY, JERUSALEM

Location: Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza

The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem reminds U.S. citizens of the continued need for caution and increased personal security awareness as security incidents often take place without warning. The security environment remains complex and can change quickly depending on the political situation and recent events.

U.S. government employees and their family members are restricted from personal travel outside the greater Tel Aviv (including Herzliya, Netanya, and Even Yehuda), Jerusalem, and Be'er Sheva areas until further notice. U.S. government personnel are authorized to transit between these three areas for personal travel.

In response to security incidents and without advance notice, the U.S. Embassy may further restrict or prohibit U.S. government employees and their family members from traveling to certain areas of Israel (including the Old City of Jerusalem) and the West Bank.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to consult the current [Travel Advisory](http://www.travel.state.gov) and [Country Information](http://www.travel.state.gov) ([www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)) for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, which advise U.S. citizens to be aware of the continuing risks of travel to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza due to the security situation and heightened regional tensions and warns against travel to Gaza.

U.S. citizens can find additional information regarding steps to take in case of mortar and rocket fire in the Country Information for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

**Mortar and Rocket Fire:** In the event of mortar or rocket fire, a "red alert" siren may be activated. Treat all such alerts as real; follow the instructions from local authorities and seek shelter immediately.

## ILO discusses key recommendations to transform teaching profession

BRUSSELS (ILO News) - Manuela Tomei, ILO Assistant Director-General for governance, rights and dialogue, has highlighted the crucial role of education and teachers in a rapidly evolving world.

"Teachers can instill curiosity and a passion for understanding the world, and nurture the employers and workers of the future," she said at a session on teachers and the teaching profession.

At the Global Gateway High-level event on Education, co-hosted by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, she discussed some of the Recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's High-level panel on the teaching profes-

sion, which brought together ministries of education and labour, employers' organizations, teachers' unions, teachers, students, civil society and academia. The ILO and UNESCO led the Secretariat of the High-level panel.

The Recommendations, which are a direct follow-up to the United Nations Transforming Education Summit and which build on the ILO-UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, set out a roadmap of actions to be considered within national contexts to address the urgent crisis in the teaching profession and the teacher shortages facing many parts of the world. - ILO News

## China kicks off biennial naval meeting amid mounting tensions at SCS

ANKARA - The Chinese navy on Sunday kicked off a biennial naval symposium in the port city of Qingdao, which will be attended, among others, by US Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Stephen Koehler, state media reported.

Koehler will lead a US delegation to the 19th biennial meeting of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) hosted by the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) navy, to meet "Chinese counterparts in Qingdao city of east China's Shandong province, South China Morning Post reported.

His visit to arch-rival China coincides with mounting tensions in the South China Sea involving several nations.

Over 180 navy representatives from 29 countries are participating in the four-day event themed "Seas of Shared Future," which coincides with commemorations for the PLA Navy's 75th anniversary

As a founding member of the WPNS, China has been committed to the principles of inclusiveness, equality and cooperation in its engagement with the affairs of the forum, said Qu Tao, a PLA Navy spokesperson.



China last hosted the WPNS meeting in 2014.

"The Chinese navy is willing to work together with its counterparts to promote global and regional marine governance, tackle maritime safety risks and challenges, and advance building a marine community with a shared future," Qu said. (Anadolu)

## NSC to probe reported influx of Chinese students in Cagayan

The National Security Council (NSC) is now looking into the reported influx of Chinese college students who reportedly enrolled in a local private school in Cagayan in the Philippines to determine if their presence is a security threat.

NSC Assistant Director Jonathan Malaya said in a news forum that there is a lot of issues that they have to resolve as far as the presence of the Chinese students is concerned, including their number as it appears to be contradicting from the reports of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and intelligence reports.

He said the BI reported only a hundred of Chinese students, but intelligence reports said a thousand. - PND

## UNESCO Director-General condemns killing of journalist Jam Saghir Ahmed Lar in Pakistan

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, has condemned the killing of journalist Jam Saghir Ahmed Lar in the city of Khanpur, in the Punjab province of Pakistan on 14 March 2024.

"I condemn the killing of Jam Saghir Ahmed Lar. Journalists must be protected from all forms of violence and authorities should assess threats thoroughly as a preventive measure. I urge the authorities to investigate this killing and bring the perpetrators to justice."

Jam Saghir Ahmed Lar was a correspondent for the *Daily Khabrain* newspaper. He also contributed to other local news outlets in Khanpur, and he was active on social media posting about politics and current affairs. Lar had reportedly received death threats linked to his work. Reports suggest he was shot and killed by three armed individuals. - UNESCO

## NASA leadership to visit Mexico, strengthen cooperation

Continuing their significant engagement with key government officials around the world to deepen ties and strengthen space collaboration, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy visit Mexico City on April 22 and April 23.

Nelson and Melroy met with senior Mexican government officials, including President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, pending confirmation, and Mexican Space Agency (AEM) leaders, to strengthen bilateral cooperation across a broad range of innovation and research areas, such as Earth science and exploration. Together, the two nations are working to achieve mutual goals of addressing climate change.



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson discusses the agency's goals during the annual State of NASA address, Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters Building in Washington. Credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

## NASA, Japan advance space cooperation



The U.S. and Japan are working together to advance rovers to further explore the moon. Above, a rover model on display at the U.S. Department of State in Washington April 11.-(State Dept./Caroline Jevon)

NASA is working with the U.S. private sector and Japan to advance far more sophisticated vehicles that will allow astronauts to explore the moon's rugged south pole, where night lasts two weeks and temperatures can drop to minus 173 degrees Celsius.

NASA and Japan reached an agreement to send a pressurized rover to the moon. Japan will build a rover that will accommodate two astronauts for 30 days, allowing for greater exploration of the moon's surface.

## NIGERIA ROLLS OUT 'REVOLUTIONARY' VACCINE AGAINST MENINGITIS

Nigeria has become the first country to roll out a "revolutionary" five-in-one vaccine against meningitis, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement.

The Men5CV vaccine offers a powerful shield against the five major strains of the meningococcal bacteria - A, C, W, Y and X - which cause the disease. Known by the brand name MenFive, it provides broader protection than the vaccine currently used in much of Africa, which is only effective against the A strain.

Meningitis is the inflammation of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord and can be fatal. Symptoms often include headache, fever and stiff neck.

The rollout in Nigeria represents one step closer towards the goal of total elimination by 2030, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General.

## Xi, ex-Taiwan Pres Ma meet ahead of inauguration of island's new exec



Chinese President Xi Jinping (Anadolu)

ANKARA - Chinese President Xi Jinping recently met with former Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou in Beijing, marking the first time that a serving or former leader of the self-governed island has met with the Chinese top in nine years, state media reported.

The two last met in Singapore in Nov. 2015, when Ma was in office, marking the first cross-strait summit since the two sides split in 1949 after a civil war.

The former leader of Taiwan's main

opposition party, the Beijing-friendly Kuomintang, who was leading a group of Taiwanese students on a cultural exchange trip, wrapped up an 11-day "journey of peace" to China, following a landmark visit just more than a year ago.

His visit came amid soaring cross-strait tensions, with just more than a month to go before William Lai Ching-te of the independence-leaning ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) takes over as Taiwan's president. - Anadolu

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## INM Book Choice

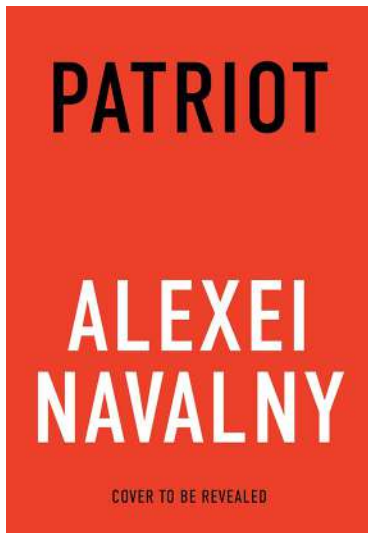
**PATRIOT**  
 By ALEXEI NAVALNY

The powerful and moving memoir of a fearless political opposition leader who paid the ultimate price for his beliefs.

Alexei Navalny began writing *Patriot* shortly after his near-fatal poisoning in 2020. It is the full story of his life: his youth, his call to activism, his marriage and family, his commitment to challenging a world super-power determined to silence him, and his total conviction that change cannot be resisted—and will come.

In vivid, page-turning detail, including never-before-seen correspondence from prison, Navalny recounts, among other things, his political career, the many attempts on his life, and the lives of the people closest to him, and the relentless campaign he and his team waged against an increasingly dictatorial regime.

Written with the passion, wit, candor, and bravery for which he was justly acclaimed, *Patriot* is Navalny's final letter to the world: a moving account of his last years spent in the most brutal prison on earth; a reminder of why the principles of individual freedom matter so deeply; and a rousing call to continue the work for which he sacrificed his life.



\*\*\*  
 "This book is a testament not only to Alexei's life, but to his unwavering commitment to the fight against dictatorship—a fight he gave everything for, including his life. Through its pages, readers will come to know the man I loved deeply—a man of profound integrity and unyielding courage. Sharing his story will not only honor his memory but also inspire others to stand up for what is right and to never lose sight of the values that truly matter." —Yulia Navalnaya

## MONEY ANNOUNCES BEST PLACES TO LIVE 2024

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico -- Personal finance digital platform Money recently announced Best Places to Live 2024, the newest iteration of their decades-old franchise highlighting the best communities across America. In partnership with the #1 smart home security provider in the U.S.1, ADT, this annual editorial flagship helps readers discover some truly hidden gems.

The 2024 list showcases the outstanding lives small and big towns are creating for their residents. This year's list includes five new categories:

- **Suburbs with a Soul:** These suburbs offer a blend of traditional suburban comfort with unique cultural, artistic, and historical depth.
- **New Boomtowns:** These areas are rapidly transforming with innovative industries and offering plentiful job opportunities.

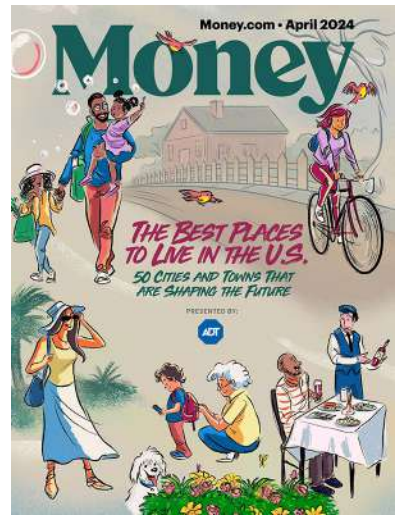
- **Culture Hubs:** These cities boast an array of museums, theaters, music venues, and diverse culinary scenes that attract artists and culture enthusiasts alike.

- **Not Just College Towns:** These towns offer a dynamic living experience with a youthful vibe, cutting-edge research, thriving local economies, and vibrant social scenes.

- **Best Kept Secrets:** These places offer an unmatched quality of life with their serene beauty, close-knit communities, and affordable living, yet remain under the radar.

When determining which towns made the list, Money reviewed the top characteristics that make a community stand out from the rest, including:

- Economic Opportunity for Individuals
- Small Business Vibrance-



- Government Policies that Favor Growth
  - Safety
- Source: PRNewswire

### San Diego Zoo Safari Park welcomes 250th California condor chick,



CT scan of California condor egg - San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

SAN DIEGO PRNewswire/ -- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has welcomed the 250th California condor to hatch at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The chick's parents are Xol-Xol (pronounced "hole-hole")—the first California condor brought into human care under the California Condor Recovery Program in 1982—and Mexwe (pronounced "mex-weh").

More than 40 years since the California condor population dropped to a low of just 22 birds, this milestone is a significant success.

In 1982, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance was given permission to begin the first zoological propagation program for California condors. As a result of the innovative techniques developed by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and many partners, the resurgence of the California condor is a conservation success story. - PRNewswire

### InventHelp inventor develops theft-preventative credit card (CHK-901)

PITTSBURGH -- "I wanted to create a new credit card with multiple identification factors to ensure that the card is only used by the designated and authorized cardholder," said an inventor, from Aurora, Ill., "so I invented THE DAVIS ANTI CREDIT CARD THEFT INVENTION. My design would provide extra layers of security to prevent credit card fraud and misuse of issued credit cards."

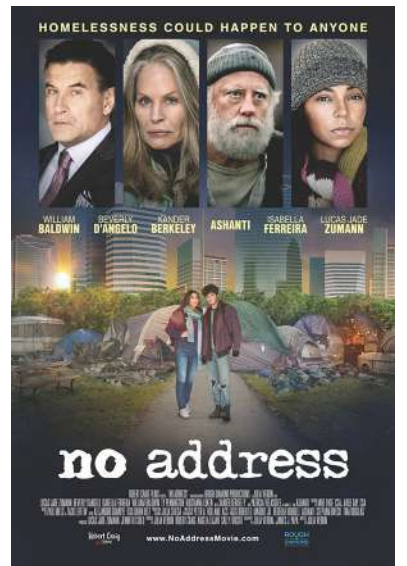
The invention provides an anti-theft design for a credit card. It ensures that only the authorized owner can utilize the card. As a result, it increases security, and it provides added protection and peace of mind.

The original design was submitted to the Chicago sales office of InventHelp. It is currently available for licensing or sale to manufacturers or marketers. For more information, write Dept. 22-CHK-901, InventHelp, 100 Beecham Drive, Suite 110, Pittsburgh, PA15205-9801. - PRNewswire

### Robert Craig Films partner with The Salvation Army to create awareness on the homeless crisis

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- The Salvation Army, the world-renowned Christian-based international movement, joins Robert Craig Film's 5-pronged media approach called "The Big Five" to drive solutions for America's leading crisis, homelessness. Robert Craig Films visited rescue missions and encampments, touring 20 major cities in 18 states to ultimately translate to the audience the dire homeless situation for so many.

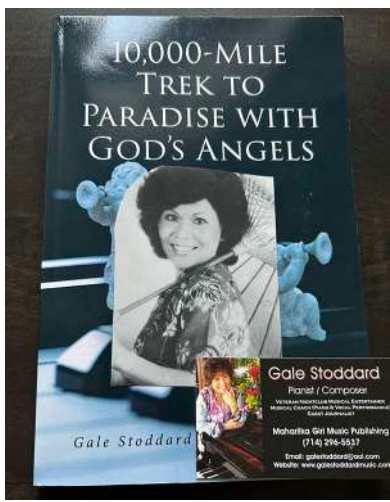
The Salvation Army has contributed to the content of Robert Craig Film's documentary and film *No Address* and the Interactive Study Guide, which provides education and structure for how to best approach, engage, and serve individuals who are unhoused. Robert Craig Films has pledged 50% of the net proceeds from all five productions to assist nonprofits addressing homelessness. - PRNewswire



"No Address" is a profound film that portrays the bleak realities of homelessness and the bitter sadness that comes from an unfulfilled life.

### 10,000-MILE TREK TO PARADISE WITH GOD'S ANGELS

By GALE STODDARD



Gale Stoddard, was a teenage concert pianist in her native Philippines. At 21, the only Filipino piano bar artist in America. Currently entertaining the Southland retirees, the book was written to reiterate that with God, there is no impossible dream. Contact information: galestoddard@aol.com

## Real Estate

### Rose Mejia answers questions from INM listeners and viewers:

I bought my first property a few years ago in California. If I buy another home in another state, can I take advantage of first time homebuyer benefits again because that will be my first home in another state?

Or first time homebuyer (condo or townhome or SFH) means any state in the country? - Derek

**ROSE MEJIA:** Hi Derek, The determining factor is that, is it going to be your primary residence/owner occupied. Are you moving to that State due to job? You will be working there? If so, you can avail yourself of getting an FHA loan which has the best interest rate than others, low down payment & lenient with Fico score requirement as opposed to other loan programs offered by other lenders. This is true with Condo, townhome and Single Family Residence/House.

If not owner occupied, the purchase is considered an investment, a rental, thus the down payment required is 20% and does not qualify for FHA loan.

I can afford to pay a monthly mortgage of close to \$3,000+. I have good credit and has a long employment record. Do you think I can afford to buy a \$500,000+ home in VA where I currently work and put a 3% down payment? How much do you estimate would be my closing cost?

What would be a good guideline for me to follow in trying to know how much I can really afford to buy? - Jacqueline

**ROSE MEJIA:** Hi Jacqueline, Conservatively, with the current high interest rate, the mortgage payment of \$3K qualifies you to buy a \$400K house, with no HOA fees.

Closing costs approximately 1-1.5% of purchase price, with the hope that your lender or broker does not charge you high points (cost of getting the loan).

Best that you go to a good lender or loan broker to pre-approve you for a loan. This way, they know all about your finances & can truly determine how much property you can afford to buy. Many factors will be considered by lender/loan broker before you get the loan pre-approval. Once you have it, you can be sure they will give you the loan for the property of your choice.

Would you advise me to name a beneficiary or Transfer on Death (TOD) deed to avoid probate? Where do I go to accomplish this? - Cassandra

**ROSE MEJIA:** Hello Cassandra, I do advise you to have a Living Trust asap to avoid Probate. This will spell out your beneficiaries once you are gone.

You can go to a reputable, licensed Living Trust attorney who can advise you thoroughly about the mechanics of a Legal Living Trust. Having a document like that will save your loved ones from aggravation, huge expenses, time, & property being tied up in probate.



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*Rod with Zackary (left) and Kryzta (right)*

## Best way to tackle a cluttered room

As you get ready to start the decluttering process, it helps to have a system in place that you can use as you clean and reorganize. One super simple, straightforward option is the "Four-Box Method" — using four boxes or storage bins, you can streamline your decluttering job. Here's a breakdown of how just four boxes can make tackling a cluttered room a breeze.

**Box 1: Trash.** The first box will be your designated trash dump. Any items you want to get rid of that aren't worth donating or selling go here. And don't forget to recycle items whenever possible!

**Box 2: Give Away/Sell.** Next, designate a box for items that are still in OK condition, but that your household could do without — like old books or toys, for example. Whether you want to give these things away to family/friends, donate them to charity, or sell them in a yard sale to make a little extra money is totally up to you.

**Box 3: Storage.** This box is for things that you can't or don't want to get rid of, but that you aren't in need of on a day-to-day basis (think things like seasonal decorations).

**Box 4: Put Away.** Lastly, have a box ready to place any items that need to be kept in your house, but relocated to their proper place. If you want to get really organized, you can have a few smaller boxes — one each for places like your bathroom, kitchen, or bedrooms — and sort misplaced items into their "homes" to save yourself the hassle later.

If you have the need for it, you can add a fifth box to this method: one for items that can be repaired/replaced rather than tossed out or donated.

## TRUALTA NOW CERTIFIES PAID CAREGIVERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— Trualta, the leading family caregiver education and support platform, has introduced a Caregiver Essentials Certification for paid caregivers to its portfolio of caregiver resources.

Trualta's caregiver certification program enables paid caregivers and individuals who intend to begin a caregiving career to build their skills and knowledge through structured training and examinations. Healthcare payers and providers, and government and social service organizations that partner with Trualta can opt in to offer the caregiver credentialing. - PRNewswire

## DHS Blue Campaign partners with Lyft to educate rideshare drivers about how to detect and prevent human trafficking

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign and Lyft, Inc. announced a new tutorial program that will help rideshare drivers in the United States and Canada detect and prevent human trafficking.

The tutorial is one part of a first-of-its kind partnership between Lyft and DHS Blue Campaign. Lyft will feature the Blue Campaign's human trafficking resources in Lyft's driver-only in-app Learning Center.

This partnership will help raise awareness of this heinous crime, teach drivers the signs that indicate someone may be a victim, and provide them with resources to help, including guidance for how to contact the right authorities.

## Less Cancer applauds EPA efforts to protect drinking water from cancer causing chemicals

WARRENTON, Va.-- Less Cancer, a nonprofit founded in 2004 as Next Generation Choices Foundation, applauds the first-ever national, legally-enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals."

Less Cancer Founder and President Bill Couzens said, "Efforts to irradiate forever chemicals associated with cancer incidence has been a priority since our organization's founding."

Less Cancer has supported and collaborated the many efforts in addressing the PFAS issue. - PRNewswire



*Less Cancer Board Member Rob Billot, author of the book Exposure which is the subject of the Mark Ruffalo movie Dark Waters, and Less Cancer Founder Bill Couzens applaud the first-ever national, legally-enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful PFAS.*

## HEALTH UPDATES

### FROM KAISER PERMANENTE

Did you know that too much sitting may be linked to a greater risk of health problems?

For example, spending most of the day sitting may contribute to heart disease, diabetes, and dementia.

"Whatever your age or ability, anything you can do to stand and move a little more might improve your health," said Dori Rosenberg, PhD, MPH, a senior investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute.

Rosenberg is leading research on ways to help people spend less time sitting — for example, by using commercially available fitness trackers that give reminders to get up.

#### 30 minutes a day makes a difference

In a recent clinical trial, Rosenberg and her colleagues helped older adults cut back on their time spent sitting during the day.

The researchers found that reducing sitting time by about 30 minutes daily led to better blood pressure measurements, which could reduce health risks.

For most people, it's easy to stand more. Here are tips to spend more time up and about each day, drawn from Rosenberg's research.

#### Stand during activities when you usually sit

- Read the newspaper, browse the internet, or catch up on emails while standing at a counter.
- Set up a desk or writing space where you can stand.
- When doing hobbies such as knitting or playing board games, stand at a high table or counter for some of the time.
- Stand for the first few minutes while talking on the phone.
- When using the computer, set reminders to stand and do stretches or strengthening exercises regularly.
- Stand during the first morning cup of tea or coffee.
- Stand every time you send a text message.

#### Change your TV habits

- Stand, stretch, or move around the room during commercials or during halftime.
- Only watch TV when it's dark outside.
- Watch TV while doing a standing household chore like ironing or folding clothes.

#### Do small bits of standing and walking all day long

- Take a walk around the block or around your house after each meal.
- Walk your dog.
- Take the longest route to get to places within your home — or make an extra loop.
- Take a break to dance to one song.
- Walk and talk (in person or on the phone) with a friend instead of sitting to catch up.
- Park the car farther away when grocery shopping or doing errands.
- Walk an extra lap around stores when shopping for groceries or doing errands.
- If you live in a large building, take a walk through the hallways.

## WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

### TOP 10 IN THE BIN

1. CARDBOARD
2. PAPER
3. FOOD BOXES
4. MAIL
5. BEVERAGE CANS
6. FOOD CANS
7. GLASS BOTTLES
8. JARS (GLASS & PLASTIC)
9. JUGS
10. PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CAPS

**ALSO RECYCLABLE BUT NOT IN CURBSIDE BIN**

- PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAPS
- ELECTRONICS
- TEXTILES

## TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN REGION

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA), is organizing a Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) Trade Mission to the Caribbean region on November 17-22, 2024, that will include the "Opportunities for Minority-Led Businesses in the Caribbean Region Conference" in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 17-18, 2024.

Recruitment and consideration will be extended to all export-ready U.S. companies, including small businesses, trade associations, and other exporting organizations that meet the established criteria for participation in the mission.

This mission is focused on expanding export opportunities to U.S. small and medium-sized businesses with owners and/or leaders from underserved communities from industries with growing potential in the Caribbean region.

The Trade Mission will accept companies in industries identified as best prospects in each country, including automotive parts and services, consumer goods, construction equipment/road building machinery/building products/infrastructure projects, among many others.

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• PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • ENTERTAINMENT •

## Largest international PH property, investment expo returns to Dubai in May

Dubai, UAE – The highly anticipated 10th Philippine Property and Investment Exhibition (PPIE), the Philippines' largest international property and investment show, is set to return to Dubai on May 11-12, 2024.

This year's annual event will take place at The Bristol Hotel, Deira, Dubai, aiming to spotlight the Philippines' robust economic performance, positioning the country as a premier investment hub in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

The surge in demand for real properties in the Philippines, especially from overseas Filipinos and foreign investors, reflects the country's attractiveness as an investment hub.

The participation of leading real estate investment firms in the Philippines highlights PPIE's enduring legacy and significance in the investment landscape.



The 10th Philippine Property and Investment Exhibition is set to return to Dubai on May 11-12, 2024. (File photo)

## Berlin travel fair generates P489-M sales leads for PH

MANILA – The Philippines has generated PHP489.1 million in sales leads at the recently concluded Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) Berlin 2024, the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) said.

The country secured a total of 322 sales count after three days of business-to-business appointments with tourism players from various parts of Europe in the event, known as the world's largest travel trade fair.

This year's sales leads are more than 50 percent higher than last year's negotiated sales revenue, which was PHP271.5 million, the TPB said.

Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco, hailed this feat as a "positive global response" to the Philippines' sustainable tourism efforts.

Aside from the tabletop appointments of Philippine sellers, various activations such as fitting of traditional Filipino costumes by fashion designer Avel Bacudio and the native instruments showcase by the Kalumon Performing Ensemble were conducted to attract visitors to the Philippine pavilion.

The 2024 ITB Berlin was held from March 4 to 6 and gathered almost 100,000 participants, including 5,500 exhibitors from 170 countries. - PNA

## • People • Events •

### Fourteen-time Grammy® Award winner Bruno Mars set to headline the Trifecta Derby Eve Gala for Derby 150

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Global superstar and award-winning singer, songwriter, and producer Bruno Mars has been tapped to headline the 2024 Trifecta Derby Eve Gala on Friday, May 3rd 8pm-1am downtown near Slugger Field.

Mars has sold over 200 million singles worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time. Previously sweeping the 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards, the super duo took home four awards including Record Of The Year "Leave The Door Open", Song Of The Year "Leave The Door Open", Best R&B Performance "Leave The Door Open", and Best R&B Song "Leave The Door Open". This comes after the song becomes Bruno's 17th



song to reach Multi-Platinum status. His 64th Annual GRAMMY win for Record of the Year, makes him only the second artist in Grammy history to win the category three times.

### Wynonna Judd to perform National Anthem at Milestone 150th Kentucky Derby®

LOUISVILLE, Ky. Five-time GRAMMY® award-winner and country music icon Wynonna Judd will perform the national anthem at this year's Kentucky Derby, presented by Woodford Reserve on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

The Kentucky native will help kick off the historic 150th Run for the Roses® at Churchill Downs. The performance will take place just after 5:00 p.m. EDT and will be broadcast live as part of NBC's Kentucky Derby coverage, expected to reach millions of viewers worldwide. - PRNewswire



### Kendra Erika teams up with Olivia Newton John's daughter Chloe Lattanzi

LOS ANGELES-- #1 Billboard charting dance artist Kendra Erika launches an impactful 2024 pairing with mega-producer Dave Aude (Lady Gaga, Rihanna, LeAnn Rimes) and singer/songwriter Chloe Lattanzi, daughter of the late, legendary Olivia Newton-John, on the life affirming empowerment anthem "Self-Love Symphony," release on Dauman Music/Oyster Shell Music. - PRNewswire



### CogX Festival to debut in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES -- CogX, Europe's leading Festival of AI and transformational technology, today announced that its highly anticipated U.S. debut, CogX Festival LA, will take place at the iconic Century Plaza in Los Angeles, California, on May 7th, 2024. The event, hosted in partnership with Reuben Brothers, the visionary force behind Century Plaza's \$2.5 billion transformation, will bring together the tech industry, global leaders, creatives, and policymakers to explore the biggest transformation opportunities of our time and address the critical question: "How do we get the next 10 years right?" - PRNewswire

## PEOPLE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE FEATURES 11 COVER STARS

NEW YORK -- PEOPLE is celebrating its 50th anniversary, marking a half-century of captivating storytelling, celebrity features, and cultural snapshots that have defined generations. Since its inception in 1974, PEOPLE has been a beacon of pop culture, offering readers an intimate look into the lives of icons and everyday heroes alike.

The 50th anniversary issue is a celebration of the people who have helped shape the culture and who will do so for years to come. The cover stars—with a combined 14 primetime Emmys, 16 Golden Globes, five Oscars, four Tonys and 14 Grammys—have achieved that and more.

The crew also includes three Sexiest Men Alive, two EGOTs, multiple humanitarian award winners, a World Champion and a G.O.A.T. - PRNewswire



## Tourism EIFFEL TOWER



Eiffel Tower, wrought-iron structure in Paris that is among the most famous landmarks in the world. It is also a technological masterpiece in building-construction history. It was designed and built (1887–89) by Gustave Eiffel and named in his honor. - Encyclopedia Britannica

## The cherry trees in Washington, DC

The planting of cherry trees in Washington DC originated in 1912 as a gift of friendship to the People of the United States from the People of Japan. In Japan, the flowering cherry tree, or "Sakura," is an important flowering plant. The beauty of the cherry blossom is a symbol with rich meaning in Japanese culture. - Google



## Paris Olympics countdown begins

PARIS – With the Olympic flame lit in ancient Olympia, the countdown to the Paris Olympic Games begins, ushering in a period of intense preparation and growing expectations.

This year marks a century since Paris last hosted the Olympics, positioning it to become the second city after London to have hosted the Games three times.

The historical and current connections are palpable, making the city a living legacy of the Olympics.

"Games Wide Open" is the promise made by Paris – with the



opening ceremony on the Seine, famous landmarks transformed into venues, and public-accessible Olympic marathon routes, the naturally romantic French are filling the world with anticipation. - PNA

## Sports

### Rower Delgado is 11th Filipino qualifier to Paris Olympics

MANILA – Rower Joanie Delgado became the first female rower of the Philippines to qualify for the Olympics after clinching a Paris Games ticket at the World Rowing Asian and Oceania Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta and Asian Rowing Cup in Chungju, South Korea on Sunday.

The 26-year-old finished fourth in the 2,000-meter women's single sculls to join 10 other Filipinos who have already made it to the Paris Olympics slated July 26 to Aug. 11 this year. - PNA



### Barcelona-based Batangueno best Filipino finisher in Rome Marathon

MANILA – From being a food vendor in Mabini, Batangas over two decades ago,RIXONE Martinez has literally gone places.

He emerged the best Filipino finisher in the recent Run Rome the Marathon, finishing the 42.195-kilometer race dominated by Kenyan runners in three hours, 7 minutes and .02 seconds.

"I did not expect to win because the race was really difficult," Martinez, now a waiter in Barcelona, Spain, said in a Facebook post shared by fellow Filipino Alona Cochon.

Ted Magno from Ireland and Genesis Cunanan from Italy completed the top three Filipino finishers with times of 3:12:42 and 3:23:38, respectively.

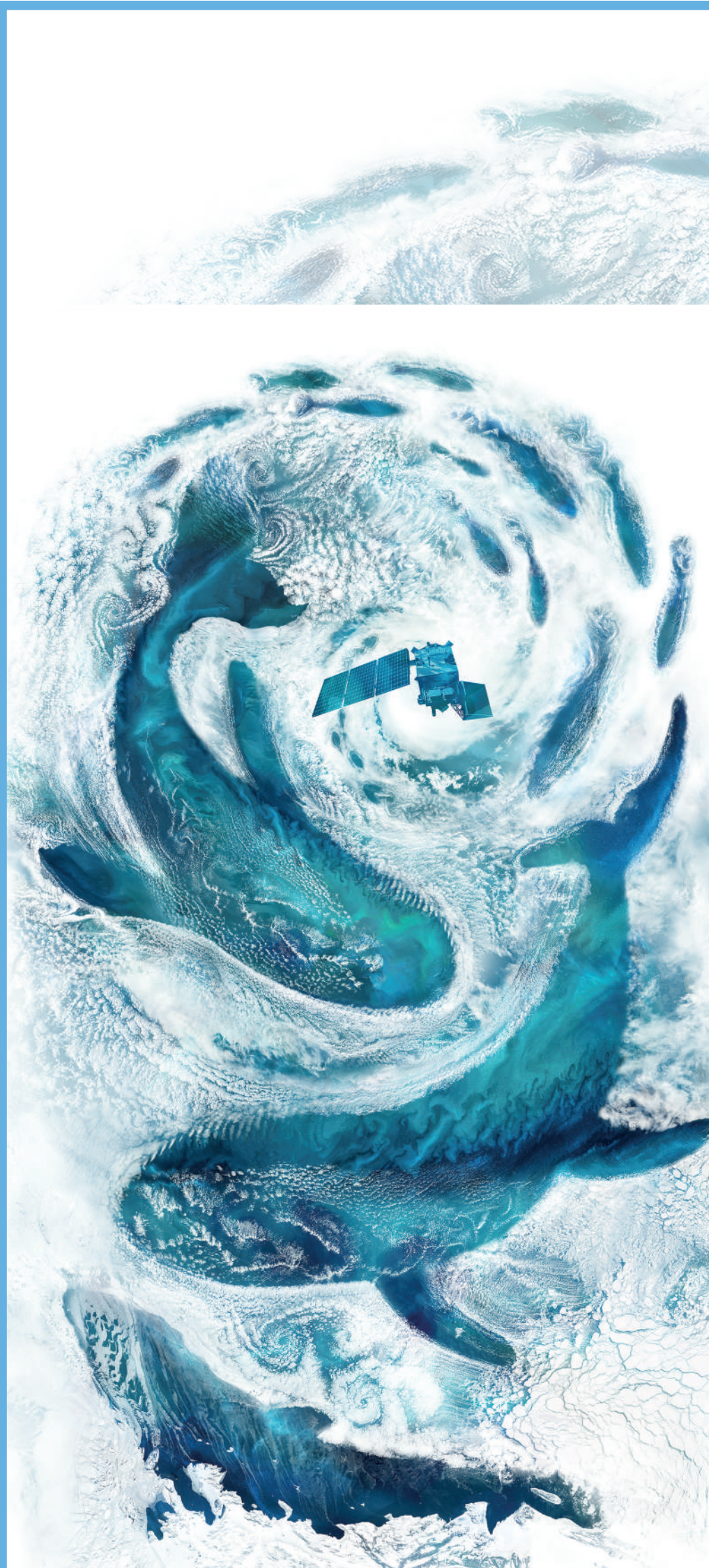
Pinoy Teens Salinlahi performed

cultural and traditional dances in the Philippine cheering station in Ponte Della Musica.

The Filipino runners also paid a courtesy call on Philippine Ambassador to Italy Neal Imperial.

Imperial acknowledged the Filipinos who participated in the Rome marathon "in various capacities." - PNA





National Aeronautics and Space Administration



## Water Touches Everything

### 2024 EARTH DAY POSTER

The ocean holds about 97 percent of Earth's water and covers 70 percent of our planet's surface. According to the United Nations, the ocean may be home to 50 to 80 percent of all life on Earth. Even if you live hundreds of miles from a coast, what happens in the ocean is fundamental to your life.

The major ocean basins – Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Indian, and Southern – shape our planet's climate and weather by absorbing, storing, and moving heat, water, and carbon dioxide. For nearly five decades, NASA missions have enabled researchers to observe from above and measure changes in the ocean across days, months, seasons, and years. Scientists use our satellite and sub-orbital data and climate models to study ocean dynamics, sea level rise, hydrological cycles, marine life, and the intersections of land and sea.

Over the past three years, NASA and its partners have launched three major satellite missions to study the ocean: SWOT, PACE, and Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich. These missions build on and complement existing missions and research campaigns to understand how and where the sea rises and falls, how currents move around the planet, and how the ocean and atmosphere exchange carbon dioxide, pollution, and nutrients.

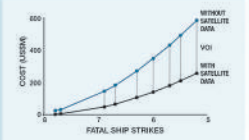
In the ocean, some of the tiniest creatures have a huge impact. Phytoplankton are floating, microscopic organisms (algae are one example) that, like plants, turn sunlight, oxygen, and nutrients into food (through photosynthesis). They are the center of the aquatic food web, feeding everything from microscopic zooplankton to fish and shellfish – and therefore whales, birds, and other mammals who eat them. Scientists estimate that much of the oxygen in our atmosphere has been produced by phytoplankton, which are also responsible for drawing down carbon dioxide from the air.

#### A WHALE OF AN IMPACT

In the circle of life, whales eat creatures that eat phytoplankton, and the nutrient-rich feces (poop) from whales can then fuel phytoplankton growth. Whales also store carbon in their massive bodies, which eventually sinks to the seafloor when they die. According to researchers, a single whale can lock up as much carbon as dozens or hundreds of trees. It is one of the many ways nature removes some of the carbon dioxide that human activities produce. But all of our excess CO<sub>2</sub> may be changing the oceans in ways that can upset the balanced ecosystems that support fish and whales.

#### WhaleWatch

The WhaleWatch tool, funded by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), uses data from NASA's Aqua satellite to identify areas where whales are gathered so that ship captains can avoid the area or reduce speed to avoid collisions.



The ocean is both a source and sink of greenhouse gases. Much of the heat that escapes the ocean comes in the form of evaporated water, one of the most potent greenhouse gases. That water vapor contributes to the formation of clouds, which shade the surface and supply water through precipitation – though they can also trap heat. Clouds are the key regulator of the planet's temperature.

#### WHAT'S THAT SWIRLY CLOUD EFFECT?

The spiraling cloud patterns (see image 5) are known as Von Kármán vortices. They form when fluid flow is disturbed by an object, such as when winds are diverted around a volcanic island poking above the ocean surface. The alternating direction of rotation in the air forms swirls in the clouds. These beautiful swirls can occur in both liquids and gases, making them a perfect way to illustrate motion and direction.

Water is common to all living things as we know them, and evidence of water has been found beyond Earth on Mars, comets, and meteorites. Because water seems like it could be universal, astrobiologists are looking for it in the atmosphere of exoplanets as an indicator that a planet could support life.

Closer to home, Jupiter's moon Europa may be hiding a saltwater ocean beneath its icy surface. It may be the most promising place in our solar system to find environments still suitable for some form of life beyond Earth. For this reason, NASA will soon send Europa Clipper to investigate.

#### Imagery Key

The 2024 NASA Earth Day poster is composed with real satellite imagery from NASA's Terra, Aqua, and Landsat missions. Scan the QR code to learn more about each image.

1. Cloud Streets over the Black Sea (Aqua)
2. Phytoplankton Factory in the Argentine Sea (Landsat-8, Terra)
3. Groswater Bay, Canada (Landsat-8)
4. Mackenzie River Outflow, Canada (Landsat-8)
5. Von Kármán Vortex off Cheju Do, South Korea (Terra)
6. Phytoplankton in the Chukchi Sea, off the Alaskan coast (Landsat-8)
7. Sea of Okhotsk, Russia (Terra)

#### THE SUN TOUCHES EVERYTHING TOO!

This year NASA is also celebrating the Heliophysics Big Year – a global celebration of solar science and the Sun's influence on Earth and the entire solar system. Learn more at <https://go.nasa.gov/45ruX56>.

 **Earth Day**  
WATER TOUCHES EVERYTHING

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