

# International NEWS MEDIA

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US law enforcement agencies worked to facilitate MCSO the ability to collect DNA samples from relatives of persons suspected to have perished in the Sonoran Desert. (Photo courtesy of US Customs and Border Protection)

## CBP assists Mexican families, hopes to find resolution regarding missing migrants

**N**OGALES, Ariz. – Three U.S. law enforcement agencies met in Nogales, Arizona recently to follow up on a program created to bring closure for Mexican families seeking to learn the fate of missing loved ones believed to have disappeared in southern Arizona.

Border Patrol agents with the Missing Migrant Program, along with U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers from the Tucson Field Office, and the non-governmental group Border Action Network, met

with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office deputies at the Mariposa Crossing in Nogales. Together, the organizations worked to facilitate MCSO the ability to collect DNA samples from relatives of persons suspected to have perished in the Sonoran Desert. The cheek-swab DNA samples collected will be compared to existing samples in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS) in hopes of identifying human remains.

The Border Patrol's MMP agents work with multiple law

enforcement agencies, third-party reporting entities, foreign consulates and non-governmental organizations to reunite missing loved ones and to provide closure for families of previously unidentified deceased persons.

The Border Patrol's participation provides an additional database resource on missing people to compare with evidence collected in national and international databases. In Fiscal Year 2017, MMP received more than 1,500 requests to help find missing persons or to identify found remains.

## Belgian condemns assassination attempt vs Palestinian leader

**B**elgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders condemns the assassination attempt against the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Rami Hamdallah which occurred in Beit Hanoun, in the Gaza strip on March 13.

Mr. Hamdallah was on his way to the inauguration of the North Gaza wastewater treatment plant (NGEST), in the presence of representatives of the international community. Belgium, together with France, Sweden and the European Union are the largest financial contributors of the construction of this infrastructure, which is vital for the daily life of the people of Gaza.

The thoughts of Minister Reyn-

ders go to the families and friends of the members of the escort who were wounded. He wishes them a prompt recovery. He is convinced that this anonymous and cowardly attack goes radically against the wishes of the inhabitants of Gaza who aspire only to stability and to the return of normal living conditions in the enclave. This attack demonstrates a deliberate will from the most extreme parties to derail the reconciliation between Palestinians under the aegis of a single legitimate Palestinian Authority. It is important to quickly identify the perpetrators of this attack and to bring them to justice.

This is the gravest incident since the agreement of October 2017 between Fatah and Hamas.

## Duterte leads destruction of P27-million worth of smuggled luxury vehicles

**S**TA. ANA, Cagayan—President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday, March 14, witnessed the public destruction of smuggled luxury vehicles worth P27.2 million in Port Irene, the second batch of illegally shipped vehicles to be destroyed under his administration.

The President witnessed last month similar public condemnation of smuggled vehicles at the Port of Manila during the anniversary of the Bureau of Customs. The destruction of the vehicles was simultaneously done in the ports of Cebu and Davao.

"We reaffirm our commitment to build a country free from the shackles of corruption. This condemnation of these smuggled vehicles demonstrates our firm stand to put an end to a longstanding societal disease that has eroded public trust and tainted the government's sincerity to deliver equitable social services," the President said during the event at Port Irene.

"The destruction of these contraband luxury vehicles signifies our strong resolve to restore good governance, preserve our nation's dignity and safeguard our people's welfare," he said.

The President reiterated that he will never tolerate smuggling and all forms of irregularities in the country's ports, especially at the freeports as he stressed that illegal practices will be dealt with to ensure that every government agency is free from corruption.



A bulldozer runs over 14 smuggled luxury vehicles as President Rodrigo Roa Duterte leads the Condemnation and Public Destruction of Contraband Vehicles at Port Irene in Sta. Ana, Cagayan province on March 14, 2018. (Albert Alcain/Presidential Photo)

President Duterte then called upon every local government official, civic leader and the general public to stand with his government in forging a drug-, crime-, and corruption-free Philippines. He said that the confiscation of the luxury cars implies that there is still a lot of work to be done until the people have stronger and more progressive nation they deserve.

### IN THIS ISSUE

*Awee Abayari interviews Len Johnson, SCORE Volunteer Mentor. Turn to Page 2 "Beyond News" and learn how SCORE volunteer mentors share their time and knowledge with others.*



*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is pleased to offer the opportunity for 4 Japanese American high school students to travel to Japan in order to learn more about the country and promote mutual understanding and exchanges between Japanese and Japanese American younger generations. Learn details of the program and how to submit applications. Turn to Page 3 "Across the World."*



*Meet 13-year-old Maricel Carino from Washington, DC, who is making her parents very proud because of her many accomplishments. Only 13 years old, Maricel has earned various awards for her academic achievement including other extra-curricular activities. Turn to Page 5 for our R.E.A.D. highlights.*

*Dazzling ice skating, special effects and unforgettable music will magically transport you to wintry Arendelle when Disney on Ice presents Frozen. Read the details on Page 7 "Life is Beautiful".*



## U.S. Department of Energy announces \$32.5 million to advance solid oxide fuel cell technologies

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced up to \$32.5 million in federal funding for cost-shared research and development (R&D) to advance solid oxide fuel cell technologies (SOFC). The selected projects will fall under the Office of Fossil Energy's two funding opportunity announcements (FOAs): Preliminary Design and Techno-Economic Analysis of MWe-Class Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Systems and Solid Oxide Fuel Cells Core Technology Research.

SOFC R&D will enable effi-

cient, cost-effective electricity generation from abundant domestic coal and natural gas resources, with minimal use of water and near-zero atmospheric emissions of carbon dioxide and pollutants.

DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory will manage the selected projects, supporting the Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC) program by helping to mature SOFC technology for commercial use to efficiently generate low-cost electricity.

Future funding amounts are subject to congressional appropriations.

## Secretary DeVos announces support for wildfire impacted schools in California

**U**.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced new federal assistance for students and schools impacted by the October 2017 California wildfires. The California Department of Education will receive \$2 million in Project SERV funds to aid in their recovery efforts.

According to education officials in California, the award will specifically help to fund portable classrooms, substitute teachers, mental health services, transportation for displaced students and substitute bus drivers.



U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION BETSY DEVOS

"Hundreds of schools and thousands of students were impacted by the California wildfires," said Secretary DeVos. "These resources will help ensure students, teachers and staff have access to the services they need as they continue to recover."

## USCIS, CBP to implement Form I-129 Pilot Program for Canadian L-1 nonimmigrants

**F**rom April 30, 2018, to Oct. 31, 2018, the USCIS California Service Center (CSC) and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Blaine, Washington, port of entry (POE) will implement a joint agency pilot program for Canadian citizens seeking L-1 nonimmigrant status under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This pilot is designed to facilitate the adjudication and admission process of Canadians traveling to the U.S. as L-1 nonimmigrants.

DHS regulations permit an employer to file an L petition on behalf of a Canadian citizen in conjunction with the Canadian citizen's application for admission to the United States.

Petitioners choosing to participate in the joint agency pilot program will be asked to:

- Submit Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, and supporting evidence to the CSC before the Canadian citizen seeks nonimmigrant L-1 admission to the United States through the Blaine POE; and
- Use a cover sheet annotated with "Canadian L" to ensure quick identification of the Form I-129 and for any correspondence thereafter, such as a response to a request for evidence (RFE).

## Business mentoring and education with SCORE

In the United States, small businesses are the engine of its economy employing almost half of all workers in the country. Through their hiring, they have been responsible for much of the economic recovery since the 2008 recession. Over the past year, hiring activity has been on an upward trend for small businesses with plans to add workers hitting the highest level since 1999.

Interestingly, there is a growing shift in the types of jobs generated by small businesses. While the number of firms that employ full-time workers has remained relatively flat, non-employer businesses (also called "solopreneurs") have been increasing. There has also been a marked increase in the "gig economy," which describes the use of contractors and part-time workers to fill roles within businesses.

SCORE is a nonprofit resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that provides free,

confidential mentoring to help small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Our network of 10,000 volunteers provides expert guidance and assistance to thousands of start-up and existing businesses across the country. SCORE's experienced business mentors provide general business advice on every aspect of business planning, start-up, management and growth. The mentoring sessions are confidential one-on-one sessions in person and over the Internet by video and email.

Our 300 chapters hold events and workshops locally across the U.S. and its territories, and match up entrepreneurs with local, volunteer mentors. SCORE volunteers give freely of their time, energy and knowledge to help others. They donate over 1 million hours of their time each year to support their communities.

## Len Johnson, SCORE Volunteer Mentor

**Chapter:** Washington DC  
SCORE  
<https://washingtondc.score.org/>  
<https://www.score.org/>

**Skills:** Business Operations Business Strategy & Planning Government & Regulations Sales, Marketing & Public Relations

**Industry Experience:** Consulting, Research and Business Services Government Contracting Marketing, Advertising and Creative Services Media and Communications



During my 40 years in business, I bought a graphic design studio; grew the company to become an integrated marketing communications firm; and then sold it based on our portfolio of government contracts and roster of corporate and nonprofit clients. This hands-on management experience and knowledge of marketing, business

development and sales is the foundation for my mentoring advice.

I take the time to listen to my client's challenges and concerns and then help them prioritize next steps to create a roadmap for success. My mantra is: "I will be your biggest cheerleader and your hardest task master."

During my career I worked in a 3-person design studio for seven years before purchasing the firm from the founding owner who retired. As president and CEO of my new firm, Johnson Design Group, I grew the company and expanded its services. Then I repositioned the firm under the new name JDG Communications with the tagline: "Strategic Marketing By Design." JDG was recognized with

industry's highest awards from the American Marketing Association and the International Association of Business Communicators. JDG provided services to corporate, nonprofit and government clients including marketing for SCORE, expo promotion for the National Association of Broadcasters, launch of the "Do Not Call" campaign for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, brand development for the U.S. Agency for International Development and advertising for the U.S. General Services Administration.

My firm achieved a ranking in the top ten businesses on the Washington Business Journal's Book of Lists. JDG also was among the top ten small business contractors based on annual sales on the GSA Schedule for selling advertising and marketing services to government agencies. When I sold my business in 2009, I benefited from the advice of a SCORE counselor who helped frame the financial details of the transaction. Having personally benefited from SCORE, I chose to volunteer as a mentor to experience the joy of seeing other entrepreneurs succeed!

Before launching my professional career, I served in the U.S. Army as a photographer during the Vietnam era.

## Awee Abayari's exclusive interview with Len Johnson, SCORE Volunteer Mentor

**Awee Abayari:** How has technology, such as computers and the internet, impacted on how you conducted business? (You may also include the social, economic, technological and political environmental impact.)

**Len Johnson:** When I purchased my graphic design business in 1979 all our work was done on drafting tables and the only "technology" was a photostat camera and a waxer for doing pasteup of art boards.

The Macintosh computer revolutionized how we did business and produced our work. The deadlines were compressed to meet the ability to produce the work faster. When FedEx became an international delivery service, we then could serve clients across the country.

**Awee Abayari:** What was your biggest mistake, how did you deal with failure, what you learned and what would you have done differently.

**Len Johnson:** My biggest mistake was to hire someone to write marketing plans with the promise of a Vice President title and equity in my company. When I needed to sever this employee, I had to pay a buyout fee to

end the relationship.

**Awee Abayari:** What does one need to succeed in a business?

**Len Johnson:** It takes tenacity and hard work to build a company. I started as a three person firm and grew it to a staff of 15 people serving government and corporate clients. But the real key to success is to hire people who are more skilled than you and trust them to do their job.

**Awee Abayari:** By the way, if you were to do the business this year, would the business model be completely different? Why? Especially if you were to start the company from scratch and not buy an existing company?

**Len Johnson:** If I was starting a new business today, it would be a digital marketing firm and social media would be a primary service that we would provide to our clients.



## Winners of the 2018 USA Biz Awards

The USA Biz Awards are bestowed every year to recognize outstanding achievements by Austrian companies in the highly competitive U.S. market. This year's winners, picked by the Austrian Trade Commission in Los Angeles, are ESS, Hirsch, Binder+Co, AGRU, AT&S, and Doka Ventures.

The eighth USA Biz Awards ceremony was held concurrently with the Academy Awards on



March 4, 2018, at the residence of the Austrian Consul General in Los Angeles. Seventeen innovative companies competed in six categories over the reputable business trophy.

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## Recruiting for the Invitation Program for Japanese American students

**About the Program:**  
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is pleased to offer the opportunity for 4 Japanese American high school students to travel to Japan in order to learn more about the country and promote mutual understanding and exchanges between Japanese and Japanese American younger generations. Please see below for the details of the program:

**Invitation Program for Japanese American Students (June/July, 2018) Program Description**

Sponsored by: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Period: From June 23 to July 3, 2018

**Program Purpose:**

- Provide Japanese American students with an opportunity to learn various aspects of Japan (politics, economy, society, history, culture, language, etc.).
- Promote mutual understanding and exchanges between Japanese and Japanese American younger generations.

**Number of Participants: 4**  
**Qualification:**

- Japanese American high school students (High school students with multiracial background are highly encouraged to apply.)
- Individuals who hold American Nationality and who do not hold Japanese Nationality
- Individuals who have strong interest in Japan
- Individuals who lack opportunity and need assistance to learn about Japan
- Individuals who were not previously invited to Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the same program

**Location of Home-stay: “Kanto” Area**  
**Expenses to be Covered:**

- Round-trip air ticket (Economy class) between US-Japan
- (Airport Tax, Fuel surcharge included)
- Transportation fee within Japan
- Hotel and meals, Excursion fee, Insurance

**Expenses NOT Covered:**

- Passport issuance fee
- Transportation between your home and its nearest airport
- Communication expenses
- expenses of mini bar and other hotel services
- expenses of anything used for your private purpose

**Applying to the Program**  
Applicants should submit the application form to the Consulate General of Japan of your region. The residents in the States of Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC should submit the application form to the Embassy of Japan. To find the Consulate General of Japan of your region, please visit:<http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/consulate-guide.html>.

For any inquiry, please contact Management and Coordination of the Embassy of Japan (Tel: 202-238-6700 or Email: [recruit\\_embjapan@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:recruit_embjapan@ws.mofa.go.jp)).

The deadline for submission of the application form to the Embassy of Japan (Email: [recruit\\_embjapan@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:recruit_embjapan@ws.mofa.go.jp)) is Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

## NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL SPRINGTIME CELEBRATION

As of March 12, 2018, peak bloom is predicted for March 27 – March 31. Exactly when the buds will open is not easy to predict and it is extremely difficult to give an accurate forecast much more than 10 days before peak bloom. National Park Service horticulturists monitor five distinct stages of bud development and provide timely forecasts and updates.

The Peak Bloom Date is defined as the day on which 70 percent of the blossoms of the Yoshino cherry trees that surround the Tidal Basin are open. This date varies from year to year, depending on weather conditions. The Blooming Period is defined as that period when 20 percent of the blossoms are open until the petals fall and leaves appear.

The blooming period starts several days before the peak bloom date and can last as long as 14 days; however, frost or high temperatures combined with wind or rain can shorten this period.

**When will the cherry blossom trees bloom?**  
The National Cherry Blossom Festival is planned to coincide as nearly as possible with the blooming of the trees. Peak Bloom Date is de-



defined as the day on which 70 percent of the blossoms of the Yoshino cherry trees are open. The date when the Yoshino cherry blossoms reach peak bloom varies from year to year, depending on weather conditions.

The mean date of blooming is April 4, but nature is not always cooperative and the National Park Service horticulturists cannot make an accurate prediction much more than 10 days prior. The blooming period starts several days before the Peak Bloom Date and can last as long as 14 days; however, frost or high temperatures combined with wind and/or rain can shorten this period..



## Austrian Consulate opens in Hawaii



From left: Trade Commissioner Koren, LtGov Chin, Consul General Launer, Honorary Consul Urschitz

From February 22 – 23, 2018, the Austrian Consul General in Los Angeles, Andreas Launer, visited Honolulu to reopen the Austrian Honorary Consulate there.

Accompanied by the new Honorary Consul Johann Urschitz and the Austrian Trade Commissioner in Los Angeles, Walter Koren, Consul General Launer met with the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Hon. Doug Chin, to discuss cooperation between Austria and the State of Hawaii in the area of green technologies, tourism and culture.

## 45th Annual Newport Boat Show cruises into Lido Marina Village, Newport Beach, April 19-22, 2018

### SHOWCASING CRUISERS, SPORTFISHERS, YACHTS AND SAILBOATS, NEW AND BROKERAGE

LOS ANGELES (March 2018) – Celebrating nearly half a century as the West Coast’s premiere destination for cruisers and yachts, the Newport Boat Show returns to Lido Marina Village (3424 Via Oporto, Newport Beach) April 19-22, 2018. The exclusive in-water show is set against the picturesque Lido Marina Village, the reimagined seaside shopping and restaurant complex, featuring upscale boutiques, eateries and lifestyle shops.

Produced by the Duncan McIntosh Company, the four-day boating event will feature more than 200 new and brokerage boats of all types and price points, including trawlers, cruisers, sportfishers, sailboats, catamarans, motoryachts, along with shoreside booths offering the newest accessories and gadgets.

Show goers can browse through the many boutiques, visit the eateries and coffee shops, or simply enjoy the waterfront ambiance during their time at the show.

Boating services will also be showcased at the annual show, including marine financing and

insurance. Standup paddleboard exhibitors will be on site for guests to ask questions and observe the latest boards.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.NewportBeachBoatShow.com](http://www.NewportBeachBoatShow.com) or day-of-event at the box office.

For show dates and show hours, visit the website:  
<http://www.newportinwaterboatshow.co/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/newportbeachboatshow/>





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(\*Applicable for select flights & countries only.)



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## Lessons from the Farewell to the United Kingdom

By PhD. CARLOS PUENTE, *Economist & Lawyer Expert in European Affairs*

The latest round of the Brexit negotiations was held in Brussels on March 19th with the aim to reach an international agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom after its decision to leave the Union according to Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union. Both heads of delegations, the British David Davis, and the French Michel Barnier on behalf of the European Union congratulated each other for having made this important step but not “at the end of the road” as both gentlemen declared.

David Cameron, former UK Prime minister, organized a referendum on June 13th, 2016 for the citizens to vote if the UK should leave the European Union or remain within. Votes for leaving won by 51.9 % but population of different regions expressed their will in a very different way. The secessionist Scotland voted to remain within the EU by 62.0 % and North Ireland by 55.8 %; while 53.4 % of votes in England and 52.5 % of

Welsh supported the Brexit. Negotiations for “divorce” started on June 19th, 2017 since UK must exit on March 29th, 2019. Both sides agreed on a transition period of 21 months for UK’s orderly withdrawal from its commitments with the EU.

Negotiations that include some important topics have been concluded but there are still important pending issues as the situation of the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as a part of the United Kingdom. In a first attempt British Prime Minister, Theresa May, showed her opposition for North Ireland to have a different commercial framework than the rest of the United Kingdom but the most convenient and reasonable answer should be the current status and to avoid returning to the “hard border” of the past. So that, North Ireland will share with her sister neighbor Republic of Ireland the rules of the Custom Union and the Single Market. Gibraltar is another stone on the road for the UK since most votes backed Remain during the referendum

and share its border with Spain.

European Union policy makers should think about the causes of withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU. It is true that from the accession of United Kingdom to the European Economic Community (EEC), that later became European Union, there has been a permanent confrontation between London and Brussels. The financial contribution to EU policies was one of the main controversial topics arguing that the United Kingdom contributed much more than the benefits it received in return. Former Prime minister Margaret Thatcher often claimed “I want my money back” and asked for the “British check”.

Many British governments picked up Mrs. Thatcher’s flag and demanded the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to reduce the subsidies; they expressed their opposition to the excess of bureaucracy in Brussels and the concentration of power in the European Commission and in the European Parliament. The European Institution cannot rule all aspects of the citizens’ life. Too much regulation will affect business, job creation and initiatives to improve economic competitiveness.

Aside from that, the British have always feared losing its national identity among the European integration and for this reason they stayed out of the common currency and did not adopt the euro. It was a great mistake to identify the Sterling Pound with the pride of being British. Germany adopted the euro and dropped its national currency, the Deutsche Mark. The accession of the United Kingdom to the EEC was a wrong decision because they misunderstood the European Union with a Customs Union, which only offers the market and freedom of trade. The UK has always stood against protectionism in economy and against federalism in politics. They only wanted “a Europe of nation states which freely co-operate together” as Thatcher underlined.

The European Union has now an opportunity to adopt the necessary changes to make the Union a space for citizens, avoiding excessive regulation and facilitating the understanding of their regulations. Even for experts, it is often difficult to find the legislation produced by the Union. It would also be useful to know if the “European unification” in certain sectors, such as education, immigration and security is positive or counterproductive for citizens. When an EU regulation affects important aspects of the lives of citizens, it should be consulted in a referendum. Policies that constitute an obstacle for citizens and their individual rights must be properly examined before being adopted. Taxes should be reviewed and not “unified at the highest level” of the Member States because it is necessary to reduce costs and non-productive investments. The European Union is not the Soviet Union. Within this environment, maybe, the UK would remain in the EU. (Madrid, March 30th, 2018)

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PhD. Carlos Puente is an International Lawyer and a Political and Economic Analyst on European Affairs. Dr. Puente is an expert in Eastern and European countries.

### News Briefs

#### Commission proposes reforms to EU visa policy

**B**RUSSELS -- The Commission is proposing to reform the EU’s common visa policy to adapt the rules to evolving security concerns, challenges linked to migration and new opportunities offered by technological developments.

The proposed changes to the Visa Code will make it easier for legitimate travellers to obtain a visa to come to Europe, facilitating tourism, trade and business, whilst strengthening security and mitigating irregular migration risks.

The amendments to the Visa Code are the first step of the reform of the common EU visa policy – a proposal to update the Visa Information System (VIS) will follow in spring this year.

#### EU reaffirms commitment to unity and coexistence

**O**n the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the European Union reaffirms its strong commitment to the values of unity and coexistence, and to the fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion in all their forms, inside and beyond our borders.

The European Union is promoting the universal ratification and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination - the universal foundation for the work to prevent and eradicate racism and discrimination.

#### EU: Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right

**O**n World Water Day, the European Union reaffirms that all States are expected to fulfil their obligations regarding access to safe drinking water, which must be available, accessible, safe, acceptable, and affordable for all without discrimination, and recalls that the right to safe drinking water is a human right essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.

The EU also stresses the importance of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and calls on all states to collaborate with the current rapporteur.

Across the world, human rights defenders protecting and promoting the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are often subjected to prosecution, threats and violence. The European Union pays special tribute to those brave individuals who stand up every day for fundamental rights and the protection of the environment.

## Commissioner Hahn in Washington, DC

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations was in Washington D.C. recently where he discussed EU and US bilateral relation and common work in the EU neighbourhood.

Commissioner Hahn also met officials of the US administration including the Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Russian Affairs Fiona Hill, the U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volker and Under Secretary for Political Affairs Tom Shannon.

The Commissioner discussed with the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund David Lipton, and the Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Kristalina Georgieva, how to enhance the common work between the EU and the International



COMMISSIONER JOHANNES HAHN

Financial Institutions.

Commissioner Hahn will also participate in an informal roundtable discussion at the Hudson Institute.

## EXIM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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2018 EXIM ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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Washington, DC



## HOW TO SERVE



## The Salvation Army

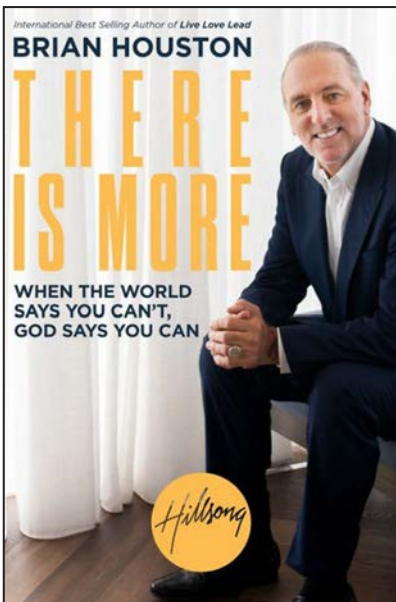


- The Salvation Army
- Offers safe space and compassionate support;
- Cares for everyone without discrimination;
- Addresses immediate needs first;
- Respects the individual’s dignity;
- Cares for the whole person; and,
- Provides long-term solutions

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- Emergency Assistance
- Addiction Treatment
- Housing for Families
- Grate Patrol Homeless Outreach
- Disaster Services
- Youth Services
- Washington Area Fuel Fund

## BARNES & NOBLE



### Overview

**There Is More: When the World Says You Can't, God Says You Can**  
 by Brian Houston

Founder and Global Senior Pastor of Hillsong Church and author of LIVE LOVE LEAD shows how, with God's power, you can believe and achieve a life that exceeds every earthly expectation. When you surrender control and follow God's guidance, you become empowered and equipped to do the impossible, reach higher, and go further than you could have ever imagined—giving Him all the glory.

By building our lives around godly principles, surrounding ourselves with wisdom, and living for a cause greater than ourselves, we can effectively live out God's purposes and have an enduring impact. As Brian Houston has personally discovered, when we depend on Jesus as the source for our identity, our lives can be a lasting legacy that maximize the gifts He has given each of us as unique individuals. There is More is for anyone who wants to be challenged to live with expectancy.

Ephesians 3 is a call to release the immeasurable potential within you and the exceeding, abundant, and above plans and purposes of a Holy God that are beyond your greatest imagination. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

## EVA brings Hello Kitty Jet into three-flight/day L.A. schedule

**Kitty, Sanrio friends invite travel fun and new friendships**

LOS ANGELES – EVA Air is adding its popular Hello Kitty Hand-in-Hand Jet into its Los Angeles schedule. It is using the specially painted plane on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for three of the 21 nonstop flights it operates between Los Angeles and Taipei, Taiwan every week. Travelers can learn more about EVA and its Hello Kitty and Sanrio Family jets at <http://www.evakitty.com/en/index.html> and book flights through travel agents, the airline's reservations hotline or at [www.evaair.com](http://www.evaair.com).

From nose to tail of the colorful Boeing 777-300ER, Hello Kitty and Sanrio friends of different colors, shapes and sizes join hands and invite travel fun and friendships. Among the 19 Sanrio Family characters linking hands with Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel are My Melody,



Kuromi, Little Twin Stars, Cinnamoroll, Pom-pom Purin and Bad Badtz-Maru.

The specially painted Boeing 777-300ER is comfortably configured into three distinct cabins, Royal Laurel Class business, Premium Economy and Economy.

The fun of flying aboard EVA's Hello Kitty and Sanrio Family Jets begins at airport check-in with specially designed boarding passes and baggage stickers. Onboard, the cabin crews wear light-green Hello Kitty Jet aprons and passengers use service items decorated with the irresistible characters. Service items include Hello Kitty headrest covers, pillows, tissue, hand cream, hand-washing liquid, napkins, paper cups, utensils and snacks, all refreshed quarterly.

EVA flies seven of the specially painted aircraft on routes within Asia, in addition to its long-haul service to Chicago and Los Angeles. EVA launched the Hello Kitty Hand-in-Hand Jet on the Los Angeles - Taipei route in September 2013 and rerouted it to fly Taipei – Paris in October 2014.

## Time to Shine Maricel Carino: Outstanding Student

A 13-year-old, 7th grader in Washington, DC, Maricel Carino makes her parents Flor and Cesar from the Philippines very proud because of her many accomplishments. She has earned various awards for her academic achievement including other extra-curricular activities: swimming, ice skating, baseball and even weight lifting. She is also into volleyball, skiing, and soccer.

Very musically inclined, she sings very well, plays the saxophone and is a member of their school band that has also won in competitions. To be in the law enforcement is her dream, to serve the community.



Maricel with her Mom, Flor.



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L26pLJ7rVDw>

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_UQHtzaVA4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_UQHtzaVA4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgWmceXJSb4>

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**Who is eligible to use APC?**  
APC kiosks can be utilized by U.S. citizens, U.S. legal permanent residents, Canadian citizens, travelers utilizing ESTA (Visa Waiver Program), and travelers entering with a B1/B2 or D visa.

**Is APC safe and secure technology?**  
Yes, the APC technology does not store any personal information. Travelers' passport information and answers to the declaration questions are submitted directly to CBP via secure encryption protocols similar to how it's done by a CBP officer at a booth.

**Do travelers still have to fill out a Customs declaration form?**  
No, travelers will submit their Customs declaration form electronically via the kiosks. If a traveler has already filled out a Customs declaration form, it can be given to a CBP Officer for shredding.



## International travel tips from the US Department of State

**Safeguard Your Documents!** Make two copies of all your travel documents in case of emergency. Leave one copy with a trusted friend or relative at home and carry the other separately from your original documents. To help prevent theft, do not carry your passport in your back pocket, and keep it separate from your money.

- **Passport** – Apply several months in advance for a new passport. If you already have one, it should be valid for at least six months after you return home and have two or more blank pages, depending on your destination. Otherwise, some countries may not let you enter.
- **Children's passports** – Passports issued for children under age 16 are valid for only five years, not 10 years like adult passports. Check passport expiration dates carefully and renew early.
- **Europe Travel via Canada and UK** – Europe's 26 Schengen countries strictly enforce the six-month validity rule. If you are transiting through Canada or the UK – which do not have that requirement – your passport must be valid at least six months or airlines may not let you board your onward flight to Europe.
- **Visas** – You may need to get a visa before you travel to a foreign destination. Contact the embassy of the countries you will be visiting

for more information.

- **Prescriptions** – Get a letter from your doctor for medications you are bringing. Some countries have strict laws, even against over-the-counter medications, so check with the embassy of your destination before traveling.
- **Consent for Travel with Minors** – If you are traveling alone with children, foreign border officials may require custody documents or

notarized written consent from the other parent. Check with the embassy of your foreign destination before traveling.

- **International Driving Permit** – Many countries do not recognize a U.S. driver's license, but most accept an International Driving Permit (IDP). You may also need supplemental auto insurance. Read more about driving and road safety abroad before you go.

## FBI Tips for avoiding Identity Thief

Identity theft occurs when someone assumes your identity to perform a fraud or other criminal act. Criminals can get the information they need to assume your identity from a variety of sources, including by stealing your wallet, rifling through your trash, or by compromising your credit or bank information. They may approach you in person, by telephone, or on the Internet and ask you for the information.

The sources of information about you are so numerous that you cannot prevent the theft of your identity. But you can minimize your risk of loss by following a few simple hints.

**Tips for Avoiding Identity Theft:**

- Never throw away ATM receipts, credit statements, credit cards, or bank statements in a usable form.
- Never give your credit card number over the telephone unless you make the call.
- Reconcile your bank account monthly, and notify your bank of discrepancies immediately.
- Keep a list of telephone numbers to call to report the loss or theft of your wallet, credit cards, etc.
- Report unauthorized financial transactions

to your bank, credit card company, and the police as soon as you detect them.

- Review a copy of your credit report at least once each year. Notify the credit bureau in writing of any questionable entries and follow through until they are explained or removed.
- If your identity has been assumed, ask the credit bureau to print a statement to that effect in your credit report.
- If you know of anyone who receives mail from credit card companies or banks in the names of others, report it to local or federal law enforcement authorities.

## Application Period now Open for Port of LA 2018 Community Investment Grants

The Port of Los Angeles is now accepting applications for its Community Investment Grant program, which annually distributes up to \$1 million per year in funding for initiatives, programs and events benefiting the Los Angeles Harbor community. Completed applications are due by 4 p.m. on May 7, 2018.





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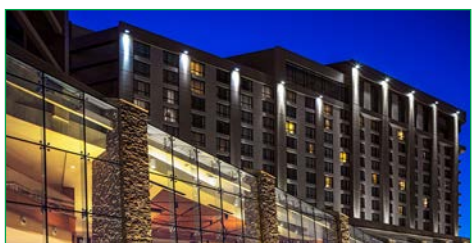
## Pechanga Resort & Casino celebrates Grand Opening Week

### BRAND NEW FACILITIES, SAME WORLD-CLASS GAMING

With much anticipation, Pechanga Resort & Casino celebrated a historical grand opening week. The \$300 million spent on the resort expansion would rival any casino in California or Nevada. Thursday,



*Pechanga's Management Team with the New Logo*



*Exterior view of the New Atrium Tower of Pechanga Resort & Casino.*

March 8, 2018, Pechanga rolled out the red carpet for Asian Media Day, an exclusive event for many of the Asian media outlets, presenting sneak previews and exclusive tours of the new facilities.

"We are completely committed to making Pechanga Resort & Casino a better, more luxurious and fun world-class gaming resort destination," says Lee Torres, general manager at Pechanga.

The occasion celebrated and acknowledged the great impact of the Asian community to the \$550 million-dollar economic growth and development of Temecula Valley. A new redesign of brand and logo was launched for our ever-growing Asian clientele.

"We take the loyalty from our Asian guests very seriously and with Pechanga's newly designed logo and branding, it was of utmost importance to bring Pechanga into present day," says Bill Anderson, chief marketing officer at Pechanga.

The new resort tower offers modern guest rooms and lavish suites with floor-to-ceiling views of the surrounding south Temecula Mountains, the Journey golf course and the Temecula cityscape.

The brand new, luxury two-story spa and resort features 17 therapy rooms, sauna, two hydrotherapy pools, an outdoor pool and cabanas,



*Pechanga Development Corporate President, Edith Atwood*

and a full-service salon for men and women.

Pechanga acknowledges the discerning taste of the Asian community and assures every restaurant at Pechanga offers top-rated, award-winning service, with regional flavors to match.

The countless international acts and high-profile Asian celebrities are the reason Pechanga is the most Asian friendly destination. As part of the \$300 million expansion, Pechanga wants to bring your entertainment experience to the next level. The 40,000 square feet, Pechanga Summit truly impresses and accommodates everything from corporate events, stage performances, and arena sports such as MMA fights.

The exceptional team at Pechanga brings a wealth of experience and extends their first-rate services for their valued clients. The team of Filipino speaking hosts includes Marylou Bean, Vhergie DeJesus, or Maria Antonio.

Sixteen years of outstanding services, four diamond accommodations, and world-class gaming. Discover the difference and see what makes Pechanga Resort & Casino the most global Asian-friendly destination for world-class gaming and premium entertainment.

## MGM Resorts named one of "World's Most Admired Companies"

**L**AS VEGAS – For the third consecutive year, MGM Resort International has been named one of the "World's Most Admired Companies" by Fortune magazine in its annual survey of business leaders and analysts.

The survey, regarded as a definitive analysis of corporate reputation, ranked MGM Resorts among the best in the world in the category of Hotels, Casinos and Resorts.

MGM Resorts, a global hospitality and entertainment company, offers some of the most recognizable resort brands in the world. It is currently developing MGM Springfield in Massachusetts, and soon will debut MGM COTAI in Macau and the first international Bellagio branded hotel in Shanghai.

The survey evaluated companies in 51 different industries. Fortune and Korn Ferry, a global management consulting firm, began with the 1,000 largest U.S. companies ranked by revenue along with non-U.S. Fortune Global 500 companies with revenues of \$10 billion or more. They then narrowed the field to the highest-revenue companies in each industry, a total of 680 in 28 countries.

Rankings were based on nine criteria, from investment value and quality of management and products to social responsibility and ability to attract talent. (PRNewswire)

## Disney On Ice presents Frozen, April 19 – 29, 2018

**THE #1 ANIMATED MOVIE OF ALL TIME RETURNS TO SKATE THROUGH LONG BEACH & ONTARIO THIS APRIL**

**D**iscover the full story of Disney's Frozen like never before at Disney On Ice presents Frozen at the Long Beach Arena April 19 to 22 and at Citizens Bank Arena in Ontario April 26 to 28.

Dazzling ice skating, special effects and unforgettable music will magically transport you to wintry Arendelle.

Be a part of Anna's fearless adventure to find her sister, Queen Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in an eternal winter. Join the hilarious snowman Olaf, rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer sidekick Sven as they help Anna in a race to bring back summer.

Encounter Everest-like conditions and mystical trolls as you sing along to Acad-

emy Award®-winning songs like Let It Go and ultimately discover true love is the most powerful magic of all!

Hosted by Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, the whole family will delight in special appearances by stars from Toy Story, Finding Dory, The Lion King and the inspiring Disney Princesses. Experience magic at every turn and create memories to last a lifetime at Disney On Ice presents Frozen - the show worth melting for!

For schedule, visit <https://www.disneyonice.com/frozen>

Tickets available for purchase online at Ticketmaster.com, charge by phone at 800-745-3000 or in-person at the venue Box Office.

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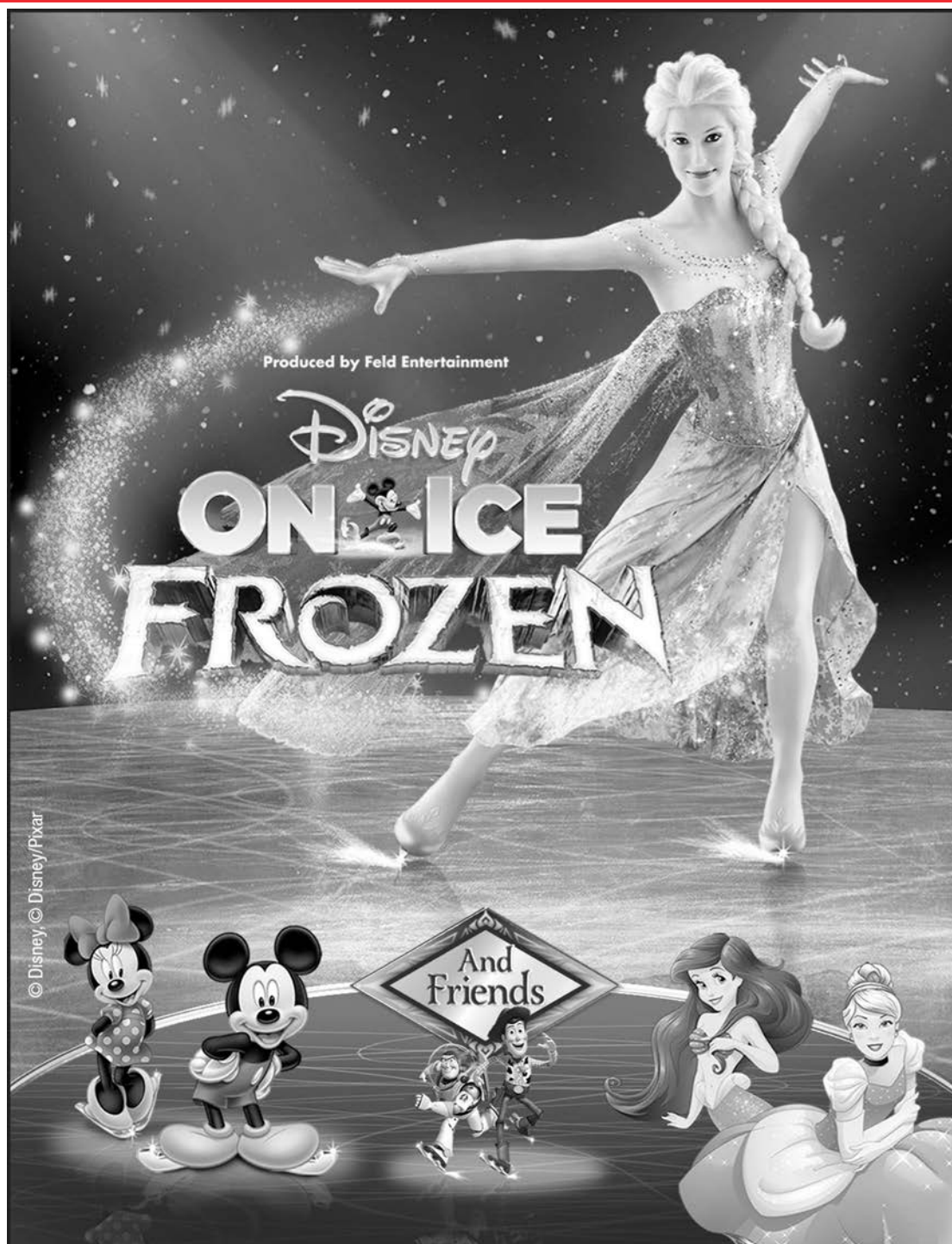
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