

International NEWS MEDIA

JULY 2020

Duterte's SONA: PH in better position to weather global crisis brought by COVID pandemic



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivers his fifth State of the Nation Address on July 28.

By JEROME CARLO R. PAUNAN (PIA)

CALOOCAN CITY (PIA) -- In his fifth historic State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 28, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said the economic and fiscal situation of the Philippines is strong and the country is in better position to weather the global crisis brought by coronavirus pandemic.

"Our fiscal position is strong, our economic and fiscal management prudent and our banking system robust," Duterte said.

"We are in a better position to weather the crisis caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic," he added.

The President said the Japan Credit Rating Agency last month has upgraded its credit rating for the Philippines to "A minus," the highest rating the country has ever received. This, despite the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) recent credit rating downgrades and amid "negative outlooks worldwide."

"We received a BBB plus credit rating despite a sea of credit rating downgrades and negative outlook revisions worldwide. The Japan Credit Rating Agency upgraded us from BBB plus to A minus last month," he said, as better credit ratings attest to the state's ability to settle debts and the stability of the country's economy. The President also said the country accomplished significant infrastructure projects under the Build, Build, Build.

Duterte also expressed gratitude to those who supplied food, water and basic utilities to households in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. (PIA NCR)

DOJ issues business review letter to monoclonal antibody manufacturers to expedite and increase the production of Covid-19 mab treatments

The United States Department of Justice announced that it will not challenge proposed efforts by Eli Lilly and Company, AbCellera Biologics, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Genentech, and GlaxoSmithKline (together, the Requesting Parties) to share information about manufacturing facilities and other information that could enable them to expedite the production of monoclonal antibody treatments that are determined to be safe and effective to treat COVID-19.

As the letter explains, the demand for monoclonal antibodies targeting COVID-19

is likely to exceed what any one firm could produce on its own.

Moreover, waiting until regulators approve specific treatments before scaling up manufacturing might delay access to these potentially life-saving medicines by many months, which adversely could affect the nation's efforts to fight COVID-19. The Requesting Parties aim to address both problems by sharing information about their manufacturing facilities, capacity, raw materials and supplies that could be used to produce successful COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments.

TRUMP ADMIN ANNOUNCES HISTORIC ACTION TO LOWER DRUG PRICES FOR AMERICANS



On July 24, President Donald Trump took historic action to deliver lower prescription drug prices to American patients. The President signed four Executive Orders on drug pricing directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take several steps to deliver for American patients lower costs on prescription drugs, including insulin and epinephrine, and ensure Americans are getting the lowest price possible for their drugs.

The executive orders instruct HHS to take a number of actions:

- End a shadowy system of kickbacks by middlemen that lurks behind the high out-of-pocket costs many Americans face at the pharmacy counter. Under this action, American seniors will directly receive these kickback as discounts in Medicare Part D. In 2018, these Part D discounts totaled more than \$30 billion, representing an average discount of 26 to 30 percent.
- Require federally qualified health centers who purchase insulins and epinephrine in the 340B program to pass the savings from discounted drug prices directly on to medically underserved patients. This

will increase access to life-saving insulin and epinephrine for the patients who face especially high costs among the 28 million patients who visit FQHCs every year, over six million of whom are uninsured.

- Finalize a rule allowing states to develop safe importation plans for certain prescription drugs.
- Authorize the re-importation of insulin products made in the United States if the Secretary finds re-importation is required for emergency medical care pursuant to section 801(d) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- Create a pathway for safe personal importation through the use of individual waivers to purchase drugs at lower cost from pre-authorized U.S. pharmacies.
- Take action to ensure that the Medicare program and seniors pay no more for the most costly Medicare Part B drugs than any economically comparable OECD country, ending foreign countries' free loading off the backs of American taxpayers and pharmaceutical investments. This order takes effect in 30 days unless Congress acts.

22 ARRESTED, FACING FEDERAL CHARGES AFTER WEEKEND PROTEST AT FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Ore.—U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams announced on July 27 that 22 people have been arrested and are facing federal charges for their roles in weekend protests at the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland.

According to court documents, since May 26, 2020, protests in downtown Portland have been followed by nightly criminal activity including assaults on law enforcement officers, destruction of property, looting, arson, and vandalism. The Hatfield Federal Courthouse has been a nightly target of vandalism during evening protests and riots, sustaining extensive damage.

U.S. Marshals Service deputies and officers from the Federal Protective Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection working to protect the courthouse have been subjected to nightly threats and assaults from demonstrators while performing their duties. Among those charged include Carly Anne Ballard, 34, and David Michael Bouchard, 36, Josslynn Kreutz, 28, Dakota Eastman, 30, Ezra Meyers, 18, Mark Rolycanov, 28, Michael Stephenson, 23; Caleb Willis, 29; Noelle Mandolfo, 30; Travis Williams, 27; Patrick Stanford, age unknown; Coree Jeffrey, age unknown; and Tyler Gabriel, 22. Rebecca Gonzales-Mota, 37; Stephen O'Donnell, 65; Thomas Johnson, 33; Nathan Oderdonk-Snow, 21; Joshua Webb, 22; Pablo Avvocato, 26; Doug Dean, 34 Richard Lindstet, 33; and Ronald Bernard Hickey, 44, a Canadian National.

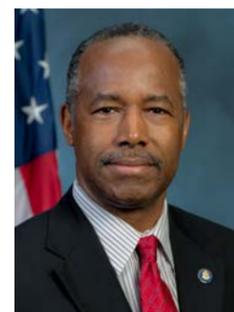
Secretary DeVos launches new grant competition to promote education choice for Native American students

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced recently a \$15 million grant competition to promote tribally-directed education choice for Native American students. The Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) grants will allow tribes, or other education entities partnering with tribes, to set up a variety of education options and services from which parents or students can choose.

An ACE proposal must include more than one education option from which parents and students may choose, including: advanced, remedial, or elective courses (including online); apprenticeships or training programs; concurrent or dual enrollment options; native language, history, or culture courses; supplemental counseling services; tuition; summer or afterschool education programs, and student transportation needed for those specific programs; and many other education-related services that the tribe determines are needed in its community.

Secretary Carson announces Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration

WASHINGTON - Secretary Ben Carson announced HUD's new "Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration," which aims to measure the impact of housing choice upon the economic condition of low-income families. Secretary Carson made the announcement at a news conference alongside Senator Todd Young, Former Congressman Sean Duffy, and Assistant Secretary Hunter Kurtz. The demonstration announced today is the result of bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by both Young and Duffy. As a compassionate country, when we talk about providing support for families in



need, we should also talk about how to provide pathways for low-income families seeking opportunity," said Secretary Carson. "The Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration aims to show how we can empower people by giving them a real choice."

"All families deserve the chance to live in communities that best suit their needs, but many live in neighborhoods that perpetuate poverty across generations," said Senator Todd Young. "Our Housing Choice Voucher Mobility program aims to end this cycle and help families relocate to higher opportunity areas with lower crime, better education, and greater access to jobs, transportation, quality healthcare, and suitable housing."

"I believe that people deserve every opportunity they can get to be successful," said former Congressman Sean Duffy. "This demonstration helps create a path to break the cycle of poverty for low-income families."

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- 2 FIRST TIGWAHANON-MANOBO EARNS DEGREE IN MEDICINE**
A 31-year-old native of Bukidnon went viral for being the first Tigwahanon-Manobo lumad to become a registered nurse and earn a degree in medicine from De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute in Dasmarias, Cavite.
- 3 AWEW ABAYARI INTERVIEWS BRO. NESTOR VILLANUEVA**
A missionary who came to the US to fulfill God's commission to preach the gospel to every people, tongue and kindred, Bro. Nestor Villanueva thinks the Message of the pandemic for us today is to fully trust God and complete surrender to Him for He is the answer to all life's problems.
- 5 10 TIPS: LIVEN UP YOUR MEALS WITH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS**
Discover the many benefits of adding vegetables and fruits to your meals. They are low in fat and calories, while providing fiber and other key nutrients. Vegetables and fruits don't just add nutrition to meals. They can also add color, flavor, and texture. Explore these creative ways to bring healthy foods to your table.
- 7 APRIL 25, 2021 IS NEW SHOW DATE FOR 93rd OSCARS®**
The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the ABC Television Network recently announced the 93rd Oscars® ceremony will move to Sunday, April 25, 2021, as a result of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. The show, which will air live on ABC, was originally scheduled for February 28, 2021.

One special call led to hundreds with food

Captain Tim Scott, Georgetown South Carolina's commanding officer, could not have known when he answered the phone, one week into the COVID-19 crisis, that a portal was about to swing open allowing Salvation Army volunteers and staff to repeatedly respond in the weeks that followed.

"The whole thing began with that phone call," Captain Scott explains, "from this elderly man who needed food in the worst way. Then he told me that he was blind and could not come to us, so I told him that I would bring the food to him."

Then the Captain had a better idea. The man attends one of three senior centers in the county, so Captain Scott asked him to contact his center director who then contacted The Salvation Army.

The Army in Georgetown is responsible for the two counties of Georgetown and Williamsburg—and the travel time from one end of Georgetown County to the farthest point in Williamsburg County can take up to three hours.

Captains Tim, his wife, and their daughter Brie, began making nearly daily runs throughout the two counties, as well as overseeing drive-by distribution at their building.

"I really like loading stuff into the cars as the people drive up for a food box," Brie says. Brie lives in Georgetown and works in a daycare center, but since it is closed, probably into the month of May, she works alongside her parents. Typical food boxes are crammed with non-perishable items: canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, mac and cheese, bags of trail mix, and peanut butter, for example.

"But we are really scratching for food resources, since our regular pantry now usually runs bare. But one thing is for sure, I will do my very best to make sure no one goes hungry," said Captain Scott. -- *Salvation Army*



First Tigwahanon-Manobo earns degree in medicine, plans to be a doctor to the barrio

A 31-year-old native of Bukidnon went viral for being the first Tigwahanon-Manobo lumad to become a registered nurse and earn a degree in medicine from De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

According to Joe Jeffrey Mambucon, he initially wanted to take up education in college since it was his childhood dream.

"After finishing my high school, the Overseas Missionary Fellowship Scholarship Committee sent me to Davao for college. One of the missionaries told me to take up nursing because they have a medical ministry and they only have one nurse," he said.

Joe Jeffrey then decided to take up nursing at the University of Mindanao. He finished and passed the board exam in 2010.

The missionaries then encouraged him to pursue medicine but he admitted that he

doubted himself if he could do it.. Joe Jeffrey said he couldn't believe that he is now about to become a doctor.

"Never in my wildest dream na mag-doctor since in our tribe, at age 12 usually nag-a-asawa na kami via arranged marriage," he said.

His family is staying with their tribe in Sitio Opis Namnam, San Fernando, Bukidnon. His father, who was a Datu, died in 2010 and his mother works as a farmer and lives with his other siblings.

Joe Jeffrey said he will finish his post-graduate internship and prepare for the Physician Licensure Exam.

"Then after passing the board po, I am planning to join the 'Doctors to the Barrios' program by DOH and hopefully will be assigned to my own hometown," he said. - (MCG/PIA-IDPD/NCIP)



Appeal for Donations HOSPICIO DE SAN JOSE

Since its foundation in 1810, Hospicio de San Jose has stood as a beacon of hope and succor for persons in poverty situations. It is the first charitable institution in the Philippines, a forerunner of social work and has been an exemplar of compassion and charity, demonstrating the Filipino people's boundless capacity for extending a helping hand to those in need.



- Food Sustainability: through organic hog-raising, organic vegetable gardening, chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats (all in Bulacan property).

- A Multi-purpose pavilion for the Street People – to provide a place for the feeding, formation sessions and emergency "night shelter" for the homeless.

- A Livelihood and Skills Training Center which will provide short courses in Baking, Cooking, Housekeeping and other skills to equip the unemployed heads of families, especially women, with skills for income generation activities.

For the readers whose hearts have been touched by our appeal and desires to sponsor a particular project, you may contact us through this email address: mssp.g.evidente@gmail.com or call (063-2-7342366)

Sr. Maria Socorro Pilar G. Evidente, DC
 Administrator
 Hospicio de San Jose
 Ayala Bridge, Manila
 Philippines

It has been managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul since 1865.

In 2017, Hospicio has launched to better the lives of the people under their care and to achieve financial and food sustainability:

- Sponsorship of a child or an elderly: A donation of \$100, on a monthly basis can already provide education, food, etc. to a child and medicines and food to a special child or elderly, psycho-therapy and healing sessions for the abused children. The sponsor may choose a particular category he/she wishes to provide for.

- Sponsor a house for a homeless family. Hospicio has finished 10 housing units which have been occupied and have 24 units more waiting for sponsors.



Sr. Maria Socorro Pilar G. Evidente, DC

Dear Family and Friends,

Seven years have passed since we buried Ed at ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY to join his comrades-in-arms at the most moving event of my life.

I am so grateful to you all for joining me at that most incredible moment and for speaking about my darling Ed during the CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE.

I am sending as an attachment a photo of the ceremony at Arlington.

I chose the remembrance by my brother, Paul Ramirez who said the following:

"In reminisce, dear Ed, like a true Captain who steers his ship through calm and troubled waters, drawn by your inviting persona, I embarked on your vessel with full trust in your commanding leadership and ventured on a life of uncharted and unimaginable learning experiences throughout a very significant span of my middle age career until you set anchor and retired your ship."

Thank you, Thank you.

Love and Prayers,

Raqui



Ed's Burial at Arlington National Cemetery, June 28, 2013



Phil-Am Expo 2013 with Raqui receiving the Hero Award for Ed.

Coronavirus response: Collaborating and advocating for vulnerable children

The COVID-19 pandemic is making children and families more vulnerable all around the world. Developed countries with robust health systems are struggling to cope, but health systems in low-income, fragile, and conflict-affected countries are collapsing under the strain of too many sick people, too few medical staff, and a lack of personal protective equipment. These are the places and people who need us most. World Vision advocates on their behalf with national governments, global health bodies, and donors.

"We are all in this together, so as an organization, we're engaging everywhere, despite the personal and

organizational challenges," says Jeff Wright, World Vision's COVID-19 response director.

To combat COVID-19, we are partnering with community groups, faith-based organizations, United Nations agencies, other aid groups, and all levels of governments. Collaborating and advocating aren't new for us, but where our community access is limited, they are vital.

Also, as a Christian, child-focused humanitarian organization, we are united in prayer, calling on God to give us wisdom and strength to be innovative and effective in carrying out our work. When the virus hit, World Vision responded with a prayer chain. To date, thousands of prayer requests have come in — prayers for people affected by job losses, for finances, for healing, for peace. Each request is prayed for by World Vision staff.

If you would like prayer, please call the World Vision prayer line at 888.858.PRAY (7729) between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. PST.



World Vision partners with Soul City Church in Chicago to distribute essential supplies to community members in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. (©2020 Josh Sheldon for World Vision)

Boys & Girls Clubs create fun, enriching summer for kids at home

Boys & Girls Clubs staff across the nation are rolling up their sleeves to maintain connection with young people and mitigate learning loss during a noticeably different summer. While nearly 1,000 Club sites are serving youth on site, kids in many communities cannot return to in-person Club programming as the nation continues to respond to COVID-19. In some of those communities, the Club experience is being delivered to families' doorsteps.

Activity kits filled with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, puzzles, books and science experiments have become an integral component for reaching youth and families since the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered most Boys & Girls Clubs in March.

"We know our populations are vulnerable and to think about them not being connected to the Club is frightening," said Kimberly Key, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento. "The Club is their lifeline and we need to keep that going the best we can."



IMMIGRATION UPDATE



HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI



JACK GOLAN
 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
 IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Send your questions to: radiotvanchor1@gmail.com
www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari

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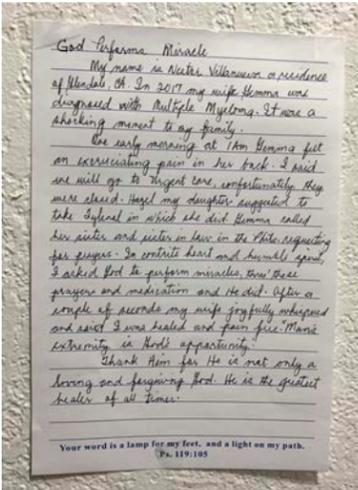
**An Exclusive Interview by AWEE ABAYARI
with Bro. Nestor Villanueva, a Missionary**
Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Accounting
For more of the interview: www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari

"Came to the United States as a missionary to fulfill God's commission to preach the gospel to every people, tongue and kindred".

"Man's extremity is God's opportunity"

"Thank Him for He is not only a loving and forgiving God. He is the greatest Healer of all times"

"I think the Message of the pandemic for us today is to fully trust God and complete surrender to Him for He is the answer to all life's problems"
Bro. Nestor Villanueva



Awee Abayari: Define miracle.
Bro. Nestor Villanueva: It is a special manifestation of God's power. It is more than a supernatural event. Example of a miracle is like the plagues of Egypt or the manna sent to feed the Israelites.

Awee Abayari: Can you pray for a miracle to happen in your life?

Bro. Nestor Villanueva: The word of God says "Yes." Example is the life of Apostle Paul from persecutor who became a powerful preacher of the New Testament. God's healing power to (Gemma). Praise and thank Him, she is already cancer free.

Awee Abayari: What is the Message of the pandemic to the world?

Bro. Nestor Villanueva: People tend to see the negative impact of the unexpected event. For me, it is a wake-up call. Members of the families became closer to each other, which includes connection and commitment. I think the Message of the pandemic for us today is to fully trust God and complete surrender to Him for He is the answer to all life's problem.

Awee Abayari: What passage in the Bible describes what is happening today?

Bro. Nestor Villanueva: In

Matthew 24:7 it says, "For nation shall rise against nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom and there shall be famine and pestilences and earthquakes." Today, there is scarcity of food supply to meet the needs of the world population. Thus, millions of people are dying because of Covid 19.

Awee Abayari: What does God have in store for all of us?

Bro. Nestor Villanueva: In 2 Peter 3:9 says, The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count: but is long suffering toward us not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. God's greatest desire is for all of us to be save in His Kingdom.

Transhumance recognized as an intangible cultural heritage by France

Since June 2020, the traditional seasonal migrations of pasture animals practiced by French shepherds and animal husbandry professionals (called "transhumance") is recognized as an intangible cultural heritage in France. This recognition is the first important step before being proposed as a candidate for international recognition of this traditional practice as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.

What is transhumance?

Transhumance signifies the migration of herbivorous animals (goats, cows, and sheep) to pasture to feed. One talks about "summer transhumance" when the animals head for the high-altitude pastures with a shepherd as their guide, and of "winter transhumance" when the animals come down to the plains to reach a less cold climate for the winter.

In France, transhumance is practiced in the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Massif Central, Corsica, Vosges and Jura. These territories of high and medium altitude mountains offer vast stretches of land that are very appreciated by



Xavier Remongin / agriculture.gouv.fr/Thank

goats, sheep and cows that spend a large part of the year in pasture there.

This seasonal migration is based on the ancestral savoir-faire of the producers.

What does intangible cultural heritage status confer to this practice?

By being listed as an intangible cultural heritage in France, the methods of animal husbandry, high-altitude pastoral management customs, and the savoir-faire of artisans and their method of food production are all officially recognized.

UNWTO recognizes safe and responsible restart of tourism on the Canary Islands

The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has paid an official visit to the Canary Islands to recognize the reopening of the destination and the steps the local authorities have taken to keep both visitors and tourism workers safe as the sector restarts.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili was accompanied by the Spanish Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Reyes Maroto, for a series of high-level meetings with both public and private sector leaders.

Mr Pololikashvili said: "Tourism is one of the most important economic sectors for the Canary Islands, providing jobs and livelihoods and supporting many local businesses. The responsible restart of the sector will allow the many benefits tourism offers to return, and UNWTO welcomes the measures that have been taken to build confidence and trust in the sector."

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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Banco de Oro Iznart Branch, Iloilo City
You may send your deposit slip through our e-mail at cscj_1917@yahoo.com



U.S. to fund field hospital in Maranhão

THE MOBILE HOSPITAL WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE CITY OF BACABAL AND WILL HAVE 40 BEDS

The United States of America, through the Department of Defense, will fund a field hospital to combat the coronavirus in Bacabal, a city 240 km from São Luís. The installation of the facility will be under the state of Maranhão supervision. The U.S. will donate the entire structure of the hospital, which will have 40 beds, stretchers, air conditioners, cleaning supplies and power generators. The hospital is expected to be delivered in August 2020.

Regarding the support, Ambassador Chapman said in a call Monday, July 20, with Governor Flavio Dino, "The United States and Maranhão share a history of cooperation and friendship. We recognize that the state has many people impacted by COVID-19, and it is important that our health assistance gets to the Maranhão".

In addition to the hospital structure and supplies, the U.S. will donate US\$ 50,000 for kits with personal hygiene products and US\$ 50,000 for food baskets to the state of Maranhão.



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MERLUZA LAW

Ricardo Merluza
Attorney-at-Law

Tel. (213) 380-9888 • Fax (213) 380-5397
Cell (818) 792-0962
ricardo@merluzalaw.com

3435 WILSHIRE BLVD., 27TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

ROLE OF DIPLOMACY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Consul General Robert Riley delivered remarks on the role of diplomacy in International Relations to over a 100 undergraduate students of ESADE's degrees in Global Governance, Economics & Law. He discussed the importance of U.S. diplomats in conflict prevention and resolution; and delved into the needed skills a good diplomat should have. CG Riley highlighted how the fast change in the evolution of technology in the last years has had a true impact in how political leaders and governments communicate, and how it has impacted international relations. He emphasized the challenges and threats of disinformation and the importance of media literacy.

Philippe Goffin emphasizes the importance of the International Criminal Court in the fight vs. impunity

The world of multilateral diplomacy and international justice - of which the International Criminal Court is part - is going through a deep crisis and has to face threats and hostile action. The relevance of multilateral institutions is being questioned and countries are increasingly withdrawing into themselves. On International Justice Day, Foreign Minister Philippe Goffin emphasizes that Belgium will continue its efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the unique and essential role of the International Criminal Court.

Belgium has supported the Court from the very beginning, including through effective judicial cooperation and by contributing to the strengthening of the system to combat impunity. Belgium wants as many countries as

possible to join. The nomination of Mrs Laurence Massart as a candidate to be Judge to the International Criminal Court also testifies to this Belgian commitment.

By maintaining our confidence in the ICC, it will be possible to move towards a better world.

"Without justice there can be no lasting peace. It is only by joining forces and by each making our own contribution that we can achieve a fairer and more balanced world for future generations", says Minister Goffin, "a world in which the executioners are behind bars and the victims of the most serious crimes against humanity are finally recognized, but above all will be less and less numerous". - Belgian Embassy

Filipinos only allowed to go on essential travel abroad – Palace



The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), in their Resolution No. 57, approved the essential outbound travel of Filipinos.

In his press briefing on July 23, Presidential Spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque, Jr., who is also the concurrent IATF Spokesperson, said that foreign travel of Filipinos is still subject to conditions.

First is the execution of a Bureau of Immigration Declaration that the traveler acknowledges the risks involved in travelling and the risk of delay in their return trip. Upon their return, they shall likewise follow the guidelines of the National Task Force on returning overseas Filipinos.

Essential outbound travel includes trips of Filipinos leaving for business and work, medical, emergency, and other humanitarian reasons, which cannot be postponed.

Meanwhile, non-essential outbound travel, which was allowed in the IATF Resolution No. 52, was suspended per the IATF in their latest meeting.

The Palace official clarified, however, that for those with already confirmed bookings as of July 20, 2020, they will be allowed to continue with their non-essential outbound travel.

The IATF likewise supported the efforts of the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to negotiate the terms of existing bilateral labor agreements.

Lastly, the most recent IATF Resolution reiterated that mass gatherings are prohibited in areas under general community quarantine.

On another matter, the Palace official shared that the mega swabbing facility in SM MOA Arena caters to nearby local government units as well as to Overseas Filipino Workers, returning overseas Filipinos, locally stranded individuals, and even members of the Philippine Army.

News Round-Up

Vietnam is importing more coal from West Virginia, US

To meet growing demand for coal used in power generation in short and long term, Viet Nam National Coal and Mining Industries Holding Corporation (VINACOMIN) has reached agreements with the US. partners to import more coal from the US.

The first direct shipment of American coal is planned to depart for Viet Nam this September. This shipment will include more than 100 thousand tons of coal mined from West Virginia. Coal import is expected to strengthen Viet Nam's efforts in increasing purchase of American goods and services to boost bilateral trade between Viet Nam and the United States. This is even more meaningful as the two countries are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the diplomatic relations (1995-2020). -Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the US

US to invest more than \$17M in Namibia construction

In a display of enduring friendship and the important bilateral partnership, U.S. Ambassador to Windhoek Lisa A. Johnson, Deputy Foreign Minister, Honorable Jenelly Matundu, and Mayor of Windhoek, Her Worship Fransina Kahungu, broke ground on the new U.S. Embassy campus in Windhoek, Namibia.

The new U.S. Embassy will provide a state-of-the-art, modern, and resilient platform for U.S. diplomacy in Namibia. Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill of San Francisco, California is the design architect for the project and B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Alabama, is the construction contractor. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

The United States plans to invest more than \$17 million in the local economy as part of the construction contract and to employ more than 2,000 Namibians to complete the project. -U.S. Department of State

DA aims to make Filipino rice farmers competitive

QUEZON CITY-- The Department of Agriculture through the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) is on track in providing rice farmers appropriate machinery and equipment under the Duterte administration's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program.

To date, the DA-PhilMech has procured and currently distributing 2,938 farm machinery and equipment worth P2 billion (B) to 625 RCEF-accredited farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) nationwide.

For the 2020 P5-B RCEF farm mechanization budget, DA-PhilMech director Baldwin



DA will continue to boost farm mechanization to help rice farmers. Photo by DA

Jallorina said the DA-PhilMech has to date validated 2,587 FCA applicants, of which 1,259 FCAs have been shortlisted and qualified to receive 4,543 farm machineries.

US files lawsuits recover more than \$100 M embezzled by former officials in Kuwait's Ministry of Defense

LOS ANGELES – The Justice Department has filed seven lawsuits seeking the forfeiture of real estate, a private jet, a yacht and additional assets purchased with public funds allegedly embezzled by former high-level officials in Kuwait's Ministry of Defense (MOD), part of which were transferred to California bank accounts operated by the son of a convicted felon.

According to complaints filed Thursday in United States District Court in Los Angeles, between 2009 and 2016, individuals who were high-level MOD officials at the time and their associates used the MOD's London attaché office to open at least six unauthorized bank accounts and then transferred more than \$100 million of Kuwaiti public funds from the National Bank of Kuwait into the unauthorized London accounts. In order to disguise the nature of these transfers, some of them were falsely described as being intended for military purposes. According to the complaints, these funds were actually transferred to several California entities that had no business or contractual relationship with the MOD.

With the complaints, the United States seeks to recover at least \$104,380,000 laundered into and through U.S. financial institutions.



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Appeal for help from worldsurgicalfoundation.org

Dear All,

Please continue to support our efforts to help our front liners and families in need during this Pandemic. \$12.00 can feed a family of 4 for 1 week.

Send your tax deductible donation to: WSF, P.O. Box 1006, Camp Hill, PA 17001 or go to our website worldsurgicalfoundation.org/ donate.

Thank you and God Bless.
Sincerely,
Dom Alvear



Emergency Fund 101 (How to prepare for unexpected expense)

By SUZE ORMAN

It makes me so sad to read reports that many households don't have even \$1,000 set aside to cover an unexpected expense. What's so sad is that I know that must cause such stress. If you don't have an emergency cushion, on some level you're always worried about what you'll do if one of life's "what ifs" strikes.

I know many of you want to have an emergency fund, but then you talk yourself out of it before you ever begin saving. Because you know you can't just snap your fingers and have plenty saved up, or you think you can't afford to start saving now.

No more excuses. You can do it. You must

do it. Here's how to start TODAY.

1. Open a savings account.

It can be at the bank or credit union where you currently have a checking account, or shop online for a high-yield offer.

2. Name it.

If you have online access to your account, chances are you can name your different accounts. Be sure to give your savings account a very specific name: My Emergency Fund. Or: My Safety Net. Trust me, every time you log on and see the account name it will serve two purposes: it should make you feel so great to know you are building security, and by reminding yourself of your goal you will be less likely to raid the account for a non-essential expense.

3. Set up an automatic monthly transfer from your checking account into your savings account.

This is the crucial step. You must remove yourself from the equation. We all have good intentions, but often can't follow through on our intentions. By setting up automated deposits into your savings account you are setting yourself up for success.

4. Push yourself to save a little bit more.

How much to save each month is up to

you. Think through what you want to start with. Got a number in mind? Okay, now I challenge you to increase that amount by 10%. (20% is even better!). Please don't dismiss this challenge before you try it. What I have seen work over many years is that if you go ahead and set up the bigger transfer and stick with it for a few months—even if it seems like way too demanding a sum—what you will find is that you adjust to having less money in your checking. Just give it a try. If after three months it's just too hard to do, then you can ratchet it down a bit.

5. Aim for an eight month emergency fund.

Your long-term goal is to have eight months of living expenses set aside in your emergency fund. I know that's a lot, but I want you and your loved ones to be okay if you were ever laid off, or sick for an extended period of time. Sure, it could take years to reach your eight-month goal. That's totally okay. The important issue is that you are starting to save today and so every month you will be moving closer to your goal.

10 Tips: Liven up your meals with vegetables and fruits

Discover the many benefits of adding vegetables and fruits to your meals. They are low in fat and calories, while providing fiber and other key nutrients. Most Americans should eat more than 3 cups — and for some, up to 6 cups — of vegetables and fruits each day. Vegetables and fruits don't just add nutrition to meals. They can also add color, flavor, and texture. Explore these creative ways to bring healthy foods to your table.

1. *Fire up the grill.* Use the grill to cook vegetables and fruits. Try grilling mushrooms, carrots, peppers, or potatoes on a kabob skewer. Brush with oil to keep them from drying out. Grilled fruits like peaches, pineapple, or mangoes add great flavor to a cookout.

2. *Expand the flavor of your casseroles.* Mix vegetables such as sauteed onions, peas, pinto beans, or tomatoes into your favorite dish for that extra flavor.

3. *Planning something Italian?* Add extra vegetables to your pasta dish. Slip some peppers, spinach, red beans, onions, or cherry tomatoes into your traditional tomato sauce. Vegetables provide texture and low-calorie bulk that satisfies.

4. *Get creative with your salad.* Toss in shredded carrots, strawberries, spinach, watercress, orange segments, or sweet peas for a flavorful, fun salad.

5. *Salad bars aren't just for salads.* Try eating sliced fruit from the salad bar as your dessert when dining out. This will help you avoid any baked desserts that are high in calories.

6. *Get in on the stir-frying fun.* Try something new! Stir-fry your veggies — like broccoli, carrots, sugar snap peas, mushrooms, or green beans — for



a quick-and-easy addition to any meal.

7. *Add them to your sandwiches.* Whether it is a sandwich or wrap, vegetables make great additions to both. Try sliced tomatoes, romaine lettuce, or avocado on your everyday sandwich or wrap for extra flavor.

8. *Be creative with your baked goods.* Add apples, bananas, blueberries, or pears to your favorite muffin recipe for a treat.

9. *Make a tasty fruit smoothie.* For dessert, blend strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries with frozen bananas and 100% fruit juice for a delicious frozen fruit smoothie.

10. *Liven up an omelet.* Boost the color and flavor of your morning omelet with vegetables. Simply chop, sauté, and add them to the egg as it cooks. Try combining different vegetables, such as mushrooms, spinach, onions, or bell peppers.

How to mourn your old normal and adapt to the new

Deaths from the novel coronavirus COVID-19 have surpassed 110,000 in the United States and mourning the losses of these lives is important. In addition, we are also mourning lost habits and ways of life that are casualties of the coronavirus.

Going out with friends, hugging a grandparent, even opening a door in a public place are on hold. Some of these changes were temporary. However, even as states begin to open up, changes in how we interact with each other and the world will likely continue for far longer.

"We need to grieve the ways of life we have lost," according to William Glover, Ph.D., president of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsA).

Mourning and grief are an important part of coping with loss and essential in managing changes and accepting new realities. Recognizing that our pre-COVID lives may never return is a loss to be mourned, and the work involved

in this mourning can help us move on and into the new reality. One way to cope with grief is by finding meaning in the present situation, although how one does so may be different for everyone. Yet finding meaning is different for everyone. Undoubtedly, there will be new ways to maintain relationships, enjoy life, and participate in activities with family and friends.

Meanwhile, being able to tolerate the pain of grief and find meaning helps sustain us in difficult times.

Visit the American Psychoanalytic Association has resource page at apsa.org/coronavirus for articles and videos and information on how to find a psychotherapist near you. - NewsUSA

INM Book Choice

The Pull of the Stars

(Barnes & Noble Book Club Edition)

by Emma Donoghue

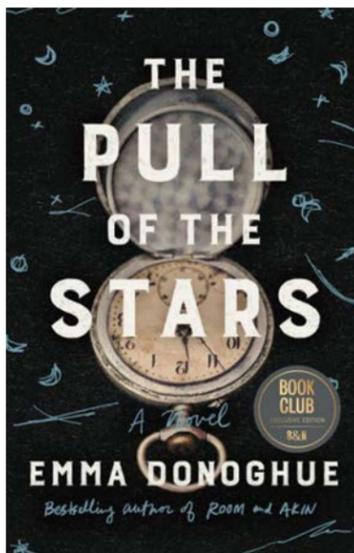
This Barnes & Noble Book Club Edition includes a Q&A with author Emma Donoghue, a reading group guide for book clubs, and recommended reading.

In Dublin, 1918, a maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu is a small world of work, risk, death, and unlooked-for love, in "Donoghue's best novel since Room" (Kirkus Reviews)

In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have come down with the terrible new Flu are quarantined together. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders — Doctor Kathleen Lynn, a rumoured Rebel on the run from the police, and a young volunteer helper, Bridie Sweeney.

In the darkness and intensity of this tiny ward, over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways. They lose patients to this baffling pandemic, but they also shepherd new life into a fearful world. With tireless tenderness and humanity, carers and mothers alike somehow do their impossible work.

In *The Pull of the Stars*, Emma Donoghue once again finds the light in the darkness in this new classic of hope and survival against all odds.



The Answer Is...Reflections on My Life

by Alex Trebek

A recommended summer read by the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*

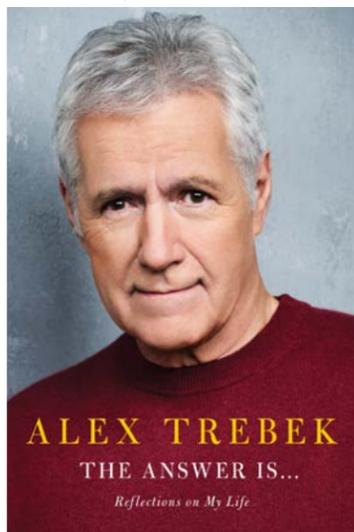
Longtime Jeopardy! host and television icon Alex Trebek reflects on his life and career.

Since debuting as the host of Jeopardy! in 1984, Alex Trebek has been something like a family member to millions of television viewers, bringing entertainment and education into their homes five nights a week. Last year, he made the stunning announcement that he had been diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. What followed was an incredible outpouring of love and kindness. Social media was flooded with messages of support, and the Jeopardy! studio received boxes of cards and letters offering guidance, encouragement, and prayers.

For over three decades, Trebek had resisted countless appeals to write a book about his life. Yet he was moved so much by all the goodwill, he felt compelled to finally share his story. "I want people to know a little more about the person they have been cheering on for the past year," he writes in *The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life*.

The book combines illuminating personal anecdotes with Trebek's thoughts on a range of topics, including marriage, parenthood, education, success, spirituality, and philanthropy. Trebek also addresses the questions he gets asked most often by Jeopardy! fans, such as what prompted him to shave his signature mustache, his insights on legendary players like Ken Jennings and James Holzhauer, and his opinion of Will Ferrell's Saturday Night Live impersonation. The book uses a novel structure inspired by Jeopardy!, with each chapter title in the form of a question, and features dozens of never-before-seen photos that candidly capture Trebek over the years.

This wise, charming, and inspiring book is further evidence why Trebek has long been considered one of the most beloved and respected figures in entertainment.



Public Affairs

with AWEE ABAYARI



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- Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government. Here's what you need to know.
- Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- Be wary of ads for test kits. Most test kits being advertised have not been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.
- Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO. Use sites like coronavirus.gov and usa.gov/coronavirus to get the latest information. And don't click on links from sources you don't know.
- Do your homework when it comes to donations. Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

Considerations for wearing cloth face coverings

HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
- Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.



settings and practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people).

- While cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged to reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a cloth face covering may not be feasible.

Who Should Not Wear a Cloth Face Covering

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Who Should Wear A Cloth Face Covering?

- General public**
- CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That's why it's important for everyone to wear cloth face coverings in public

Good Manners



Be a Blessing to OTHERS

Support Your Community

THE NEED IS URGENT

The economic impact of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic is vast: schools are closed, businesses are threatened, and tens of thousands of people are newly out of work. The Salvation Army is being called to respond to this crisis and provide for people in need

Join us in answering the call. When you donate, you will help us provide services and assistance to people facing economic hardship. The support of a bag of groceries or spiritual care can go a long way for people facing uncertain times ahead. Helping people in need is our specialty, but we can't do it alone.

COPING WITH DEBT

The first step toward taking control of your financial situation is to do a realistic assessment of how much money you take in and how much money you spend. Start by listing your income from all sources. Then, list your "fixed" expenses — those that are the same each month — like mortgage payments or rent, car payments, and insurance premiums. Next, list the expenses that vary — like groceries, entertainment, and clothing.

Writing down all your expenses, even those that seem insignificant, is a helpful way to track your spending patterns, identify necessary expenses, and prioritize the rest. The goal is to make sure you can make ends meet on the basics: housing, food, health care, insurance, and education.

You can find information about budgeting and money management techniques online, at your public library, and in bookstores. Computer software programs can be useful tools for developing and maintaining a budget, balancing your checkbook, and creating plans to save money and pay down your debt.

Contacting Your Creditors
Contact your creditors immediately if you're having trouble making ends meet. Try to work out a modified payment plan. Don't wait



until your accounts have been turned over to a debt collector.

Dealing with Debt Collectors
Federal law dictates how and when a debt collector may contact you: not before 8 a.m., after 9 p.m., or while you're at work if the collector knows that your employer doesn't approve of the calls. Collectors may not harass you, lie, or use unfair practices when they try to collect a debt. And they must honor a written request from you to stop further contact.

Managing Your Auto and Home Loans
Your debts can be unsecured or secured. Secured debts usually are tied to an asset, like your car for a car loan, or your house for a mortgage. If you stop making payments, lenders can repossess your car or foreclose on your house.

Most automobile financing agreements allow a creditor to repossess your car any time you're in default. No notice is required. If your car is repossessed, you may have to pay the balance due on the loan, as well as towing and storage costs, to get it back. If you can't do this, the creditor may sell the car. If you see default approaching, you may be better off selling the car yourself and paying off the debt.

If you fall behind on your mortgage, contact your lender immediately to avoid foreclosure. Most lenders are willing to work with you if they believe you're acting in good faith and the situation is temporary. Some lenders may reduce or suspend your payments for a short time. When you resume regular payments, though, you may have to pay an additional amount toward the past due total. Other lenders may agree to change the terms of the mortgage by extending the repayment period to reduce the monthly debt.

If you and your lender can't work out a plan, contact a housing counseling agency. Call the local office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the housing authority in your state, city, or county for help in finding a legitimate housing counseling agency near you. - FTC

The IRS won't call about your stimulus money

By LISA LAKE

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Most people have already gotten their economic stimulus payments, but the Internal Revenue Service is still sending them out. If you haven't gotten yours yet or have questions about it, the IRS has a number you can call to get answers to common questions.

But the IRS won't be calling you. Scammers pretending to be from the government can rig up caller ID to look like a call is coming from the government. But the truth is: Government agencies usually will not call or email you — especially about something related to money. They almost always contact you by US mail.

If you have questions about Economic Impact Payments, the IRS urges people to visit their website, IRS.gov, to get answers to frequently asked questions. But you also can call the IRS at 800-919-9835.

Look, scammers like to pretend to be from the government to get your money or information. They'll say they're from Medicaid or Medicare, offering help getting medicine or equipment, or asking to "verify" your information. They pretend to be from the Social Security Administration, saying there's been fraud or another problem with your Social Security number and — again — needing to "verify" your number. And scammers love to say they're from the IRS demanding payment or they'll arrest you.

But remember: if you get a call or email from the IRS or any government agency asking you for personal information or money, that's a scam. Hang up the phone or delete the email. - FTC

Sleepiness and driving don't mix



Feeling sleepy is especially dangerous when you are driving. Sleepiness slows your reaction time, decreases awareness and impairs your judgment, just like drugs or alcohol. People who are very sleepy behave in similar ways to people who are drunk. The impact that this has on traffic safety should not be underestimated.

To remain alert and avoid drowsiness, AAA suggests:

- Getting plenty of sleep (at least six hours) the night before a long trip;
- Traveling at times when you are normally awake, and staying overnight rather than driving straight through;
- Scheduling a break every two hours or every 100 miles;
- Stop driving if you become sleepy; someone who is tired could fall asleep at any time — fatigue impacts reaction time, judgment and vision, causing people who are very sleepy to behave in similar ways to those who are drunk;
- Not planning to work all day and then drive all night;
- Drink a caffeinated beverage. Since it takes about 30 minutes for caffeine to enter the bloodstream, find a safe place to take a 20-30 minute nap while you're waiting for the caffeine to take effect;
- Avoid sleepy times of day. Take a mid-afternoon nap and find a place to sleep

between midnight and 6 a.m.; and

- Traveling with an awake passenger. Symptoms of sleepiness include but are not limited to:
- Having trouble keeping your eyes open and focused;
- The inability to keep your head up;
- Daydreaming or having wandering, disconnected thoughts;
- Drifting from your lane or off the road, or tailgating;
- Yawning frequently or rubbing your eyes repeatedly;
- Missing signs or driving past your intended exit;
- Feeling irritable and restless; and
- Being unable to remember how far you have traveled or what you have recently passed.



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• PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • ENTERTAINMENT •

The Academy and ABC set April 25, 2021 as new show date for 93rd Oscars®

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the ABC Television Network announced the 93rd Oscars® ceremony will move to Sunday, April 25, 2021, as a result of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. The show, which will air live on ABC, was originally scheduled for February 28, 2021. Coinciding with the Oscars celebration, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, initially scheduled to open to the public on December 14, 2020, will now open on April 30, 2021, also as a result of the health crisis.

“For over a century, movies have played an important role in comforting, inspiring, and entertaining us during the darkest of times. They certainly have this year. Our hope, in extending the eligibility period and our Awards date, is to provide the flexibility filmmakers need to finish and release their films without being penalized for something beyond anyone’s control,” said Academy President David Rubin and Academy CEO Dawn Hudson. “This coming Oscars and the opening of our new museum will mark an historic moment, gathering movie fans around the world to unite through cinema.”

“We find ourselves in uncharted territory this year and will continue to work with our partners at the Academy to ensure next year’s

show is a safe and celebratory event that also captures the excitement of the opening of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures,” said Karey Burke, president, ABC Entertainment.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano and featuring six floors of exhibition spaces, education and special event spaces, a conservation studio, a restaurant, a museum store, the 1,000-seat David Geffen Theater and the 288-seat Ted Mann Theater, will move its opening to April 30, 2021.

Bill Kramer, director of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, said, “I speak for all of us at the Museum when I say that we have been eagerly awaiting the moment when we can share the Academy Museum with movie lovers everywhere. With the unprecedented and devastating pandemic happening around the world and our commitment first and foremost to the health and safety of our visitors and staff, we have made the difficult decision to wait a few more months to open our doors. Thankfully, with COVID-19 safety protocols in place, exhibitions continue to be installed. We look forward to April 2021 when Los Angeles and the world will be able to join together as the Academy celebrates the Oscars and the opening

OSCARS

of its long-dreamed-of Museum.”

Dates also have shifted for the Academy Awards® eligibility period, submission deadlines and related awards season events. The

eligibility period for Academy Awards consideration has been extended beyond the standard December 31 deadline: a feature film must now have a qualifying release date between January

1, 2020 and February 28, 2021. The submission deadline for specialty categories (Animated Feature Film, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject, International Feature Film, Animated Short Film, Live Action Short Film) is December 1, 2020. The submission deadline for general entry categories, including Best Picture, Original Score and Original Song, is now January 15, 2021. Visit oscars.org/rules for the complete 93rd Academy Awards rules, revised with these dates and deadlines.

No mask, no dice: Mandatory masks on for Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Vegas has always been — and will continue to be — a destination that represents adult freedom and the perfect place for a getaway. All the fun, energy, and entertainment of Las Vegas remains the same with a new #VegasSmart twist, including the mandatory requirement of wearing facial coverings.

Recently, an event was held at McCarran International Airport where arriving passengers were surprised by various local entertainers distributing Las Vegas branded masks at Terminal 1 baggage claim. Las Vegas wants travelers to know the destination honors its commitment to visitors, employees, and residents by putting safety first, and wearing a mask is an important component.

Vegas Smart reminds visitors and locals alike that the destination is doing everything it can to be smart while continuing to bring the exceptional dining, attractions, and experiences that Las Vegas is known for. #VegasSmart is about being mindful of surroundings and thought-

ful of others: keeping a safe distance, wearing a mandatory mask and washing or sanitizing hands often. While slightly reimagined, the sentiment remains the same: Vegas is still the exciting getaway guests know and crave.

“We want our visitors to feel confident that coming to Las Vegas is still a fun and healthy experience. We know how much our visitors miss Vegas, and we want to welcome them back to enjoy the destination as safely as possible,” said Steve Hill, president/CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. “The mask mandate is a necessary and smart step on behalf of Nevada Governor Sisolak to make sure we can continue to share the world-class experiences you only find in Las Vegas.”

Things may look a little different but new venues and restaurants continue to open, summertime poolside lounging is in full effect and many attractions are open for Vegas-only thrills.



Venetian Las Vegas gondolier hands an arriving visitor a mask.



Manny Pacquiao signs 2021 Philippines Olympian Eumir Felix Marcial who will turn pro in the U.S. under The MP Promotions banner

LAS VEGAS, NEV. (July 20, 2020) -- Before he boards the Tokyo Express as a member of the 2021 Philippines Olympic boxing team, amateur middleweight standout and Manny Pacquiao’s newest addition Eumir Felix Marcial has decided to turn professional since professional fighters are now allowed to compete in the Olympics. Marcial, 24, from Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines, recently signed an exclusive promotional agreement with Senator Pacquiao’s MP Promotions, which boasts a stable that currently includes three world champions -- WBO Bantamweight Champion John Riel Casimero, IBF Super Flyweight Champion Jerwin Ancajas, and IBF Minimumweight Champion Pedro Tadoran. Marcial is expected to make his pro debut in the Fall in the U.S.

“It is an honor to have my idol Senator Manny Pacquiao as my mentor and promoter,” said Marcial. “I have seen the tremendous opportunities that Senator Pacquiao and MP Promotions President Sean Gibbons have given to so many Filipino Boxers. I feel working under the MP Promotions banner will give me the best opportunity as I prepare for the Tokyo Olympics and my professional career. I would like to thank all those who were part of my career from the start. Most of all, thank you to all Filipino sports fans who have shown me endless support from the time I won my first gold medal in 2011 at the AIBA Youth World Championship. A million thanks and ‘Mabuhay!’ to all the Filipino athletes.”

“MP Promotions is thrilled to be selected by Eumir to guide his boxing career,” said Sean Gibbons, president of MP Promotions. “Senator Pacquiao’s goal at MP Promotions is to give



MP Promotions

as many Filipino boxers access to the biggest platforms in the U.S. and around the world, and create the best opportunities to succeed in boxing like the ones Manny has enjoyed over the last 25 years. We have followed Eumir through the amateurs and he is special. His dedication to boxing, his family, and the country of the Philippines is very strong. MP Promotions is proud to be guiding its first Olympian. We will make sure his journey to the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo is a smooth one as we help Eumir achieve his dual dream of winning Olympic gold and a professional world title for his father and the Philippines.”

Before the pandemic shut the world down, Marcial had been on a roll. He punched his ticket for the 2021 Olympics in March by winning all four of his bouts in the Asia-Oceania Olympic Qualifying tournament in Amman, Jordan. Marcial was the top seed in his division. Last December, he captured the gold at the 30th Southeast Asian Games as well as the silver medal in last year’s World Boxing Championships. His illustrious résumé also includes being a three-time SEA games champion.

RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS PARTNERS WITH AEG PRESENTS TO CREATE UNRIVALED THEATRE EXPERIENCE AT LAS VEGAS’ NEWEST RESORT

LAS VEGAS – Las Vegas’s newest concert and entertainment experience will come alive when Resorts World Las Vegas opens in summer 2021. A 5,000-capacity concert and entertainment venue, The Theatre at Resorts World Las Vegas will be outfitted to host a myriad of affairs - from star-studded concerts to convention, corporate and sporting events.

The Theatre, a joint development between Resorts World Las Vegas and AEG Presents, will be exclusively programmed and operated by Concerts West, a division of AEG Presents. This new generation venue will introduce the next wave of superstar residencies and engagements, as well as must-see events, to the city’s coveted entertainment landscape.

With a design approach featuring innovative staging, the latest in technology and audio-visual capabilities, and unrivaled guest and artist amenities, The Theatre will introduce first-of-its-kind functionality to the “Entertainment Capital of the World.” Stage design and technical features include:

- One of the largest and tallest stages on the Las Vegas Strip



- A proscenium opening that is one of the largest in Las Vegas that can be easily modified with a unique motorized system
 - Three scenic and performance stage lifts that can accommodate up to 86,400 pounds.
 - The newest state-of-the-art, fully immersive audio system comprised of 265 speakers, enabling a multi-dimensional surround sound experience
 - A comprehensive automated lighting package and robotic follow spot system with GrandMA3 control
 - Fully configurable LED screens totaling almost 5,000 square feet
- The Theatre’s modern black and champagne design aesthetic will provide a lustrous backdrop that’s equally as dazzling as the night’s entertainment. A 65-foot custom

chandelier will welcome concertgoers into a four-story lobby adorned with honest and refined materials like polished stone and bright metals, along with elegant accessories and rich details creating a distinctive, high-energy environment.

The multi-level theatre offers versatile seating configurations, permitting up to 5,000 capacity, distributed between the orchestra floor and two balcony levels including dedicated VIP seating.

Designed to accommodate VIP experiences and host artist meet and greets and private groups, The Theatre at Resorts World Las Vegas boasts a dedicated VIP guest entrance, two luxe private salons with plush lounge seating and full-service bars, and premium VIP seating with bottle service for the ultimate night of entertainment.

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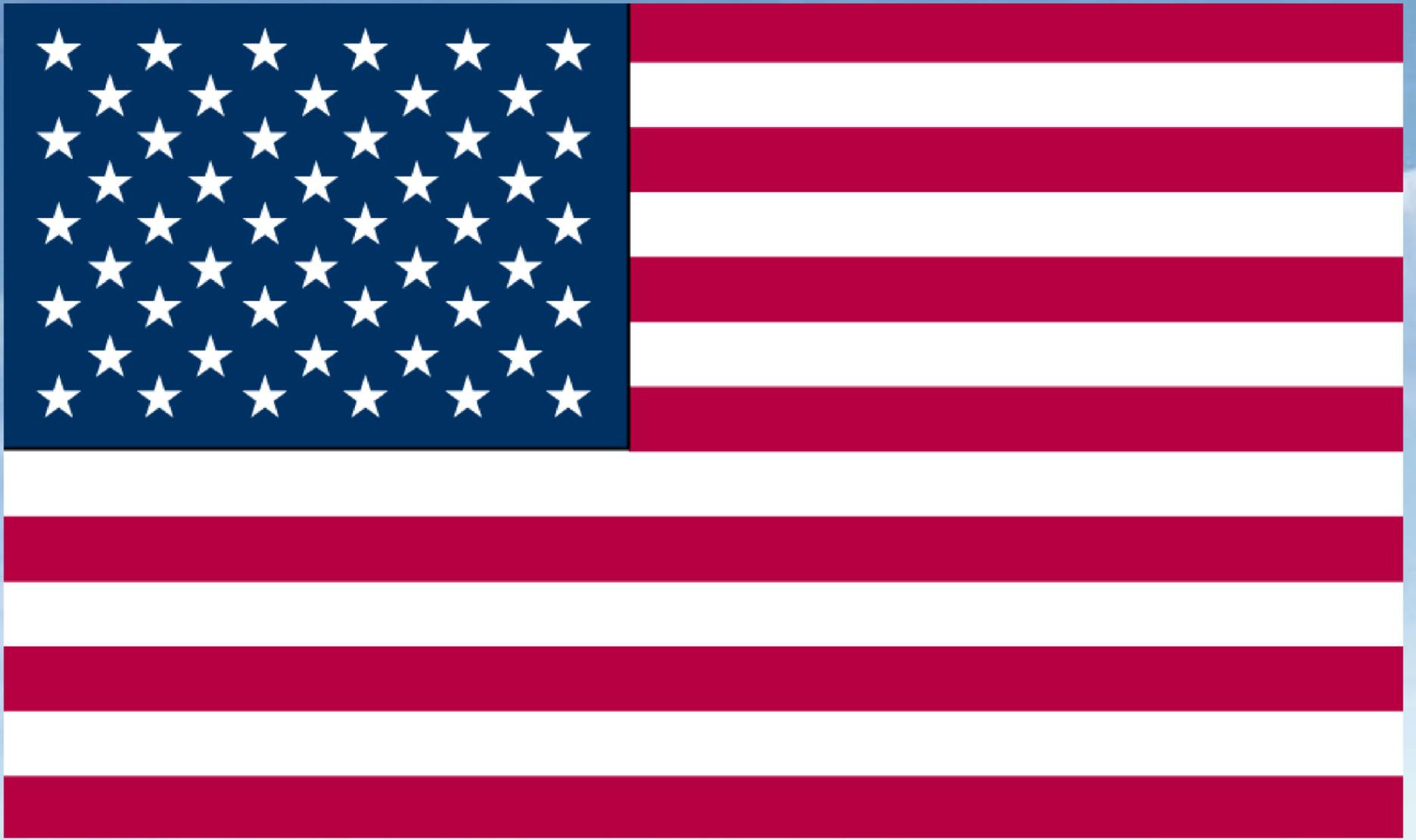
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