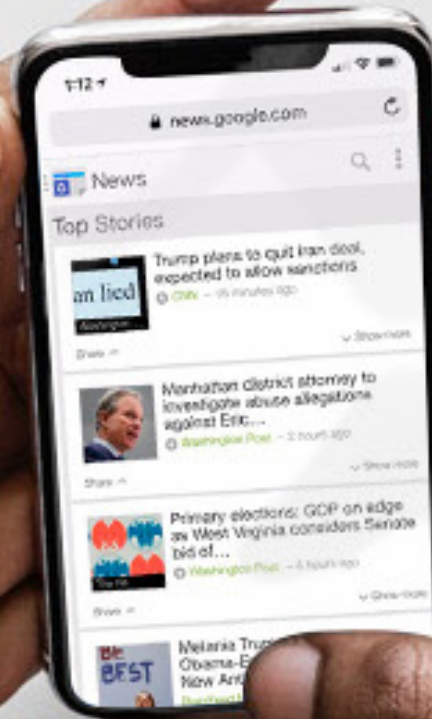




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USA OUTLOOK

Weekly newsletter | October 07 to 10



Foto: Forbes

What's Happening in Guatemala – It's Not Migration

For many, Guatemala is synonymous with migration. The most populous Central American country, its 16 million citizens endured a brutal, 36-year civil war that ended 25 years ago. No doubt many Guatemalans have wanted to escape due to the poverty and gang violence that plague the country.

Yet good news abounds in Guatemala. Plenty of Guatemalans want to stay in their home country and are thriving there. It is, after all, a stunningly beautiful place.

Today, Guatemala is home to a surprisingly strong entrepreneurial ecosystem brimming with innovation and strong leaders. The country's established industries include customer service and communications, tourism, and textiles. In addition, the Government of Guatemala recently passed legislation to improve opportunities for entrepreneurs and provide tax incentives for economic development. This significant development, paired with a great climate, incredible natural diversity and 2.8 percent GDP growth rate in 2018, and you've got a recipe for abundant economic growth.



Foto: The Hustle

Research shows new tech can help bring old tech back from the dead

Vinyl and film are making comebacks. Revenue from vinyl has been trending up for 15 years, and it's on its way to becoming the largest source of revenue from physical sales in the US music industry. Previously discontinued film types are also being resurrected. Researchers say third-generation tech, like digital music and phone cameras, can help rejuvenate first-gen tech, if the newest products lack something valuable the originals offer. 80% of American music industry retail revenues come from streaming, but rising records sales suggest people still value owning physical albums. Same with photography; while high-quality phone cameras are ubiquitous, people still want physical photos and are drawn to the film aesthetic.



Foto: Yahoo Finance

BlackRock Is Bullish on the Circular Economy

BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world, announced a \$20 million fund in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to invest in dozens of companies with hardcore sustainability missions. Some of the recipients include Adidas, which is making sneakers out of recycled plastic waste from the ocean; Tomra, which builds reverse vending machines; and Ball Corp, which is manufacturing recyclable cups.

BlackRock works with circular economy. It ideally works as follows the use of equipment and infrastructure for longer, reduce harmful outputs like emissions and waste; reuse materials instead of funneling in new resources. Consumers and governments have been pushing business to de-sprawl their sprawling environmental footprints for years. Now, investors are adding top-down pressure across their portfolios to push the needle even more.



Foto: The Hustle

America's pension tension persists as GE freezes 20k retirement plans

General Electric, one of the few big businesses that still pays out private pensions, said it will freeze pension plans for 20k US employees and offer pension buyouts to another 100k former employees. Pensions are a pricy problem for GE: Its pension programs face a roughly \$22B deficit. Icing these pensions will reduce that deficit by \$8B, the company says. By freezing its pension program, GE will stop paying put benefits to 20k formerly pensioned employees in 2001 and force them to join its 401(k) program instead.

Pensions became popular among both employers who didn't pay federal corporate income tax on them, and employees getting predictable retirement checks. GE joins a number of other big businesses that have rolled back their pension promises in recent years: UPS, AIG, IBM, Boeing, and The Washington Post all changed pension plans since 2014.



Foto: CNN.com

Chicken processing company Tip Top Poultry recalls its meat from stores over Listeria fears

The original recall included an undetermined amount of ready-to-eat poultry products including frozen cooked, diced, or shredded chicken distributed by brands including Butterball, Perdue, and Sysco.

Consuming food contaminated with Listeria can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems, newborns, and other adults. A listeria infection may result in brain or bloodstream infection and

can be treated with antibiotics.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service has released a full list of possibly affected retailers in their updated recall alert. Their news release urges any consumer or institutions in possession of these products not to consume or serve them.