

International NEWS MEDIA

FEBRUARY 2020

WINNERS SHINE AT OSCARS 2020



Bong Joon Ho with his multiple Oscars®. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Brad Pitt poses with the Oscar® for Actor In A Supporting Role. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Joaquin Phoenix poses with the Oscar® for Actor in a Leading Role. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Oscar® winner for Actress in a Supporting Role Laura Dern. (Credit: Jeff Lipsky / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Renée Zellweger with the Oscar® for Actress in a Leading Role. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)

DHS streamlines measures to help states in issuing REAL IDs

WASHINGTON — After soliciting ideas, solutions and proposals from the public, states, private sector, and relevant associations, DHS Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf sent letters to state governors informing them of increased flexibility regarding electronic submission of required documents for REAL ID applications. Specifically, the states may now add the pre-submission of identity and lawful status source documents, through a secure electronic process, prior to an applicant's in-person DMV visit, and physical presentation of those same documents for authentication and verification by DMV personnel. The result will be a faster, more streamlined process for DMVs and the American public.

DHS is providing greater flexibility to states to aid in faster and streamlined issuance of REAL IDs:

Ensuring every state is REAL ID compliant by October is a top priority.

48 of the 50 states are presently issuing REAL IDs, and all states are on track to be REAL ID compliant in the next few months. Nearly 100,000,000 Americans already have REAL IDs.

DHS is focused on ensuring more citizens can acquire them from their state before the enforcement deadline of October 1, 2020 at which a REAL ID or compliant alternative will be required for domestic air travel.

New York residents no longer eligible to apply for or renew trusted traveler programs

WASHINGTON — Effective immediately, residents of the State of New York will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew membership in U.S. Customs and Border Protection Trusted Traveler Programs due to state legislation that restricts CBP's access to certain criminal history information maintained by the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

In addition, the Vehicle Exports program will be affected. Vehicles titled in New York may be de-prioritized for export, as resource limitations require, when supporting documents cannot be authenticated through information sharing with New York DMV.

The decision comes as the State of New York implements the "Driver's License Access and Privacy Act," which prohibits CBP from accessing information maintained by the New York DMV. Without access to this information, CBP cannot properly complete security checks for Trusted Traveler Program applications and renewals submitted by New York residents, greatly increasing our security risk. New York residents will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew membership in CBP Trusted Traveler Programs and CBP will cancel all pending Trusted Traveler Program applications submitted by residents of New York. Refunds will be processed automatically.

• special in this issue •

3 BI WON'T ALLOW JEJU-BOUND PINOYS TO LEAVE SANS VISA
The Bureau of Immigration (BI) said it will no longer allow Filipino tourists bound for the island tourist destination of Jeju, South Korea to leave in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

4 UNWTO STATEMENT ON THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK
The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is closely monitoring developments related to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), both in China and worldwide and is cooperating closely with the World Health Organization (WHO).

5 SECRETARY DEVOS EXPANDS EARN, LEARN OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced today the creation of a new initiative that allows more students to gain on-the-job experience with employers in their field of study as part of their Federal Work-Study (FWS) program. The initiative, known as an experimental site, expands FWS opportunities for students at 190 institutions.

6 USCIS UPDATES PROCESS FOR PETITIONS FOR RELATIVES ABROAD
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that, as part of the adjustment of its international footprint to increase efficiencies, Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, will only be processed domestically by USCIS or internationally by the Department of State in certain circumstances beginning Feb 1, 2020.

Grand jury indicts 3 top administrators of PHL Church

IN SCHEME TO TRAFFIC WORKERS AND DEFRAUD IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

SANTA ANA, California — A federal grand jury has charged three top administrators of a Philippines-based church with overseeing a labor trafficking scheme that forced church members to solicit donations for a bogus charity after the defendants illegally obtained visas and other immigration documents that allowed the workers to enter and remain in the United States.

The one-count indictment returned by the grand jury alleges a conspiracy to commit a series of offenses, including trafficking with respect to forced labor, document servitude, immigration fraud and marriage fraud.

The three defendants were arrested last month after being named in a criminal complaint that alleged a conspiracy to commit immigration fraud. The indictment expands the scope of the alleged scheme and includes new details about the immigration fraud portion of the scheme.

The core allegations of the case are that representatives of the church — the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, The Name Above Every Name (KOJC) — obtained visas for church members to enter the US by claiming, for example, they

would be performing at musical events. But once the church members arrived in the United States, they were required to surrender their passports and work long hours as "FTWs" (full-time workers), who solicited donations for a church non-profit called the Children's Joy Foundation USA (CJF).

While the workers raised funds by telling donors their money would benefit impoverished children in the Philippines, the indictment alleges that most or all of the money raised was used to finance KOJC operations and the lavish lifestyles of church leaders.

While some KOJC workers knew they were entering the US to be fundraisers, the indictment alleges "other KOJC workers were unaware of the actual purpose until they were forced... to solicit on the streets nearly every

day, year-round, working very long hours, and often sleeping in cars overnight, without normal access to over-the-counter medicine or even clothes."

The three defendants charged in the indictment are:

Guia Cabactulan, 59, the lead KOJC administrator in the United States who maintained direct communication with KOJC leadership in the Philippines;

Marissa Duenas, 41, who allegedly secured the passports immediately after workers entered the U.S. and handled fraudulent immigration documents for KOJC workers; and

Amanda Estopare, 48, who allegedly was in charge of tracking and reporting the money raised in the U.S. to KOJC officials in the Philippines.

Wells Fargo to pay \$3B to resolve criminal and civil investigations

Wells Fargo & Company and its subsidiary, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., have agreed to pay \$3 billion to resolve their potential criminal and civil liability stemming from a practice between 2002 and 2016 of pressuring employees to meet unrealistic sales goals that led thousands of employees to provide millions of accounts or products to customers under false pretenses or without consent, often by creating false records or misusing customers' identities, the Department of Justice announced today.

As part of the agreements with the United States Attorney's Offices for the Central District of California and the Western District of North Carolina, the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Civil Division, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, Wells Fargo admitted that it collected millions of dollars in fees and interest to which the Company was not entitled, harmed the credit ratings of certain customers, and unlawfully misused customers' sensitive personal information, including customers' means of identification.

The US announces assistance to combat the novel coronavirus

This week the State Department has facilitated the transportation of nearly 17.8 tons of donated medical supplies to the Chinese people, including masks, gowns, gauze, respirators, and other vital materials.

The United States government is announcing it is prepared to spend up to \$100 million in existing funds to assist China and other impacted countries, both directly and through multilateral organizations, to contain and combat the novel coronavirus. This commitment — along with the hundreds of millions generously donated by the American private sector — demonstrates strong U.S. leadership in response to the outbreak.

This assistance only adds to what the United States has done to strengthen health security programs around the world. For the last 20 years, the United States through USAID has invested over one billion dollars to strengthen the capacity of more than 25 countries to prevent, detect, and respond to existing and emerging infectious disease threats. Since 2015, under our commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS), this support has helped improve surveillance and laboratory systems, risk communication, outbreak response, and address the rising threat of anti-microbial resistance.



FDA is working with U.S. Government partners, including CDC, and international partners to closely monitor an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

The 92nd Oscars® at the Dolby® Theatre, Hollywood, CA February 9, 2020



Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President David Rubin and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences CEO Dawn Hudson. (Credit: Robert Gladden / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Oscar® nominee, Sam Mendes (R) and Alison Balsom arrives on the red carpet of The 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Robert Gladden / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



(l-r) George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman. (Credit: Robert Gladden / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



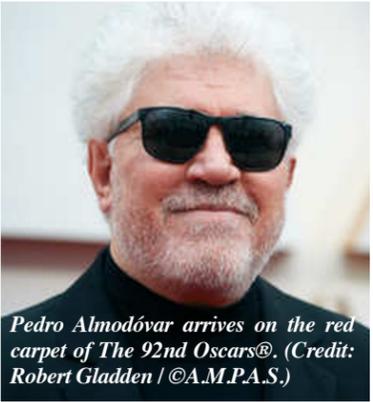
Jane Fonda presents the Oscar® for Best Picture to Kwak Sin Ae and the cast and crew of "Parasite." (Credit: Todd Wawrychuk/©A.M.P.A.S.)



Oscar® winner Taika Waititi. (Credit: Jeff Lipsky / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



James Corden and Julia Carey. (Credit: Robert Gladden / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Pedro Almodóvar arrives on the red carpet of The 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Robert Gladden / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Oscar® nominee, Jonathan Pryce (R) and guest arrive on the red carpet of The 92nd. (Credit: Valerie Durant / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Oscar winners, Laura Dern and Renée Zellweger pose with their respective Oscars®. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Diane Keaton and Keanu Reeves present the Oscar® for Original Screenplay. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



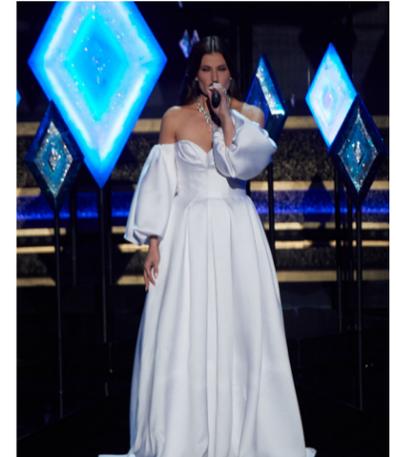
Finneas O'Connell and Billie Eilish perform during the "In Memoriam" segment of the live ABC Telecast of The 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Sandra Oh presents the Oscar® for Makeup and Hairstyling to Vivian Baker. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Aurora performs during the live ABC telecast of the 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Troy Harvey / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Idina Menzel performs during the live ABC telecast of the 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Michael Yada / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Steve Martin and Chris Rock during the live ABC Telecast of The 92nd Oscars® at the Dolby® Theatre in Hollywood, CA on Sunday, February 9, 2020. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Jonas Rivera, Mark Nielsen, and Josh Cooley accept the Oscar® for Animated Feature Film. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Stars during the live ABC telecast of the 92nd Oscars® at the Dolby® Theatre in Hollywood, CA on Sunday, February 9th, 2020. (Credit: Todd Wawrychuk / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Bong Joon Ho and Han Jin Won accept the Oscar® for Original Screenplay. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Janelle Monae arrives on the red carpet of The 92nd Oscars®. (Credit: Valerie Durant / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Maya Rudolph and Kristen Wiig present the Oscar® for Production Design. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Regina King presents the Oscar® for Actor In A Supporting Role to Brad Pitt during the live ABC Telecast of The 92nd Oscars® at the Dolby® Theatre in Hollywood, CA on Sunday, February 9, 2020. (Credit: Blaine Ohigashi / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Kwak Sin Ae and the cast and crew of "Parasite" accept the Oscar® for Best Picture. (Credit: Terekah Najuwani / ©A.M.P.A.S.)



Julia Louis-Dreyfus arrives on the red carpet of The 92nd Oscars®.



Elton John and Bernie Taupin pose backstage with the Oscar® for Original Song. (Credit: Nick Agro / ©A.M.P.A.S.)

First Major Australian Exhibition at the Smithsonian NMNH



With 2020 marking the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's arrival on the east coast of Australia, The Embassy of Australia is proud to support Beauty Rich and Rare at The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Ambassador Harris Meets Alumni of U.S. Exchange Programs in Cheongju



On January 21, 2020, Ambassador Harris met with alumni of U.S. exchange programs in Cheongju, Chunchongbukdo and learned about their experiences in the United States while eating a Korean meal together.

DA strengthens support for Manila Bay rehab



Agriculture Secretary William Dar (holding a sack) leads DA employees who joined in the clean up during the first year anniversary of the implementation of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program held at BASECO, in Port Area, Manila on Sunday, Jan. 26. (Photo courtesy of DA)

QUEZON CITY --The Department of Agriculture (DA) recently assured strengthened commitment expressed continuous and strengthened support in the Battle for Manila Bay through its various bureaus and attached agencies.

During the anniversary celebration of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program held at the Baseco Port Area on January 26, Agriculture Secretary William Dar directed Undersecretary for Fisheries and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Eduardo Gongona to monitor developments in the Manila Bay area regularly and promote aqua farming in Metro Manila.

He specifically instructed the BFAR to build up a baseline information system to identify when it is possible to raise and capture fish in Manila Bay.

According to Dar, the fisheries subsector comprises a big chunk of the agriculture sector as it contributes almost 19 percent in gross value. He added that areas in Metro Manila, Calabarzon Region, and Central Luzon Region are critical areas in bringing back Manila Bay into pristine condition.

BI won't allow Jeju-bound Pinoys to leave sans visa

MANILA -- The Bureau of Immigration (BI) said it will no longer allow Filipino tourists bound for the island tourist destination of Jeju, South Korea to leave in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

coronavirus outbreak.

BI port operations division chief Grifton Medina said the new travel ban policy was implemented after the Korean embassy in Manila informed the bureau on Monday that it was temporarily suspending the visa-free entry of Filipino tourists to Jeju.

"We have already instructed our immigration officers not to allow the departure of any Filipino bound for Jeju unless the passenger was issued a visa by the Korean embassy," Medina said.

The embassy announced the suspension a day after health authorities confirmed the first reported death outside China of an Ncov patient at the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila.

It was learned, however, that the suspension of visa-free entry privileges to Jeju applies not only to Filipinos but to all foreign tourists

as well.

Meanwhile, Medina said that almost 300 foreigners were already turned back at the airports as a result of the travel ban imposed on travelers directly arriving from China, Macau and Hongkong.

"This does not include the ones that did not deplane and reach immigration during the first day of implementation," said Medina.

Nonetheless, Medina said the BI expects a sharp drop in the number of passengers covered by the ban due the voluntary suspension by the airlines of their flights to and from the Philippines and the said three destinations.

He added that he already asked the different airlines to screen Manila-bound passengers at the port of origin and disallow the boarding of those who have traveled to China, Macau and Hongkong for the past 14 days. (BI)

Netherlands Tech Square opened at CES 2020 in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS -- Fifty innovative Dutch startups presented themselves this week at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the largest annual technology event in the world.

The Netherlands Tech Square, opened this morning in the presence of HRH Constantijn van Oranje of Techleap.nl, State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Mona Keijzer, Ambassador André Haspels, and the American Ambassador in the Netherlands Pete Hoekstra.

The Dutch pavilion is one of the largest single-country pavilions at CES, the largest annual technology event in the world where the latest technologies and next-generation innovations are shown to the market.

The 50 innovative startups presented their products to customers, investors, and companies. More than 180,000 visitors from more than 155 countries visit CES each January.

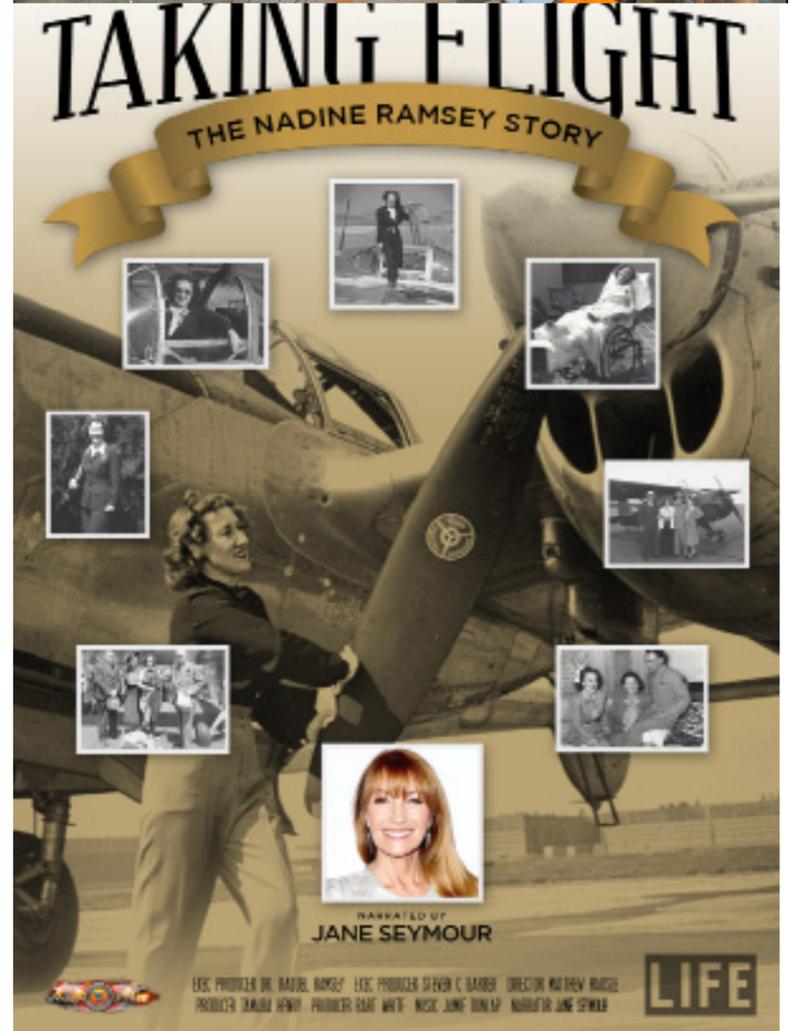
"This delegation showcases once again that the Netherlands combines world-class technology and entrepreneurs who want to utilize this to address major global challenges," said Prince Constantijn.

"Goal is to give them experience in the United States and make new connections with potential investors, customers, partners and distributors."

The Netherlands presents itself around the theme "Future-proof the world with us."

The pavilion was opened by virtually starting the solar car Lightyear with the help of the SenseGlove. Lightyear is an alumnus of the Netherlands Tech Square and was named one of the best inventions of 2019 by Time Magazine. Current Tech Square participant Sense Glove has developed a VR-glove, making it possible to feel certain movements that you see through your VR-goggles.

The 50 Dutch startups represented areas in which the Netherlands plays a leading role worldwide, including the future of life sciences, the future of education and enterprise, the future of consumer tech and smart home, the future of energy transition and e-mobility, the future of city living, and the circular economy.



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Destination Europe: Research and Innovation Opportunities in Europe

Thursday, February 13, 2020
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Destination Europe
Research Opportunities in Europe
University of Washington, Seattle



Destination Europe is an event showcasing the vibrant and exciting research and innovation culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers from anywhere in the world who are interested in working in Europe. A joint initiative of the European Union and its Member States, Destination Europe 2020 will take place at the University of Washington on the eve of the 2020 annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Seattle.

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Public Affairs

with **AWEE ABAYARI**



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For questions:

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA NETWORK

UNWTO statement on the novel coronavirus outbreak

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is closely monitoring developments related to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), both in China and worldwide and is cooperating closely with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Since the very start of the emergency, the Chinese authorities have acted swiftly and decisively. UNWTO expresses its solidarity with the Chinese people, its government and its tourism sector at these challenging times.

In recent years, China has emerged as a true global tourism leader, both as a source market and as a leading destination in itself, providing livelihoods for millions of people across the country. And tourism will offer a valuable lifeline as China recovers and rebuilds from this setback, just as the sector has proven its resilience many times before.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TOURISM

During times of crisis, tourism has to live up to its responsibility as an integral part of wider society. The sector must put people and their wellbeing first.

The cooperation of the tourism sector will be vital in stopping the spread of the virus and limiting its impact on people and communities. Tourists also have a responsibility to inform themselves before they travel in order to limit the threat of transmission, and they should follow the recommendations of the WHO and their own national health authorities.

Tourism is vulnerable to the effects of public health emergencies and is already being affected by this outbreak. However, it is too early to fully estimate the impacts this outbreak will have.

Inspection of alien-employing firms resumes

MANILA -- Despite the scare brought about by the dreaded nCoV, the labor department has resumed its special inspection of alien-employing establishments by deploying anew over 300 labor inspectors in key areas to inspect and verify the legitimacy of employment of foreign nationals.

In Administrative Order No. 46, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III sent out 323 Labor and Employment Officers (LEOs) to conduct verification inspection of establishments, including Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), across the country until June 30 this year.

The order was issued January 31.

The LEOs were joined by one regular labor inspector who serves as a team leader to supervise the conduct of verification inspection.

Bello also directed the regional directors to authorize the verification/inspection of identified establishments and workplaces.

In Luzon, 87 inspectors were dispatched in the National Capital Region, 11 in the Cordillera Administrative Region, 11 in the Ilocos region, 14 in the Cagayan Valley region, 37 in the Central Luzon region, 32 in CALABARZON, 12 in MIMAROPA, and 12 in the Bicol region.

Meanwhile, 11 LEOs will conduct the inspection in Western Visayas, 22 LEOs in Central Visayas, and 12 LEOs in Eastern Visayas.

In Mindanao, 12 labor inspectors were given authority to conduct verification inspection in the Zamboanga Peninsula region, 17 in the Northern Mindanao region, 12 in Davao region, 11 in SOCCSKSARGEN, and 10 in Caraga.

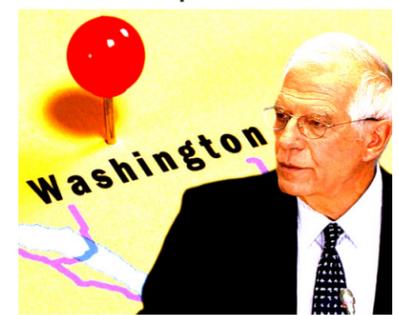
During the inspection, the LEOs will ascertain the legitimacy of the company as shown by the business permit and the Securities and Exchange Commission registration and verify the roster of local employees and the foreign national/s actually working at the time of inspection.

The inspectors will also check the list of Alien Employment Permit applicants if there are any, and the company representative should certify that they are indeed hiring the foreign nationals.

The labor inspectors shall submit a report to the DOLE regional director one day after the conduct of verification inspection.

In 2019, the LEOs were given authority to inspect establishments employing foreign nationals from October 31 to December 15. (DOLE)

The EU high representative outlines the "geopolitical" Europe to US



In a world facing unprecedented global challenges a strong transatlantic alliance is ever more important.

On his first visit to the United States as EU High Representative, Josep Borrell will reaffirm the European Union's commitment to an effective transatlantic partnership able to seek joint solutions, to advance shared interests and to strengthen the rules-based international order.

In meetings with representatives of the US Administration, Borrell will work on the most pressing issues of our time and underline the desire to cooperate on regional security challenges, and salient foreign policy issues, including above all the Middle East Peace Process and the JCPOA with Iran.

SPORTS

IOC Boxing Task Force: Asian/Oceanian Tokyo 2020 boxing qualifying event to be held in Jordan in March

The IOC Boxing Task Force (BTF) announced recently that the Asian/Oceanian Tokyo 2020 boxing qualifying event will be held in Amman, Jordan, from March 3 to 11, 2020.

The event, originally planned to take place in Wuhan, China, from February 3 to 14, 2020, was rescheduled after the joint decision by the BTF and the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) to cancel the competition due to the developments regarding the coronavirus outbreak reported in the Chinese city.

After a careful review of all alternatives, the BTF approved the proposal of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC), in order to confirm the competition dates and location as soon as possible, in the best interest of the athletes preparing for the qualifier.

Logistical and operational details will be shared with National



Olympic Committees (NOCs), National Federations and officials in the coming days.

The BTF would like to thank all the NOCs that offered their support to re-organise the competition at such short notice. - IOC

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American Heart Month: February 2020

Presidential Proclamation 2019

Heart disease is America's most prolific killer, responsible for one in four deaths in the United States each year. American Heart Month is an opportunity to remember the loved ones lost to this deadly disease, raise awareness of the warning signs and symptoms of heart disease and heart attacks, and commit to a lifestyle that improves overall heart health." - Bureau of Census



INM Book Choice

The Mamba Mentality: How I Play

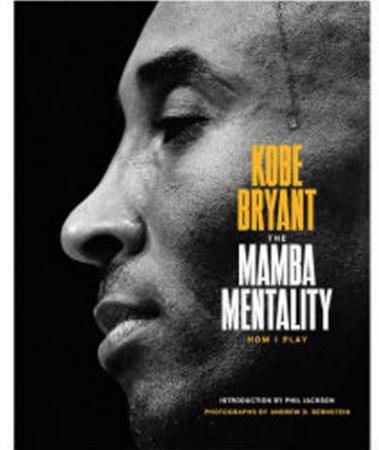
By Kobe Bryant, Phil Jackson (Introduction), Pau Gasol (Foreword), Andrew D. Bernstein (Photographer)

The Mamba Mentality: How I Play is Kobe Bryant's personal perspective of his life and career on the basketball court and his exceptional, insightful style of playing the game—a fitting legacy from the late Los Angeles Laker superstar.

In the wake of his retirement from professional basketball, Kobe "The Black Mamba" Bryant decided to share his vast knowledge and understanding of the game to take readers on an unprecedented journey to the core of the legendary "Mamba mentality." Citing an obligation and an opportunity to teach young players, hardcore fans, and devoted students of the game how to play it "the right way," The Mamba Mentality takes us inside the mind of one of the most intelligent, analytical, and creative basketball players ever.

In his own words, Bryant reveals his famously detailed approach and the steps he took to prepare mentally and physically to not just succeed at the game, but to excel. Readers will learn how Bryant studied an opponent, how he channeled his passion for the game, how he played through injuries. They'll also get fascinating granular detail as he breaks down specific plays and match-ups from throughout his career.

Bryant's detailed accounts are paired with stunning photographs by the Hall of Fame



photographer Andrew D. Bernstein. Bernstein, long the Lakers and NBA official photographer, captured Bryant's very first NBA photo in 1996 and his last in 2016—and hundreds of thousands in between, the record of a unique, twenty-year relationship between one athlete and one photographer.

The combination of Bryant's narrative and Bernstein's photos make The Mamba Mentality an unprecedented look behind the curtain at the career of one of the world's most celebrated and fascinating athletes. - B&N

It's not true love if they ask for money

By CRISTINA MIRANDA

Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

It's Valentine's Day. Lots of us have profiles on online dating sites, apps or social media to find "the one." But that interesting person who just messaged you could be a sweet-talking romance scammer trying to trick you into sending money.

In a sea of online profiles, romance scammers can be hard to detect. But, there are signs you can look out for.

Romance scammers start by using someone else's identity to create fake profiles.

They'll send you flattering messages to make a special connection, say all the right things, and gain your trust. They might claim to be a doctor, a servicemember, or an oil rig worker living overseas. They want to make future plans with you. But then, something comes up and they ask you for money to help them out. Which nearly always means asking you to buy gift cards (and give them the PIN, so they get the cash), or wiring them money.

Here's the thing: Never send money or

gifts to a love interest you haven't actually met. It's a romance scam.

- Stop communicating with the person immediately.
- Search online for the type of job the person says they have. See if other people have heard similar stories. For example, you could do a search for "oil rig scammer" or "US Army scammer."
- Do a reverse image search of the person's profile picture. If it's associated with another name or with details that don't match up, it's a scam.
- Never wire money to a stranger, or pay anyone with gift cards. If someone asks you to wire money or pay with gift cards, report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

US Department of Education, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sign pact to better serve student loan borrowers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Education and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced a new coordination agreement in order to better serve student loan borrowers.

Under the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the agencies will share complaint information from borrowers and meet quarterly to discuss observations about the nature of complaints received, characteristics of borrowers, and available information about resolution of complaints. The MOU also provides for the sharing of complaint data analysis, recommendations, and analytical tools.

"All student loan borrowers, whether

they have a Federally-held or private student loan, deserve world-class service and quick resolution when facing issues," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. "Through this new agreement with the CFPB, we will coordinate our regulatory efforts, avoid needless duplication, and protect the borrowers we serve."

"This agreement concerning student loan complaints will protect students as both the Bureau and the Education Department work to resolve their complaints," said Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Kathleen L. Kraninger. "This MOU provides a robust framework that allows for the staff at both agencies to work together to provide better outcomes for consumers." - DOE

Secretary DeVos expands earn and learn opportunities for students

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced today the creation of a new initiative that allows more students to gain on-the-job experience with employers in their field of study as part of their Federal Work-Study (FWS) program.

The initiative, known as an experimental site, expands FWS opportunities for students at 190 institutions.

Institutions participating in the experimental site will be granted waivers, which encourage them to expand the use of FWS funds to support more students working in the private sector and, for the first time, allow them to pay low-income students for work experiences required by their academic programs, such as student teaching and clinical rotations.

"We know that early, meaningful work experience can be an important stepping stone toward students obtaining good jobs and having successful careers," said Secretary DeVos. "For too long, Federal Work-Study has put up artificial barriers between education and industry and deprived students from gaining useful experience in their field of study. Rather than working the dorm cafeteria line, students—particularly low-income students—will be able to 'earn and learn' in ways that will set them up for future success."

This experiment also provides additional Job Location and Development (JLD) program funds to participating institutions and expands the allowable uses of those funds, including permitting institutions to contract third-party

intermediaries to help them build partnerships with businesses. These job development activities can be used to benefit students regardless of whether they participate in FWS.

During award year 2016-2017, more than 3,000 colleges and universities provided over 600,000 students with FWS opportunities, but less than one-tenth of one percent supported off-campus employment with private sector employers.

Current regulations also require private sector employers, including small businesses, to pay a higher portion of wages than on-campus employment or non-profit organizations, further raising barriers to relevant work experience.

American Airlines

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AN APPEAL FROM COLEGIO DEL SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS

As we mark the 103rd Foundation Anniversary of COLEGIO DEL SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS, we acknowledge with deep gratitude the abundant blessings that God has showered on the entire SAGRADO FAMILY throughout the 102 years of its existence.

Despite the ups and downs of SAGRADO's history, it has maintained its mark of Vincentian Excellence through its enriched and up-to-date curriculum programs, dedicated and competent faculty, state-of-the-art learning facilities and strong community outreach program being the first PAASCU Level 3 accredited school (Basic Education Department) in Iloilo City.

It is our ardent HOPE and PRAYER that this DREAM will continue to be actualized through Sagrado's enriched and up-to-date curricular programs, dedicated competent and academically qualified faculty, state-of-the-art learning facilities and strong community outreach program.

Once again, we turn to you to support us in our various continuing endeavors and projects. We know that as our loyal ALUMNA/ALUMNUS, you will not close your heart to this appeal. Please extend this also to your families, relatives, alumni batchmates and friends who, like you, have room in their hearts for CARING and SHARING "til it hurts" – for LOVE!

Only GOD, who is never outdone in generosity, can REWARD YOU for everything. We entrust you and your family to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the special protection of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, and all our Vincentian Saints and Blessed.

Lovingly and gratefully in Jesus and Mary,
SR. ELVIRA G. CORREA, D.C.
Registrar/Alumni Adviser

SR. MA. ASUNCION G. EVIDENTE, D.C.
President – Sister Servant

HELP US BUILD A BRIGHTER SAGRADO

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You may send your deposit slip through our e-mail at cscj_1917@yahoo.com



USCIS updates process for accepting petitions for relatives abroad

WASHINGTON — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that, as part of the adjustment of its international footprint to increase efficiencies, Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, will only be processed domestically by USCIS or internationally by the Department of State in certain circumstances beginning Feb 1, 2020.

DOS will assume responsibility for certain services previously provided at USCIS

international offices, services that DOS already provide in countries where USCIS does not have a presence.

Eligible active-duty service members assigned overseas will file their Form I-130 locally with DOS, as will certain non-military petitioners who meet specific criteria for consular processing.

"USCIS continues to modernize and become more efficient as an agency," said USCIS

Deputy Director Mark Koumans. "Since the Department of State has a much larger international presence, we have delegated authority to our State partners to accept and adjudicate petitions for immediate relatives abroad in certain circumstances. USCIS continues to expand online filing options, which are available to those filing domestically or those filing from abroad, saving applicants and petitioners time and money."

IRS Tax Tip 2020

As taxpayers are getting ready to file their taxes, one of the first things they'll do is gather their records. To avoid refund delays, taxpayers should gather all year-end income documents before filing a 2019 tax return.

Here are some things taxpayers need to have before they begin doing their taxes.

- Social Security numbers of everyone listed on the tax return.

- Bank account and routing numbers. People need these for direct deposit refunds.

- Forms W-2 from employers.
- Forms 1099 from banks and other payers.

- Any documents that show income, including income from virtual currency transactions.

- Forms 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement.

- The taxpayer's adjusted gross income from their last year's tax return.

Forms usually start arriving by mail or are available online from employers and financial institutions in January. Taxpayers should review them carefully. If any information shown on the forms is inaccurate, the taxpayer should contact the payer ASAP for a correction.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Department of State is now accepting applications for Foreign Service Regional Medical Officer positions.

Foreign Service Regional Medical Officers are board-certified physicians. In this public service career, you'll provide quality primary and preventive medical care to U.S. diplomats and their families, supervise staff, direct health unit operations, and engage with foreign audiences which helps to promote peace and prosperity around the world. You'll travel and explore new cultures, while creating solutions for unique healthcare challenges, such as living and working abroad in developing areas where access to medical care and facilities is limited. You will use your family practice background to advance U.S. interests abroad, as you encounter endless opportunities to maximize your potential and elevate your career.

In return for your service, you'll receive an annual Physicians Comparability Allowance (PCA) of \$14,000 to \$30,000, have access to continued medical training and career development programs, health and medical coverage, federal retirement benefits, and generous paid leave. When serving overseas, you'll receive paid housing or an appropriate housing allowance, and paid education for dependent children K through 12.

FTC: The bottom-line on fake checks scams

By Colleen Tressler
Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

If someone you don't know sends you a check and asks for money back, that's a scam.

Fake checks drive many types of scams — like those involving phony job and income opportunities, online classified ad sales, and others. In a fake check scam, a person you don't know asks you to deposit a check — sometimes for several thousand dollars and usually for more than you are owed — and send some of the money back, often by wire transfers or gift cards, to them or another person.

The scammers always have a good story to explain the overpayment. They might say they're stuck out of the country, they need you to cover taxes or fees, you'll need to buy supplies, or something else.

By law, banks have to make deposited funds available quickly — you'll usually see the money in your account within a day or

two. But it may take weeks for your bank to learn the check was bad. By that time, the scammer has the money you sent, and you're stuck paying the bank back.

Over the last several years, the number of fake check scams reported to the FTC has steadily increased, and so have the dollars lost. In its most recent Data Spotlight, Don't bank on a "cleared" check, the FTC reports that consumers lost more than \$28 million to fake check scams in 2019 alone. The median loss reported was \$1,988. That's more than six times the median loss on all frauds tracked by the FTC. What's more, reports about fake check scams are up by about 65% over 2015 levels.

The FTC found that younger people are hit especially hard. In 2019, people in their twenties were more than twice as likely as people 30 and older to report losing money to a fake check scam. - FTC

Health Update

Million Hearts recognizes hospitals & Health Systems' Innovation and commitment to prevent heart attacks

Million Hearts, a national initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes in five years — is now congratulating hospitals and health systems that excel in preventing cardiovascular events through the new Million Hearts Hospitals & Health Systems Recognition Program.

The Million Hearts Hospital & Health System Recognition Program acknowledges institutions working to systematically improve the cardiovascular health of the population and communities they serve through the priority areas of: 1) Keeping People Healthy, 2) Optimizing Care, 3) Improving Outcomes for Priority Populations, and 4) Innovating for Health.

The program also creates new opportunities to promote innovative approaches to tackle the leading causes of heart disease and stroke. The Million Hearts Hospital & Health System Recognition Program is an on-ramp for hospitals to get involved in Million Hearts and to be appreciated for the work they are doing. Some 1.6 million people in the U.S. external icon have a heart attack or stroke each year.

"High-performing hospitals and health systems can have lifesaving impact preventing

heart attacks and stroke. Through the Million Hearts Initiative, we aim to highlight these hospitals' and health systems' commitment to prevention as we work together to inspire even greater innovation and achievement," said Laurence Sperleng, M.D., executive director of Million Hearts.

The Million Hearts Hospitals & Health System Recognition program is now open. Applications received by March 31, 2020, will be among the first to be considered and to be awarded this designation. Eligible applicants range from health systems with multiple hospitals, hospitals with and without ambulatory medical practices, and medical practices not affiliated with hospitals. Applicants can apply online external icon on a quarterly basis.

In addition to reviewing the information submitted in support of selected strategies, applicants must attest to being free from sanctions and current investigations for serious institutional misconduct or a record of serious infractions within the last three years. All eligible hospitals and health systems are encouraged to apply. Multiple designees may be selected. - CDC

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February 14, Valentine's Day



"On February 14, Americans celebrate love and friendship by exchanging cards, flowers, and candy. Although the origins of Valentine's Day are murky, ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the fifteenth of February. Like so many holidays, a Christian gloss was added to the pagan fete when the holiday moved to the fourteenth of February—the saint day associated with several early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

"The romance we associate with Valentine's Day may spring from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on February 14. During the Middle Ages, lovers recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. The Nuremberg Chronicle (published in 1493) is believed to contain the first in-print mention of Saint Valentine, though his role as patron saint of lovers was not mentioned." - *The Library of Congress*

The Fred Hall Show is California's ultimate outdoor experience

*The World's Largest Sportfishing Show,
One of the Nation's Premiere Boat Shows and an Internationally Acclaimed
Hunting and Fishing Travel Show enters Its 74th year and a New Decade
March 4-8, 2020 at the Long Beach Convention Center*

LOS ANGELES - What started in 1946 as a Sportsman's show at the Gilmore Stadium in Los Angeles, has now become the world's largest consumer fishing show, California's Largest Trailer Boat Show and Southern California's finest hunting and fishing travel show. The Fred Hall Show returns to the Long Beach Convention Center (300 East Ocean, Long Beach 90802) from Wednesday March 4 through Sunday, March 8, 2020. Tickets on sale now at www.FredHall.com, or available at the box office week of show.

The Fred Hall Show—The Ultimate Outdoor Experience — will feature nearly 1000 booths and acres of boats inside and outside the convention center, plus 10,000 products on display from the world's leading outdoor recreation manufacturers. Over 400 seminars will take place during the five days of the show in seven different seminar venues.

New this year is the addition of the Opkix wearable digital camera, "the world's most convenient, lightweight, simple-to-use, compact video camera" who will be featuring an interactive display at the show.

"OPKIX is the convenient, hassle-free wearable camera for the water-centric outdoor enthusiast who wants to capture their fun of fishing and beyond. They don't want to risk breaking or dropping their phone in the water and hate the hassle of an action cam," said Bart Hall.

"Fisherman can attach OPKIX to their favorite eyewear and hat accessories to capture their moments of pride and recognition."

Hobie will also be presenting its "Hobie

360 Mirage" featuring the "Kick-Up Fins that is taking the future of kayaking in a new direction - forward, backward, sideways and every degree in between." Guests will have the opportunity to test drive the 360 in the Hyatt Lagoon.

"It is extremely unusual for a show, like the Fred Hall Show, to last for 74 years," said

Bart Hall, Producer of the Fred Hall Show.

"The only way to last this long is to take every exhibitor seriously, treat their business as you would your own and always give your attendees exactly what you promise. Part of our business model is to always give a family a full days worth of family entertainment. Kids 15 and under are always free at a Fred Hall Show."

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kisses before bedtime
love one another
ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH
say your prayers
DO YOUR CHORES
LAUGH use kind words
try new things
always say i love you
KEEP YOUR PROMISES
treat others how you want to be treated

God is saying to you today,
"The pain is coming to an end.
I am going to open up the
windows of Heaven and pour out
everything you've been waiting
and praying for. Blessings of love,
prosperity, healing, and new
opportunities are coming your
way."

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- Okuma/805 Bass Bin
- Casting on the Lagoon
- Mammoth Lakes and Shakespeare Kids Fish Free Trout Pond
- Hobie Kayak test rides on the Hyatt Lagoon
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