



July 2009 Newsletter

Information Resource Center (IRC)

Public Affairs Section - U.S. Embassy
87, Ata Al-Ayoubi Street, Abou Rumaneh, Damascus

Tel.: 011-3391-4118/3391-4195

E-mail: ircdamas@state.gov/ircdamas@gmail.com

<http://damascus.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event

Americans celebrate July 4, 1776, adoption of Declaration of Independence



Fourth of July fireworks explode high over New York City. (© AP Images)

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday would be "the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance. ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." [Read more](#)



عيد الإستقلال الأميركي مناسبة وطنية واجتماعية

احتفالات وطنية وأحداث عائلية في طول البلاد وعرضها. واستشهادا بكلمات أحد الآباء المؤسسين للولايات المتحدة، جون آدمز، سيكون هذا العيد "مهرجانا رائعا للذكرى السنوية. ويجب ان تحيي هذه الذكرى كيوم الخلاص وان تكون مناسبة جليلة تخيم عليها الأبته وتتخللها استعراضات وعروض وألعاب ومباريات رياضية، وتطلق فيها المدافع وتقرع فيها الأجراس وتتعل فيها نيران وإضاءات من هذا الطرف للقارة الى طرفها الآخر، ومن الآن وصاعدا والى الأبد."

[اقرأ المزيد](#)

Fourth of July Music Reflects U.S. History, Diversity



Sheet music cover for the 1898 March "Stars and Stripes Forever," by bandmaster and composer John Philip Sousa. (© AP Images)

The patriotic songs that have become staples of U.S. Independence Day celebrations reflect the nation's history and the contributions of immigrants to the country's diverse culture. [Read more](#)

موسيقى الرابع من تموز/ يوليو تجسد للتاريخ والتنوع الأميركيين

تجسد الأغاني الوطنية التي أضحت سمة رئيسية في الاحتفالات التي تقام بمناسبة عيد الاستقلال الأميركي تاريخ الأمة ومساهمات المهاجرين في إثراء ثقافة البلد المتنوعة.

[اقرأ المزيد](#)

More related materials:

Declaration of Independence – View the original at the [National Archives](#)

Facts – Fun facts about July 4th from the [Census Bureau](#)

Flag Facts – Learn more about the U.S. flag

Historical Documents

History – A look at Independence Day from the [Library of Congress](#)

Independence Day Celebrations in the [National Parks](#)

[National Archives: The Declaration of Independence](#)

ePublication: [Historians on America](#)

ePublication: [U.S. History in Brief](#)

ePublication: [U.S. Maps with Facts in Brief](#)

ePublication: [Outline of U.S. Legal System](#)

ePublication: [Outline of U.S. History](#)

[Patriotic Melodies](#)

Social Networks

America.gov goes where the conversation is.

Follow us on your favorite social networking sites.

Facebook Sites

- [America.gov](#)
- [Democracy Video Challenge](#)
- [eJournal USA](#)
- [Co.Nx \(Webchats\)](#)

Twitter Sites

- [americagov \(America.gov\)](#)
- [americagovalert \(Article Alert\)](#)
- [Obama Today](#)
- [americagovprint \(Publications\)](#)
- [Co.Nx \(Webchats\)](#)

YouTube Pages

- [Democracy Video Challenge](#)
- [America.gov](#)

Other Networks

- [America.gov Video Team \(blog\)](#)
- [America.gov on Vimeo](#)

Join Our X-Life Community



X-Life

Be a student. Be a musician. Explore a new culture. Learn English. Use your mobile phone to start your X-Life today.

U.S. Fireworks: A "Booming" Industry of Small Businesses

Customers purchase fireworks at a stand in Newark, California, in preparation for Fourth of July festivities.



From big cities like Washington to small towns like Stinking Creek, Tennessee (population 1,200), America's Independence Day, celebrated each year on July 4, would not be complete without fireworks. [Read more](#)

أوباما يطرح تصورا لإصلاح شامل للتنظيم المالي

الرئيس أوباما ووزير المالية تيموثي غابنر أثناء مناقشة مقترح إصلاح وتنظيم الأسواق المالية

اقترح الرئيس أوباما إجراء إصلاح شامل للنظام الذي يحكم القطاع المالي بأسلوب يعالج الضعف الهيكلي الذي كشفته الأزمة المالية الأخيرة، ويعمل على الحد من إمكانية نشوء أزمة أخرى مشابهة في المستقبل. [اقرأ المزيد](#)



Obama Envisions Sweeping Reform of Financial Regulation

President Obama proposes a comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. financial regulatory system that is designed to address the structural weaknesses revealed by the recent financial crisis and to limit the potential for similar crises in the future. [Read more](#)

Timeline

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000

[Timeline: From Well to Wheel: The Modern Oil Era](#)

With petroleum price volatility, uncertain energy security and climate change, the modern oil era is entering a stormy new phase. We look back at the beginnings of the petroleum-based economy.

[The US Financial and Economic Crisis: Where Does It Stand and Where Do We Go From Here?](#) - The U.S. appears to be reaching a turning point for both the real economy and for the financial crisis which triggered this severe recession.

[Financial Markets and Emerging Economies - The Decoupling Debate Is Back!](#) - As the global financial crisis persists, some believe that emerging markets have become less reliant on advanced economies...Eswar Prasad and M. Ayhan Kose examine certain aspects of the decoupling hypothesis to see what they indicate for the future of the global economy.

Web Chats and Web Casts



Web chats are online, text-based discussions that allow audiences outside the United States to interact with American citizens on a wide range of topics. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do web chats on USINFO. To participate, you only need a computer with Internet access and a browser. There is no special software to be downloaded.

Date and time: June 30 at 4 pm Syria time

Fighting Pirates in the 21st Century

Nations worldwide are searching for new ways to stop pirates off the coast of East Africa. Join the U.S. Department of State's pirate expert Donna Hopkins for a live chat in which she will discuss what measures the international community can take to combat piracy. This is a follow-up event to Hopkins' chat on May 26. You can [read the transcript from that session](#) on *America.gov*.

Guest: **Donna Hopkins** is the State Department's program manager on piracy.

Enter event: <http://statedept.connectsolutions.com/conx>

Date and time: July 8 at 3:30 pm Syria time

Webcast – Volunteerism in America

This digital videoconference aims to give Indian audiences an understanding of American volunteerism and community service and inspire ideas that will attract youth to come forward to support a national cause. It also aims to inspire leaders of nongovernmental organizations, officials, young leaders and youth to collaborate in finding ways to equip and reward volunteers who seek better lives for their communities.

Enter event: <http://www.cpcwebcast.com/state/>

Date and time: July 14 at 4 pm Syria time

Conspiracy Theories

Many people believe conspiracy theories about the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, the origin of AIDS, the John F. Kennedy assassination, and other newsworthy topics. On July 14, we will chat about conspiracy theories with our guest, Todd Leventhal.

Guest: **Todd Leventhal** has researched the allegations involved in conspiracy theories for the State Department for 17 years, including disinformation and conspiracy theories about the origin of AIDS, organ trafficking, depleted uranium, the September 11 attacks, the Kennedy assassination and other subjects. He also worked as a journalist and radio broadcaster for the Voice of America for seven years, covering Soviet affairs in the 1980s and African issues in the 1990s. He has a master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Business School, a master's degree in Russian area studies from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Colorado.

Enter event: <https://statedept.connectsolutions.com/conspiracy>

Blogs *at* America.gov

Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to join in conversation on variety of topics with experts from the United States and around the world. We encourage you to share your thoughts with our bloggers and fellow readers in the comments section of each post. Click on the title in red to go to the website.

'Stars of Science' in the Arab world



Reality TV has reached new heights with '[Stars of Science](#),' billed as the first Arab TV show that turns science and technology ideas into reality.

16 aspiring Arab innovators are competing to have their ideas selected for further development and commercialization. The Qatari show allows viewers to see the innovation process "from idea to launch," according to the show's Web site.

Add you own comment: <http://blogs.america.gov/science/2009/06/25/stars-of-science-in-the-arab-world/>

White House hosts a luau

President Obama brought a little of his home state of Hawaii to the White House June 25, as he hosted a luau.

Hawaiian food was served on the south lawn as hula and fire dancers entertained the more than 2,000 guests. Perhaps the most popular attraction was the dunk tank, where White House figures like Press Secretary Robert Gibbs sat above a tank of water as others, including eight-year-old Sasha Obama, threw balls at a target that would plunk them into the water below.

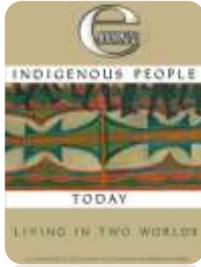
Add you own comment: <http://blogs.america.gov/obama/2009/06/26/white-house-hosts-a-luau/>



EJournal USA

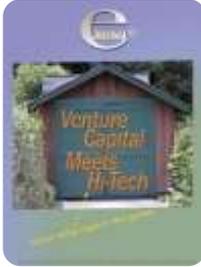


E-Journal USA: A monthly electronic journal available in multiple languages about U.S. foreign affairs and U.S. society and culture.
إي جورنال يو إس إيه: مجلة إلكترونية شهرية تصدر بعدة لغات تتناول شؤون الولايات المتحدة الخارجية والمجتمع الأمريكي وثقافته.



Indigenous People

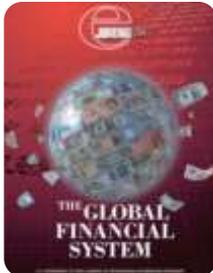
This new e-journal provides insight into Native Americans and other indigenous peoples. Articles provide historical background and look at issues surrounding their languages and culture, their legal status, and how they are networking around the world. [Inside this publication](#)



Venture Capital Meets Hi-Tech

This eJournal explores the phenomenon that drives uncouthed Americans — and now citizens of other nations — to create fledgling “start-up” businesses that explore and exploit the latest developments in high technology. It also investigates the closely related “venture capital” phenomenon. How investors match their funds to (hopefully) winning ideas is a big part of the start-up story.

[Inside this publication](#)



النظام المالي العالمي

تتناول كوكبة من الخبراء في هذا العدد آليات النظام المالي العالمي ويترجون وجهات نظرهم بشأن الطابع الدوري للأسواق، والاعتماد المتبادل في العلاقات التجارية العالمية ودور القوانين التنظيمية فيها. [في هذه المطبوعة](#)

Photo Gallery and Videos

Offering an audio-visual tour of the stories and issues shaping our world, the photo gallery and videos are two of many invaluable services "America.gov" site offers for its audience. Both, the gallery and videos can be browsed by the following subjects: American Life, Economy, Global Challenges and International Relations.

Photo Gallery: Please visit the below galleries or go to the photo gallery direct link to see more photo collections.

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#7a78bf28-e356-4d21-a311-0c218ec8f6f8>

Global Challenges:



[A Credit Crunch Makes for Inventory Chaos](#)

American Life:



[Celebrating U.S. Independence Day](#)

American Life:



[Americans Give Back to Their Communities](#)

Videos: Please point the mouse on any picture then use "Ctrl" key and click on the link to take you to the video you want to watch or go to the link below to see all the video collection. <http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?playerId=1475282956>

Diversity: Language Immersion



2:27

Economics: The Piracy Terminators



0:43

New Media: Government 2.0



1:59

Environment & Global Warming

Scientists Say Climate Change Could Harm Health



Climate change is affecting daily life in the form of severe weather and droughts, a scientist says.

Climate change is happening faster than anticipated and is starting to negatively impact health, two scientists say. Amanda Staudt, a climate scientist with the National Wildlife Federation, and Dr. Paul Epstein, associate director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School as well as a medical doctor trained in tropical public health, came together to discuss the situation at a Woodrow Wilson International

Center for Scholars event, "Healthy Solutions to Climate Change." [Read more](#)

العلماء يرون بأن تغير المناخ يمكن أن يضر بالصحة

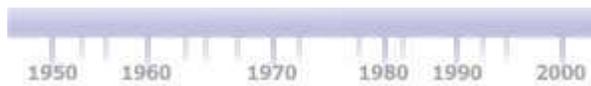
ذكر عالمان أميركيان أن ظاهرة التغير المناخي تجري بصورة أسرع مما كان متوقعا وقد بدأت بالتأثير سلبا على الصحة. هذا ما قالته أماندا ستاوت وهي عالمة مناخ في الإتحاد القومي للحياة البرية، والدكتور بول إيبستين المدير المشارك في مركز الصحة والبيئة العالمية بكلية الطب بجامعة هارفارد، والذي يزاول مهنة الطب في مجال الصحة العامة الإستوائية، في حلقة نقاش حول الوضع البيئي نظمها مركز وودرو ولسون الدولي للعلماء بعنوان "الحلول الصحية للتغيير المناخي". [اقرأ المزيد](#)

Understanding the Carbon Cycle

Carbon: the fourth most abundant element in the universe and the building block of life on Earth. Carbon moves throughout the Earth — between the atmosphere, the oceans, sedimentary rock, soil and plants and animals — in what scientists call the carbon cycle. [Read more](#)

Glossary of Environmental Terms

Timeline



[A Timeline of Environmental Treaties](#)

This list of key environmental treaties shows how nations are working together, politically and scientifically, to safeguard our planet and respond to a global threat. The United States, whose pollution control laws serve as models for other nations, remains a leader in identifying, mitigating and remediating environmental hazards.