

International NEWS MEDIA

AUGUST 2024

MAYOR BASS BRINGS OLYMPIC FLAG BACK TO L.A.

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass returned to Los Angeles on August 12 with the official Olympic Flag after she made history by becoming the first Black woman mayor to ever receive the Olympic flag at a closing ceremony of the Olympic Games. During the ceremony, Mayor Bass received the flag as part of the handover ceremony from Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who is the first woman to serve as Mayor of Paris. Team USA Gymnast Simone Biles, the most decorated gymnast in history, joined Mayor Bass in receiving the flag during the historic moment. She returned to L.A. alongside LA28 and regional leaders. Los Angeles will host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Mayor's top priority for the 2028 Games is to ensure Angelenos benefit from the preparation and hosting of this major event, both now and for decades. She is focused on helping local, small businesses, creating local jobs, and delivering lasting environmental and transportation improvements throughout Los Angeles.

"The Olympic Games have officially come back to Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. "We have been working with the urgency that is required to put on an international event, and we are focused on all the ways we can match Paris' success in Los Angeles. My goals for the Games are big, and I want to ensure Angelenos from all corners of

the City have the opportunity to show the world all of our communities, that we will grow small and local businesses, and that we will invest in the transportation improvements necessary to leave a lasting legacy in our city for generations to come. Forty years ago, Mayor Bradley hosted a Games that continue to benefit Los Angeles – I will be sure to do the same. Congratulations to the City of Paris, Mayor Anne Hidalgo and Paris 2024 for an outstanding Olympic Games. We look forward to seeing a transformative Paralympic Games in Paris in just a few weeks."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass poses with U.S. first lady Jill Biden and the United States Olympic women's water polo team after their win over Greece, Saturday, July 27, 2024, in Paris, France. (Photo credit: AP)



Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass waves the Olympic flag upon arrival at Los Angeles International Airport on August 12. Los Angeles will host the 2028 Summer Olympics Games.



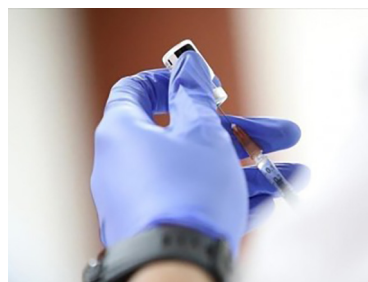
World's 1st mRNA lung cancer vaccine trial launched

ANKARA – Physicians have launched the world's first mRNA lung cancer vaccine trial across seven countries, including Türkiye, in a groundbreaking effort that could revolutionize cancer treatment, according to press reports on Friday, August 23.

The vaccine, known as BNT116 and developed by BioNTech, is designed to target non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the most common type of lung cancer.

It aims to eliminate cancer cells and prevent their recurrence by training the immune system to recognize and attack tumor markers specific to NSCLC.

The trial, taking place in the UK, the US, Germany, Spain, and Türkiye, among others, is considered a significant step in lung cancer treatment.



Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, responsible for approximately 1.8 million deaths annually, with particularly low survival rates for advanced cases.

Around 130 patients with varying stages of lung cancer, from early-stage to advanced or recurrent, will participate in the trial, receiving the vaccine alongside immunotherapy. - Anadolu

NASA will bring stranded astronauts back on SpaceX — not Boeing's Starliner

Boeing's Starliner will come back to Earth empty, and the two astronauts who took it up into orbit on a test flight will return in a capsule built by a competing company, SpaceX.

The long-awaited decision by NASA means the astronauts will have to cool their heels on the International Space Station until February.

And it's a stunning blow to Boeing's beleaguered Starliner program, which has been beset by delays and technical troubles.

"Space is risky, even at its safest and even at its most routine. And a test flight, by nature, is neither safe nor routine," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said at a press briefing on Saturday.

He noted that the decision was made in the context of NASA officials knowing that past mistakes had resulted in the loss of two space shuttles and their crews. - NPR



Boeing Crew Flight Test astronauts Butch Wilmore (left) and Suni Williams pose for a portrait inside the vestibule between the forward port of the International Space Station's Harmony module and Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on June 13. (Photo: NASA via NPR)

INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER URGES END TO UKRAINE WAR

WARSAW, POLAND — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged diplomatic efforts to end the war in Ukraine during a visit to Poland on August 22, pledging India's support and saying that no conflict can be solved on a battlefield.

"We support dialogue and diplomatic effort" for the restoration of peace and stability "as soon as possible," Modi said following talks with Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Tusk said that India could play an important role in bringing an end to the war being waged on Ukraine by India's strategic partner, Russia, on the other side of Poland's eastern border.

Modi and Tusk met for talks on security, the war and invigorating bilateral ties. The two leaders said that the visit, which marks 70 years of official bilateral relations, opened doors to cooperation in the IT, security and defense industries.

British entrepreneur's body recovered from sunken yacht

PORTICELLO, ITALY, August 22 — Officials in Italy said the bodies of five of the six people missing after a superyacht sank off Sicily this week have now been recovered, including that of British tech mogul Mike Lynch.

Rescue and government officials say Lynch's 18-year-old daughter Hannah remains the only person unaccounted for among the 22 people aboard the 56-meter sailboat, owned by Lynch, which sank early Monday during a sudden, violent storm that officials believe was a waterspout — a tornado that occurs over water. The yacht had been anchored about 700 meters from the coast of Porticello, east of Palermo, when the storm struck.

Italian government officials say the body of 59-year-old Lynch was recovered Thursday, while four other bodies were recovered late Wednesday. Rescuers had been diving to the wreck, which was largely intact on the sea floor about 50 meters below the surface. - VOA News



Rescue personnel work next to the body bag containing the corpse of British entrepreneur Mike Lynch, who died when a yacht owned by his family sank off the coast of Porticello, near the Sicilian city of Palermo, Italy, Aug. 22, 2024.

WOMAN CHARGED FOR SCHEME TO DEFRAUD ELVIS PRESLEY'S FAMILY

A Missouri woman was arrested on August 16 on federal charges in connection with an alleged scheme to defraud Elvis Presley's family of millions of dollars and steal the family's ownership interest in Graceland, the former home of Elvis Presley, located in Memphis, Tennessee.

Lisa Jeanine Findley, also known as Lisa Holden, Lisa Howell, Gregory Naussany, Kurt Naussany, Lisa Jeanine Sullins, and Carolyn Williams, 53, of Kimberling City, Missouri, was charged in a criminal complaint after her arrest.

Findley allegedly claimed falsely that Elvis Presley's daughter had borrowed \$3.8 million in 2018 from Naussany Investments, pledged Graceland as collateral for the loan, and failed to repay the debt. To settle the purported claim, Findley allegedly sought \$2.85 million from Elvis Presley's family.

Findley allegedly fabricated loan documents on which Findley forged the signatures of Elvis Presley's daughter and a Florida State notary public. Findley then allegedly filed a false creditor's claim with the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles, and a fake deed of trust with the Shelby County Register's Office in Memphis. Findley also allegedly published a fraudulent foreclosure notice in The Commercial Appeal, one of Memphis's daily newspapers, announcing that Naussany Investments planned to auction Graceland to the highest bidder on May 23. - DOJ

News Breakers

Magnitude 7.0 quake strikes off eastern Russian coast

ISTANBUL – A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Russia's far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula on August 17, according to local media.

"The magnitude stood at 7.0. The earthquake's intensity in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (regional administrative center) was 6.0, according to preliminary estimates," Russia's state news agency TASS reported, citing the local branch of the Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

No significant damage has been reported so far. Scientists estimate the possibility of another powerful tremor was low. - Anadolu

Airstrikes hit Gaza, Lebanon amid push for ceasefire

Israeli forces carried out airstrikes on August 22 in the Gaza Strip and in southern Lebanon, while uncertainty remained about the latest push to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza as negotiators worked to resolve differences between Israel and the Hamas militant group.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said an Israeli strike in Beit Lahiya, in northern Gaza, killed at least 11 people. Israel's military reported an airstrike hitting a weapons warehouse near a Hamas military site in Gaza City, as well as strikes that killed militants in central Gaza. IDF said another round of airstrikes targeted more than 10 areas in southern Lebanon aimed at locations used by the Hezbollah militant group. - VOA News

Airlines cancel flights to Israel until April 2025

JERUSALEM – Several major international carriers, including United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, have suspended their flights to Israel amid ongoing regional tensions. American Airlines has recently canceled its flights to and from Israel until April 2025, according to Israeli media on Sunday, August 18. The move comes amid rising regional tensions over Israel's ongoing offensive on the Gaza Strip. As of Aug. 7, the total number of foreign airlines that have suspended flights to and from Israel reached 20. - Anadolu

Treasury sanctions former Haitian president

WASHINGTON — On August 20 the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the former President of Haiti, Michel Joseph Martelly (Martelly), pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14059 of December 15, 2021, "Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade."

"Today's action against Martelly emphasizes the significant and destabilizing role he and other corrupt political elites have played in perpetuating the ongoing crisis in Haiti," said Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Bradley T. Smith. - DOJ

85% of Brits view nation as deeply divided on issues of extremism

LONDON – An Ipsos poll on Thursday revealed a deepening sense of division in British society amid continued public concern over extremism and the state of the nation.

The poll, conducted between Aug. 9 to 12 in the aftermath of recent riots and unrest, highlights the public's anxiety about various pressing issues, including extremism, the economy and public services.

According to the poll, 85 percent of

Britons believe that society is more divided than ever -- a sentiment that has remained consistently high since 2021.

This figure marks a four-point increase since March, underscoring the growing sense of societal fracture.

Concerns about extremism have also intensified.

The poll showed that 74 percent of respondents are worried about the rise of religious extremism in Britain, a significant nine-point increase since March.

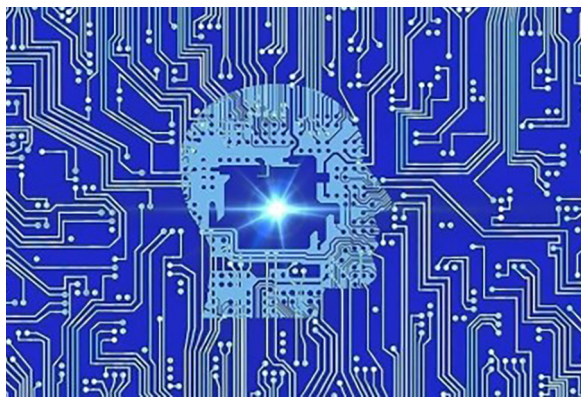
Similarly, 73 percent express concern about the growth of right-wing extremism and 59 percent about left-wing extremism, both of which have seen notable increases of nine and seven points, respectively.

These numbers reflect a heightened public awareness of the dangers posed by extreme ideologies across the political spectrum. - PNA



Tokyo lab generates 'AI Scientist' as world's 1st AI researcher

ISTANBUL – A Tokyo-based high-tech laboratory has introduced the world's first "AI Scientist" -- a cutting-edge artificial intelligence program capable of new scientific discovery.



AI Scientist is designed to produce scientific research from the idea to report all on its own.

It can come up with novel ideas, create methodology, conduct tests and write a report on it, all for approximately USD15 per paper, according to Sakana AI, the producer of the new tech.

The system can also learn from its own reports, developing and improving ideas over multiple reports, Sakana AI said in its latest research paper.

Yet in its infancy, there are limitations and challenges present in the system, Sakana AI said, referring to incorrect implementation of ideas, page layout and comparing the magnitude of two numbers.

While AI Scientist has the potential to be used unethically by manipulating and plagiarizing research, however, it marks a significant step toward realizing the full potential of AI in scientific research, according to the research paper. - Anadou

DOT proposes 'tourist courts' in PH

MANILA – The Department of Tourism (DOT) has proposed the establishment of a special court to aid in the swift resolution of cases where tourists are involved.

Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco first proposed the "24/7 tourist courts" during a recent sectoral meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Malacañang.

The DOT is also beefing up police forces across strategic locations, primarily in areas with a high concentration of tourists.

Over 8,000 police personnel under the department's Tourist Oriented Police for Community Order and Protection program have been trained.

The agency has also trained 270 barangay tanod and barangay intelli-



Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco (PNA file photo)

gence network as police multipliers.

The Philippines has registered a total of 3,860,730 international visitors, of which 92.05 percent or 3,553,720 are foreigners, while the remaining 7.95 percent or 307,010 are overseas Filipinos, as of Aug. 19. - PNA

TV stars Ben and Erin Napier partner with The Salvation Army to Assist families with back-to-school needs amid financial challenges

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — As millions of families in the U.S. gear up for the upcoming school year, The Salvation Army joins forces with renovation TV stars Ben and Erin Napier to help ease the burden of back-to-school preparation.

During the back-to-school season, many families feel the financial stress of preparing their children for the upcoming academic year. Alarming, one in ten families expects to go into debt for back-to-school shopping, a strain that persists throughout the year due to additional costs such as childcare, lunches, clothing and extracurricular activities.

In response to this pressing issue, Ben and Erin Napier participated in a back-to-school thrift shopping event with



Ben and Erin Napier

children from the local Salvation Army camp program in their hometown of Laurel, Mississippi. The shopping spree highlighted the affordability of thrift shopping for school supplies and clothing while simultaneously helping those in need. - PRNewswire

TORTOISE TAKES LEISURELY STROLL



Image Credit: NASA/Daniel Casper

A NASA photographer captured this gopher tortoise walking on the Launch Pad 39B beach road at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on June 4, 2014.

The undeveloped property on Kennedy Space Center is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge provides a habitat for 14 species federally listed as threatened or endangered, including the leatherback, green, Kemp's Ridley, loggerhead and Atlantic hawksbill turtles. - NASA

St. JudeChildren's Research Hospital, FedEx and PGA TOUR team up to help make cures possible for childhood cancer

Seventy of the world's top PGA TOUR golfers teed off in Memphis on August 15 for the 2024 FedEx St. JudeChampionship, an event that has raised \$74 million to benefit the life-saving mission of St. JudeChildren's Research Hospital® since 1970. As the charitable beneficiary of this event, St. Jude is supported by FedEx and the PGA TOUR during various events throughout the week, partnering through a shared drive to ensure that one day, childhood cancer will not exist.

This year's FedEx St. JudeChampionship at TPC Southwind has no shortage of celebratory events and fundraising events surrounding tournament play.

- PGA TOUR tournament play caddie bibs highlighted St. Jude patient artwork, with a limited number of souvenir caddie bibs for kids available for purchase at the PGA TOUR Pro Shop at TPC Southwind.

- PGA TOUR Wives Association Art Party sponsored by TUMI connected the wives of PGA TOUR pros with St. Jude patients for an afternoon of creativity and fun. This was the first patient Art Party during FedEx St. JudeChampionship week since 2019.

- St. Jude patients joined two PGA Tour players for a fun round of golf, followed by a tour of the TaylorMade equipment truck, where St. Jude patients were custom fitted for a golf club.

- An honored tradition, the 12th annual FedEx Purple Eagle Ceremony took place on Wednesday, August 14, when a FedEx Feeder Cessna Caravan aircraft was dedicated to a St. Judepatient who is the child or grandchild of a FedEx employee. This honor is part of the FedEx Purple Eagle program, launched in 2012 to recognize the impact of St. Jude and the longstanding partnership with FedEx.

- St. Jude JAM fundraising concert and auction benefitting St. Jude took place at The Peabody Memphis, with musical performances and a live auction.

Nearly 30 entertainers and athletes will participate in a private event, the Danny Thomas Celebrity-Am alongside St. Jude patients who excel at golf. - PRNewswire

August 2024 Supermoon rises near NASA Marshall

A super blue Moon rises over Huntsville, Alabama, home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Aug. 19.

Visible through Wednesday, Aug. 21, the full Moon was both a supermoon and a Blue Moon. As the Moon reaches its closest approach to Earth, the Moon looks larger in the night sky with supermoons becoming the biggest and brightest full Moons of the year. While not blue in color, the third full Moon in a season with four full Moons is called a "Blue Moon."

Over 99% full when it rose, the moon was a rare combination of a blue moon and a supermoon, a phenomenon that will not repeat until 2027.

Huntsville is known as the "Rocket City" because of its proximity to NASA Marshall, which manages vital propulsion systems and hardware, engineering technologies, cutting-edge science, and launch vehicles for Apollo, shuttle, and Artemis. (NASA/Michael DeMocker)



The Sturgeon Moon rises behind a replica Saturn V rocket at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama on Monday, August 19, 2024. - NASA/Michael DeMocker

ALL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

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U.S. Postal Service to unveil new Holiday Stamps at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum

The U.S. Postal Service will host a special stamp dedication ceremony at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington DC 20002, to unveil the highly anticipated 2024 Christmas Madonna and Child stamp and Holiday Joy stamps.

These stamps capture the spirit of the season, celebrating both the traditional and contemporary aspects of holiday festivities.

The event will include remarks from prominent postal officials and be followed by the National Postal Museum's Holiday Stamps Family Festival, with guest artist Katie Kirk.

Sheila Holman, USPS vice president of marketing, and Mark Guilfoil, USPS vice president of supply management, will be the dedicating officials.



The Madonna and Child stamp has been a beloved part of the Postal Service's holiday stamp offerings for decades, featuring iconic images of the Virgin Mary and Child from various artistic traditions. This year's design continues that tradition, offering a beautiful representation of this timeless theme.

The Holiday Joy stamps, meanwhile, offer a vibrant and festive option for holiday greetings, with designs that evoke the joy and warmth of the holiday season.

Thai King appoints Paetongtarn Shinawatra as new PM

BANGKOK – Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn has appointed Paetongtarn Shinawatra as the country's prime minister, Secretary-General of the House of Representatives Arphat Sukanan announced on Sunday, August 18.

Paetongtarn has been appointed premier as she received a majority vote from the parliament on Aug. 16.

Paetongtarn, 37, becomes the country's youngest and second female prime minister after receiving the royal endorsement from Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn. - Xinhua



Paetongtarn Shinawatra

NASA awards \$1.25M to three teams at Deep Space Food Finale

NASA has awarded a total of \$1.25 million to three U.S. teams in the third and final round of the agency's Deep Space Food Challenge. The teams delivered novel food production technologies that could provide long-duration human space exploration missions with safe, nutritious, and tasty food.

The competitors' technologies address NASA's need for sustainable food systems for long-duration habitation in space, including future Artemis missions and eventual journeys to Mars. Advanced food systems also could benefit life on Earth and inspire food production in parts of the world that are prone to natural disasters, food insecurity, and extreme environments.

"The Deep Space Food Challenge could serve as the framework for providing astronauts with healthy and delicious food using sustainable mechanisms," said Angela Herblet, challenge manager for the Deep Space Food Challenge at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. "The challenge has brought together innovative and driven individuals from around the world who are passionate about creating new solutions that support our agency's future Moon to Mars missions."



Interstellar Lab, a small business comprised of team members from France, Texas, and Florida, took home the \$750,000 grand prize for their food system, NUCLEUS, which uses a multi-pronged approach to growing and harvesting food outputs for astronauts on long-duration human space exploration missions. (Credit: OSU/CFAES/Kenneth Chamberlain)

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the contributions of Americans tracing their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

In 1968, Congress set aside a week for this observance and two decades later expanded it to a month stretching from September 15 to October 15. The timing is historically significant as September 15 is the anniversary of independence in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Californians can now add their mobile driver's license to Google Wallet

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom announced on August 23 the California Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) addition of Google Wallet as an option to hold secure, convenient, and private digital driver's licenses and identification cards.

California is now one of five states to offer a digital driver's license in Google Wallet. The Governor announced mobile driver's licenses would also be coming soon in Apple Wallet.

In 2023, as part of the statewide Digital Identity Framework, the DMV introduced the California DMV Wallet mobile driver's license (mDL) pilot program. To date, more than half a million Californians have added the mDL to their smartphones. The state's mDL pilot program is ongoing and currently limited to 1.5 million participants.

Presenting your mDL in Google Wallet and the California DMV Wallet app is currently accepted as a valid form of identification at select retail locations and TSA airports. The DMV continues to work with public and private partners to encourage broader acceptance of the mDL.

The mDL does not replace the requirement to carry a physical driver's license while driving, but does give Californians another convenient option for identity verification and more control over how they share their information – offering the choice to display name and age information only when presenting for ID checks.

CCUSA names 2024 Volunteer of the Year

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) has selected John "Jack" Halton, a dedicated volunteer with Catholic Charities Diocese of Gary, as the 2024 CCUSA Volunteer of the Year.

Halton is a longtime, regular volunteer with the agency's food pantry, which provides groceries to families in need across Northwest Indiana. Whether he is sorting food donations, assisting clients with empathy and respect, or performing any of the varied tasks he undertakes to ensure the food pantry runs smoothly,



Halton consistently embodies the values of selflessness and service.

A MEDITERRANEAN MARATHON IN PALMA, MALLORCA

Mallorca's capital of Palma is a picturesque destination for travellers seeking an active and cultural break this Autumn.

The popular Palma Marathon Mallorca will return on 20th October 2024, with a number of local hotels offering special marathon packages which include registration, race transfers and accommodation. There are three race options to offer participants flexibility, with a full marathon and half marathon beginning at 8am and a shorter 10k race starting at 8:45am.

The Palma Marathon route is one of the most picturesque in the whole of Europe, traversing through the historic Old Town, past the city's most beautiful landmarks such as the medieval 'La Seu' Cathedral, and along the seafront promenade.

Those visiting for the Marathon may enjoy the local hospitality during their visit, with a range of events preceding the race day, including a breakfast run at 10am on Friday 18th October and an epic lunchtime pasta party on Saturday 19th October for runners to load up on carbs before the big race.



Your Health

Can people with diabetes have dessert?

With so many delicious options out there, it can be tempting. But living with diabetes can make indulging in your favorite sweet treat a little more complicated.

If you have diabetes, too many carbohydrates (carbs), found in sugary and starchy foods can spike your blood sugar. This may make it harder to manage diabetes, and increase your risk of developing complications. Many people believe that desserts are off limits if you're living with diabetes. But that's simply not true. With a few considerations, people with diabetes can have dessert.

Here are some diabetes-friendly dessert tips

• Count your carbs.

Carb counting helps you keep track of your food and drinks throughout the day. This way, you can keep track of the carbs in your desserts and adjust the rest of your carbohydrate intake accordingly. For example, if you know you want a dessert, you can cut back on your carbs in other ways at lunch and dinner. When you plan ahead, you can avoid eating more than is healthy.

• Portion yourself.

When you do enjoy desserts or sweets, do it in moderation. Eat slowly to savor and appreciate what you're eating. Having dessert with or right after a meal can help you eat a smaller amount without feeling deprived.

• Try substitutions.

Some sugary treats will impact your blood sugar more than others. For example, dark chocolate is a richer, less sweet alternative to white or milk chocolate. Some people with diabetes enjoy fruit as a filling and nutritious substitute to satisfy a sweet craving. Fruits like mashed banana or applesauce can also be used to naturally sweeten baked goods. Just remember, all of these options still contain natural sugars that will impact your blood sugar, but they offer a healthier alternative. - CDC

PEACE CORPS AND FIJI STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP THROUGH ENHANCED ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES

SUVA, FIJI – Peace Corps Director Carol Spahn signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on August 16 with the Honorable Sakiasi Raisevu Ditoka, Fiji's Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, to align the agency's work with local priorities through collaborative and impactful service.

This agreement represents a renewed and strengthened commitment to inclusive economic development and climate resilience.

"This agreement is a testament to the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to the people of Fiji," said Peace Corps Director Carol Spahn. "For more than fifty years Peace Corps Volunteers have worked side-by-side with Fijian communities across this beautiful country. This new agreement deepens our resolve to learn from each other and strengthen our global community." - Peace Corps

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Question: I forgot my identification; can I still proceed through security screening?

Answer: In the event you arrive at the airport without proper ID, because it is lost or at home, you may still be allowed to fly. By providing additional information, TSA has other ways to confirm your identity, like using publicly available databases, so you can reach your flight. If your identity cannot be verified, you will not be allowed to enter the screening checkpoint.

Question: How early should I arrive to the airport prior to my flights departure?

Answer: You are encouraged to contact your airline as times may vary depending on the airport and date of travel. In general, please allow time for parking/shuttle transportation, airline check-in, obtaining a boarding pass and going through the security screening process, which includes screening of your carry-on bag.

Question: Can I film and take photos at a security checkpoint?

Answer: TSA does not prohibit photographing, videotaping or filming at security checkpoints, as long as the screening process is not interfered with or sensitive information is not revealed.

Interference with screening includes but is not limited to holding a recording device up to the face of a TSA officer so that the officer is unable to see or move, refusing to assume the proper stance during screening, blocking the movement of others through the checkpoint or refusing to submit a recording device for screening.

Additionally, you may not film or take pictures of equipment monitors that are shielded from public view. - Source: TSA

STATEMENT BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE EU

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief

On the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief, the European Union pays tribute to all victims of discrimination, intolerance, persecution, hatred, dehumanisation or violence because of their religion or belief.

Extremism, authoritarianism, terrorism, and conflict-driven hatred are yet not eradicated. Too many people across the world, especially from religious minorities, face attacks to their communities and see their human rights violated due to their actual or perceived faith.

We strongly believe and support the principle upon which all individuals have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; and to manifest or change their religion or belief, without risk of discrimination, persecution or violence.

The European Union condemns the criminalisation of apostasy, and the abuse of blasphemy laws when they violate the right to freedom of religion or belief. These laws are a dangerous catalyst of religious hatred and incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

We recall that all states have an obligation to guarantee human rights protection, and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons based on their religion or belief.

The international community must unite in fighting against discrimination, hatred and violence based on religion or belief. We must promote a culture of religious tolerance, respect for diversity and mutual understanding.

Every individual regardless of whether they manifest a religion or belief, are entitled to full respect for their human rights. The EU will continue to safeguard this principle and promote its implementation everywhere.

Singapore President praises Yulo's Olympic performance

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam was all praises for the Philippines, especially two-time Olympic gold medalist Carlos Yulo, who brought pride not only to the country but also to Southeast Asia for winning two gold medals.

"I should say, by the way, that, and you know, these things do matter. There's just something very impressive about the performance of Filipino athletes at the Olympic games," President Shanmugaratnam said.

"Mr. Yulo's two golds ... he's the only athlete from Southeast Asia, from an ASEAN nation whose had two Olympic golds ever. So, it's a real milestone. It's a real milestone for all of us. I mean, we shine a bit of a reflected glory of the Philippines," he added.

Yulo bagged gold medals in the men's floor exercise and men's vault finals of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Singapore President made the remarks during his recent bilateral meeting with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Malacañang as part of his first state visit to the Philippines.



Philippine-Singapore bilateral meeting

For his part, President Marcos thanked the Singapore leader for his kind words toward the Philippines and Filipino athletes. He also shared the same sentiment that the government is "just a reflected glory" of the athlete's stellar performance during the Olympics.

FDFA launches Action Plan for the Universal Abolition of the Death Penalty 2024-2027

Switzerland is continuing to act for a world without capital punishment. Universal abolition is one of the Federal Council's 2024-27 Foreign Policy Strategy objectives and one of the four thematic focus areas of the FDFA's 2021-24 Guidelines on Human Rights.

The new action plan translates Switzerland's commitment into concrete measures and sets out its priorities in the fight against the death penalty.

Switzerland is categorically opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances.

Under Swiss law, capital punishment is a clear violation of the fundamental right to life and is in breach of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Switzerland's resulting commitment to universal abolition falls under its work to promote respect for human rights.

Globally, significant inroads have been made on universal abolition. The number of states that have abolished the death penalty has gone up from 55 to 113 in the space of thirty years, but the number of executions and death sentences in recent years has not gone down.

Texas triples razor wire barriers to stop illegal immigrants

Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Texas National Guard continue to work together to secure the border; stop the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and people into Texas; and prevent, detect, and interdict transnational criminal activity between ports of entry.

Since the launch of Operation Lone Star, the multi-agency effort has led to over 517,900 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 46,000 criminal arrests, with more than 39,900 felony charges. In the fight against the fentanyl crisis, Texas law enforcement has seized over 518 million lethal doses of fentanyl, enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States and Mexico combined during this border mission.

ADVISORY

14 August 2024

CHECK YOUR OVERSEAS VOTER RECORD

The Commission of Elections has released a list of overseas voters who were deactivated, transferred, or have multiple registrations.

For overseas voters registered with the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, please refer to the list on our website to check your voter status. (Link in the description)

If you see your name on the list and would like to vote in the 2025 National Elections, you will need to reactivate your overseas voter registration by 30 September 2024.

Visit the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC or one of its consular outreach missions to reactivate your voter record. Please accomplish the Overseas Voter Registration Form and present the original and one copy of your valid Philippine passport and proof of current Filipino citizenship to complete the process.

If you registered with the Philippine Embassy and do not see your name on the list, no action is required from your end.



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Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip

Two rounds of a polio vaccination campaign are expected to be launched at the end of August and September 2024 across the Gaza Strip to prevent the spread of circulating variant type 2 poliovirus (cVDPV2).

WHO and UNICEF request all parties to the conflict to implement humanitarian pauses in the Gaza Strip for seven days to allow for two rounds of vaccination campaigns to take place. These pauses in fighting would allow children and families to safely reach health facilities and community outreach workers to get to children who cannot access health facilities for polio vaccination. Without the humanitarian pauses, the delivery of the campaign will not be possible.

During each round of the campaign, the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and partners, will provide two drops of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to more than 640 000 children under ten years of age.

Japan halts bid to extract debris at crippled Fukushima nuclear plant

ISTANBUL – Japan stopped its first attempt to retrieve melted fuel debris at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant on August 22. It was the first time since the 2011 disaster that plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings or TEPCO was set to remove the debris from one of its crippled reactors, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported.

However, the process was halted even before an attempt was made due to "issues discovered during preparations."

The issue is related to the installation of the robotic removal device – a telescopic device equipped with a gripper tool.

The Fukushima nuclear plant was damaged when a magnitude 9 earthquake, followed by a tsunami, struck Japan in 2011.

It is better to carry on with the work safely and steadily rather than rushing," TEPCO President Tomoaki Kobayakawa told reporters.

The operator had decided to begin removing debris from number 2 nuclear reactor, which suffered a hydrogen explosion.



According to the report: "There is an estimated 880 tons of fuel debris in the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 reactors."

If preparations for the trial removal are successful, the operator is planning to retrieve as much as 3 grams of the radioactive debris from the site. - Anadolu

Albares visits the spaces to house Barcelona's new Casa Asia

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, José Manuel Albares, on August 5 visited the site that will house Casa Asia's new headquarters in the Pedralbes complex in Barcelona, after a presentation from the technical team overseeing its development.

Together with representatives from the Generalitat de Catalunya and Barcelona City Council, Albares visited the two pavilions that will host the activities for the new Casa Asia.

Newsbriefs

Extradited Bulgarian national charged with alleged illicit US tech exports to Russia

A Bulgarian national extradited from Greece faces an indictment in the US for an alleged conspiracy 'to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and the Export Control Reform Act (ECRA) in a scheme to procure sensitive radiation-hardened integrated circuits from the United States and illegally export those components to Russia through Bulgaria without the required licenses from the U.S. government.'

Milan Dimitrov is charged with two counts of IEEPA violations, one count of money laundering, and one count of making false statements to the Department of Commerce in violation of the ECRA. Each count in the indictment carries a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Russian citizen sentenced to 40 months for selling stolen financial information

WASHINGTON – Georgy Kavzharadze, 27, of Moscow, Russia, was sentenced to 40 months in prison for being a prolific vendor of stolen financial information, login credentials, and other personally identifying information (PII) on a criminal internet marketplace called Sliip, announced U.S. Attorney Matthew M. Graves and FBI Special Agent in Charge David J. Scott of the Washington Field Office Criminal and Cyber Division.

Kavzharadze pleaded guilty February 16, 2024, to conspiracy to commit bank fraud and wire fraud before U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. In addition to the prison term, Judge Kollar-Kotelly ordered Kavzharadze to pay \$1,233,521.47 in restitution.

Founder of 'BitClout' digital asset charged with fraud

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Christie M. Curtis, the Acting Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the arrest of Nader Al-Naji, the founder and promoter of the "BitClout" token. Al-Naji was charged with defrauding a "BitClout" purchaser by making false and misleading representations disclaiming control over the use of the investment funds. Al-Naji was taken into custody on July 27, 2024, and was presented before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in California.

Sex offender sentenced for sextorting minors

RENO - A Nevada man was sentenced to 65 years in prison, to be followed by lifetime supervised release, for sexually exploiting multiple minors and advertising and distributing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) that he coerced these minors into producing.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between 2018 and 2021, James Patrick Burns, 55, of Sparks, "sexorted" multiple minors online, via Omegle, Snapchat, Tiktok, and Mega, by threatening these minors into producing CSAM and then posting the CSAM on dark web forums. During this period, Burns was the most prolific creator of illegal content on these forums.

He victimized over 100 children, many of whom have yet to be identified. Burns's offenses came to the attention of law enforcement when the mother of one of his victims saw threats on the victim's phone and reported what she saw to the police.

Burns was also ordered to pay \$82,655.92 in restitution and \$21,000 in assessments under the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act.

INM Book Choice

PATRIOT: A Memoir
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

INTERACTING WITH A CHILD WHO HAS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder. It affects how children interact and communicate with others. The disorder is called a spectrum disorder because of the wide range (spectrum) of severity.

Communication and interaction tips for ASD

- Be patient
- Teach the child how to express anger without being too aggressive
- Be persistent but resilient
- Always stay positive
- Ignore irritating attention-getting behavior.
- Interact through physical activity.
- Be affectionate and respectful.
- Show your love and interest.
- Learn from your child
- Believe
- Take care of yourself.

Source: University of Rochester Medical Center

5 TIPS to help you stay **motivated** to **exercise**

Being physically active is one of the most important things you can do each day to maintain and improve your health and keep doing things you enjoy as you age. Make exercise a priority with the following tips:

- 1 Find ways to fit exercise into your day.**
You are more likely to get moving if exercise is a convenient part of your day.
- 2 Do activities you enjoy to make it more fun.**
Be creative and try something new!
- 3 Make it social.**
Find a virtual "exercise buddy" to help keep you going and provide emotional support.
- 4 If there's a break in your routine, get back on track.**
Start slowly and gradually build back up to your previous level of activity. Ask your family and friends for support.
- 5 Keep track of your progress.**
Make an exercise plan and don't forget to reward yourself when you reach your goals.

EXPO 2025



Expo 2025 is an upcoming World Expo organised and sanctioned by the Bureau International des Expositions, which will be held in Osaka, Japan. It will take place for six months during 2025, opening 13 April 2025 and closing 13 October 2025.

DID YOU KNOW?

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

As of 2024, William Lawrence Bragg is the youngest Nobel Prize winner in physics, having been awarded the prize in 1915 at the age of 25.

Bragg shared the award with his father, William Henry Bragg, who was a professor at Leeds University at the time.

The two scientists used an X-ray spectrometer to analyze the structure of



William Lawrence Bragg

crystals and small molecules, and established mathematical relationships between the structure and the X-ray diffraction pattern.

Source: Wikipedia

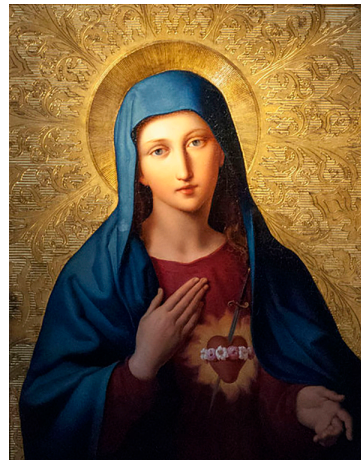
The Immaculate Heart of Mary

The Immaculate Heart of Mary (Latin: Cor Immaculatum Mariae) is a Catholic devotion which refers to the view of the interior life of Mary, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and, above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus Christ, and her motherly and compassionate love for all mankind.

Traditionally, the Immaculate Heart is depicted pierced with seven swords or wounds, in homage to the seven dolours of Mary and roses, usually red or white, wrapped around the heart.

Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1944 to be celebrated on 22 August, coinciding with the traditional octaveday of the Assumption.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Saturday, immediately after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This means



A painting depicting the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Peter-skirche, Vienna

in practice that it is now held on the third Saturday after Pentecost.

Source: Wikipedia

Recipes

CHICKEN SALAD AND PEACH SANDWICH



Elevate your chicken salad sandwich with the addition of sweet peaches.

Yield: 2 sandwiches
Prep time: 10 minutes

- Ingredients:**
- 4 slices whole wheat bread
 - 1/2 cup chicken (diced, cooked)
 - 1/2 cup peach (slices, drained and diced)
 - 1 stalk celery (diced)
 - 1/2 cup apple (diced)

- 1 small onion (diced)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon walnut (chopped)

Directions:

1. Mix together the chicken, apples, peaches, celery, onion, walnuts, and mayonnaise in a small bowl.
2. Spoon mixture onto 2 slices of the bread.

STRAWBERRY MANGO FETA TOAST

Yield: 4 servings
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 2 minutes
Total time: 22 minutes

- Ingredients:**
- 1 medium mango (ripe, divided)
 - 2 cups strawberries (divided)
 - 1/2 cup Feta cheese (fat-free, crumbles)
 - 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 - 1 cup basil (leave, plus 2 tablespoons for topping)
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 4 slices whole wheat bread
- Steps**

Meal Type: Lunch
Category: 30 Minutes or Less, Kid-Friendly
Food group: Fruits, Vegetables, Protein, Grains
Season: Spring, Summer
Source: USDA, MyPlate

Peel and pit mango. Dice 3/4 of mango and 3/4 of strawberries; place in large bowl with feta cheese. Put remaining fruit, 1/4 cup basil, vinegar, and oil in a blender and blend.

1. Pour blended vinaigrette over fruit-feta mix and toss gently.
 2. Chop remaining basil leaves.
 3. Toast bread slices and cut each slice diagonally.
 4. Top toast points with dressed fruit-feta mix and chopped basil.
- Meal Type: Breakfast
Category: 30 Minutes or Less, Kid-Friendly



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Mpox outbreak: The disease behind the global health emergency

ISTANBUL – With global public health concerns raised to the highest level, the spread of the mpox virus has been making headlines as it has now been confirmed to be present on multiple continents.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global health emergency on August 21 over an ongoing outbreak of a contagious new mpox variant, known as clade 1b, with the UN body's top official, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pointing to "international concern" regarding its spread.

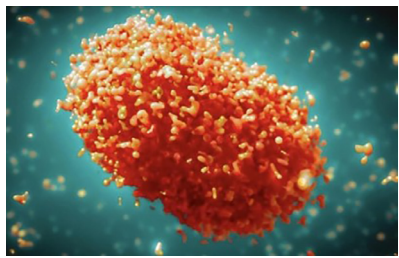
More than 15,600 mpox cases have been reported since the beginning of this year, while at least 500 people have died of the disease.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) accounts for more than 90 percent of reported infections, with more than a dozen African nations also reporting cases.

Africa's top health body, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has responded by declaring an emergency on the continent.

What is mpox?

Mpox is a viral disease, formerly called monkeypox before the WHO changed its name in 2022 over complaints that it was racist and stigmatizing.



The virus is closely associated with smallpox and is divided into two broad yet distinct genetic groups called clades. Clade 1 is more widespread in Central Africa, while clade 2 is prevalent in West Africa.

The zoonotic disease can be transmitted to humans through close physical contact with an infectious person or small wild animal, or via contaminated materials.

Common symptoms include rashes or lesions, as well as a flu-like fever, head and muscle aches, back pain, general weakness, and swollen lymph nodes.

Why is the new strain concerning?

While most cases of mpox show mild symptoms, experts and scientists are concerned about the spread of the new type of clade 1, said to be deadlier and more contagious than an earlier variant that was responsible for an out-

break in 2022.

Will it be more dangerous than the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19)?

Mpox is much less transmissible than Covid so although it is likely that the current outbreak will get larger, "It is very, very unlikely that there will be an epidemic on the side of Covid," according to Michael Marks, a professor of medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,

What measures can be taken?

WHO says the spread of the disease can be prevented by avoiding physical contact with someone who has mpox, while vaccination can help prevent infection for people at risk. - Anadolu

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

AAA School Safety Patrol members are school-sponsored student volunteers from upper elementary grades, middle and junior high schools. Patrollers direct children, not traffic. Patrol members teach other students about traffic safety on a peer-to-peer basis. They also serve as models for younger children. School Safety Patrol members:

- Complete training in traffic safety.
- Protect students from hazards of crossing roads and highways on their way to and from school.
- Assist bus drivers in safely transporting students to and from school.
- Teach fellow students about traffic safety.
- Serve in other leadership roles under the direction of school officials.

Typically, teachers and principals appoint patrol members, who participate with parental approval. - AAA

Citizenship and immigration status requirements for FEMA assistance

FRANKFORT, Ky. – FEMA may provide direct and financial disaster assistance to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals and qualified non-citizens who were impacted by the May 21-27 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides. Disaster assistance may include money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, personal property loss, medical expenses, funeral expenses and other serious disaster-related needs or expenses not covered by insurance or other sources.

A qualified non-citizen includes:

- Legal permanent residents ("green card" holders);
- Non-citizens granted asylum;

- Refugees;
- Non-citizens whose deportation status is being withheld for at least one year;
- Non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for at least one year for urgent humanitarian purposes or significant public benefit;
- Cuban/Haitian entrants;
- Certain battered non-citizens or their spouses or children and
- Certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking, including persons with a "T" or "U" visa.

For more information and to check eligibility and requirements, visit: fema.gov

STAYING SAFE DURING A FLOOD

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common disaster in the United States.

Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death. Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

Staying safe during a Flood:

- Contact your healthcare provider if you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.



- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving water. Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Get on the roof if necessary. Do not climb into a closed attic to avoid getting trapped by rising floodwater. - ready.gov

DHS implements Keeping Families Together

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security has announced a Federal Register notice to implement Keeping Families Together, a process for certain noncitizen spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens. This is part of an effort to promote the unity and stability of families, increase the economic prosperity of American communities, strengthen diplomatic relationships with partner countries in the region, reduce strain on limited U.S. government resources, and further national security, public safety, and border security objectives.

USCIS will immediately begin accepting requests from eligible individuals for this process on Aug. 19, 2024. Individuals must file Form I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens, online after creating a myUSCIS account. The filing fee is \$580. Fee waiver requests for Form I-131F will not be accepted.

Keeping Families Together is consistent with longstanding, congressionally supported policies, including a similar process for family members of certain U.S. military personnel and veterans.

In order to be eligible for consideration, check the requirements by visiting the website at: www.uscis.gov

Protecting yourself from scams

You can become the victim of a scam at home or abroad. There are many different types of scams, but they all share a common goal: taking your money. If someone is claiming to be your friend or relative in trouble overseas, the U.S. Embassy or Consulate may be able to help.

Tips to Protect Yourself – and Your Money – from Scams:

- Before traveling abroad, research your destination.
- Generally, never send money

to someone overseas if you have not met them in person – especially if you met online.

- Do not disclose personal details over the phone or online – even in your social media.
- Be aware that something that seems too good to be true usually is.
- Tell the person claiming to be a U.S. citizen in distress overseas to contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
- If someone claims to be a U.S.

citizen overseas and says the embassy won't help, call the Department of State's Overseas Citizens Services at 888-407-4747.

- If you send money to a U.S. citizen in an emergency through the Department of State's "OCS Trust" program, the person will need to show a photo ID to get the cash.
- If you have been the victim of a scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI at ic3.gov. -Source: US Department of State

CBP and US Chamber of Commerce urge back-to-school shoppers to beware of counterfeits

WASHINGTON— As families welcome a new school year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are sharing tips for consumers to avoid counterfeit school supplies, which can cause real harm to consumers, law-abiding businesses, and the economy.

Consumers can use the following tips when shopping on e-commerce sites:

1. Trust your instincts: if a deal or product seems off it is best to steer clear.
2. Prioritize secure payments: check for a lock symbol

in your browser to confirm site safety.

3. Examine every detail: pay close attention to labels, packaging, and contents.
4. Protect your data: keep all your electronic devices updated with the latest cyber security protections to fend off any potential cyber threats.
5. Say something: if you encounter a counterfeit, report it to U.S. Customs and Border Protection through the Trade Violations Reporting Tool or the National Intellectual Property Rights Center.

Public Affairs

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PH brings home bronze medals, honorable mentions from Chem Olympiad

MANILA – As the Philippines celebrated the twin triumphs of gymnast Carlos Yulo and the rest of the Filipino athletes in the Paris Olympics, the nation also made headlines in the field of science.

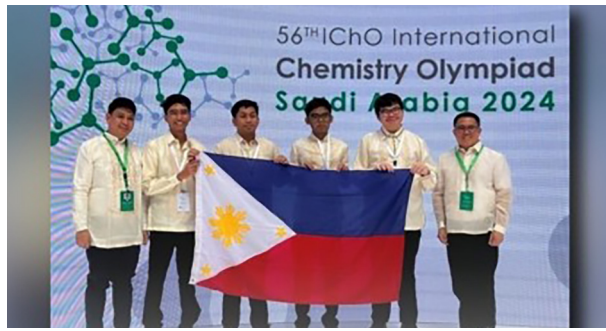
At the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) held at King Saudi University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on July 21 to 30, the Philippine team secured two bronze medals and two honorable mentions.

Bagging bronze medals were Gelraycs Jules Fornan of Philippine Science High School (PSHS) Soccsksargen Region, coached by Jomarie Enerio; and Rex Alphonse Reventar of PSHS Main-Quezon City, coached by Mara Milagros Esguerra.

Fornan was also a bronze medalist at the 55th edition held in Zurich, Switzerland.

Honorable mentions went to Ogden Michael Javier of PSHS Main, also coached by Esguerra; and Jacob Emmanuel Sadorra, PSHS Central Luzon, coached by Princess Ann Digneng.

Head mentor Dr. Raymond Malabed of De La Salle Uni-



Team Philippines' Gelraycs Jules Fornan, Jacob Emmanuel Sadorra, Ogden Michael Javier and Rex Alphonse Reventar (2nd to 5th from left) with their mentors at the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (DOST photo)

versity and mentor Dr. Ian Ken Dimzon of Ateneo de Manila University led the Philippines in the competition featuring the brightest young chemists from 88 nations. - PR/PNA

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents NOURISH *Nourishing Mind, Body, and Soul Through the Arts*

WASHINGTON—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is proud to announce the launch of Nourish—Nourishing Mind, Body, and Soul Through the Arts, a month-long series of programs throughout October 2024 exploring the profound impact of food and artistic expression on our lives.

Nourish, part of the Center's Arts & Wellbeing programming, marks a significant expansion of the Center's commitment to sharing with audiences how the full spectrum of the arts enhances our holistic wellbeing. The Kennedy Center's Nourish programming will feature a diverse array of activities, ranging from cooking classes with local chefs and restaurants to panel discussions and book talks with renowned culinary icons like Ina Garten. Additionally, Nourish will include interactive engagements including community singalongs, movement masterclasses, and conversations about comfort food, demonstrating how nourishment comes not only from food but also from the arts and human connection.

"The Center has been exploring the intersection between the arts and science for many years. This is an area close to my heart as during the pandemic, I witnessed first-hand the profound impact of loneliness and how many of us, myself included, turned to arts and entertainment to guide us through," reflected Kennedy Center President, Deborah F. Rutter. "We are taking this opportunity to focus on a deeper level to better understand the effect of the arts on our minds, bodies, and souls."

"We're using science to explain what our hearts and stomachs already know: food and collective activities build community and factors positively into our wellbeing," says Kate Villa, Director of Comedy and Institutional Programming at the Kennedy Center. "The act of nourishment can introduce us to new places and cultures, create long-lasting memories, and forge deeper or new relationships with each other."

Nourish falls under the expanded programmatic focus, Arts & Wellbeing.



ST. AUGUSTINE (SAN AGUSTÍN)

St. Augustine (Spanish: San Agustín) is a city in and the county seat of St. Johns County located 40 miles (64 km) south of downtown Jacksonville. The city is on the Atlantic coast of northeastern Florida. Founded in 1565 by Spanish explorers, it is the oldest continuously inhabited European-established settlement in what is now the contiguous United States. - Wikipedia



Top, left to right: Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine Light, Flagler College, Lightner Museum, statue near the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine, St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, Old St. Johns County Jail

Sports

Ohtani hits walk-off grand slam, becomes 6th MLB player to join '40-40 club'

Major League Baseball star Ohtani Shohei hit a walk-off grand slam and reached the milestone of 40 homeruns and 40 stolen bases this season.

The Japanese player is only the sixth person to achieve this feat in MLB history.

Ohtani was the designated hitter and batted first in Friday's home game against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Ohtani got his 40th stolen base in the fourth inning after his second at-bat. He was at first base with an infield hit and stole second base. He has successfully stolen bases three games in a row.

Now in his seventh year in the Major Leagues, it's the first time for the superstar to steal 40 bases in a single season.

The Dodgers and Rays went into the ninth inning with a 3-3 tie. The bases were loaded with two outs when Ohtani came up for his fifth at-bat. He swung on



Ohtani Shohei

the first pitch and ripped a walk-off grand slam deep into the center field stands -- his 40th homer this season. It was Ohtani's first grand slam in the Major Leagues.

The Japanese Major Leaguer, who reached the 40-40 milestone in 126 games, is also the quickest to accomplish the feat. - NHK World

New "Neon City Festival" to take over Downtown Las Vegas, November 22-24

The Entertainment Capital of the World is about to get more entertaining. The inaugural Neon City Festival (NCF) – a first-of-its-kind music and culinary event – will take over the streets of downtown Las Vegas November 22-24, 2024.

Neon City Festival is free for guests of all ages and will feature headlining talent across multiple musical genres, local food & beverage vendors, art shows, fireworks and much more.

Described as a "festival without fences," the event will transform downtown Las Vegas into a sprawling, open-air playground, spanning the world-famous Fremont Street Experience and eclectic destinations within the Arts District, all the way down Las Vegas Blvd. to The STRAT Hotel, Casino & Tower. Created by downtown Las Vegas casino owner Derek Stevens – with support from the LVCVA – the event was conceived to show appreciation for Las Vegas locals and visitors like.

People • Events

Labor Day Weekend in Las Vegas

Labor Day Weekend will be celebrated in Las Vegas with over the top live entertainment and exciting sporting events taking place throughout the destination from Friday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 2.

With performances from stellar acts including the hometown favorites The Killers, a standup set from superstar comedian Kevin Hart, a Las Vegas Aces game and a poolside performance from hip-hop icon Wiz Khalifa, there is something for everyone this holiday weekend.



NYO Jazz at Carnegie Hall

Sean Jones, Artistic Director, Bandleader, and Trumpet, and Jhoely Garay, Guest Bandleader with Special Guest Alicia Olatuja, Vocals

Now Streaming on Carnegie Hall

Watch the brand-new lineup of NYO Jazz—Carnegie Hall's big band of top young jazz musicians from across the United States—in a July 2024 concert at Carnegie Hall. Under the leadership of trumpet great Sean Jones, the band welcomed multi-genre vocalist Alicia Olatuja in a program of works by Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk,



Wycliffe Gordon, and many more, plus a world premiere by South African composer Sibusiso Mash Mashiloane.

L.A. AUTO SHOW



PH wins Best Diving Destination title at Beijing expo

MANILA – The Philippines has won the best diving destination award in the 2024 Diving Resort Travel (DRT) Show in Beijing, an addition to the long list of citations recognizing the country's charm as a premier dive spot.

In a report, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the country bagged the title along with the Best Tourism Promotion Partnership Award during the dive event held from Aug. 1 to 4.

The DRT is considered to be the largest and "most effective dive exhibition platform" in the region, attracting more than 450,000 professional buyers and visitors from 65 countries and regions worldwide each year.

In a statement, Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz said the government is "determined to project" the Philippines as the world premier dive destination, seeing the huge revenue potential in strengthening the niche tourism.

FlorCruz said diving contributed over PHP73 billion to the Philippine tourism in 2023 alone, twice the revenue it generated in 2022.

The DOT office in Beijing led the country's participation in the DRT and was joined by at least 12 Philippine-based dive shops, resorts and liveaboards.

The country is focused on developing a number of specialized tourism segments, with dive tourism on top of its priority. - PNA





HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades and parties – festivities very similar to those outlined by the first proposal for a holiday, which suggested that the day should be observed with – a street parade to exhibit “the strength and *esprit de corps* of the trade and labor organizations” of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. - Source: *Department of Labor*