

International NEWS MEDIA

JULY 2024

PARIS OLYMPICS BEGINS WITH AMBITIOUS OPENING CEREMONIES

Celebrating its reputation as a cradle of revolution, Paris kicked off its first Summer Olympics in a century on July 26, with a rain-soaked, rule-breaking opening ceremony studded with stars and fantasy along the Seine River.

On-and-off showers did not seem to hamper the enthusiasm of the Olympians, with some holding umbrellas as they rode on boats down the river in a showcase of the city's resilience as authorities dealt with suspected acts of sabotage targeting France's high-speed rail network.

Widespread travel disruptions triggered by what French officials called coordinated arson attacks on high-speed rail lines as well as the weather had dampened the mood ahead of the ceremony.

As global audiences tuned in, Paris put its best foot forward — quite literally, with a spectacular launch featuring, among others, a humorous short film of soccer icon Zinedine Zidane, Lady Gaga who sang in French, French-Malian pop star Aya Nakamura, who sang her hit "Djadja" accompanied by the orchestra of the French Republican Guard, the progressive band Gojira, and singer Marina Viotti.

The surprise performance of music icon Celine Dion was among the highlights of the opening ceremonies. Dozens of heads of state and government were in town and the world was watching as Paris turned itself into a giant open-air theater. Along the Siene, iconic monuments became stages for dancers, singers and other artists.

Up to 45,000 police and gendarmes, plus 10,000 soldiers, were safeguarding the ceremony and its VIP guests, with IOC President Thomas Bach and Macron presiding. - (from various news reports)



Left photo shows ceremonial smoke in the colors of the France flag appear over the Seine River in Paris, during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics, July 26, 2024. At right, people watch the show at the Eiffel Tower.

BIDEN BOWS OUT OF PRESIDENTIAL RACE

President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House on Sunday July 21st, ending his bid for reelection after a disastrous debate with Donald Trump that raised doubts about the incumbent's fitness for office.

On July 24th, Biden in his first address to the nation since withdrawing from the 2024 presidential race, said it is time "to pass the torch" to a new generation.

Speaking from the Oval Office of the White House, the 81-year-old said he needed to unite his party ahead of the November election and endorsed his "tough, capable" Vice President Kamala Harris for the top job.

The Democrat had announced his decision to step aside on Sunday after weeks of pressure following a poor debate performance against his Republican rival, Donald Trump, 78.



TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

On Saturday, July 13, an assassination attempt against former President Trump at his rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, rocked the nation.

Authorities neutralized the assailant, after shots rang out, and a federal investigation into the shooting targeting the former president ensued.

On July 23, US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle tendered her resignation amid scrutiny of security lapses related to the assassination attempt of the former president.

The shooter: The FBI named Thomas Matthew Crooks, who is now dead, as the gunman who tried to kill Donald Trump at a rally. The 20-year-old Pennsylvania man had searched online for information about Trump and President Biden and had photos of both men saved on his phone, according to lawmakers and others briefed on the investigation.

Victims: Rally attendee Corey Comperatore, a married father of two daughters died trying to protect his family. Two others, David Dutch and James Copenhaver, were critically injured. - (from various news reports)



Former President Donald Trump, with blood on his face, raises his fist to the crowd as he is surrounded by Secret Service agents at his campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, July 13. (Evan Vucci/AP)

THE GLOBAL TECH OUTAGE THAT COSTS BILLIONS IN LOSSES

The devastating CrowdStrike software glitch on Friday, July 19, that crashed computers, canceled flights and disrupted hospitals all around the globe will cost billions in losses worldwide, according to a CNN report.

The software glitch, described as the largest IT outage in history, brought much of the global economy to a sudden halt — revealing the world's overwhelming dependence on a key cybersecurity company.

A week after the fallout from the glitch, businesses across the globe are still scrambling to recover.

Numerous Fortune 500 companies use CrowdStrike's cybersecurity software to detect and block hacking threats. But when CrowdStrike issued an update to its signature cybersecurity software, known as Falcon, millions of computers around the world running Microsoft Windows crashed because of the way that the update interacted with Windows.

The health care and banking sectors were the hardest hit by CrowdStrike's mishap. Among major airlines in the United States, Delta, Spirit, American and United Airlines were heavily impacted. According to reports, world airlines such as KLM, Air France and Ryanair also suffered delays due to the CrowdStrike software glitch.

Last Supper parody at Paris Olympics sparks condemnation by Catholics

ANKARA — A parody of the Last Supper during Friday's opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics sparked a backlash, including from Bishop Robert Barron of Minnesota. Drag queens parodied Leonardo da Vinci's rendition of the Last Supper, Jesus Christ's final meal with His disciples.

In a video post on X, Barron said the act was emblematic of a "deeply secularist postmodern society" that identifies Christianity as its enemy.

Barron criticized France for the "gross mockery." He questioned why France, which has sent Catholic missionaries all over the world and whose culture of "honoring the individual and of human rights and freedom" is grounded very much in Christianity, chose to "mock the Christian faith." He urged Christians and Catholics to not be passive, but to make their "voices heard." - Anadolu

Typhoon Carina wreaks havoc in the Philippines

Typhoon Gaemi -- locally known as Carina -- wreaked havoc in the Philippines causing heavy rains, massive flooding and landslides across the country, killed at least 13 people and displaced more than 600,000, and an oil tanker capsized off the country's coast during strong winds and high waves, Philippine authorities said Thursday, July 25.

While the typhoon didn't make landfall in the Philippines, its powerful outer bands dumped more than 300 mm (12 inches) of rain in the Manila region and parts of the main island Luzon, prompting officials to declare a "state of calamity" in the capital on Wednesday and evacuate tens of thousands of people.

As Carina continued north-west towards Taiwan, an oil tanker capsized in Manila Bay as a result of rough seas, resulting in what could be the worst oil spill in Philippine history.



Rescuers assist a child getting off a boat along a flooded road following heavy rains brought by Typhoon Gaemi, in Marikina City, Metro Manila, Philippines, on July 24, 2024. (Reuters)

BREAKING NEWS

French arson attacks disrupt train traffic across Europe

LONDON — Arson attacks on French railways have caused widespread delays and cancellations of rail services across Europe on Friday, July 26, the day of the Olympic Games opening ceremony in Paris.

TGV high-speed train traffic on France's Atlantic, northern and eastern routes was severely disrupted due to arson attacks aimed at damaging installations, the French national rail company SNCF announced on X Friday morning.

According to the SNCF, 800,000 passengers were affected by the attacks, with some trains diverted and a large number of trains canceled.

Israeli hardliners lash out at Harris' call for cease-fire

Far-right Israeli lawmakers Friday sharply criticized U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris' call for a cease-fire and concern for human suffering in Gaza following her White House meeting Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In comments to reporters Thursday, Harris said she expressed unwavering commitment to Israel and will always ensure that Israel is able to defend itself.

Harris, now the leading Democratic candidate for president after U.S. President Joe Biden bowed out of the race early this week, added, "Israel has a right to defend itself, and how it does so matters." - VOA News

Former president of Honduras sentenced to 45 years

The former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, 55, also known as JOH, was sentenced on June 26 to 540 months in prison and 60 months of supervised release for cocaine importation and related weapons offenses. The former two-term president was in office until weeks before his extradition to the United States in April 2022. Hernández was convicted on March 8 following a three-week jury trial.

Philippines, China to set up 3-tier communication channels on maritime issue

The Philippines says it has agreed with China to set up communication channels on three levels to deal with maritime issues. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs made the announcement on July 24th amid rising tensions in the South China Sea between the two countries.

Department officials say communications will be conducted between representatives designated by the countries' leaders, on the level of foreign ministers and vice foreign ministers, and between their respective coast guards.

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover finds possible signs of ancient Red Planet life

NASA's Perseverance rover may have found signs of ancient life in a rock on Mars; the mission team's scientists are ecstatic, but remain cautious as further analysis is needed to confirm the discovery.

The rover has come across an intriguing, arrowhead-shaped rock that hosts chemical signatures and structures that could have been formed by microbial life billions of years ago, when Mars was significantly wetter than it is today. Inside the rock, which scientists have nicknamed "Cheyava Falls," Perseverance's instruments detected organic compounds, which are precursors to the chemistry of life as we know it.



The rock found on Mars has chemical compositions and structures that could have been formed by ancient life. (Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS)

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EMMANUEL V. ILAGAN

DECEMBER 24, 1954 – JULY 1, 2024

Emmanuel “Manny” Ilagan has navigated an exceptional and well-rounded journey. With divergent interests, he was a community leader, a travel writer, a choir member, a sportsman and with myriad hobbies and interests in biking, tennis, golfing, fishing, boating and target shooting. As a testament, Manny was a member of International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). He also loved cooking and fancied classic cars.

He passed away on July 1, 2024 at 3:39 a.m. at Los Alamitos Medical Center in the City of Los Alamitos, California. He was 69.

To his fraternity buddies in Alpha Phi Omega and Masonry, he was affectionately addressed as Brod or Brother Manny. He joined the Alpha Phi Omega International Collegiate Service Fraternity (Beta Sigma Chapter, San Beda College), Batch Calauan 9, 1973-C, also known as “The Triumvirate” composed of three chapters including Gamma Kappa Chapter (Ateneo de Manila University) and Gamma Epsilon Chapter (De La Salle University). On the other hand, he was a Master Mason, Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Mason of California since 2001.

Brod Manny epitomized the three cardinal principles of his fraternity: Leadership, Friendship and Service.



As a community leader, he was an active member of the Filipino American Community in Los Angeles and suburbs. In the last quarter of 2023, he founded the Philippine Global Media Group and served as Chairman of the Board until his passing. As writer in Asian Journal group of publications with a beat in travel and tourism promoting the Philippines as a tourist destination, he also became a member of Press Photographers Association of Los Angeles.

Brod Manny finished his secondary education at Saint Francis Seminary in Lipa, Batangas. Thereafter, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Economics degree

at San Beda College in Manila. and earned several MBA units at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Ca.

Until his retirement, Manny has worked as Officer-in-Charge then became the Tourism Director of Tourism an adjunct of the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles. He was also the president of Philippine Association of Travel Agents in Los Angeles and Suburbs.

Brod Manny was born in Manila, Philippines on Dec. 24, 1954 as the third and only boy in the family of four -- to Dr. Rafael Lopez Ilagan and Corazon Vizconde Ilagan of Balayan, Batangas. His parents aptly named him “Emmanuel” meaning, “God is with us”. He is survived by his siblings Ma. Theresa Ilagan Martinez (married to Jimmy Martinez (Deceased)), Ma. Clarita Ilagan Gabriel (married to Dante Gabriel) and Belinda Ilagan Maranan (married to Henry Maranan).

Manny is also survived by his loving wife Margaret “Meg” Ilagan with children, Nicole Ilagan-Hanson (married to Tyus Hanson) and youngest, the 17-year-old and senior high schooler Raphelle Ilagan as well as his two children from first wife: Clayton Ilagan (married to Joy Ilagan) and Charisma Ilagan-See (married to Bryan See), and grandchildren Sophie Ilagan-See and Lorenzo Ilagan. -EMW

Filipina caregiver honored for heroic act in October Hamas attack

By JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA, Philippine News Agency

MANILA – Camille Jesalva, the Filipina caregiver who saved her elderly ward during the Oct. 7 Hamas offensive against Israel, was honored by Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

Jesalva was recognized by Herzog during an event on July 16 for the authors and heroes whose stories were featured in the bestselling book *One Day in October* that tells 40 inspiring stories from the Oct. 7 attack.

Jesalva was taking care of 95-year-old Nitza Hefer when the Hamas attacked their community Kibbutz Nirim.

She convinced the militants who entered their house not to harm them by offering her USD370 savings and mobile phone.

When the attackers fled with the valuables, she and Nitza locked them-



Filipina nurse Camille Jesalva with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the President's House in Jerusalem. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Embassy in Israel)

selves inside the safe room until they were rescued by the Israel Defense Forces.-- PNA

APPEAL FROM THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES

What would you do if you were homeless and hungry in the Nation's Capital? What if you were working two jobs and still struggling to make ends meet? How would you feed yourself and your family?

I can tell you what tens of thousands of our neighbors do each year. Every Wednesday, they line up outside our Catholic Charities headquarters for a hot and nutritious meal - one less thing to worry about in a life full of insecurity and anxiety. Our team and our volunteers prepare and serve these meals with love and care, helping remind both patron and recipient of their common humanity and the call to compassion. Your generosity makes them possible. Will you please make a gift today?

Back in 2013, our then CEO Msgr. John Enzler, and one of our supporters, shared a vision to provide hot and hearty meals for those who were living on the streets and in our shelters. The following year, St. Maria's Meals was created. During the first year, 234 meals were served. This year, it will be tens of thousands. We can only meet this growing need thanks to the generosity and compassion of our community who recognize that this simple transaction not only feeds, but can lift and inspire bringing hope.

Please give generously!

By making a gift to the Catholic Charities Appeal, you will bring growth, love, healing, and care to people in their time of need.

Caritas Manila holds fundraiser to support scholars

MANILA – Caritas Manila, the social action arm of the Archdiocese of Manila, urged good samaritans to participate in the Youth Servant Leadership and Education Program (YSLEP) telethon to raise funds that will help send less fortunate students to school.

The fundraising event was held July 15 over the 846 AM station in Quezon City. The theme of the YSLEP telethon 2024 is “Empowering Youth Servant Leaders: Guided by Service, Inspired by Purpose” which will be dedicated to the continued education of its scholars.

Currently, there are over 5,000 YSLEP scholars in different parts of the country, both Muslims and Christians.

“Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of poor young people, helping them realize their potential and contribute meaningfully to society,” Caritas Manila executive director Fr.

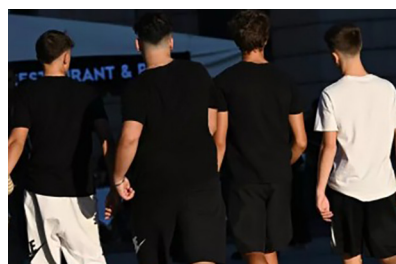


One of Caritas Manila's fundraising activities for its various projects. (Caritas Manila Facebook)

Anton Pascual said.

YSLEP is an integrated academic and leadership development program designed to provide an environment for scholastic excellence, reinforced with leadership and values formation, to empower and give its beneficiaries not just financial assistance for education but reinforce it with Christian values. - PNA

3.6% of teenagers don't identify as male or female - survey



ROME – Some 3.6 percent of Italian teenagers, or almost one in 30, don't identify as male or female, according to a new survey.

The survey by research institute IARD, carried out on 3,427 students between the ages of 13 and 19, for the first time gave the option “I don't identify” in the gender declaration field.

“The figures probably underestimate the real size of the phenomenon,” said Piernicola Garofalo, past president of the Italian Society of Adolescent Medicine.

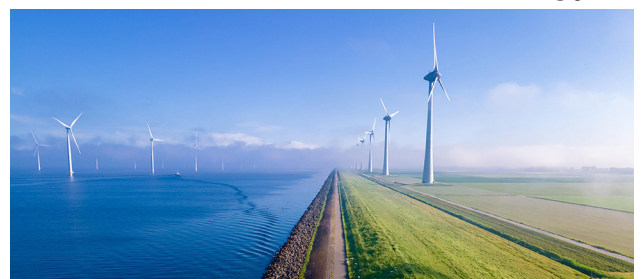
The survey also found that the fear of war had become a “nightmare” for 63 percent of Italian teenagers. - ANSA

New artificial intelligence summit series kicks off with energy

Artificial intelligence (AI) continues to transform the United States and the world. To promote and inform rapid advancements in AI and maintain America's global competitiveness, the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP), a nonprofit and nonpartisan initiative with a goal of making recommendations to strengthen America's long-term competitiveness in AI, announces the AI+ Summit Series.

The series kicks off with the topic of energy. The AI + Energy Summit, scheduled for September 26, 2024, in Washington, D.C., will bring together policy makers, energy industry leaders, top government and academic energy researchers, and technologists to address the challenges of AI's energy consumption and develop solutions for a resilient and abundant energy future. The event also aims to address the implications of AI and energy for national security and promote partnerships between AI and energy stakeholders.

AI and other emerging technologies can help the United



States take the lead in energy areas including maximizing energy efficiencies, discovering new materials, and enabling new forms of power generation. AI also has a role to play in overcoming energy challenges. The Department of Energy (DOE) already uses AI in several areas including advanced computing, emergency response, environmental modeling, climate forecasting, and materials research. - NewsUSA

Child casualties in the West Bank skyrocket in the past nine months

NEW YORK – According to a UNICEF report, a total of 143 Palestinian children have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since October last year, a spike of nearly 250 per cent compared to the preceding nine months, during which 41 Palestinian children were killed. Two Israeli children have been killed in the West Bank in conflict-related violence during the same period.

The figures raise serious alarm around unnecessary and excessive use of force against the most vulnerable.

“For years now, children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been exposed to horrific violence,” said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. “The situation has deteriorated significantly, coinciding with the escalation of hostilities inside Gaza. We are seeing frequent allegations of Palestinian children being detained on their way home from school, or shot while walking on the streets. The violence needs to stop now.”



ALL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

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RIBBON CUTTING AND CHICKEN CHOPPING

PH Embassy joins grand opening of Max's Restaurant in Virginia Beach

The Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. joins the Max's Restaurant Group, Inc. and the Filipino community during the opening ceremony of the Max's Restaurant in Virginia Beach, Virginia on 08 July 2024.

On behalf of Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez, newly appointed Consul General Donna Rodriguez attended the grand opening of Max's Restaurant, a beloved Filipino dining institution. The event was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a chicken-chopping ceremony attended by community leaders, local officials, and members of the Filipino-American community in Virginia Beach.

Consul General Rodriguez also congratulated franchise owners Mr. and Mrs. Jojo and Armi Gonzales for bringing Max's Restaurant to the Virginia Beach community, emphasizing the growing appreciation and love of the international community for the richness and diversity of Filipino cuisine.

To close the event, Mr. Bill Rodgers – – expressed his gratitude and hope that this new branch of Max's would provide people with "a place for people to sit down and enjoy a meal, have a conversation, and connect with ideas in the big picture."

Max's Restaurant, renowned for its iconic fried chicken and traditional Filipino dishes, has been a symbol of Filipino culinary excellence for decades. Max's Restaurant's became known as "The House That Fried Chicken Built" and has established itself as a household name in the Philippines, an institution, and a proud Filipino tradition.



Consul General Donna Rodriguez (center) presents the message from Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez to Ms. Gonzales (left) and witnessed by Mr. Bill Rodgers(right), Grandson of Founder Maximo Gimenez and International Director for Max's Restaurant Group.



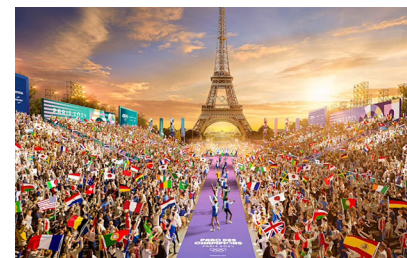
Despite the rain, Dion triumphantly returned to the Eiffel Tower stage. She sang Edith Piaf's "L'Hymne à L'Amour" to conclude the opening ceremony. (Screengrab by IOG via Getty)

CHAMPIONS PARK: THE PLACE TO CELEBRATE

Get caught up in the excitement of the Champion Park, a place where recently medaled athletes and fans can celebrate and share. The 13,000-seat arena on the Trocadéro site will be the symbol of what Paris 2024 wants these Games to be: a time for sharing and coming together.

Between July 29 and August 10, the Champions Park will be open to the public free of charge, offering both sporting and cultural events, such as:

- Classical and electro-inspired show by Angelin Preljocaj
- Hip-hop fashion show featuring thirty dancers and urban artists by Mourad Merzouki



- Voguing competition combining dance, show and extravagant outfits inspired by sports disciplines by Vinii Revlon

There will also be artistic entertainment: fanfares, mime and freestyle soccer to set the perfect mood. - Olympics.com

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2025-2026

By U.S. Mission Vietnam

HANOI – As the United States and Vietnam prepare to celebrate 30 years since the normalization of bilateral relations in 2025 and embark on an exciting new phase of bilateral cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the U.S. Mission to Vietnam announces the opening of the recruitment season for the 2025 – 2026 academic year for the Fulbright Vietnamese Visiting Scholar Program and the Fulbright U.S.-ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program. The program provides grants to Vietnamese scholars to lecture and/or conduct research at American institutions or universities for five months (one-semester grant) or nine months (two-semester grant).

Eligibilities: Applicants must:

- hold an M.A. or Ph.D. degree,
- be a Vietnamese citizen (no dual citizenship)
- be proficient in English.

Applicants should be university faculty, government officials, private sector professionals, work at a think tank, or occupy similar positions. Applicants will be expected to have a significant record of scholarly or professional accomplishments. Applicants must reside in Vietnam throughout the nomination and selection process, and they must return to Vietnam upon completion of their U.S. stay.

Access the online application at <https://apply.ije.org/fvsp2025>

INAUGURAL HARRIS WOFFORD JOINT SERVICE AWARDS CELEBRATE PEACE CORPS & AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – on June 13, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps awarded the first Harris Wofford Joint Service Award to more than 200 individuals in Houston, Texas at the annual Points of Light Conference. Honoring the legacy of the late U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, who helped establish both the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, the award recognizes Americans who have answered the call to serve their country abroad and at home through both programs.

Mayor Bass convenes inaugural entertainment industry council



LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass recently convened her inaugural Entertainment Industry Council to draw upon senior industry leaders' expertise as she leads new efforts to support L.A.'s foundational industry as it stabilizes and recovers.

"We are bringing leaders together through the Entertainment Industry Cabinet to inform solutions that will help Hollywood better reflect Los Angeles workers and make sure that the City is an advocate rather than an impediment to local film and TV production," said Mayor Bass. "Right now, our foundational industry needs the City's support so we will be taking further action to help keep production local and help Hollywood stabilize. I look forward to all that we can accomplish together."

THE REGION WHERE WINNER OF WIMBLEDON, CARLOS ALCARAZ, FIRST STARTED

Second time winner of Wimbledon, tennis star, Carlos Alcaraz, is originally from the Region of Murcia, Spain, where he spent his younger years playing in the small town of El Palmar that overlooks the capital city.

The Region of Murcia receives 300 days of sunshine a year and is an ideal spot for active travellers. Travellers can enjoy a game of tennis in many areas of the region, including at the recently renovated La Manga Club, which is one of Europe's premier sport and leisure destinations. The Racquets Club has undergone an exciting transformation to upgrade facilities and install a state-of-the-art fitness hub and padel centre.

Whilst in the region, travellers can continue the adventure by going on treks through the Sierra Espuña Nature Park, Murcia's prime ecotourist destination or a relaxed walk along the stunning beaches of Calblanque. The Mar Menor is one of Spain's most appreciated racecourses, with its warm, shallow waters and its mild temperatures, visitors can enjoy the sunshine and nautical sports 365 days a year. The Costa Cálida, also offers some of the best cycling trails in the country. One of the most coveted routes both



starts and finishes in Los Alcázares, a coastal spa town near the Mar Menor, providing a variety of terrain and scenery as well as being suitable for cyclists of all fitness levels.

The Region of Murcia is well connected to the UK, with frequent departures from 10 airports to Murcia International, including from London Luton (departing twice weekly). *Tourist Spain*

Parliament re-elects Ursula von der Leyen as Commission President

With 401 votes in favour, the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission in a secret ballot on July 18. This will be Ursula von der Leyen's second term as Commission President. She was first elected by MEPs in July 2019.

Parliament is currently composed of 719 MEPs, so the necessary majority was 360 votes. The vote was held by secret paper ballot. 401 MEPs voted in favour, 284 against, and 22 cast blank or invalid votes.

Ahead of the vote, Ursula von der Leyen presented her political priorities for the next five years during a debate with MEPs.

Earlier in the week, Roberta Metsola was re-elected European Parliament President for another two and a half years.



Ursula von der Leyen
President-elect of the European Commission

UK, Spain's travel industries unite at second edition of 'Spain Sustainability Day'

The Spanish and British travel industries were united in the second edition of 'Spain Sustainability Day' which recently took place both in person at The Conduit, London.

Manuel Butler, director of the Spanish Tourist Office in London, officially opened the event, outlining the special relationship between the United Kingdom and Spain and the objective of creating dialogue between the two countries to transfer knowledge in the field of travel and sustainability.

Butler outlined Spain's tourism ambitions of season extension; with peak season visits dropping 1% year-on-year from 45% to 44%, and geographical diversification, with Spain's Northern regions driving a larger tourism share in 2023 (up 23% year-on-year).

The dual language conference, moderated by Richard Hammond, director of Green Traveller productions and sustainable travel writer, included speakers from across Spain and the UK's travel and transportation industries with panel sessions on circular economy, biodiversity and accessibility.



The event was sponsored by Visit Benidorm, part of the Region of Valencia, and the Balearic Island of Mallorca.

2024 NATO Summit: Marking 75 years of the Alliance



Seventy-five years ago, 12 countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. to ensure their collective defence in an unpredictable world.

From July 9 to 11, NATO leaders met in Washington, D.C., where the North Atlantic Treaty – NATO's founding document – was signed in 1949 to commemorate NATO's 75th anniversary and took important decisions to set the strategic direction for the future of the Alliance to continue to protect their one billion citizens as the world faces the most dangerous security environment since the Cold War.

At the Washington Summit, NATO leaders addressed a wide variety of issues facing the Alliance and ensure that NATO remains ready to respond to any challenge.

Polio virus found in Gaza can spread across Middle East

PRAGUE, Czech Republic – An academic from the University of Copenhagen has warned that the recently found polio virus in Gaza has the potential to spread across the Middle East.

Flemming Konradsen, a professor of global health, told Danish state news media outlet: "It is a disease that the whole world is trying to stand together to eradicate. Obviously, if it spreads in the Middle East, then it is something you are nervous about."

He expressed his concerns over the state of health sector in Gaza.

"What we are currently seeing throughout Gaza is that the health situation is so incredibly poor. There is no energy, infrastructure or chemicals to, for example, do water purification, wastewater treatment or handle waste," he said.

Konradsen said Israel should be worried about reports of the polio virus because there remains a huge risk that in the coming days polio can spread to other countries in the region.

The World Health Organization



A Palestinian boy walks past a pool of sewage water on a street in Deir al-Balah, an area of the Gaza Strip where wastewater samples have tested positive for polio. (Photo: AFP - Getty Images)

has reported that polio virus (variant 2) has been found in at least six wastewater samples in Gaza. The samples have been collected from two different locations: Khan Younis in the south and in Deir al Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

The samples were collected in June, and so far, no people have been treated for paralysis or other symptoms. - Anadolu

Opinions

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2024

Below are readers' personal comments submitted about the upcoming presidential elections:

- "Kamala Harris is not qualified for the job of leading America. Her policies along with Joe Biden have caused many problems in our country such as illegal immigration, economic failure and encouraging the woke mentality in our society. She will just be a continuation of the Biden lies and corruption".

- "The American people are now clearly seeing the Democrat agenda of corruption and lying. They see that the only one who can help make America get back on its feet again is President Donald J. Trump. He will win, if the Democrats do not cheat".

- "I do not believe she will win because it will be the same policies, she has been part of the current administration & those are their policies.

- "New nominee, same policies"
- "Trump will win, a landslide victory!!!"
- "God bless us all."
- "This is the first black American woman and first Asian woman to run for President. Her victory remains to be seen."

- "Harris will get a lot of support from women voters and from people who favor abortion"
- "2024 Presidential elections is unprecedented."
- "We need a better economy and less crime."
- "President Biden should not have withdrawn."

Submit your comments. Your personal information will be held in confidence.

Marcos sends well wishes to Trump

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. extended his well wishes to former US president Donald Trump, who was rushed offstage due to an assassination attempt during his rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 20th.

"It is with great relief that we receive the news that former President Donald Trump is fine and well after the attempt to assassinate him," President Marcos said on his official X account (formerly Twitter). "Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family," the President added.

President Marcos said the Philippines condemns all forms of political violence. He emphasized the supremacy of the voice of the people.

"Together with all democracy loving peoples around the world, we condemn all forms of political violence. The voice of the people must always remain supreme," President Marcos said. Trump is the Republican candidate for president. - PND

Malaysia installs King Sultan Ibrahim

KUALA LUMPUR – Sultan Ibrahim was formally installed as Malaysia's new king on Saturday, July 20, as part of a grand ceremony marking the event held at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur.

The ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, members of his cabinet as well as foreign dignitaries and guests, including Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

In his royal address televised nationwide, Sultan Ibrahim pledged to reign with honesty, sincerity, fairness and compassion for the people and the nation.

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with nine sultans or rulers, who head their respective state and act as the religious leader, taking turns to serve as king for a five-year term. - Xinhua



HAIL TO THE KING. Malaysia has installed Sultan Ibrahim from Johor as its 17th king, in a grand ceremony at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday (July 20, 2024). (Xinhua)

United Nations Secretary-General calls for global action on extreme heat

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has released a Call to action on extreme heat in response to the deadly impacts of rising temperatures all over the world. The Call to action outlines the global need to care for the vulnerable, protect workers, boost resilience using data and science, and limit global average temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

The climate crisis is driving temperatures up to unbearable levels all over the world leading to heat-related deaths, heat-related illnesses and putting strain on health systems all over the world. Heat stress is the leading cause of weather-related deaths and estimates show that approximately 489 000 heat-related deaths occurred each year between 2000 and 2019.

Marcos announces P9.5B for gov't workers' medical allowance for 2025

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has set aside some PHP9.5 billion for the new medical allowance of government employees announced by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The DBM said the appropriation was allocated under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund for 2025 and is set to benefit over a million state workers.

Government workers will each receive a medical allowance as a subsidy to avail Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) benefits or HMO-type benefits, the DBM said. The medical allowance can be used for various medical services, helping public employees be prepared for any health-related emergencies, it added. This covers employees under national government agencies, State Universities and Colleges, and Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations of the Executive department.

Philippine Consulate General-LA officials attend talk with Mayor Karen Bass as she shares her vision on "The Future Of Global Los Angeles"

Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles officials attended the Future of Global Los Angeles event organized by the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and Town Hall (LA-WACTH) featuring a conversation with LA Mayor Karen Bass

During the talk, Mayor Bass highlighted the importance of LA's global ties and the opportunities for Angelenos that the World Cup and the Olympics would bring, particularly for small businesses and in promoting LA's cultural diversity. She also used the opportunity to encourage the youth of LA to consider developing their potential as future leaders in joining the Foreign Service or the Peace Corps.



Deputy Consul General and Acting Head of Post Maria Alnee A. Gamble (third from left) joins fellow diplomats, LAWACTH officials, and other distinguished guests in a VIP reception with Mayor Karen Bass prior to the event (Photos courtesy of LAWACTH)

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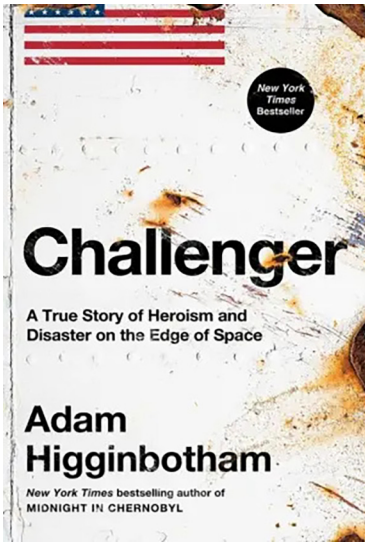
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INM Book Choice

CHALLENGER: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space

By Adam Higginbotham

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
 • "Stunning...A heart-pounding thriller...Challenger is a remarkable book." —*The Atlantic*
 • "Superb...Compelling and exhaustively researched." —*The Washington Post*
 • "Devastating...A universal story that transcends time." —*The New York Times*
 • "Gripping history." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



On January 28, 1986, just seventy-three seconds into flight, the space shuttle Challenger broke apart over the Atlantic Ocean, killing all seven people on board. Millions of Americans witnessed the tragic deaths of the crew, which included New Hampshire schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. Like the assassination of JFK, the Challenger disaster is a defining moment in twentieth-century history—one that forever changed the way America thought of itself and its optimistic view of the future. Yet the full story of what happened, and why, has never been told.

Based on extensive archival research and meticulous, original reporting, *Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space* follows a handful of central protagonists—including each of the seven members of the doomed crew—through the years leading up to the accident, and offers a detailed account of the tragedy itself and the investigation afterward. It's a compelling tale of ambition and ingenuity

undermined by political cynicism and cost-cutting in the interests of burnishing national prestige; of hubris and heroism; and of an investigation driven by leakers and whistleblowers determined to bring the truth to light. Throughout, there are the ominous warning signs of a tragedy to come, recognized but then ignored, and later hidden from the public.

Higginbotham reveals the history of the shuttle program and the lives of men and women whose stories have been overshadowed by the disaster, as well as the designers, engineers, and test pilots who struggled against the odds to get the first shuttle into space. A masterful blend of riveting human drama and fascinating and absorbing science, *Challenger* identifies a turning point in history—and brings to life an even more complex and astonishing story than we remember.

What you have to know about autism

Autism parents we know there is always more to learn about the wonderful children that have touched our lives, especially when every child is so unique. The autism spectrum is incredibly broad.

1. Autism was first described by Dr. Leo Kanner in 1943.
2. Autism was originally associated with schizophrenia.
3. Autism is derived from the Greek word "autos" meaning self. This translates loosely to "alone."
4. It is estimated that autism affects 1 in 68 children.
5. A recent study has suggested that the numbers could be closer to 1 in 36

children in the U.S.

6. Boys are more likely than girls to have autism, with an estimate of 1 in 42 boys.
7. 1 in 189 girls is diagnosed with autism.
8. Approximately 100 people are diagnosed with autism every day in the U.S.
9. 70 million people worldwide have a diagnosis of autism.
10. Autism is one of the fastest developing disorders in the U.S.
11. Autism is more common than childhood cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. *Source: AngelSense*

St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Jesuits



Inigo de Loyola was born in Azpeitia in Basque province of Guipuzcoa in northern Spain in 1491. He died on July 31, 1556 in Rome. He was a Spanish nobleman trained in diplomacy and the use of arms; was wounded in battle against the French. The experience of conversion while convalescing led him to write the *Spiritual Exercises*. Then he founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and became its first superior general. Noted for his loyalty to the Church and its renewal, his ministry to the marginal, his concern for education, and his dedication "to the greater glory of God," the motto of the Jesuits. He was canonized on March 12, 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

Security Summit focuses on threats vs phishing emails and cloud-based attacks

"Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself" is part of an annual education effort by the Internal Revenue Service and Security Summit partners, a group that includes tax professionals, industry partners, and state tax agencies working together to protect the tax system against tax-related identity theft and fraud.

During the summit, the IRS and its partners warns the public that one of the most common threats facing tax pros are phishing and related scams. These are designed to trick the recipient into disclosing personal information such as passwords, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers.

Tax professionals and taxpayers should be aware of different phishing terms and what the email scams might look like:

- Phishing/Smishing – Phishing emails or SMS/texts (known as "smishing") attempt to trick the recipient into click-

ing a suspicious link, filling out information or downloading a malware file.

- Spear phishing – A specific type of phishing scam that bypasses emailing large groups at an organization, but instead identifies potential victims and delivers a more realistic email known as a "lure." Scammers can pose as a potential client for a tax professional, luring the practitioner into sharing sensitive information.

- Clone phishing – A newer type of phishing scam that clones a real email message and resends it to the original recipient pretending to be the original sender.

- Whaling – Whaling attacks are very similar to spear phishing, except these attacks are generally targeted to leaders or other executives with access to secure large amounts of information at an organization or business.

DID YOU KNOW?

CIGARETTE SMOKING

Tobacco use is still the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States.

- Cigarette smoking alone kills more than 480,000 Americans each year.
- 16 million Americans are living with at least one serious smoking-related disease.
- For every person who dies because of smoking, at least 30 people live with a serious smoking-related illness.
- An estimated 28.3 million adults in the United States still smoke cigarettes.
- Cigarette smoking cost the United States more than \$600 billion in 2018, including more than \$240 billion in healthcare spending and nearly \$372 billion in lost productivity. - CDC

TODAY IN HISTORY

JULY 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain. The Constitution provides the legal and governmental framework for the United States. However, the Declaration, with its eloquent assertion "all Men are created equal," is equally beloved by the American people.

Philadelphians marked the first anniversary of American independence with a spontaneous celebration, which is described in a letter by John Adams to his daughter, Abigail. However, observing Independence Day only became commonplace after the War of 1812. Soon, events such as groundbreaking ceremonies



July 4th fireworks, Washington, DC Carol M. Highsmith, Photographer, July 4, 2008 Highsmith (Carol M.) Archive Print and Photographs Division

for the Erie Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were scheduled to coincide with July 4th festivities. - Library of Congress

The State of World Population

According to the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA) "2024 State of World Population Report," global population dynamics reveal significant changes in regional growth patterns, population density, and urbanization rates.

10.3% of global population aged 65 and over

According to UNFPA data, the global share of people aged 65 and over has nearly doubled from 5.5% in 1974 to 10.3% in 2024. This figure is projected to reach 20.7% by 2074, with the number of those aged 80 and over more than tripling. Currently, developed countries have the highest proportion of elderly populations, while developing countries are typically witnessing rapid population aging.

Global fertility rate declining

Global population growth is expected to continue at a slow pace through the 2080s. The global fertility rate has dropped to about 2.3 children per woman, influenced by shifts in family planning, education, and economic conditions.

Population trends in Africa and Asia

Africa remains the fastest-growing region, with significant population increases expected in countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo due to high fertility rates and improved healthcare.

In Asia, countries like India and China are seeing slower population growth due to declining fertility rates, while Southeast Asian nations such as Indonesia and the Philippines maintain moderate growth. In Europe, low fertility rates, an aging population, and migration trends are causing population decline or stagnation.

Regional population density

Urban areas now host over 55% of the global population, and this proportion is expected to increase further. Cities like Tokyo, New Delhi, and Shanghai accommodate millions of residents in relatively small areas. In contrast, countries such as Canada, Australia, and Russia have large territories with sparse populations due to geographical and climatic conditions. - Anadolu

LIVE LONGER

Like anger, stress takes its toll on your body and may accelerate aging. By trying to reduce stress, you can improve your health in the long term and your quality of life in the meantime.

Some effective stress management techniques include:

- Guided imagery
- Meditation
- Progressive muscle relaxation
- Deep breathing
- Going for a walk
- Aromatherapy
- Creativity
- Healthy diet
- Leisure activities
- Positive self-talk
- Yoga
- Gratitude
- Exercise

Keeping stress at a manageable level is important for your overall well-being. - *Source: verywellhealth.com*



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IRS warns taxpayers about misleading claims about non-existent "Self Employment Tax Credit"

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service issued a consumer alert following bad advice circulating on social media about a non-existent "Self Employment Tax Credit" that's misleading taxpayers into filing false claims. Promoters and social media are marketing something they describe as the "Self Employment Tax Credit" as a way for self-employed people and gig

workers to get big payments for the COVID-19 pandemic period. Similar to misleading marketing around the Employee Retention Credit, there is inaccurate information suggesting many people qualify for the tax credit and payments of up to \$32,000 when they actually do not. In reality, the underlying credit being referred to in social media isn't called the "Self Employment Tax Credit," it's a

much more limited and technical credit called Credits for Sick Leave and Family Leave. Many people simply do not qualify for this credit, and the IRS is closely reviewing claims coming in under this provision so people filing claims do so at their own risk. People who were self-employed can claim Credits for Sick and Family Leave only for limited COVID-19 related cir-

cumstances in 2020 and 2021; the credit is not available for 2023 tax returns. The IRS is seeing repeated instances where taxpayers are incorrectly using Form 7202, Credits for Sick Leave and Family Leave for Certain Self-Employed Individuals, to incorrectly claim a credit based on income earned as an employee and not as a self-employed individual. To qualify for the Sick and Family

Leave Credits, self-employed workers have to meet a variety of technical reasons in 2020 and 2021 that didn't allow them to work, including caring for an individual subject to a quarantine or isolation order. The IRS has a detailed set of FAQs describing the very technical requirements for meeting this provision of the law. - IRS

Health News

Protect yourself from changing flu & Covid-19 viruses

The viruses that cause COVID-19 and flu continuously change or "mutate" to escape our natural immune responses and the protection provided by vaccines. As a result, for both flu and COVID-19, vaccination is not a "one and done" proposition.

Experts at Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity, and Progress (CVEEP)—a coalition dedicated to educating the public about vaccines and promoting equity and access—emphasize that the best way to reduce the risk of severe illness from both flu and COVID-19 is to stay up to date with recommended vaccinations. - NewsUSA

New study finds 40% of cancer cases and almost half of all deaths in the US linked to modifiable risk

ATLANTA — A new study led by researchers at the American Cancer Society (ACS) finds four in 10 cancer cases and about one-half of all cancer deaths in adults 30 years old and older in the United States (or 713,340 cancer cases and 262,120 cancer deaths in 2019) could be attributed to modifiable risk factors, including cigarette smoking, excess body weight, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, diet, and infections. Cigarette smoking was by far the leading risk factor, contributing to nearly 20% of all cancer cases and 30% of all cancer deaths. The findings are published in the journal *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*.

Healthy living with diabetes

Healthy living is a way to manage diabetes. Healthy living may help keep your body's blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose level, also called blood sugar level, in the range your primary health care professional recommends. Making lifestyle changes can be hard, but starting with small changes and building from there may benefit your health.

How can I plan what to eat or drink when I have diabetes?

What you choose to eat, how much you eat, and when you eat are parts of a meal plan. Having healthy foods and drinks can help keep your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels in the ranges your health care professional recommends. If you are overweight or obese, a healthy meal plan—along with regular physical activity, getting enough sleep, and other healthy behaviors—may help you reach and maintain a healthy weight. In some cases, health care professionals may also recommend diabetes medicines that may help you lose weight, or weight-loss surgery, also called metabolic and bariatric surgery. - nih.gov

What should I do if I lose my passport while traveling?

You will have to replace the passport before returning to the United States. Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance. Contact information for U.S. embassies and consulates is also available in our country information pages. Ask to speak to the Consular Section to report your passport lost or stolen.



to leave the foreign country soon, please provide consular staff with the details of your travel. We will make every effort to assist you quickly. If there is not enough

time to get you a regular passport, the Consular Section may be able to give you a limited-validity emergency passport, which may be valid for up to one year.

If a loved one tells you their U.S. passport was lost or stolen overseas, you can call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747. They will be able to help you put your loved one in touch with the closest U.S. embassy or consulate. - www.state.gov

You will have to appear in person at the U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for a new passport. If you are scheduled

Displaced from your home due to fires, floods?

FEMA May Help with Rent

Renters and homeowners who live in Lincoln, Otero, Rio Arriba and San Juan counties or on the Mescalero Apache Reservation and whose primary residence is uninhabitable or inaccessible, due to the South Fork and Salt Fires and flooding, may be eligible for federal rental assistance for temporary housing. Grants are being made available to eligible New Mexicans through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program.

The approved rental amount will be based on fair market rates for your area as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a homeowner or renter, you may qualify for assistance, but you must first apply to FEMA for federal disaster assistance.

FEMA pays rent, including a security deposit, at a place other than your damaged home. Your rental can be a house, apartment, hotel, or recreational vehicle that can keep you near your job, home, school, and place of worship. The assistance includes essential utilities such as electricity and water, but not cable TV or Internet.

If you receive housing assistance through your insurance company, by federal law, FEMA cannot duplicate housing benefits. However, if you exhaust housing assistance funds from your insurance company, FEMA may then be able to provide you with temporary rental assistance. A FEMA inspector must determine that your house or apartment is uninhabitable due to damage caused by the fires and flood which began June 17. If your home is uninhabitable or inaccessible due to a power outage you may be eligible for one month of rental assistance. -- FEMA

CBP reminds travelers to apply for electronic I-94

SAN DIEGO — As the summer travel season continues, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encourages international travelers to plan ahead by using the CBP One™ mobile application to apply for their I-94s. The CBP One™ app offers a more convenient and efficient way for travelers to apply for their electronic I-94s, helping to facilitate smoother entry into the United States.

LAW STUDENT VOLUNTEER

Hiring Organization: USAO Southern District of Florida
Hiring Office: MIAMI, FORT LAUDERDALE, WEST PALM BEACH, & FORT PIERCE OFFICES
Application Deadline: September 15, 2024
Qualifications
 Second and third-year law students with a strong academic record. Applicant must be enrolled in an accredited law school at least half-time. Law school graduates and graduating students are not eligible. Must be a U.S. citizen.
 Due to the nature of the USAO's work, before beginning employment, Applicants who are offered an internship, must pass a security background investigation that can take up to three or four months to complete.
 To apply, go to the website at: <https://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/job-law-student-volunteer-intern-spring-semester-2025-academic-year>

Public Affairs

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Dinagat Islands: Philippines' Hidden paradise

SAN JOSE, Dinagat Islands – The provincial tourism office of Dinagat Islands in the Philippines bared an unprecedented surge in tourist arrivals, particularly during the first quarter of this year, indicating a promising trend for the local tourism industry.

Local visitors to the island saw a remarkable 47.2 percent increase compared to the same period last year, while foreign visits skyrocketed by an astounding 356 percent, showcasing a growing interest from international travelers in this hidden paradise.

The province was featured during the weeklong Suray Surigao Plus tourism promotion campaign, which concluded on July 9, alongside Surigao City and

the mainland Surigao del Norte province.

The surge in tourism can be attributed to the Dinagat Islands' pristine beaches, rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and warm hospitality, which leave a lasting impression on visitors and inspire them to return and explore more of the island province's offerings.

Among the island province's offerings is the enchanting Unib Island, locally known as 'Lalaking Bukid,' a hidden gem that boasts two breathtaking beaches with fine white sands, and natural wonders such as Pagkawasan Garden Resort and Bitag Beach Resort, which are known for their tranquil atmosphere and pristine waters. - PNA



Bitag Beach, Dinagat Island

Captivating sculptures by South African artist Marco Olivier find new home at Los Angeles Convention Center

In a momentous celebration of cultural exchange and artistic brilliance, the prestigious Los Angeles Convention Center is thrilled to announce the acquisition of captivating sculptures by renowned South African artist, Marco Olivier. Presented in the United States by the esteemed Dagaro Ella Gallery, these exquisite artworks represent a harmonious fusion of South African heritage and contemporary artistic expression.

The journey of Olivier's sculptures to the heart of Los Angeles traces back to their initial showcase at the esteemed LA Art Show 2024.

There, amidst the vibrant tapestry of artistic endeavors, Olivier's pieces stood out, earning widespread acclaim for their intricate craftsmanship and profound storytelling.

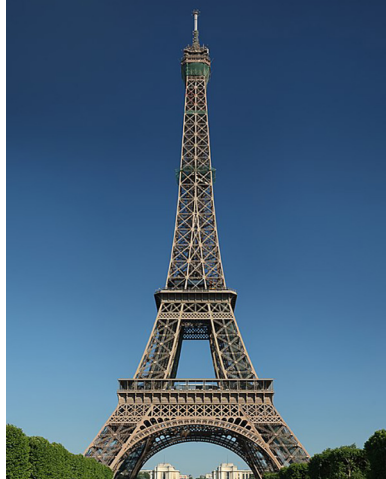
Rooted in the rich traditions of South African artistry, Olivier's sculptures transcend



cultural boundaries, beckoning viewers into a world of beauty, resilience, and hope. Each sculpture carries within it a narrative that speaks to the universal human experience, offering solace and inspiration in equal measure.



EIFFEL TOWER



The Eiffel Tower is a wrought-iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower from 1887 to 1889. - Wikipedia

People • Events

Manny Pacquiao vs. Rukiya Anpo

Exhibition fight with world champion Manny Pacquiao and Japanese kickboxer Rukiya Anpo held at the iconic Super Saitama Arena in Japan last Sunday, July 28. (Photo by Wendell Alinea)



Afghan Youth Orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall

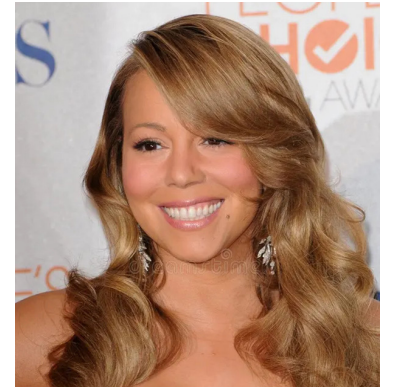
Wednesday, August 7 at 7 PM, Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage

Featuring dedicated young musicians from the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, this orchestra plays Western and traditional Afghan instruments in repertoire that includes Western symphonic works, original compositions, and Afghan folk music. The internationally beloved ensemble—a symbol of hope for the people of Afghanistan, where music is currently banned—returns to Carnegie Hall as part of World Orchestra Week (WOW!).



Tiago Moreira da Silva, Conductor, with Members of the European Union Youth Orchestra

Las Vegas summer headliners



Dolby Live at Park MGM presents a packed summer of headliners, including pop diva Mariah Carey (select dates from Friday, July 26 through Saturday, Aug. 10); and pop star Bruno Mars (select dates from Tuesday, Aug. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 1).

Marine Toys for Tots' Christmas in July campaign

Marine Toys for Tots, best known as the Nation's premier children's Christmastime charity, doesn't wait until the holiday season to support children in need. Toys for Tots has evolved into a year-round force for good, and 2024 marks its fourth annual Christmas in July initiative to bring joy, magic, and hope to underprivileged children across the United States. - NewsUSA



Sports

Olympic update as of July 28, 2024



Team USA won its first medal of the games in synchronized diving when Cassidy Cook and Sarah Bacon won silver. U.S. cyclist Chloe Dygert was primed to take gold in the individual time trial but took home bronze instead following late spill.

Katie Ledecky won the bronze in the 400-meter freestyle. Australia's Ariarne Titmus took gold and Canada's Summer McIntosh the silver.

Team USA won its first gold of the Games in the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay. The U.S. women took silver. - NBCnews.com

Team USA Stats and Fun Facts

This summer, 46 states are sending their hometown heroes to compete against the best athletes in the world.

California, the most populous state, is sending the most (120) followed by Florida (42), Texas(41), Illinois (27) and Pennsylvania(27).

Vermont is sending the most athletes per capita (4.63 per million) followed by Colorado (4.42 per million), Montana (3.53 per million), Hawaii (3.48 per million) and California (3.07 per million).

Team USA Stats and Fun Facts

- Ten hometown cities are sending five or more Olympians to the Summer Games in Paris: San Diego (11); Houston (10); Los Angeles (9); Atlanta, Chicago and Miami (six each); and Charlotte, Las Vegas, Long Beach and San Jose (five each).

- Of these 10 hometown cities, Miami is sending the most per capita (13.16 per million), followed by Atlanta (11.74 per million) and Long Beach (11.12 per million).

- Several Team USA members hail from hometowns

outside the continental United States: Five are from hometowns in Hawaii; two are from Alaska; and one is from St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- Two athletes' come from hometowns across the Atlantic Ocean: Frankfurt, Germany, and Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy. Another athlete lists both Beijing, China, and Palo Alto, California, as their hometown.

- There are 315 women and 279 men on Team USA, making this the fourth consecutive Olympic Games with more women than men on the team.

- Gymnast Hezly Rivera (age 16) is the youngest member and equestrian Steffen Peters (age 59) is the oldest member of Team USA.

- To date, 138 athletes have qualified for the 2024 U.S. Paralympic Team, which will be announced on August 19. The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games are set to take place from August 28 to September 8, featuring 4,400 athletes from around the world competing in 22 sports.

Source: Census Bureau



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY

The FOURTH OF JULY—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2024 is Thursday. [History.com](https://www.history.com)