

'Jersey Shore' star Marc Sorrentino sentenced to 24 months in federal prison on tax evasion charges

Television personality Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino was sentenced to eight months in prison, and his brother, Marc Sorrentino, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for violating federal tax laws. Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito for District of New Jersey, and IRS Special Agent in Charge John R. Tafur made the announcement.

Tax evasion charges were originally brought against Michael Sorrentino, 37, and his brother, Marc Sorrentino, 39, in September 2014, and a superseding indictment returned in April 2017 added additional charges.

Michael previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to Count 13 of a superseding indictment, which charged him with tax evasion. Marc pleaded guilty to Count 5, which charged him with aiding in the preparation of a false and fraudulent tax return. Judge Wigenton imposed the sentences today in Newark federal court.

"Lying to and defrauding the federal

government is a very serious crime, regardless of a defendant's celebrity status," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Zuckerman. "The Sorrentino brothers chose to use Michael's fame to benefit themselves at the expense of the American taxpayer, and with the help of our federal partners, they were held accountable."

"The law requires all Americans to pay our fair share of taxes. These defendants deliberately flouted this requirement, acting as though fame and celebrity status placed them above the law. They are not," said U.S. Attorney Carpenito. Tax fraud is as serious as any other form of theft from the government, and the sentences imposed today should make that abundantly clear."

"Tax crimes, plain and simple, are an outright theft from the hardworking American public," stated John R. Tafur, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. "The courts recognize the severity of these crimes and now Michael and Marc Sorrentino are convicted felons with prison sentences to serve for intentionally disregarding their tax obligations to our country."



"Jersey Shore" star Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino was sentenced to eight months in prison, and his brother, Marc Sorrentino, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for violating federal tax laws.

USCIS efforts lead to guilty plea in case of unauthorized practice of immigration law

COLUMBIA, S.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services helped initiate an investigation that led to charges and guilty pleas from Veronica Perdomo, 43, for fraudulently practicing immigration law and impersonating an immigration officer.

The plea included two counts of Wire Fraud, each of which carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison; four counts of Impersonating an Officer or Employee of the United States, each such count carrying a sentence of up to 3 years in prison, and twelve counts of Fraudulently Affixing the Seal of an Agency of the United States to a Document, each such count carrying a sentence of up to 5 years in prison.

A USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) immigration officer in Charlotte received the original tip that led to FDNS coordinating with DHS Homeland Security Investigation to identify fraudulent filings with USCIS by Perdomo.

At the guilty plea hearing, Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens advised Judge Cain of the following facts: Perdomo devised a scheme whereby she, at various times, pretended to be either an employee, officer, or attorney working with or for the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS).

Perdomo would seek out aliens who were either illegally in the United States or were here legally but having problems with their immigration status.

California resident pleads guilty in scheme to defraud the United States of over \$9 Million



Jacqueline Ramos, aka Jackie Acosta, of Salinas, California, pleaded guilty yesterday to one count of conspiring to submit false claims for income tax refunds and two counts of bank fraud, announced Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Department's Tax Division and United States Attorney Alex G. Tse of the Northern District of California.

According to documents and information provided to the court, Ramos conspired with others to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by filing false tax returns to obtain fraudulent refund checks, and then depositing the checks into bank accounts under their control. The false returns included fake income, bogus dependents, and sham education expenses. By filing these fraudulent returns, Ramos and her co-conspirators are alleged to have stolen more than \$9 million in tax refunds. Two of those co-conspirators, Ana Bajo, aka Ana Covarrubias, and Norma Morfin, aka Norma Mandujano, pleaded guilty earlier this year to related tax charges.

1st Anniversary of Congressional Gold Medal awarding



The next-of-kin of nine (9) Filipino World War II veterans receive bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) at the anniversary celebration of the Awarding by the US Congress of the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino and American World War II Veterans, held at the Philippine Chancery Annex Building on 24 October 2018. Read full story on Page 4.

Russian national charged with interfering in US political system

A criminal complaint was unsealed in Alexandria, Virginia, today charging a Russian national for her alleged role in a Russian conspiracy to interfere in the U.S. political system, including the 2018 midterm election. Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers, U.S. Attorney G. Zachary Terwilliger of the Eastern District of Virginia, and FBI Director Christopher Wray made the announcement after the charges were unsealed.

"Today's charges allege that Russian national Elena Alekseevna Khusaynova conspired with others who were part of a Russian influence campaign to interfere with U.S. democracy," said Assistant Attorney General Demers. "Our nation is built upon a hard-fought and unwavering commitment to democracy. Americans disagree in good faith on all manner of issues, and we will protect their right to do so. Unlawful foreign interference

with these debates debases their democratic integrity, and we will make every effort to disrupt it and hold those involved accountable."

"The strategic goal of this alleged conspiracy, which continues to this day, is to sow discord in the U.S. political system and to undermine faith in our democratic institutions," said U.S. Attorney Terwilliger. "This case demonstrates that federal law enforcement authorities will work aggressively to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of unlawful foreign influence activities, and that we will not stand by idly while foreign actors obstruct the lawful functions of our government. I want to thank the agents and prosecutors for their determined work on this case."

"This case serves as a stark reminder to all Americans: Our foreign adversaries continue their efforts to interfere in our democracy by creating social and political division, spreading distrust in

Former U.S. Senate employee pleads guilty to false statements charge

WASHINGTON — James A. Wolfe, 57, of Ellicott City, Maryland, a former staff employee of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI), pleaded guilty today to one count of making a false statement to special agents of the FBI during the course of an investigation into the unlawful disclosure of classified national security information.

The guilty plea was announced by Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers, U.S. Attorney Jessie K. Liu for the District of Columbia, and Special Agent in Charge Timothy M. Dunham of the Counterintelligence Division of the FBI's Washington Field Office. Wolfe was indicted in June 2018 on three false statements charges. Under the plea agreement, the government will move to dismiss the remaining counts at sentencing.

At the time Wolfe made the false state-

ment to the FBI, he was the Director of Security for the SSCI, a position he held for more than 28 years. As SSCI Director of Security, Wolfe was entrusted with receiving, maintaining, and managing classified national security information provided to the SSCI by the Executive Branch of the United States.

By his guilty plea, Wolfe admitted making false statements to the FBI concerning whether he had provided unclassified, but not otherwise publicly-available, information to reporters. Specifically, on Oct. 16, 2017, and again on Oct. 24, 2017, Wolfe provided a particular reporter with non-public information concerning a witness who had been subpoenaed to testify before the SSCI. Wolfe also admitted making false statements to the FBI about his contacts with three additional reporters, including one of the authors of the aforementioned article.

Man sentenced to almost 25 years for hate crime in burning down mosque

Marq Perez, 26, was sentenced to more than 24 years in prison for burning down the Victoria Islamic Center on Jan. 28, 2017. Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney Ryan Patrick for the Southern District of Texas, Special Agent in Charge Fred Milanowski of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Special Agent in Charge Perrye K. Turner of the FBI made the announcement.

A jury found Perez guilty on July 16, for a hate crime in the burning of the Victoria Islamic Center (the mosque) on Jan. 28, 2017, and for the use of fire to commit a federal felony. In addition, the jury found that Perez possessed an unregistered destructive device for a separate but related incident that occurred on Jan. 15, 2017.

what's inside



ACROSS THE WORLD



Thai police arrested 23 human traffickers. Read full story on Page 3

R.E.A.D.

President Theodore Roosevelt's papers, including letters, personal diaries, and speeches now available online. Turn to Page 5 for more details.

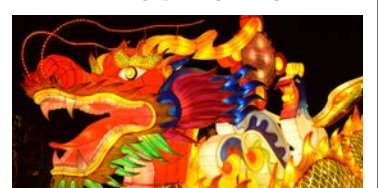


AT YOUR SERVICE



Gift cards are a great way to give a gift. But did you know they are also a scammer's favorite way to steal money? Read all about it on Page 6.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL



Hanart Culture's Chinese Lantern Festival comes to Southern California. Read all about it on Page 7

EU, US reaffirm strong partnership in favor of stable, secure cyberspace

On the occasion of the fifth meeting of the EU-U.S. Cyber Dialogue in Brussels on 10 September 2018, the European Union (EU) and United States reaffirmed their strong partnership in favour of a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace where the rule of law fully applies, where the same rights that individuals have offline are protected online, and where the security, economic growth, prosperity, and integrity of free and democratic societies is promoted and preserved.

During the dialogue, the EU and United States shared information on developments in their respective cyber strategies, policies, and legislation, including the EU Joint Communication on "Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building Strong Cybersecurity for the EU" and the U.S. recommendations on deterrence and international engagement pursuant to the U.S. Executive Order 13800 on "Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure".

Both sides welcomed progress made to increase global capabilities to protect against, detect, deter, and respond to malicious cyber activities and underlined the need for coordination and cooperation in order to safeguard a global, open, stable, and secure cyberspace.

The EU and United States reaffirmed their strong commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms online and condemned undue restrictions on freedom of expression and censorship in violation of international human rights law.

The EU and United States also reaffirmed their strong support for the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance and encourage all stakeholders to strengthen existing Internet governance mechanisms, including the Internet Governance Forum as the premier multi-stakeholder venue for dialogue on Internet-related public policy issues. The EU and United States also underlined the need to address the digital divide to enable economic growth, social development, and increasing cyber resilience towards cyber threats and stressed their commitment to continued capacity building assistance to this end, including through the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise.

The EU and United States endorsed the work to date by the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE), including its landmark 2013 and 2015 reports, and look forward to

a new UNGGE to take that work forward, including on the issue of how existing international law applies to State behaviour in cyberspace. The EU and United States reaffirmed their adherence to certain voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace during peacetime. In addition, both sides welcomed important, ongoing work and progress on the development and implementation of cyber confidence building measures to reduce misperceptions and the risk of escalation stemming from the use of information and communications technologies. The EU and United States reaffirmed the importance of the Budapest Convention as a basis for national legislation and international cooperation in fighting cybercrime.

In order to keep cyberspace stable and secure, the EU and United States are committed to hold States accountable for actions that are contrary to the growing consensus on responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.

Announcement

NIIST has released a draft cybersecurity white paper, Internet of Things (IoT) Trust Concerns, which identifies seventeen technical trust-related issues that may negatively impact the adoption of IoT products and services. The paper offers recommendations for mitigating or reducing the effects of these concerns while also suggesting additional areas of research regarding the subject of "IoT trust."

This document is intended for a general information technology audience, including managers, supervisors, technical staff, and those involved in IoT policy decisions, governance, and procurement. Feedback from reviewers is requested on the seventeen technical concerns that are presented, as well as suggestions for other potential technical concerns that may be missing from the document.

A public comment period for this draft document is open until November 16, 2018.

EU joins UN for human rights and end violence against women

Last September, the EU hosted two flagship events dedicated to human rights in the margins of the 73rd UN General Assembly.

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Neven Mimica, together with UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, launched the Latin America programme of the Spotlight Initiative worth €50 million, which aims at eradicating femicide in Latin America.

Femicide claims the lives of 12 women in Latin America every day. With the €50 million investment, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative will fund new and innovative programmes in Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, to help women and girls live lives free from violence.

High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini also launched, in the presence of UN Secretary General António Guterres and UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, the Good Human Rights Stories Initiative.

The initiative aims to promote a fresh positive narrative on human rights in the world, based on celebrating individual and cross-regional

ownership of the universality and indivisibility of human rights.

The participants jointly committed to uphold and improve human rights domestically and internationally, through good governance, strong independent rule-of-law and democratic institutions, and by working closely with civil society.

Furthermore, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides has announced €5 million in humanitarian aid for vulnerable communities in Myanmar.

The EU's assistance will address the most urgent needs of communities in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states and provide them with humanitarian protection, as well as emergency shelter, food, water and sanitation assistance.

Vietnam's VinFast secures Euler Hermes-guaranteed credit facility



VinFast, a Vietnamese startup that is looking to be the country's first car manufacturer, secured a USD 950 million, 12-year credit facility that will be used to buy machinery and equipment from German manufacturers. Credit Suisse AG and HSBC were the lead arrangers for the Euler Hermes-covered facility.

WB announces \$1B assistance for Indonesia natural disaster recovery and preparedness

USA DUA, Bali, Indonesia—The World Bank announced funding of up to \$1 billion for the Government of Indonesia to supplement relief and reconstruction efforts in the disaster-affected areas of Lombok and Sulawesi, and to bolster long-term resilience.

The funding will be available on request by the Government. It would be guided by a US\$5 million grant for technical assistance for detailed planning to ensure reconstruction is resilient and community-led.

"On Friday I visited the city of Palu in Sulawesi with His Excellency Vice President Kalla. It is humbling to see the devastation and hear the stories of those who have been affected," said World Bank Chief Executive Officer, Kristalina Georgieva. "The Government's immediate relief efforts are robust and impressive. As we enter the reconstruction phase we are making up to \$1 billion

of comprehensive support available for Indonesia. The best memorial to those who lost their lives is build back better."

The World Bank package could include cash transfers to the poorest 150,000 affected families for a period between 6 months to one year. This augmentation of existing social protection systems is designed to support the local economy and employment during the recovery phase and to avoid long-term damage to human capital.

The proposed \$1 billion package could also include a new standalone emergency recovery program to finance rebuilding of critical public facilities and infrastructure assets: hospitals, schools, bridges, roads, highways, water supply infrastructure. It would also strengthen monitoring and early warning systems, and help to finance the reconstruction of housing settlements and neighborhood level infrastructure and services.

HHS awards \$293 million to expand primary health care workforce

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced \$293 million in awards to primary health care clinicians and students through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Nurse Corps programs.

"These programs connect primary care providers with the rural, urban, and tribal communities across the country that need them most," said HRSA Administrator George Sigounas, MS, Ph.D. "In addition to providing essential medical and dental care, these clinicians are on the front lines helping to fight pressing public health issues, like the growing opioid epidemic."

The NHSC and Nurse Corps programs build healthy communities by providing scholarships and loan repayment to health care providers in

exchange for working in areas of the U.S. with limited access to care.

Currently, an estimated 13 million patients receive care from more than 12,500 NHSC and Nurse Corps clinicians.

More than 3,600 of these NHSC members are currently providing behavioral health care services, including medication-assisted treatment and other evidence-based substance use disorder care, in high-need areas.

"For decades, NHSC and Nurse Corps clinicians have been caring for vulnerable patients who might otherwise go without treatment," said HRSA's Associate Administrator for Health Workforce, Luis Padilla, M.D. "In the midst of the current opioid crisis, these providers are again rising to the challenge, working in hard-hit communities to provide mental and behavioral health services."

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY



"We will speak with a common voice, a common hope and a common commitment that someday we will defeat MS and the pain that it causes."

Ambassador and Mrs. Sugiyama appeared as Honorary Chairs of the 40th Ambassadors Ball, an annual benefit event for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. A beautiful ikebana display from Ikebana International was featured. Guests were also invited to try sake, including the sake Prime Minister Abe once shared with President Obama at Jiro's famous sushi restaurant. -

Source: Japanese Embassy

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Thailand arrests 23 human traffickers

Early this month Thai police arrested 23 human traffickers during a crackdown in southern Thailand, dealing a serious blow to transnational criminal syndicates, as the Thai government lived up to its pledge to sustain its war on trafficking after its improved performance was recognized by the United States Department of State last month.

The traffickers who were arrested were involved in moving people from Myanmar, many of them members of the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority, through southern Thailand and on to Malaysia. Four of those arrested as "agents" from a neighboring country who lured their countrymen to make the journey into bondage, while other criminal gangs operating in a country of destination are also participants and were waiting to receive trafficking victims.

"This trafficking route began from Koh



Song, a Myanmar island situated near Ranong in southern Thailand. From Ranong, the trafficked persons will be taken by bus to Chumphon and Phattalung before continuing their journey to Hat Yai, a major town in southern Thailand," said Maj. Gen. Surachet Hakpal of the Royal Thai Police.

From Hat Yai, the victims were moved to Sadao and Sungai Kolok, two border towns with

official crossings and through which a large volume of goods and people move on a daily basis.

Thailand has committed itself to a national campaign to eradicate human trafficking.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has elevated the fight against human trafficking to a national priority and vowed that anyone involved will not be spared from arrest and prosecution no matter their status or connections.

Police said they had been investigating activity along that trafficking route for about three months before making the arrests.

Region Nine deputy police chief Maj. Gen. Daoloi Muendech said police investigations concluded there are groups of human trafficking agents currently operating in neighboring countries and investigation also showed that at least 50 people are involved with the crime in Thailand. - Source: The Royal Thai Embassy

PH ENVOY JOINS MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & DIPLOMACY



Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez (2nd from right) participates in the panel on Closing the Global Skills Gap at the Meridian Global Leadership Summit on 12 October 2018.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez participated in the panel on Closing the Global Skills Gap during the Meridian Global Leadership Summit held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. on 12 October 2018.

Moderated by Sarah Wildman of Foreign Policy Magazine, the Panel was also joined by United States Congressman Francis Rooney (R-FL); Molly Kinder, Senior Advisor on Work, Workers and Technology at New America; and Sharon Grant, Vice President for Community Affairs at United Airlines.

The panel explored how automation, artificial intelligence, and technological advances are challenging traditional employer and education models around the world. It also identified ways for the public and private sectors to work together to prepare the future workforce for the jobs in the 21st century.

"The Philippine services sector, especially our IT/business process management industry, grew with technology and innovation, which, today, are also our main challenges. Our competitiveness, and even the need for human workers,

are impacted by rapid innovations in the areas of digital transformation, artificial intelligence, big data and analytics, and evolving delivery models. It is imperative that the economy and our industries evolve with the changing demands of the market to remain competitive," Ambassador Romualdez said in a statement.

Congressman Rooney spoke about vital issues of education and training, including that of the importance of apprenticeships.

Ms. Grant shared United's experience in re-training for new jobs and new skills, including initiatives relating to their contact centers in the Philippines.

"There is going to be change, and we need to prepare for it. There will be that sense of flux and change, especially in routine and predictable jobs. However, occupations that involve inspiring and leading will continue to be available, as creativity is not easily automated," Ms. Kinder said in describing the trade-offs that are coming in the world of work.

The panel also agreed that jobs requiring empathy and intimate human interaction are going to weather the changes that are forthcoming, such as in education and health care.

The Indian Embassy in Washington DC celebrates the 149th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The 149th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated at the Embassy of India, Washington DC on October 2, 2018. The event started with Ambassador Navtej Sarna paying floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi located outside Embassy premises.

On this occasion, Ambassador released special commemorative postage stamps issued by Department of Posts, Government of India, to mark

150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A quiz on Gandhi was launched by Ambassador through the Embassy of India twitter handle. Ambassador also addressed the gathering.

This was followed by a brief cultural programme comprising of rendition of Gandhi's favorite Bhajans. The event was attended by more than 200 guests.



First Secretary Mr. Shambhu Hakki welcoming the guests at the Embassy of India, Washington DC.



Ambassador Navtej Sarna paying floral tributes to the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in front of the Embassy of India, Washington DC on Tuesday, October 2, 2018.



Poland-U.S. Science Award 2018

Prominent scientists Peter Reich and Jacek Oleksyn have been chosen for the 2018 Poland - U.S. Science Award (PLUS Award) for their scientific achievements in the areas of environmental and plant sciences. The award is granted jointly by the Foundation for Polish Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS.

Professors Reich and Oleksyn are being recognized for their research on characterizing differentiation among wide-ranging populations of tree species in the response to climate and climate change.

The pair of researchers, who have worked together for more than 25 years, have made a number of advancements in their field. Their scientific work includes the discovery of general rules for different plant physiological processes and trade-offs, which provide a theoretical and empirical basis for understanding plant responses to major global climate change drivers.

The pair of scientists have published 87 articles jointly, including in Science, Nature, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and more than 30 in leading plant biology and



2018 Poland-US Science award winners Professors Peter Reich and Jacek Oleksyn.

ecology journals. Specifically, Professors Reich and Oleksyn share credit for characterizing the effects of global environmental change on trees and forests in Poland, the United States, and elsewhere — bringing to light the global trade-offs in leaf chemical and physiological traits, and advancing the understanding of tree species' effects on soils. A ceremony in recognition of Professors Reich and Oleksyn will be held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC on November 15, 2018. - Source: Embassy of the Republic of Poland

TOKYO 2020 MAKES STRONG STRIDES TOWARDS HOSTING TRANSFORMATIVE GAMES

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee presented significant progress towards hosting inclusive Olympic Games that use the power of sport to change the world, with several announcements at the Ninth Project Preview, including the date for the lighting of the Olympic Flame, the launch of volunteer applications and confirmation of the aquatics competition schedule.

"Tokyo 2020's Olympic Games plan is really starting to take shape," said IOC Coordination Commission Chair for Tokyo 2020, John Coates.

"We are now at a point where we are working with the Organising Committee on planning on an item-by-item basis. This Project Review was an opportunity to give guidance on any subjects that needed clarification."

During the Project Review, Tokyo 2020 confirmed that the Olympic Torch Relay will begin on 12 March 2020.

Not only does the lighting of the Olympic flame signal the proximity of the next Olympic Games, but it will also take on special significance for this edition of the Games, at the start of the 10th year since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami so badly affected the Tohoku area of Japan.

EU volunteers clean up Anacostia River



More than 100 staff members from the EU Delegation and EU Member State embassies joined Ocean Conservancy's 2018 International Coastal Cleanup on October 13 as part of the #EUBeachCleanup, a global effort of more than 50 EU Delegations to clean up beaches, rivers, lakes, and waterways. Together, nearly 500 volunteers collected a record-setting 5,000 pounds of trash from the banks of the Anacostia River, including an enormous amount of plastics. EU Ambassador David O'Sullivan said, "The evidence is pretty clear: if we don't do something about plastic pollution, it will suffocate our oceans." Last week, the European Investment Bank (EIB) along with the German Federal Government and the Agence Française de Développement announced 2 billion euros to reduce marine litter, particularly plastics.

U.S. Congressional Delegation visits Hongkong

A Congressional delegation led by Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) visited Hong Kong August 28-29.

While in Hong Kong, the delegation met with Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Legislative Council members, the Securities and Futures Commission as well as business leaders to discuss financial industry oversight, explore issues related to anti-money laundering and countering terror financing, monetary policy, U.S.-Asia trade policy, and anti-corruption efforts.

In his meetings with Hong Kong interlocutors, Representative Hensarling expressed strong support for the U.S.-Hong Kong relationship, and regular high-level engagement between the United States and Hong Kong across a broad variety of issues.



THE GAME-CHANGER FOR THE MODERN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Filipino veterans groups, Washington community celebrate 1st Anniversary of Congressional Gold Medal awarding

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “Your fathers and grandfathers left a priceless legacy that we can never hope to repay, but one that we vow to always preserve and cherish.

But more than that, they also personify the close people-to-people ties that bound the Philippines and the United States for the last 70 years, and will continue to do so in the coming decades,” Philippine Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Patrick A. Chuasoto told the families of nine (9) Filipino World War II veterans who were awarded with bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) during the 1st anniversary celebration of the CGM Awarding held at the Philippine Embassy Chancery Annex on 24 October 2018.

The Filipino Veterans Education and Recognition Project (FilVetREP), in partnership with the Philippine Embassy, led the anniversary celebration that included the awarding of CGM replicas to the

next-of-kin of 9 Filipino veterans. The recipients are (1) Juan Borja, received by FilVetRep Regional Director John Victoria; (2) Hilario F. Mata, received by grandson Florouel M. Asesor; (3) Ramon R. Nacu, received by son Rafael Nacu; (4) Francisco R. Offemaria, received by son Francisco M. Offemaria; (5) Jose E. Olivares, received by grandson Edward C. Olivares Jr.; (6) Faustino B. Reyes, received by daughter Eleanor M. Moran; (7) Conrado S. Sabelino, received by daughter Fatima S. De Lumen; (8) Dr. Angelesio C. Tugado, received by daughter Angelyn F. Tugado-Marzan; and (9) Tomas A. Viloria, received by daughter Susan V. Tanedo.

Mr. David Do, Director on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and Mr. Ely Ross, Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs, both of the DC Mayor’s office, each delivered brief remarks, while Mr. Ben De Guzman provided an update of FilVetREP programs.

“These brave Filipino and Filipino-Ameri-

can soldiers were crucial to both the United States and the Philippines, and I commend these veterans for their outstanding contributions. Over the last year, you have increased national awareness of conducting over 40 events around the nation and providing over 1,000 bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal to veterans or their surviving family members,” said DC Mayor Muriel Bowser in a letter addressed to FilVetREP and delivered by Mr. David Do.

“No one waits 75 years to be recognized.

But there are others out there who are not able to attend ceremonies like this, and we are going to continue to exhaust ourselves and run across the country to award the medals to living World War II veterans or to their next-of-kin. It is our mission – this is a “WE” mission – in order for us to honor them,” Major General Antonio Taguba (Ret.), Chairman of FilVetREP, reiterated in his closing remarks.

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I extend my best wishes to the people of Spain as you celebrate your National Day.

The bonds between the people of the United States and Spain are solid and long-standing. The visit of King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia to the United States in June 2018 underscored the cultural and historical ties we have shared for over three centuries. Spain is a steadfast ally, partner, and friend of the United States that contributes to the security and economic prosperity of the transatlantic community.

On this special occasion, we look forward to a future of continued friendship and close cooperation with a strong and united Spain.



Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
October 12, 2018

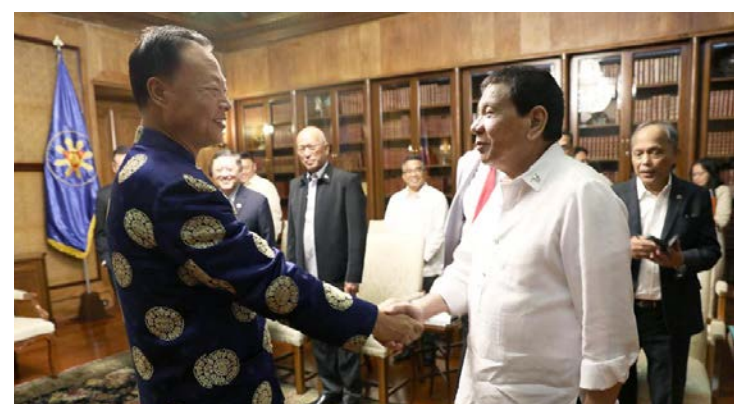
Mexican envoy meets San Diego’s mayor and members of Regional Chamber of Commerce



San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Mexican Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrez.

The Embassy of Mexico to the United States informs that Ambassador Gerónimo Gutiérrez recently met with leaders of the CaliBaja region, including the Mayor of San Diego, Kevin Faulconer, and members of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, led by its president, Jerry Sanders.

Ambassador Gutiérrez and Mayor Faulconer, joined by the Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, Marcela Celorio, addressed topics of common interest for Mexico, Baja California, and San Diego such as, trade, and the efforts in both sides of the border to improve sanitation systems and reduce pollution in the area, as well as exploring collaboration opportunities between local governments. Members of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce discussed with Ambassador Gutiérrez about the improvement and modernization of infrastructure in the border, and the negotiation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The Ambassador stated that “the new agreement is a good deal for Mexico and its North American partners because it brings needed certainty to our trade and investment relations and it prompts North America to remain the most competitive region in the world”. - Embassy of Mexico



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte greets Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua who paid a courtesy call on the President at the Malacañan Palace on October 8, 2018. (Photo credit: Simeon Celi Jr./Presidential Photo)

News Briefs

DEA to kick off annual Red Ribbon Campaign

WASHINGTON — The United States Drug Enforcement Administration kick ed ff its annual Red Ribbon Campaign, the nation’s largest drug prevention effort, on October 23.

The National Red Ribbon Campaign began after drug traffickers in Mexico tortured and brutally murdered Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena in March 1985. Red Ribbon Week is officially celebrated nationally from October 23-31; however, communities and school districts nationwide hold events throughout the month.

The Red Ribbon Campaign is dedicated to helping to preserve Special Agent Camarena’s memory and further the cause for which he gave his life – the fight against the violence of drug crime and the misery of addiction.

Red Ribbon Week started as a local effort in Camarena’s hometown of Calexico, California, when former Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Camarena’s high school friend, Henry Lozano, created Camarena Clubs to keep Kiki’s memory alive. The National Family Partnership turned Red Ribbon Week into a national drug awareness campaign, an eight-day event proclaimed by the U.S. Congress and chaired by then President and Mrs. Reagan. Approximately 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon events every year. For a toolkit with Red Ribbon materials and more information, visit the Red Ribbon Campaign page on www.dea.gov.

Norway to provide NOK 450M for development in Somalia

During the World Bank’s annual meeting in Bali, Minister of International Development Nikolai Astrup signed an agreement committing Norway to contribute NOK 450 million to the World Bank’s Multi Partner Fund for Somalia for the next three-year period.

The Multi Partner Fund seeks, among other things, to contribute to increased tax revenues, better financial management and improved basic services for the people of Somalia. “Even though the security situation has improved, Somalia is still vulnerable. The relationship between the federal government and the federal member states remains challenging. The international community must do what it can to promote stability and trust. Improving the security situation and ensuring the provision of basic services to the population are important elements of this work,” Mr Astrup said. In the period 2015-2017, Norway contributed NOK 212 million to the Multi Partner Fund for Somalia. The Fund has delivered significant results. “The Fund has contributed to increased stability and development in Somalia, and we are very pleased to see what has been achieved so far. We also greatly value our collaboration with the World Bank, which has enabled a creative and flexible approach despite a challenging situation,” Mr Astrup said. - Embassy of Norway

De Croo provides € 5,5M humanitarian aid for Yemen

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo provides € 5,5 million extra humanitarian aid for Yemen. Minister De Croo takes this decision following the demand from UN emergency aid coordinator Mark Lowcock in the UN Security Council in New York yesterday. He called for a humanitarian truce and additional humanitarian aid for the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world.

For almost four years already, Yemen is drenched in a bloody conflict, which led to more than 10.000 civilian casualties. More than 22 million people – about 80% of the Yemeni population – are in desperate need of humanitarian aid. For more than 14 million people the famine caused by the conflict will soon be particularly acute.

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is by far the worst in the world. Therefore, Minister De Croo provides € 5,5 million extra humanitarian aid. The funds will go to the UN children’s rights fund UNICEF and the UN refugee fund UNHCR.

Environmental solution for the shipwreck of the WW II submarine U-864

The Norwegian Government has concluded on capping the U-864 shipwreck with clean masses, thereby preventing future mercury pollution from the wreck and the surrounding seabed.

The Norwegian Navy discovered the shipwreck of the German World War II submarine U-864 in March 2003. Ever since, there have been debates, surveys and political discussions on how to best deal with pollution from the mercury cargo in the sunken submarine and the surrounding seabed. In 2014, the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) conducted new surveys of the wreck and presented a thorough study on measures to prevent future mercury pollution. The survey of the wreck showed that removing debris and polluted masses from the seabed near the wreck would spread pollution outside the already affected area, and that capping is the best and most eco-friendly solution.

In the spring of 2016, NCA installed a counter fill on the slope under the bow section of U-864 in order to stabilize the seabed. The operation involved laying approximately 100 000 cubic meters of sand and rock in a controlled and precise manner from a specially designed ship. The result was reduced risk of movement by unconsolidated sediments, including contaminated materials, during seaquakes. Establishing the counter fill is a similar operation as capping, and it therefore showed that capping could be carried out with proven technology and with minimum spreading of contaminated sediments.

The Norwegian Government has based its decision on numerous reports and studies conducted by the NCA with the support from a wide range of experts that have concluded that capping is the best and most environmentally friendly solution for U-864. - Embassy of Norway

Dutch water expertise to be on display during WEFTEC

Dutch water experts are coming to New Orleans this week to showcase the latest in Dutch water expertise and innovative technologies during the 91st annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference.

WEFTEC, as the conference is known, is the world’s largest annual water quality technical conference and exhibition, and attracts thousands of water and wastewater experts from around the world to learn from each other.

The conference took place Sept. 29 through Oct. 3 in New Orleans.

The Dutch excel in water technology due to centuries of experience dealing with water issues, treating wastewater, and making dirty water drinkable, said Sigrid Johannisse, the counselor for innovation, technology, and science with the Innovation Attaché Network at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, D.C.

But technology alone is not enough to develop game-changing strategies to deal with the

world’s challenges of climate change, food production, and transitioning to clean-energy alternatives, she said.

Collaboration among key actors is key and opens the door to new business opportunities.

“Transitioning to a circular economy, or an economy that reuses resources and produces no waste, will be a major task, but one that could ensure clean water for all 10 billion people who will be on this Earth in the coming decades,” Johannisse said.

“Wastewater is one example, as it has nutrients and other substances that can be re-used. The Dutch can filter out these nutrients, and use them for agricultural purposes of even re-use heavy and valuable materials,” Johannisse added.

“Accomplishing a circular economy is a key goal for the Dutch government. The time to start that transition to a circular economy is now, and WEFTEC is an important platform to bring these key actors together.” - Dutch Embassy



Dutch water experts in the Netherlands Pavilion, designed by Five Spices in the Netherlands, are ready to talk about the Dutch experience in water technology and explore international business partnerships during WEFTEC this week.

Papers of President Theodore Roosevelt now online

Collection includes letters, personal diaries, speeches and White House records of the 26th President and his family

The largest collection of the papers of President Theodore Roosevelt, documenting his extraordinary career in the White House and as vice president, governor of New York, and as a naturalist, writer and reformer, has been digitized and is now available online from the Library of Congress.

The digitization of the massive collection comes just before the 160th anniversary of Roosevelt's birthday. The nation's 26th president was born Oct. 27, 1858, and died nearly 100 years ago on Jan. 6, 1919.

The Roosevelt collection is online at: loc.gov/collections/theodore-roosevelt-papers/about-this-collection/.

The Roosevelt papers are one of the largest presidential collections held by the Library, consisting of about 276,000 documents and comprising about 461,000 images.

It includes letters, speeches, executive orders, scrapbooks, diaries, White House reception records and press releases of his administration, as well as family records.

The collection provides a closer look at Roosevelt as an individual and as a powerful president from 1901 to 1909 who established a tradition of using his position as a "bully pulpit" by appealing to the broader public through the media.

Roosevelt strengthened the presidency by seeking to centralize power after a time when Congress and the Supreme Court had dominated government, and he survived an attempted assassination during his unsuccessful run for the presidency in 1912.

Roosevelt was a prolific writer, offering readers a glimpse at the power of his personality and family life. In public service, he was known for confronting such major issues as the regulation of corporations, conservation of natural resources, construction of the Panama Canal and mediation during the Russo-Japanese War (for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize).

Beyond the presidency, he was also an influential naturalist. Animal specimens he brought



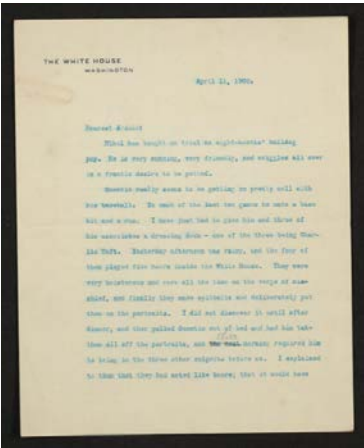
President Theodore Roosevelt is shown in 1910 after he had left the White House. (Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division)

back from a safari in Africa remain part of the collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Roosevelt also nearly died while exploring an uncharted river in Brazil. The river was later named in his honor.

The papers also document his service as vice president before the assassination of President William McKinley, his time as governor of New York, as police commissioner of New York City, as a cavalry officer in the Spanish-American War, his founding of the Progressive Party and his unsuccessful run for president in 1912.

Highlights of the Roosevelt papers include:

- A personal diary from Feb. 14, 1884, where Roosevelt records his reaction to the death of his first wife and mother on the same day. "The light has gone out of my life," he wrote;
- An 1897 letter signaling Roosevelt's support for annexing Hawaii and building a canal in Central America while he was assistant secretary of the Navy;



An April 11, 1908, letter from Roosevelt to his son Archie in which Roosevelt describes punishing Archie's brother Quentin for putting spitballs on portraits at the White House.

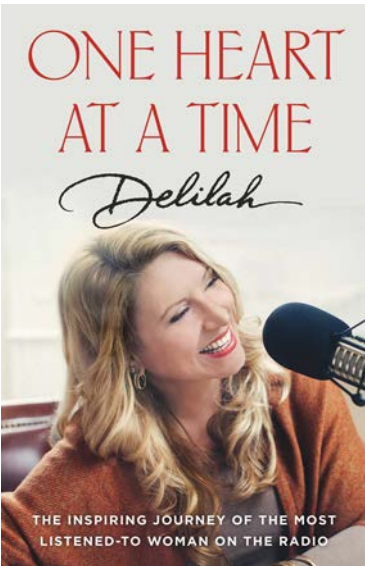
- A listing of "Rough Rider" officers serving with Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War;
 - Roosevelt's letter from 1900 with his first documented use of the phrase "speak softly and carry a big stick;"
 - A 1905 letter on the conservation of Yosemite Valley as a national park;
 - Roosevelt's 1912 campaign speech in Connecticut while seeking another term as president on the Progressive Party ticket;
 - A 1915 letter criticizing President Woodrow Wilson's policy toward World War I.
- The Roosevelt papers have been at the Library of Congress since Roosevelt sent the first shipment of his papers from his Oyster Bay, New York, home to the Library for safekeeping in 1917. His deposits were made a permanent gift in 1919. Additional contributions to the collection were made by Roosevelt's family members and his literary executor. - Library of Congress

Books Worth Reading

Overview
One Heart at a Time by Delilah
"You're listening to Delilah."

Delilah, the most listened-to woman on American radio, has distinguished herself as the "Queen of Sappy Love Songs" and America's ultimate romance guru. But Delilah's life off-air is all the more extraordinary—a life full of trials, forgiveness, faith, and adventure. In One Heart at a Time, Delilah's heartfelt account of her own story reveals what shaped the voice that 9 million listeners know and love.

About the Author
Delilah is one of America's most popular radio personalities, and the most listened-to woman on the radio in America. Her self-titled radio program boasts an estimated 9 million listeners nationwide. She has been inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Her show's success earned her a National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Award in 2016 as Network/Syndication Personality of the Year and a GRACIE Award in 2012. Delilah is also the founder of Point Hope, an NGO that champions forgotten children, particularly those in the Ghanaian community, Buduburam, as well as those in the American foster care system. The mother of thirteen children—ten of them adopted, Delilah splits her time between her nighttime radio program, trips to Ghana, her 55-acre working farm, and her large family. She is the author of three previous books: Love Someone Today, Love Matters, and Arms Full of Love.



REASONS TO EAT MORE COLOR

- 1. Full of the good.**
Fruits and vegetables provide many beneficial nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, healthy fats, protein, calcium, fiber, antioxidants and phytonutrients. Add fruits and veggies to meals and snacks for a nutritional power boost.
- 2. Free of the bad.**
Fruits and vegetables typically contain no trans fat, low saturated fat and very little or no sodium. The natural sugars they contain don't affect your health the same way added sugars do, especially if you eat the whole fruit or vegetable and not just the juice.
- 3. Won't weigh you down.**
Fruits and vegetables tend to be low in calories, so they can help you manage your weight while still filling you up, thanks to the fiber and water they contain. Replacing higher-calorie foods with fruits and vegetables is an easy first step to a healthier eating plan.
- 4. Super flexible superfoods.**
All forms of fruits and vegetables – fresh, frozen, canned, dried and 100% juice – can be part of a healthy diet. They can be eaten raw or cooked, whole or chopped, organic or not, and alone or in combination with other foods. They are among the most versatile, convenient and affordable foods you can eat.

5. **A whole body health boost.**
A healthy eating plan rich in fruits and vegetables can help lower your risk of many serious and chronic health conditions, including heart disease, stroke, obesity, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, kidney disease, osteoporosis and some types of cancer. They're also essential to many daily functions of a healthy body. - Source: American Heart Association



Rules of Etiquette

Etiquette is all about how to conduct yourself beautifully. Unfortunately, many people consider respect for the rules of etiquette as something shameful, considering it a feature of classy aesthetes who are removed from real life.

In fact, the basic rules of etiquette are pretty simple. It's a culture of speech, common courtesy, neat appearance, and control over your emotions. Bright Side presents you with the etiquette rules, which every self-respecting person should know.

- If you say, 'I invite you,' that means you pay. You may say, 'Let's go to a restaurant,' and in this case, everyone pays for themselves. If a man offers to pay for a woman, she can agree.
- Never pay a visit without a calling first. If someone came to see you without warning, you might be wearing a bathrobe and hair curlers! One British lady liked to say that when uninvited guests showed up on her doorstep, she always put shoes on, and grabbed a hat and an umbrella. If she liked the person, she exclaimed, 'I just got home!' If not, she sighed and said, 'Ah, what a pity, I was just on my way out.'
- Don't put your phone on the table in public. By doing so, you show how important a role this device plays in your life, how bored you are of what's happening, and that at any moment you're ready to stop a useless conversation and once again check your Instagram feeds.
- Don't invite a girl on a date if you're going to be texting all the evening.



- A man never carries a woman's handbag. However, he can take her coat to carry it to the cloakroom.
- If you're walking along with someone and your companion greets a person you don't know, you should also greet them.
- Most people believe that the only proper way of eating sushi is using chopsticks. However, this really depends. Men, unlike women, can eat sushi with their hands.
- Your shoes should always be clean.
- Avoid meaningless talk on the phone. If you need someone to talk to, it's better to

meet with them in person.

- If someone offends you, you shouldn't return the favor or raise your voice to the person who insulted you. Don't sink to their level. Just smile and leave the ill-mannered company.
- A man should always walk on a woman's left-hand side. Military men are the only exception, because they should be ready to salute.
- Drivers should remember that puddle-splashing of passers-by is an amoral behavior.
- Nine things should be kept secret: age, wealth, family quarrels, religion, medical problems, love affairs, gifts, honor, and disgrace.

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USDA offers food safety tips for areas affected by flooding

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing food safety recommendations for those who may be impacted by flooding in Texas.

Flooding and power outages can compromise the safety of stored food. FSIS recommends that consumers take the following steps to reduce food waste and the risk of foodborne illness during severe weather events.

Steps to follow in advance of losing power:

- Keep appliance thermometers in both the refrigerator and the freezer to ensure temperatures remain food safe during a power outage. Safe temperatures are 40°F or lower in the refrigerator, 0°F or lower in the freezer.
- Freeze water in one-quart plastic storage bags or small containers prior to a storm. These containers are small enough to fit around the food in the refrigerator and freezer to help keep food cold.

- Freeze refrigerated items, such as leftovers, milk and fresh meat and poultry that you may not need immediately—this helps keep them at a safe temperature longer.
 - Know where you can get dry ice or block ice.
 - Have coolers on hand to keep refrigerator food cold if the power will be out for more than four hours.
 - Group foods together in the freezer—this ‘igloo’ effect helps the food stay cold longer.
 - Keep a few days’ worth of ready-to-eat foods that do not require cooking or cooling.
- Steps to follow if the power goes out:**
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. A refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours if the door is kept closed. A full freezer will hold its temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if half-full).
 - Place meat and poultry to one side of the freezer or on a tray to prevent cross contamination of thawing juices.

- Use dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator as cold as possible during an extended power outage.
- Food safety after a flood:**
- Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with flood water—this would include raw fruits and vegetables, cartons of milk or eggs.
 - Discard any food that is not in a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with flood water. Food containers that are not waterproof include those packaged in plastic wrap or cardboard, or those with screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops and crimped caps.
 - Inspect canned foods and discard any food in damaged cans.
- Steps to follow after a weather emergency:**
- Check the temperature inside of your refrigerator and freezer. Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs or leftovers) that has been above 40°F for two hours or more.



- Check each item separately. Throw out any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture or feels warm to the touch.
- Check frozen food for ice crystals. The food in your freezer that partially or completely thawed may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is 40°F or below.
- Never taste a food to decide if it’s safe. When in doubt, throw it out. - USDA Office of Communications

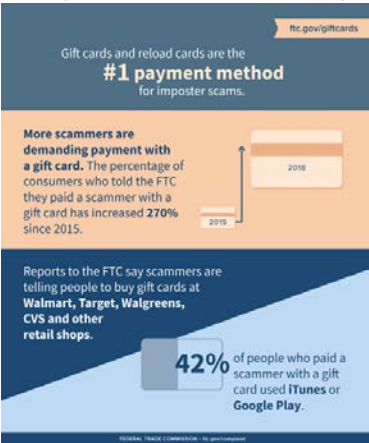
Gift cards: Scammers’ way to steal money

By **CRISTINA MIRANDA**
Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

Gift cards are a great way to give a gift. But did you know they are also a scammer’s favorite way to steal money?

According to the FTC’s new Data Spotlight, more scammers are demanding payment with a gift card than ever before – a whopping 270 percent increase since 2015.

Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments. If someone calls with urgent news or a convincing story and then pressures you to pay them by buying a gift card, like an iTunes or Google Play card, and then giving them the codes on the back of the card – stop. It’s a scam.



Gift cards are the number one payment method that imposters demand. They might pose as IRS officials and say you’re in trouble for not paying taxes; or a family member with an emergency; or a public utility company threatening to shut off your water; or even a servicemember selling something before deployment. Or they might call with great news – you’ve won a contest or a prize! But to get it, you need to pay fees with a gift card. Scammers will say anything to get your

money. And they know how to play into your fears, hopes, or sympathies.

They like gift cards because, once they’ve got the code on the back, the money is gone and almost impossible to trace.

But knowing how these scams work can help you avoid them, and you can help even more by passing on the information to people you know.

It’s National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

By **ARI LAZARUS**, *Consumer Education Specialist, FTC*

October is spooky enough with its ghouls and goblins. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is here to remind us how to stay safe and secure from real (and maybe even scarier) threats – malware and scammers.

Help us celebrate by joining a Twitter chat we’ll be participating in on October 18th at 3pm EST. In this chat, you’ll hear how to create a more cyber secure workplace. Join the conversation by following @FTC and watching the #ChatSTC hashtag. In the meantime, here are some quick tips for staying safe online:

- Update your software. Outdated software makes it easier for criminals to break into your computer and other devices. Most software can update automatically, so make sure to set yours to do so.

- Make your password long, strong and complex. That means at least twelve characters, with uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid common words, phrases or information in your passwords.
- Use multi-factor authentication, when available. For accounts that support it, multi-factor authentication requires both your password and an additional piece of information to log in. The second piece could be a code generated by an app or a key that’s inserted into a computer. This protects your account even if your password is compromised.
- Back up your files. No system is completely secure. Copy your files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. If your computer is attacked by malware, you’ll still have access to your files.

Visa Waiver Program

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP), administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in consultation with the State Department, permits citizens of 38 countries to travel to the United States for business or tourism for stays of up to 90 days without a visa. In return, those 38 countries must permit U.S. citizens and nationals to travel to their countries for a similar length of time

without a visa for business or tourism purposes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Travelers in the following categories are no longer eligible to travel or be admitted to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP):

- Nationals of VWP countries who have traveled to or been present in Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia and Yemen on or after March

1, 2011 (with limited exceptions for travel for diplomatic or military purposes in the service of a VWP country).

- Nationals of VWP countries who are also nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan, or Syria.

In addition you must have an e-passport to use the VWP. An e-Passport is an enhanced secure passport with an embedded electronic chip.

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FTC details efforts to protect older consumers in report to Congress

A new report released y by the Federal Trade Commission details the agency’s comprehensive efforts to protect older consumers from fraud, identity theft, and other problems in the marketplace.

The report, Protecting Older Consumers 2017-2018: A Report of the Federal Trade Commission, outlines the FTC’s research, law enforcement, and education efforts aimed at protecting older Americans.

As part of its efforts to understand how fraud is affecting older Americans, the report includes new analysis of the FTC’s consumer complaint data from 2017 finding that older adults are good at reporting frauds they encounter. In 2017, older adults were more likely to report fraud than younger people, and in those reports, indicated less frequently that they had lost money. While younger consumers more frequently reported losing money in their complaints, this does not suggest that older consumers need fewer protections, the report notes. In fact, when older consumers—especially those 80 and over—reported losing money to fraud, they lost much more money than consumers in their twenties.

The report also highlights some of the top scams where older consumers are more likely to report losing money than younger age groups, such as technical support scams; business imposter scams; prizes, sweepstakes, and lottery scams; and

family or friend imposter scams.

The report also focuses on key enforcement actions the FTC has taken to protect older Americans. These include a case involving Next-Gen, Inc., which the FTC and the State of Missouri alleged engaged in deceptive schemes that targeted or affected senior citizens with phony sweepstakes offers; a case against Genius Technologies, LLC, which the FTC alleged offered bogus computer technical support services that tricked consumers out of tens of millions of dollars; and a case against Health Research Laboratories, LLC alleging that the company deceived consumers with promises that its products could treat everything from arthritis to memory loss.

Finally, the report details the FTC’s outreach and education efforts through such programs as the Every Community Initiative, which examines the impact of fraud on certain populations of consumers, including older adults. As part of its consumer education work, the FTC offers a fraud prevention campaign targeted at older Americans that encourages people to talk about scams. The Pass it On campaign focuses on providing fraud prevention resources to older Americans so they can help protect their communities by sharing the information and materials with family and friends.

The Commission voted 5-0 to approve the report to Congress.

6

International News Media

OCTOBER 2018

DOT awards green hotels and resorts

MANILA, Philippines - The Department of Tourism (DOT), in close collaboration with Austria-based research and development organization, Center for Appropriate Technology, identified twenty-seven (27) hotels and resorts as awardees for this year’s ANAHAW Philippine Sustainable Tourism Certification.

ANAHAW - the Philippine Sustainable



Enrico Strampelli, Head of Development Cooperation Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines delivers welcome remarks during the ZCR for Sustainable Tourism Conference and ANAHAW Awarding Ceremony: “A Journey towards Sustainable Tourism” at the AG New World Manila Hotel.

Tourism Certification is developed by the Department of Tourism and GfA Center for Appropriate Technology through the Zero Carbon Resorts (ZCR) Project funded by the European Union under the Switch Asia Program. ZCR aims to reduce the carbon emission of hotels & resorts following the 3R principles - Reduce, Replace and Redesign. This project was started by the DOT’s Office of Tourism Standards and Regulation in 2011 with a series of trainings and seminars on green technologies and focus group discussions with industry stakeholders.

Tourism Chief Bernadette Romulo-Puyat recently challenged industry stakeholders to practice sustainable tourism and demanded for long-term adherence to responsible production and consumption of resources.

“In the DOT, we see the need to inspire, collaborate, educate and habitualize our efforts on this advocacy, no matter how daunting. By inspiring, we engage consumers to embrace the role as responsible tourists. By collaborating, we enjoy experts, partners and volunteers to advance our advocacy. By educating, we help people become informed about our sustainable tourism and by habitualizing, we create doable ways for consumers to get into the habit of practicing sustainable tourism,” said DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation, Coordination and Resource Generation Arturo Boncato, Jr. as he represented Puyat in the opening ceremonies.

Undersecretary Boncato likewise stressed the importance of focusing on the best interests of the environment, tourists, industry stakeholders, and host communities, and also the possible environmental, social, and economic impacts, in generating projects directed towards genuine sustainable tourism, which involves collective efforts.

Spanish Riding School in Vienna



Levade, courbette and capriole are classical school jumps performed by the Lipizzaner stallions, who enchant their public at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. The traditions of this haute école of classic equestrianism have been passed down by word of mouth for around 450 years. Once these intelligent white stallions have completed their training, they are known as “professors”.

These world famous horses originally from Spain are schooled in the Winter Riding School of the Hofburg Palace in a hippodrome once reserved for the imperial family. During their morning exercise they practice the choreographed steps which will be executed perfectly at the evening gala with their riders. These stallions were once stabled in the courtyard of every royal household in central Europe, valued as ceremonial horses for parades, jousts and military campaigns. However, only in Vienna has the tradition of Lipizzaner horsemanship endured to this day. The Lipizzaner horses, Europe’s oldest domesticated breed of horse, take their name from an imperial stud which was located near to Trieste. And the Spanish Riding School is the only institution in the world which has practiced classical equitation in the tradition of the haute école since the Renaissance.

Lipizzaner horses are bred at the Piber Stud Farm in Styria, and the young stallions which demonstrate the best jumping ability and stamina are selected for High School training. They begin with four years of schooling in Vienna, where the guiding principle is the wellbeing of the horse. During gala performances the horse performs the movements that it would naturally make in the pasture - various gaits, changes of steps and jumps - but in a beautifully stylised form. Through the specific strengthening and training of muscles,

the horses’ natural movements are developed into the perfect figures of the High School. A stallion may be perfectly schooled after about six years, but a rider needs a full ten to twelve years of training. During their first four to five years the riding school apprentices practice above all the correct posture in the saddle on a professor horse. In 2008 women were accepted as riders for the first time in the history of the Spanish Riding School. British and Austrian female riders are currently being trained.

The audience at the gala performance sees the stallions demonstrating the most demanding movements such as pirouette, passage and piaffe and the most difficult jumps to the accompaniment of Austrian classical music. The horses are both ridden and led by the reins. The highlight of the evening, after the pas de deux (two horses in mirror image), is the school quadrille, a very difficult dance with eight Lipizzaner horses, precisely choreographed to historic dance music from the time of the Viennese Congress. This ballet of the white stallions requires intense concentration. Nothing is done purely for show and yet every detail is impressive - the baroque riding hall from 1729, the historic uniforms, the complete trust between rider and Lipizzaner, who communicate only with body language. It is a perfect, living work of art, in which the unity of horse and rider touches everyone who witnesses it.

In 2015, the tradition of the Classical Horsemanship and the High School of the Spanish Riding School were admitted to the UNESCO’s world heritage list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity. The UNESCO list comprises over 300 cultural practices and expressions of intangible heritage and includes two other Austrian traditions, falconry and the Schemenlaufen carnival of Imst.

Chinese Lantern Festival announces its arrival to Southern California for the Holiday Season

POMONA, California- Southern California’s Fairplex Center will host the spectacular Hanart Culture’s Chinese Lantern Festival this holiday season. The Festival will light up the Los Angeles skies as it brings over 1,000 handcrafted illuminated lanterns depicting larger than life animals and transforming the grounds into a colorful wonderland with lights that can be seen from miles away.

The Festival begins Thursday, November 15 and runs for eight weeks, Thursday through Sunday evenings, from 5:30 pm-10 pm until closing day on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

A great social outing for the young and the young at heart, whether it’s a family night, date night, or group outing, visitors will be entertained with a unique and fun night of Chinese culture.

The theme of the Chinese Lantern Festival is The Wild , the Fairplex grounds will be transformed into a global wonderland, showcasing life size animals (including lions, pandas, whales, hippos, etc.) from around the world including Africa, Asia, Anartica, Oceania, and the Americas.

Not only will the animals be lit from within with LED lights, many will be interactive and will have many visitors do a double take because of their movements.

THE NEW MERCEDES-BENZ B-CLASS



Dynamic, agile and comfortable. The new Mercedes-Benz B-Class puts the emphasis on sport with the Sports Tourer. It looks more dynamic than its predecessor and is more agile on the road while offering greater comfort. Its avant-garde interior makes for a unique feeling of space with the distinctive design of the instrument panel. One of the special features is a basic volume, which drops away towards the occupants and has cutouts in the area of the driver and front passenger. The intuitive user interface of the adaptive MBUX multimedia system is groundbreaking. Its strengths include brilliant graphics, “Hey Mercedes” voice control, a standard touch screen and functions such as MBUX Augmented Reality. When it comes to active safety, state-of-the-art driving assistance systems make the B-Class one of the segment leaders with functions carried over from the S-Class.

In addition to the lanterns, a craft marketplace will have authentic Chinese jewelry, embroidery art, artifacts, sugar art, paper-cut, fabric art, dough figurine and other merchandise for purchase.

With nightly kung fu performances (and lessons at the end of each show), shadow plays, and the tastiest food, the Festival promises to amaze those of every age.

“The art of making Chinese lanterns is a tradition that goes back many centuries. The lanterns that visitors will see aren’t the ordinary lanterns sold in stores, it takes nearly 30,000 hours to design the shapes and they are all made by hand by masters from Zigong, China. We are happy to share the beauty of not only the lanterns, but the Chinese culture which includes our art, food, dance, crafts, and martial arts,” said George Zhao, president of Hanart Culture, which is the producer

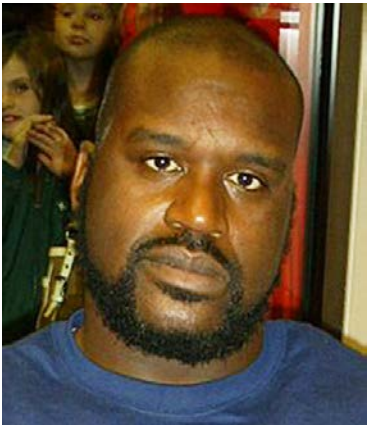


of the event. The Festival has traveled across North America with successful visits to Texas, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Virginia, Florida, and Canada, entertaining tens of thousands of visitors.

Tickets can be purchased at the event or online at: www.chineselanternfestival.com. Tickets are \$27 at the door or \$21 online for adults, \$23 at the door or \$19 online for senior citizens, \$19 at the door or \$15.50 online for children ages 4-12 and free for children ages 4 and younger. Early bird specials by Nov. 1 are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$13 for children.

Shaquille O’Neal opens ‘Big Chicken’ in Las Vegas

“Delivering a menu that fuses home-cooked childhood favorites with bold new flavors.”
 “Chicken is preservative free and humanely raised with no cages , no hormones and no antibiotics EVER for a Shaq-sized flavor that’s oh so good”.
 Located just off the Las Vegas Strip



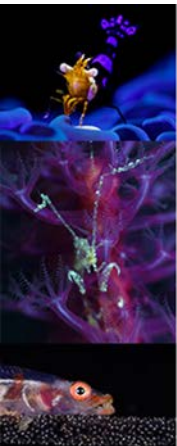
Designing Future Society: Japan holds int’l forum

Japan recently hosted an ‘International Forum on Co-creation for the UN Sustainable Development Goals’, as part of its candidature for World Expo 2025.

The forum, which took place in Paris, aimed to familiarise delegates of BIE Member States with Japan’s proposed theme for Expo 2025 in Osaka, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”.

Speaking at the opening of the symposium, the Secretary General of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), Vicente G. Loscertales, underlined the role of World Expos as unique platforms to “present the sum of human knowledge, anticipate challenges, and foster a context of cooperation.” With regard to the theme selected by Japan for World Expo 2025, the Secretary General added: “Building future society means reconciling technological innovation with human aspirations for environmental preservation, security, justice and equality. It means reimagining the individual, the collective and the global, and all that unites them.”

The future legacy of World Expos was the focus of a panel discussion including business, political and media representatives.



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Are You Ready to be Blessed?

"The King will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.'"

MATTHEW 25:40 GW

For the readers whose hearts have been touched by our appeal and desires to sponsor a particular project at Hospicio de San Jose, you may contact our Administrator, Sr. Maria Socorro Pilar G. Evidente through this email address: mspg.evidente@gmail.com or call (063-2-7342366)



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