

RYAN WESLEY ROUTH INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP

On September 15, a federal grand jury in Miami returned an indictment charging Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii, with attempting to kill former President Donald J. Trump at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

"Violence targeting public officials endangers everything our country stands for, and the Department of Justice will use every available tool to hold Ryan Routh accountable for the attempted assassination of former President Trump charged in the indictment," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The Justice Department will not tolerate violence that strikes at the heart of our democracy, and we will find and hold accountable those who perpetrate it. This must stop."

According to allegations in a complaint affidavit and a factual proffer filed with the court, former President Trump was golfing at Trump International on Sept. 15, and a Secret Service agent conducting a perimeter security sweep saw the partially obscured face of a man — later identified as Routh — in the brush along the fence line near the sixth hole. The agent observed the barrel of a rifle aimed directly at him. As the agent began backing away, he saw the rifle barrel move, and the agent fired at Routh.

A witness saw Routh running across the road from the golf course and getting into a black Nissan Xterra. Based on information provided by the witness, Routh was later apprehended heading north-

bound on I-95 by officers from the Martin County, Florida, Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Court documents allege that in the area where Routh had been hiding in the tree line, FBI agents located an SKS semiautomatic rifle with a scope attached and an extended magazine. Hanging from the fence was a backpack and a reusable shopping bag that each contained a plate capable of stopping small arms fire.

According to the allegations filed with the court, FBI agents found documents that contained a handwritten list of dates in August, September, and October and venues where the former President had appeared or was expected to be present.

According to the factual proffer filed with the court, a civilian witness contacted law enforcement stating that Routh had dropped off a box at his residence several months ago. In the box was a handwritten letter from Routh addressed "Dear World," which stated, "This was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump but I am so sorry I failed you."

Routh was charged with attempted assassination of a major presidential candidate, possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, assaulting a federal officer (a Secret Service Agent), felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. If convicted, Routh faces a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Women's rights activists at UN call for inclusion in negotiations with Taliban



U.S. actress Meryl Streep, second from right, attends an event about the Inclusion of Women in the Future of Afghanistan. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City, Sept. 23, 2024.

WASHINGTON — Afghan women and their international supporters are calling for the inclusion of women in any negotiations on the future of Afghanistan amid the Taliban's increasing restrictions on women in the country.

In a side event on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly, co-hosted by Ireland, Indonesia, Switzerland and Qatar together with the Women's Forum on Afghanistan, women's activists called on the international community to stand with Afghan women in the face of the Taliban's repressive measures.

Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep, who participated in the meeting, said Afghan women have been stripped of their rights under the Taliban.

"A bird may sing in Kabul but a girl may not, and a woman may not in public," she said. "This is extraordinary. This is a suppression of the natural law. This is odd."

Streep was referring to the Taliban's newly imposed morality law that prohibits women from speaking aloud in public. - VOA

Battle to ban TikTok in US gets underway

HOUSTON, US — The battle over whether to ban TikTok in the US and remove the Chinese social media and video-sharing platform from app stores nationwide got underway Monday in a federal appeals court.

TikTok and its parent company ByteDance argued before a three-judge panel at the US Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C. Circuit that the ban violates their Constitutional right of the First Amendment's freedom of speech and expression.

The ban was originally instated after Congressional concerns about the China-based company compiling and disseminating user data, especially since the Beijing government is considered an adversary to the United States.

US officials have warned for years that China could gain access to millions of users' data and use it to manipulate or



spy on Americans, according to media outlets.

Lawmakers pushed to have the ban approved and President Joe Biden signed the legislation into law back in April, requiring TikTok to either be sold or face the January deadline to be removed from all US app stores, including play stores from tech giants Google and Apple. - Anadolu

News Breakers

World's biggest trade show for railways opens in Berlin

The world's largest rail-transport trade show opened in Berlin on September 24. The spotlight is on artificial intelligence and cleaner fuels as railways draw attention as a low-carbon transport option.

More than 2,900 companies from almost 60 countries and territories are taking part in InnoTrans 2024. Swiss train maker Stadler Rail showcased a locomotive powered by hydrogen and batteries. The world's biggest train maker, China's CRRC, also displayed a hydrogen-powered engine that it says can run at least 1,000 kilometers. - NHK

FTC cracks down on deceptive AI claims and schemes

The Federal Trade Commission is taking action against multiple companies that have relied on artificial intelligence as a way to supercharge deceptive or unfair conduct that harms consumers, as part of its new law enforcement sweep called Operation AI Comply.

The cases include actions against a company promoting an AI tool that enabled its customers to create fake reviews, a company claiming to sell "AI Lawyer" services, and multiple companies claiming that they could use AI to help consumers make money through online storefronts.

Hezbollah fires first-ever ballistic missile near Tel Aviv

The Lebanese Shia Muslim group Hezbollah announced that on September 25 it launched one ballistic missile against the headquarters of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, Israel's largest commercial city. The group said it conducted the attack, as the Mossad is involved in the assassination of its leaders and setting off explosions using pagers and wireless devices. The Israeli military announced that they intercepted the Hezbollah missile by the air defense system and struck a military facility in southern Lebanon from which the missile was launched. - NPR

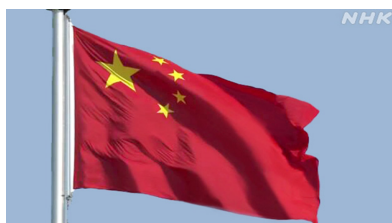
Kim Jong Un's sister denounces US nuclear submarine's arrival in S. Korea

The sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has denounced the arrival of a US nuclear-powered submarine in South Korea. Kim Yo Jong issued a statement on the matter through the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

She said North Korea's Aerospace Reconnaissance Agency detected the latest US submarine at a port in Busan in the southeastern part of South Korea on September 23. She also said, "This reveals the frantic military and strategic attempt of the US hell-bent on intentionally demonstrating the 'superiority of strength' before the world."

Kim added that North Korea "will continue to inform that all the ports and military bases" of South Korea "are not safe places." - NHK

China announces launch of ICBM as part of training program



China's defense ministry says it has launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that landed in the open waters of the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday.

The ministry says the missile carried a mock warhead for training purposes. It says the launch was based on an annual training program, and that it was in line with international law and not directed at any country.

NEWSOM SIGNS BILLS TO PROTECT PERFORMERS' DIGITAL LIKENESS

SACRAMENTO — Governor Gavin Newsom signed two bills to help actors and performers protect their digital likenesses in audio and visual productions, including those who are deceased. This legislation will help ensure the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital media technologies in entertainment by giving workers more protections.

A big step forward for protecting workers in the evolving AI space! @SAGAFTRA President @FranDrescher joins Gov. @GavinNewsom to celebrate two new laws ensuring performers' legal rights when negotiating digital replicas & setting rules for recreating performers who've passed.

Japan approves new drug 'donanemab' to treat Alzheimer's disease

Japan's health ministry has officially approved the domestic production and sale of a new drug for Alzheimer's disease. Donanemab was developed by major US pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly. The ministry gave the greenlight on Tuesday, after a panel of experts endorsed the drug last month.

Donanemab is an antibody drug designed to slow the progression of dementia symptoms, by removing plaques of amyloid beta protein in the patient's brain. An excessive buildup of the protein is said to result in the destruction of nerve cells.

Donanemab will be available to people with mild cognitive impairment, or those in the early stage of dementia. Donanemab is the second Alzheimer's drug to be approved in Japan that directly targets a specific cause of the disease. The first drug, lecanemab, was approved last year. - NHK

Israel bombards Lebanon for second day as death toll tops 560

Israel bombarded Hezbollah militant targets in Lebanon again on Tuesday, with the death toll from airstrikes since Monday mounting to 564, along with another 1,835 injured.

In all, Israel said it struck 1,600 sites, with Lebanese health officials saying 50 children had been killed in the barrage, along with at least 94 women.

The Israeli military said its strikes on Tuesday hit dozens of Hezbollah targets, including militants involved in launching several rounds of rockets at northern Israel.

Israel said one of its strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs killed Ibrahim Muhammad Kobeisi, identified by Israel as a senior Hezbollah military commander who oversaw Hezbollah's missile systems.

The United Nations refugee agency said it was "outraged and deeply sad-



Vehicles wait in traffic in the town of Damour, south of the capital Beirut, as people flee southern Lebanon, Sept. 24, 2024.

dened" by other Israeli attacks that killed two of its staff members.

Thousands of Lebanese, on their own and at the urging of Israel, have fled southern Lebanon in search of safety from the Israeli attacks, clogging roads north to Beirut. But Israel has also targeted sites in the capital, with one attack hitting a six-story building, killing six and injuring 15. - VOA News



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

No one should go hungry. But tonight, some of our neighbors will. Most of the pandemic-era programs that provided our neighbors the extra support they needed ended this summer.

The Washington Post put it this way. For the last few years, "More people got access to health care through Medicaid. Schools were able to provide more free meals. Food stamp recipients got more money."

Now it's over. That much-needed assistance has all but disappeared, and some families are being forced to choose between food, essential medicines and shelter. Expanded SNAP benefits are gone. Grocery prices are still rising. And many of our neighbors in D.C. and Maryland are once again struggling just to put food on the table.

Please make a gift to help meet the urgent need your neighbors are facing to feed themselves and take care of their children.

Your gift today can support:

- Our Southern Maryland Food Bank
- Our Spanish Catholic Center Food Pantry in DC
- Our SHARE Food Network throughout the region, which offers healthier grocery choices that are affordable and accessible
- Catholic Charities Center Pantry
- St. Maria's Meals

Our work changes lives. It creates opportunity. It ends isolation. It gives hope. But it isn't only what we do that matters—it's what you do. Your support is essential — it continues to be the "game-changer" in our most challenging efforts.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Many people we assist have jobs—often more than one. But inflation and the end of extended SNAP benefits and other programs mean that paychecks don't always make ends meet.

You can be the bridge to survival. Your impactful gift today can provide food to families and children at reduced cost, or even for free. Your gift can change lives. [Will you please give today?](#)

Please make a gift today to help more of your neighbors get the food and support they urgently need. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jim Malloy
President & CEO

P.S. Don't let your neighbors go hungry. Give them the help they need to eat tonight, and to thrive tomorrow.

Australian scientist develops new cancer screening test

BAKU – An Australian genomics researcher has developed a new cancer screening test, which takes seconds and could save thousands of lives, Anadolu Agency reports.

Stefan Mazy, who developed the DermR Patch with a team of four, said it could one day be an alternative to a biopsy, which is the most common method for diagnosing skin cancer. The first-of-its-kind technology harnesses the power of microneedles to identify cancerous lesions. The process is painless and quick. The whole process takes under a minute.

The first clinical trials took place in Western Australia's remote Pilbara region in May. While the final results are still pending, Mazy said early results look promising. A second and larger clinical trial is likely to happen within the next six to 12 months. - Anadolu



NASA astronaut Tracy C. Dyson, crewmates return from Space Station



NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson is helped out of a Russian Soyuz MS-25 space capsule, which also carried Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub, after its landing near Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, Sept. 23, 2024. (Roscosmos space corporation via AP)

NASA astronaut Tracy C. Dyson completed a six-month research mission aboard the International Space Station on Monday, September 23, returning to Earth with Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub, making a safe, parachute-assisted landing southeast of the remote town of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.

While aboard the orbiting laboratory, Dyson conducted multiple scientific and technology activities including the operation of a 3D bioprinter to print cardiac tissue samples, which could advance technology for creating replacement organs and tissues for transplants on Earth.

Dyson also participated in the crystallization of model proteins to evaluate the performance of hardware that could be used for pharmaceutical production and ran a program that used student-designed software to control the station's free-flying robots, inspiring the next generation of innovators.

Fat-burning protein variants, potential obesity treatment discovered



ISTANBUL – A recent study by Kobe University researchers in Japan has identified new protein variants that could explain why some people burn fat more effectively during exercise, offering potential pathways to obesity treatment.

The research, led by endocrinologist Ogawa Wataru, found that two variants of the protein PGC-1α, known as "b" and "c," are produced at much higher levels during short-term exercise.

These variants, unlike the previously known "a" version, are crucial for boosting energy metabolism and fat burning, according to the study.

Human trials showed that individuals producing more of the "b" and "c" versions are having lower body fat and higher oxygen consumption during workouts.

The study also found that these protein variants help regulate body temperature, further linking them to metabolic adaptations during short-term stimuli, such as exercise or cold exposure. (Anadolu)

UCLA is set to introduce ChatGPT Enterprise on campus – a first for California higher ed

In a move to further position UCLA at the forefront of artificial intelligence advancements and to bring focused innovative technology to UCLA and the University of California system, the campus is set to introduce OpenAI's ChatGPT Enterprise to its academic, administrative and research communities.



This agreement with OpenAI makes UCLA the first university in California to incorporate this advanced technology into its operations. The agreement, which was negotiated with support from the UC Office of the President, also paves the way for other UC campuses to access and use a UC-specific version of OpenAI's interactive and natural language-based tool.

Access to ChatGPT Enterprise — a version of ChatGPT intended for large organizations and tailored for University of California use — will be granted to UCLA students, faculty and staff engaged in initiatives to support their creativity and innovation in teaching, learning and research.

Jordan becomes first country to receive WHO verification for eliminating leprosy

The World Health Organization (WHO) congratulates the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for becoming the first country in the world to be officially verified as having eliminated leprosy. This significant milestone marks a new era in global public health efforts.

"WHO congratulates Jordan on this impressive milestone," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Leprosy has afflicted humanity for millennia, but country-by-country we are stopping transmission and freeing individuals, families and communities from its suffering and stigma."

"Jordan's elimination of this age-old disease is a historic milestone in public health and a huge success for efforts to eliminate leprosy globally," said Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia who heads WHO's Global Leprosy Programme. "The fight against leprosy around the world is more than a fight against a disease. It is also a fight against stigma, and a fight against psychological and socio-economic harm."

S. Korea's population to shrink over 30% in 2072

SEOUL – South Korea is projected to see its population drop significantly over the next 50 years, and its global population ranking fall by 30 notches over the ultra-low birth rate and rapid aging, data showed.

The country's population is projected to come to 36 million in 2072, down 30.8 percent from this year's 52 million. Its population peaked in 2020 and has been on a decline, according to the data by Statistics Korea.

The world population, however, is forecast to continue to rise during the cited period to reach 10.22 billion in 2072, compared with an estimated 8.16 billion this year.

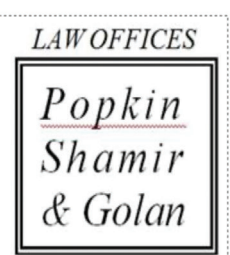
South Korea was the world's 29th most populous country in 2024, but the ranking is expected to fall to 59 in the 2072, the agency said.

The country is facing grim demographic challenges as many young people opt to postpone or give up on getting married or having babies due to changing social norms and lifestyles, as well as amid the tough job market and rising home prices. - Yonhap



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HISTORY MADE AT L.A. CITY HALL

Olympic and Paralympic flags as unveiled



Mayor Karen Bass speaks during the installation ceremony at City Hall.

LOS ANGELES – On Thursday, September 12, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass today marked the historic installation of the Olympic and Paralympic flags at Los Angeles City Hall alongside Olympic and Paralympic athletes, civic leaders, and LA28. The flag installation ceremony celebrated the return of the Olympic flag for the first time since 1984, and the arrival of the Paralympic flag for the first time, as Los Angeles prepares to host its first-ever Paralympic Games. With a theme of “Games For All,” the mayor pledged to benefit the entire city of Los Angeles through both the preparation for the Games, as well as the legacy that will endure in the decades to come.

This is a historic day in Los Angeles,” said Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. “Our mission, between now and our closing ceremonies, will be to ensure these Games are open to all



Olympic and Paralympic flags unveiled at Los Angeles City Hall.

– so that all Angelenos in every corner of our city benefit from this major, global event, not just during 2028, but starting now and for decades to come.”

The mayor’s top priorities include helping local, small businesses, creating local jobs, and delivering lasting environmental and transportation improvements throughout Los Angeles.

The Olympic and Paralympic flag display is complemented by displays of memorabilia commemorating the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Angelenos from all corners of the City are encouraged to visit the exhibits at Los Angeles City Hall, which will celebrate L.A.’s history as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement through the 100th anniversary of City Hall in 2028.

REP. KIM NAMED SMALL BUSINESS INVESTING CHAMPION; RECEIVES GUARDIAN OF SMALL BUSINESS AWARD



Rep. Young Kim named Small Business Investing Champion

Rep. Kim receives NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award

WASHINGTON, DC – On Tuesday, September 24 U.S. Representative Young Kim (CA-40) received the 2024 Champion of Small Business Investing Award from the Small Business Investor Alliance (SBIA) for her commitment to growing small businesses across the nation and advancing U.S. critical technologies and national security.

Rep. Kim serves on the House Financial Services Committee and was Ranking Member of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development in the 117th Congress.

“Small businesses support local economies, create jobs, and keep our communities running,” said Congresswoman Kim. “Entrepreneurs deserve our support as they adapt to keep their doors open and staff on payroll while dealing with inflation, tax hikes, supply chain backlogs, and labor shortages. I thank SBIA for the Small Business Investing Champion Award and will keep working on commonsense policies that cut regulatory costs and help our small business owners access the capital they need to expand and create more jobs.”

NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award

A week earlier, on September 18, U.S. Representative Young Kim received the Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federal of Independent Business (NFIB) for her consistent voting record and commitment to pro-growth, commonsense policies to support small businesses.

Rep. Kim serves on the House Financial Services Committee and was Ranking Member of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development in the 117th Congress.

UN adopts Pact for the Future to help address global challenges

ISTANBUL -- The UN General Assembly on September 22 unanimously adopted the Pact for the Future, along with its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

The comprehensive pact aims to strengthen global governance and tackle key challenges facing humanity, including sustainable development, international peace, and technological innovation, youth and future generations and transforming global governance. The pact also proposes detailed action plans to address these challenges.

General Assembly President Philemon Yang hailed the adoption as a “pledge to address immediate crises” and “lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order.” - Anadolu



UN General Assembly

Spain wants the 2026 Ibero-American Summit to strengthen the region’s voice in the world

Spain will again host the Ibero-American Summit, which will take place in 2026, after building consensus among all the Member States of the Ibero-American Conference.

The Government’s objective for this summit is to approve the Four-Year Action Plan for Ibero-American Cooperation 2026-29, to strengthen the relevance of the Ibero-American System of Nations and the voice of this region, which unites both sides of the Atlantic, around the world.

This will be Spain’s fourth summit, after hosting this event in 1992, 2005 and 2012 in Madrid, Salamanca and Cadiz, respectively.

This occasion will be particularly symbolic, being the thirtieth and coinciding



with the 35th anniversary of the first Ibero-American Summit held in 1991 in the Mexican city of Guadalajara.

The choice of Spain recognises our country’s commitment to the Ibero-American project, and the Government’s commitment to strengthening this forum for dialogue, political coordination and cooperation, unique in the world in terms of its nature and scope.

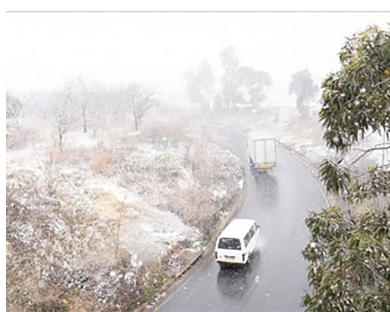
Unexpected snowfall causes widespread disruptions in South Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya – Rare and heavy snowfall blanketed parts of South Africa, leading to disruptions across the country, a national meteorological service announced Sunday.

The South African Weather Service said in a statement that the anomalous weather event caught many off guard, causing significant challenges for transportation, infrastructure, and daily life.

Major highways and roads have been closed due to the heavy snow buildup, leading to traffic jams and delays.

One X user under the name Kristy Tallman lamented the “exceptional snowfall in South Africa: Highway between Durban and Johannesburg BLOCKED due to ice and snow, causing serious disruptions.” Many people have taken to social media to post videos of the unprecedented snowfall.



Public transportation was also impacted, with some trains and buses unable to operate. Unconfirmed reports from local media suggest that two people have died from hypothermia due to the unprecedented snowfall.

Emergency services have been working around the clock to clear roads and restore power, residents have been urged to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel. - Anadolu

THE GREAT AMERICAN BBQ FESTIVAL 2024 RETURNS TO HANOI

HANOI – To mark the first anniversary of the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi hosted the Great American Barbeque Festival on September 13.

The event showcased American food, beverages, agricultural products, and culture to diners and food enthusiasts in Vietnam. The event was sponsored by USDA and its partner network from across the United States including the U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Pork, U.S. Beef, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council. The festival featured remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper, USDA Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, and a cooking demonstration.

Japan, Mongolia agree to aim for early signing of defense cooperation pact

Japan’s Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh have agreed to aim for the early signing of a bilateral defense cooperation pact.

The two leaders held talks in New York on Sunday, September 22.

They reaffirmed that maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law is becoming more important amid deepening conflict and division in the global community.

Kishida and Khurelsukh agreed to

further expand cooperation between the two countries as “special strategic partners.”

They welcomed that their governments have agreed in principle on the pact concerning the transfer of defense equipment and technology. They also agreed with the aim of signing it at an early date.

Referring to North Korea, the two sides confirmed that they will continue to work closely to call on the country to fully abide by UN Security Council resolutions.

UN Tourism spearheads executive training on rural development in Asia and Pacific

As part of its focus on rural development, UN Tourism has concluded an executive training session for sector leaders from across the Asia and the Pacific region.

Held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei (5-6 August 2024) the two-day titled ‘Practical Approach to Strategy and Product Development’ event brought together officials responsible for rural tourism strategy and product development from National Tourism Authorities (NTAs) and National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) across the region.



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22



Message from Ambassador Robert F. Godec on the 92nd Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother August 12, 2024

On behalf of the U.S. Government and the American people, I extend our warmest wishes to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother on the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty's 92nd birthday. We wish Her Majesty the best of health and happiness.

Her Majesty has been a steadfast friend to the United States and has significantly deepened the enduring friendship between our two great nations. Through the SUPPORT Foundation, Her Majesty has inspired many in Thailand and beyond with her deep compassion. She has made important contributions to improving the lives of Thai people across the Kingdom, and preserved and promoted the distinctive arts, craftsmanship, and traditions of Thailand over many decades. Her Majesty's long work to advance environmental causes is also a tribute to her insight and wisdom and has helped make the world better for us all.

At this auspicious time, we wish Her Majesty Happy Birthday and all Thai mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

UN Myanmar investigators monitor reports that 'executions may be imminent'

A United Nations team of investigators on Myanmar is closely monitoring reports that executions in the country could be imminent, its chief said on Monday, warning such a step could constitute a crime against humanity.

The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, formed in 2018 to analyze evidence of serious violations of international law, said it had received information that several individuals sentenced to death in closed-doors trials last year could soon be executed. - Reuters



File photo shows prison officers and police gather near a prison entrance in Yangon, Myanmar. Reports show several people sentenced to death in closed-doors trials in 2023 could soon be executed, a United Nations official said.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Direct Paris-Manila flights favorable for PH tourism

MANILA – Air France's resumption of its direct Manila-Paris flights after 20 years bodes well for the Philippine travel sector, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said, seeing it as a boost to French inbound arrivals. It also pins the confidence of other European airlines to mount nonstop service in the country.

"We are optimistic that this will pave the way for further expansion of direct flights to other key European destinations in the near future," Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco said in a statement Tuesday.

"Through this air route, we are



Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco (PNA file photo by Yancy Lim)

eager to welcome more visitors from France and the European Union, who will discover and love the unique charm

of our islands, the warmth of Filipino hospitality, and the richness of our culture and heritage."

Frasco said the mounting of direct Manila-Paris flights starting Dec. 8 would enhance ease of travel and provide the much-needed connectivity to Europe.

At a recent press conference, French Ambassador Marie Fontanel noted that the Philippines, to date, is the only Southeast Asian state without a direct connection to a European country.

Apart from France, Italy is also working with Manila to boost two-way travel between the two countries. - PNA

Filipinos in Japan must go green when hailing cabs

MANILA – Japan placed 17th in the latest Global Peace Index and it prides itself with 64 percent of tourists saying they feel safe, according to a survey conducted by its National Police Agency in October 2023.

Another study showed it was No. 14 in the 2023 most visited countries list while Filipino travelers ranked it 5th in a survey by a tour booking platform. However, there is one particular kind of street crime that Japan is not immune to: Unlicensed or illegal taxi services that target foreigners.

Pinoys Everywhere, a group of Filipino workers based in Tokyo, has one basic tip that tourists may not be aware of: Le-

gally licensed cabs in Japan have green plates while private or personal vehicles have white plates (shiro-taku).

In February, the *Asahi Shimbun* reported that Tokyo police arrested five Japanese and Chinese nationals on suspicion of operating unlicensed taxis that are catering to foreign tourists at Haneda Airport. Two of the five suspects used an accommodation reservation website to pick up passengers while the others victimized travelers who used a Chinese car-hailing app.

At airports, transport ministry officials hand out fliers in English and Chinese stating "Beware! Unlicensed taxis are illegal and unsafe!" to international visitors. - PNA

UN General Assembly debates Palestinian call for end to Israeli occupation

The United Nations General Assembly has begun deliberations on a Palestinian resolution demanding that Israel end its "unlawful presence" in the occupied Palestinian territory within 12 months.

Israel has occupied the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 1967. In July, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion describing Israel's presence as "unlawful".

The resolution also demands that Israel halt new settlement activity and evacuate settlers from the territory.

Palestinian ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour appealed for support for the resolution, saying "We want to live in freedom and sovereignty and dignity and peace and security in our ancestral land."

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon called for the resolution to be rejected, describing it as "diplomatic terrorism." In an interview with NHK earlier this week, he dismissed the resolution as an empty gesture that would not support the Palestinian people nor Israel. He added that the Palestinians think "isolating Israel will be good for them. That's their mistake".

A General Assembly resolution is not legally binding, but the draft asks for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to submit a report within three months on the implementation of the resolution.

A number of nations have co-sponsored the resolution, including Muslim countries. It is expected to be put to a vote after member states have expressed their opinions.

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

A reinvigorated multilateral system is the best way to address urgent global challenges, such as the wars in Ukraine, Middle East, and Sudan. The Pact for the Future provides us with a way forward!



Secretary-General António Guterres (second from right) meets with Charles Michel (second from left), President of the European Council of the European Union.

Amazon requires employees to be in office 5 days a week

US tech giant Amazon says it is requiring its employees to return to the office five days a week, just as they did before the coronavirus pandemic. The firm cites advantages of working together in the office as the reason for the decision.

In a message shared with employees on Monday, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said, "we've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way we were before the onset of COVID." He said it was "to deliver the absolute best for customers and the business."

Jassy also said, "when we look back over the last five years, we continue to believe that the advantages of being together in the office are significant."

The decision reflects the company's view that it is more beneficial for employees to learn from one another and for teams to become better connected by working in the office than working remotely. - NHK

US to supply \$228 million worth of military spare parts to Taiwan

The United States has decided on a foreign military sale to Taiwan of spare parts and related equipment for an estimated cost of 228 million dollars.

The US government on Monday announced the return, repair and reshipment of spare parts for aircraft and related equipment to Taiwan, and that it notified Congress of the sale.

The government said the proposed sale will improve Taiwan's ability to meet current and future threats.

Taiwan's foreign ministry says this is the 16th announcement of arms provision to Taiwan by the US administration under President Joe Biden. - Anadolu

607th year of ancient Sulu king's visit to China commemorated

DEZHOU CITY, China – The 607th anniversary of the visit to China in 1417 of Paduka Batará, King of the Eastern Kingdom of Sulu, was recently commemorated here in a ceremony presided over by Princess Jacel Kiram of Sulu.

Princess Kiram said Paduka Batará's mausoleum in China is a testament that Sulu was once a great nation.

For the current Filipino-Chinese relationship to move forward on the right track, she said it is necessary to

strengthen exchanges and people-to-people relations, similar to commemorating Paduka Batará's contribution to the relationship between the Philippines and the Chinese.

Kiram emphasized that it is good for the Philippines and China to have a strong people-to-people relationship, and that political issues must be separated. The princess said that "we will not join politics because that is only temporary." (CMG-SF)



Paduka Batará, King of the Eastern Kingdom of Sulu. (CMG-FS)

INM Book Choice

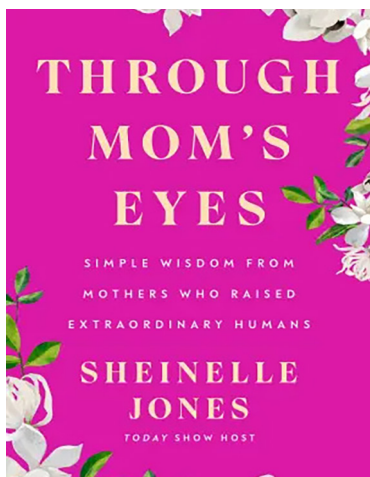
THROUGH MOM'S EYES: Simple Wisdom From Mothers Who Raised Extraordinary Humans

By Sheinelle Jones

From the beloved TODAY show host Sheinelle Jones comes an inspiring collection of heartfelt life-lessons from hard working moms who raised some of our favorite celebrities.

When Sheinelle Jones launched "Through Mom's Eyes," a recurring TODAY show segment interviewing celebrities' mothers about raising successful kids, she had an ulterior motive—she wanted to bring all their wisdom to bear on raising her own three children. So she asked Lin-Manuel Miranda's mom about staying present with kids while working multiple demanding jobs, talked with Lady Gaga's mom about how to recognize bullying, and got tips from Steph Curry's mom on making sure even future NBA royalty does the dishes. She has since interviewed dozens of remarkable women, and then taken their advice home and tried it out on her own family. The result: an extraordinarily candid, warm, and insightful collection of wisdom that has taught Sheinelle valuable lessons about life, love, and parenthood.

Now in her first book, *Through Mom's Eyes*, Sheinelle is ready to share even more of those life-changing secrets (along with her own experiences and stories) with the world. By



combining behind-the-scenes insights from top celebrity mothers—such as the moms of Matthew McConaughey, Serena and Venus Williams, and Padma Lakshmi—with her own tales from the trenches of modern parenting, Sheinelle reveals how to make it through the hard parts of motherhood and still tap into the joys of it with empathy, generosity, and solidarity.

Part parenting guide, part insight into the rich and famous, and all heart, *Through Mom's Eyes* is a beautiful celebration of those who are the guiding light for their loved ones—mothers.

4 Steps to Food Safety

HOW DO YOU PREVENT FOOD POISONING?

Did you know that an estimated 1 in 6 Americans will get sick from food poisoning this year alone? Food poisoning not only sends 128,000 Americans to the hospital each year—it can also cause long-term health problems. You can help keep your family safe from food poisoning at home by following these four simple steps: clean, separate, cook and, chill.

Clean: Wash Hands, Utensils, and Surfaces Often

Germs that can make you sick can survive in many places around your kitchen, including your food, hands, utensils, cutting boards, and countertops.

Wash your hands the right way:

- Use plain soap and water—skip the antibacterial soap—and scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

- Rinse hands, then dry with a clean towel.

- Wash your hands often, especially during these key times when germs can spread:

1. Before, during, and after prepar-

ing food

2. After handling raw meat, poultry, seafood, or their juices, or uncooked eggs

3. Before eating

4. After using the toilet

5. After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet

6. After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste

7. After touching garbage

8. Before and after caring for someone who is sick

9. Before and after treating a cut or wound

10. After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

11. After handling pet food or pet treats.

Wash surfaces and utensils after each use:

- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops with hot, soapy water, especially after they've held raw meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs.

- Wash dish cloths often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.

Wash fruits and vegetables, but not meat, poultry, or eggs

Source: foodsafety.gov

FRUITS IN SEASON



STRAWBERRIES

In India, strawberry season is generally from November until April, with January and February being the best months.



PEARS

In season from late summer through October, pears can be used in both sweet and savory recipes.



GRAPES

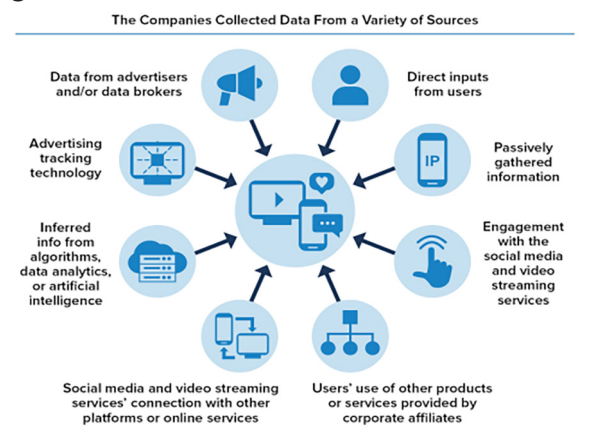
Grapes are in season during autumn and come in many varieties, including red, green, and purple. Grapes are high in antioxidants and can help improve heart health.

FTC staff report finds large social media and video streaming companies have engaged in vast surveillance of users with lax privacy controls and inadequate safeguards for kids and teens

A new Federal Trade Commission staff report that examines the data collection and use practices of major social media and video streaming services shows they engaged in vast surveillance of consumers in order to monetize their personal information while failing to adequately protect users online, especially children and teens.

The staff report is based on responses to 6(b) orders issued in December 2020 to nine companies including some of the largest social media and video streaming services: Amazon.com, Inc., which owns the gaming platform Twitch; Facebook, Inc. (now Meta Platforms, Inc.); YouTube LLC; Twitter, Inc. (now X Corp.); Snap Inc.; ByteDance Ltd., which owns the video-sharing platform TikTok; Discord Inc.; Reddit, Inc.; and WhatsApp Inc.

The report found that the companies collected and could indefinitely retain troves of data, including information from data brokers, and about both users and non-users of their platforms. The staff report further highlights that many companies engaged in broad data sharing that raises serious concerns regarding the adequacy of the companies' data handling con-



controls and oversight. In particular, the staff report noted that the companies' data collection, minimization and retention practices were "woefully inadequate." In addition, the staff report found that some companies did not delete all user data in response to user deletion requests.

PRAYER

Renew My Mind, Body and Soul

O' Holy One

I come before you today in need of your healing hand.

In you all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul.

I am lost, but I come to you with grace.

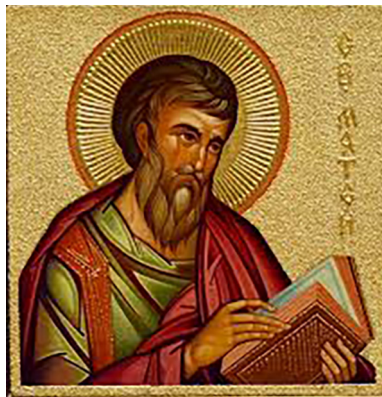
You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy.

Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me.

Guide me towards better health, and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed around me to help me get better.

- Author Unknown

DID YOU KNOW?



ST. MATTHEW

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

Recipe

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 (nonfat)

- 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.

Meal Type: Lunch

Category: 30 Minutes or Less, Kid-Friendly

Food group: Fruits, Vegetables, Protein, Grains

Season: Spring, Summer

Source: USDA, MyPlate



Rosemarie Mejia

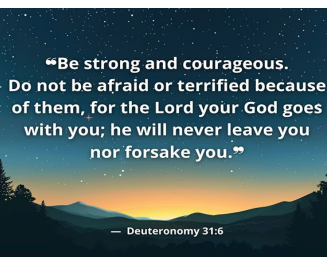
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Stay up to date on vaccines for fewer sick days as we head into colder months

SACRAMENTO – Limiting the spread of respiratory viruses helps everyone, especially vulnerable members of our community like children, older adults and those who are immunocompromised.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is encouraging all Californians to get vaccinated this season to protect themselves and their loved ones from respiratory viruses.

Respiratory infections like flu, COVID-19, and RSV are common during the fall and winter seasons, and getting immunized against these diseases has



been proven safe and effective in preventing serious illness and death in children and adults.



SPONSOR A BOYS TOWN FAMILY HOME

Your monthly gift helps children with broken hearts become whole again.

For more than 45 years, the Boys Town Family Home Program has been a beacon of hope for at-risk youth from across the United States. One that helps forgotten children find their way to a loving family, sound education and spiritual guidance.

A small commitment from you, makes a big difference in the lives of the kids and families we serve. And as a family sponsor, you'll get to hear about all of it in quarterly updates, right from the heart of your Family Home!

Thank you for your kind gifts of love.

FTC takes action against Invitation Homes

The Federal Trade Commission is taking action against Invitation Homes, the country's largest landlord of single-family homes, for an array of unlawful actions against consumers, including deceiving renters about lease costs, charging undisclosed junk fees, failing to inspect homes before residents moved in, and unfairly withholding tenants' security deposits when they moved out.

Invitation Homes has agreed to a proposed settlement order that would require the company to turn over \$48 million to be used to refund consumers harmed by its actions. The corporate landlord will also be required to clearly disclose its leasing prices, establish policies and procedures to handle security

deposit refunds fairly, and stop other unlawful behavior.

"Invitation Homes, the nation's largest single-family home landlord, preyed on tenants through a variety of unfair and deceptive tactics, from saddling people with hidden fees and unjustly withholding security deposits to misleading people about eviction policies during the pandemic and even pursuing eviction proceedings after people had moved out," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. "No American should pay more for rent or be kicked out of their home because of illegal tactics by corporate landlords. The FTC will continue to use all our tools to protect renters from unlawful business practices."

TAX SCAM WARNING SIGNS

Scammers mislead you about tax refunds, credits and payments. They pressure you for money, personal, financial or employee information.

Watch out for:

- A big payday - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Demands or threats - Impersonators want you to pay "now or else." They threaten arrest or deportation.
- Website links - Odd or misspelled web links can take you to malicious sites instead of IRS.gov.

Impersonators don't let you question or appeal the amount of tax you owe. Know your taxpayer rights.

How to know it's the IRS

Here's how to know it's really us contacting you:

- Email - We email you only with

your permission.

- Mail - Typically, we contact you first by U.S. mail. Most IRS letters include a letter or number.
- Social media - You can follow us, but we never contact you about your taxes on social media.
- Text message - We only send you text messages with your permission.
- Website - Our official web address is IRS.gov.
- Phone call - Typically, we mail you first. We might call about an audit or to verify information.
- Fax - Sometimes we send a fax to verify employment or request reported income or withholdings.
- In-person visit - Generally, we notify you by mail before we visit your home or business. - Source: IRS

Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Travel Advisory

Updated to reflect U.S. government restrictions on travel to Northern Israel, and information for U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents and qualifying immediate family members seeking assistance in Gaza.

Do Not Travel To:

- Gaza due to terrorism and armed conflict
- Northern Israel within 2.5 miles of the Lebanese and Syrian borders due to rising tensions between Hizballah and Israel

Reconsider Travel To:

- Israel due to terrorism and civil unrest

- West Bank due to terrorism and civil unrest
- Country Summary: Terrorist groups, lone-actor terrorists and other violent extremists continue plotting possible attacks in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Terrorists and violent extremists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities. Violence can occur in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza without warning.

Some areas have increased risk. Read the country information page for additional information on travel to Israel and the West Bank, and Gaza. - US Department of State

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE VOLUNTEER LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

Job Description

Interns are routinely assigned to perform legal research and writing assignments in federal civil, criminal, or appellate cases. Interns work closely with Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) on case development and formulation of legal strategy. Interns are afforded regular opportunities to attend and observe various court proceedings.

Qualifications

- Second and third-year law students only.
- Strong academic standing and research skills.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens.
- All students selected for internship are subject to a background investigation, to include credit check and fingerprinting, and must be granted a favorable security waiver in lieu of a full-field background investigation or a favorable full-field background investigation in order to work in this Office.

• During the period of the internship, interns are not permitted to work for any other law firm, legal clinic, or other entity engaged in the practice of law.

• Applicants must have resided in the U.S. for three of the five years immediately prior to applying (unless the period of outside residency was pursuant to military service or federal employment).

For more information, go to: <https://www.justice.gov/legal-careers/volunteer-legal-internships>

Be cautious when connected to the internet

Everyday tasks—opening an email attachment, following a link in a text message, making an online purchase—can open you up to online criminals who want to harm your systems or steal from you. Preventing internet-enabled crimes and cyber intrusions requires each of us to be aware and on guard.

Protect Your Systems and Data

- Keep systems and software up to date and install a strong, reputable anti-virus program.
- Create a strong and unique passphrase for each online account you hold. Using the same passphrase across several accounts makes you more vulnerable if one account is breached.
- Do not open any attachments unless you are expecting the file, document, or invoice and have verified the sender's email address.

Protect Your Connections

- Be careful when connecting to a public Wi-Fi network and do not conduct any sensitive transactions, including purchases, when on a public network.

Protect Your Money and Information

- Examine the email address in all



correspondence and scrutinize website URLs. Scammers often mimic a legitimate site or email address by using a slight variation in spelling.

- Do not click the link in an unsolicited text message or email that asks you to update, check, or verify your account information.
- Carefully scrutinize all electronic requests for a payment or transfer of funds.
- Be extra suspicious of any message that urges immediate action.
- Make online purchases with a credit card for an extra layer of protection against fraud.
- Do not send money to any person you meet online or allow a person you don't know well to access your bank account to transfer money in or out.

USCIS extends Green Card validity extension to 36 months for Green Card renewals

Effective Sept. 10, 2024, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services automatically extended the validity of Permanent Resident Cards (also known as Green Cards) to 36 months for lawful permanent residents who file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card.

Lawful permanent residents who properly file Form I-90 to renew an expiring or expired Green Card may receive this extension. Form I-90 receipt notices had previously provided a 24-month extension of the validity of a Green Card.

USCIS has updated the language on Form I-90 receipt notices to extend the validity of a Green Card for 36 months from the expiration date on the face of the current Green Card for individuals with a newly filed Form I-90 renewal request. On Sept. 10, USCIS began printing amended receipt notices for individuals with a pending Form I-90.

These receipt notices can be presented with an expired Green Card as evidence of continued status and employment authorization.

This extension is expected to help applicants who experience longer processing times, because they will receive proof of lawful permanent resident status as they await their renewed Green Card.

If you no longer have your Green Card and you need evidence of your lawful permanent resident status while waiting to receive your replacement Green Card, you may request an appointment at a USCIS Field Office by contacting the USCIS Contact Center, and we may issue you an Alien Documentation, Identification, and Telecommunications (ADIT) stamp after you file Form I-90. - USCIS

Real Estate

Where is new construction creating affordable housing options? Look to the South and the West

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- On September 18, Realtor.com® launched a brand new report "New Construction Insights," which found South Carolina, North Carolina and Idaho lead the way when it comes to new home construction. This report creates a ranking for states looking at volume, affordability, and future growth of the new construction inventory and found that the top ten states are located South or West regions with the Carolinas leading the way.

"This will come as no surprise as the South and West have the fastest growing overall levels of inventory," said Joel Berner, senior Economist, Realtor.com® "For prospective buyers interested in purchasing a newly built home, these ten states have more newly built options that are more affordable, and fastest-growing. In other parts of the country, purchasing a newly built home may be more challenging until new construction activity picks up."

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• People • Events •

Autumn is an exciting season to visit Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS – The Paris Olympics may be over, but Las Vegas has the cure for those suffering the lack of sports blues. This fall, the Sports and Entertainment Capital of the World will play host to a number of thrilling events, ranging from the Stanley Cup Champions Vegas Golden Knights at T-Mobile Arena and the Las Vegas Raiders at Allegiant Stadium to the Formula 1 Heineken Silver Las Vegas Grand Prix on the world-famous Las Vegas Strip, plus UFC 306 taking over Sphere for the first time.

Christina Aguilera headlines City of Hope Orange County's "Promises of Hope" celebration

Multiple Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Christina Aguilera performed at the "Promises of Hope" fundraiser of City of Hope®, one of the largest and most advanced cancer research and treatment organizations in the United States.



The Sept. 14 event at The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach was chaired by longtime City of Hope champion George Wall. Funds raised will benefit Orange County's only specialty cancer hospital, opening in 2025.

Japan-South Korea cultural exchange festival

A large-scale festival to celebrate cultural exchanges between Japan and South Korea was held in Seoul on September 22.

The 20th event aimed at deepening friendship between the two countries attracted young South Koreans who are interested in Japanese culture.

Visitors were shown how to wear summer kimono called yukata. They also enjoyed traditional Japanese culture, such as the tea ceremony and flower arrangement.

Japanese and South Korean singers and music groups gave performances, and children from Japan and South Korea sang together.



A booth promoting Japanese festival culture is seen at the Japanese-South Korean cultural exchange event in Seoul on Sept. 22, 2024. (Mainichi/Motomi Kusakabe)

PHILIPPINES HOSTS WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS GALA, CEMENTS STATUS AS A GLOBAL TOURISM

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—The Philippines, through its Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Philippines, proudly hosted the World Travel Awards (WTA) Asia & Oceania Gala Ceremony 2024 for the first time on September 3 at the City of Dreams Manila. This significant milestone underscored the country's prominence on the global tourism stage and reinforced its status as a world-class destination.

"The past two years have been a period of incredible growth and transformation for the Philippines. Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., we have embarked on a path of dynamic tourism development, investing heavily in infrastructure, improving connectivity across our beautiful archipelago, enhancing the overall tourism experience, and most importantly, investing in our greatest asset—our people," said Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco in her opening remarks.

"The Filipino people, with their innate warmth, resilience, and passion, are at the heart of Philippine tourism. They are the embodiment of the very essence of our culture—the genuine smiles, the unparalleled service, and the authentic experiences



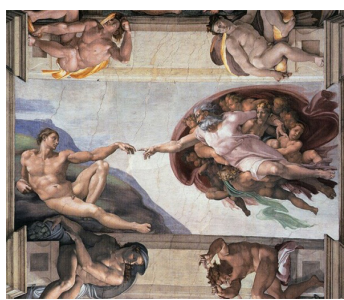
The Philippine Department of Tourism and its attached agencies celebrate the country's multiple wins

that leave a lasting impression on every traveler."

On a night filled with celebration and recognition, the Philippines secured numerous accolades that underscore the rich diversity of its destinations and the strong efforts being made to promote them.

Art

MICHELANGELO'S THE CREATION OF ADAM



The Creation of Adam is probably the most famous fresco in the Sistine Chapel and one of the most famous in modern art.

It was created by Italian sculptor and painter Michelangelo around 1511 and is located in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel inside the Vatican Museums.

It was one of the most complex and difficult paintings to make: it took sixteen days to complete. Michelangelo started with the figure of God and the Angels and later frescoed the figure of Adam.



SWEDEN

Sweden, country located on the Scandinavian Peninsula in northern Europe. The name Sweden was derived from the Svear, or Suiones, a people mentioned as early as 98 CE by the Roman author Tacitus. The country's ancient name was Svithiod. Stockholm has been the permanent capital since 1523. - Encyclopedia Britannica



The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces the complete cast for the stage production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

WASHINGTON —The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces the complete cast and creative team for the Broadway Center Stage production of the uproarious and irreverent Tony Award®-winning musical The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee featuring music by two-time Tony Award® winner William Finn and a book by Tony Award® winner Rachel Sheinkin.

Directed and choreographed by Danny Mefford with musical direction by Roberto Sinha, the all-star cast includes Philippe Arroyo as Chip Tolentino, Beanie Feldstein as Logan Schwartzandgrubenierre, Noah Galvin as Leaf Coneybear, Alex Joseph Grayson as Mitch Mahoney, Taran Killam as Vice Principal Douglas Panch, Kevin McHale as William Barfee, Tony Award® winner Bonnie Milligan as Rona Lisa Peretti, Nina White as Olive Ostrovsky, and Anna Zavelson as Marcy Park. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee plays the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater October 11–20, 2024.

Koreans rule World DanceSport Federation Cebu Open 2024

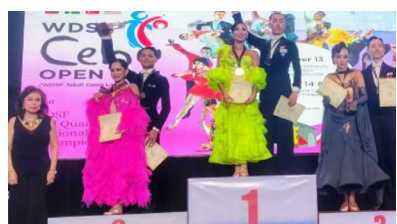
CEBU CITY – South Korea's Jung Hoon and Lee Yee-un delivered an awe-inspiring performance in the Standard Adult category to retain the title in the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) Cebu Open 2024 on Sunday night.

Showing their mastery in Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep, the Koreans impressed the judges and captivated the crowd at the ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino in Lahug.

Lee and Jung began dancing together in 2022, winning the King's Cup in Thailand.

Filipinos Sean Aranar and Ana Nualla, triple-gold winners at the Vietnam SEA Games, settled for second place followed by Chinese pair Sun Yulong and Li Jinming.

The Koreans also dominated the Latin category, with Hwang Yousung



Jung Hoon and Lee Yee-un of South Korea (center) won the Standard Adult category in the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) Cebu Open 2024 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino in Lahug on Sunday (Sept. 15, 2024). (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

and Jung Eun-ji showing their brilliant skills in Samba, Chacha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive. SEAG medalists Wilbert Aunzo and Pearl Marie Cañeda, both prides of Cebu City, settled for second place while Jefferson Pimentel and Mary Desiree Seraga finished third. - PNA

Sports

PH women's team wins gold at Chess Olympiad

MANILA – The Philippine women's team ended its campaign in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad with a 4-0 win over Brazil at the BOK Sports Hall in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday.

WFM (Woman FIDE Master) Shania Mae Mendoza, WGM (Woman Grandmaster) Janelle Mae Frayna, WIM (Woman International Master) Jan Jodilyn Fronda and WNM (Woman National master) Ruelle Canino won their matches in the 11th round as they finished with 14 points for joint 22nd with 14 others, and 24th overall after tiebreaks were applied.

They also took the gold medal in Group B, giving the Philippines its first medal since the team of Sheerie Joey Lomibao, Catherine Pereña, Sherily Cua and Beverly Mendoza won in Group C at the 2006 Turin edition.

In 1988, the team of Girmé Fontanilla, Mila Emperado and Cristina Santos-Fidaer placed 22nd in Thessaloniki, Greece.

"This is a milestone in Philippine chess history, a legacy that will not be forgotten for the generations to come," said national women's coach Grandmaster Jayson Gonzales, who acknowledged the support of delegation head Atty. Ruel Canobas, team manager Atty. Nikki de Vega and Far Eastern University chair Aurelio Montinola III.

The Philippine women's team also surpassed their 36th-place finish two years ago in Chennai, India. All five players improved their ratings, with Canino from Cagayan de Oro earning 102 rating points from scoring six points in eight games on board four.

The 16-year-old student from FEU will have a 2260 rating,



The Philippine women's team defeated Brazil, 4-0, in the 11th and final round of the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad at the BOK Sports Hall in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday (Sept. 22, 2024) to take home the Group B gold medal. From left are GM Jayson Gonzales (coach), WFM Shania Mae Mendoza, WGM Janelle Mae Frayna, WNM Ruelle Canino, WIM Bernadette Galas, WIM Jan Jodilyn Fronda and GM Eugene Torre (coach). (Contributed photo)

including points from previous tournaments in Europe.

Frayna secured eight points out of 11 with plus 27 rating points, while Mendoza of Sta. Rosa, Laguna had 5.5 out of 10 with 36.2 rating points as top board player.

Frona of Muntinlupa gained 6.5 out of 10 and was a plus 0.60 while Bernadette Galas got three of five with plus 8.8. - PNA

Heal me, LORD,
 and I will be healed;
 save me & I will be saved,
 for you are the one I praise.

-Jeremiah 17:14



CONSTITUTION DAY *and* CITIZENSHIP DAY

is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

The United States Congress designated September 17 as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on February 29, 1952, by joint resolution (36 U.S.C. 106). It begins Constitution Week in the United States, which continues through September 23.

Source: Wikipedia