

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



*Global Articles for Your Interest
Issue 4
April 2 - May 5, 2012*

Contents:

1. Without Free Media, Everyone Suffers

A free press is as necessary as air to breathe.

2. Who Are America's Independent Voters? Why Are They Crucial?

Not all Americans are Democrats or Republicans. In fact, most now identify themselves as "independent," even if in reality the majority of independents actually support one of the two parties. If previous election results are a guide, whichever presidential candidate wins the independent vote is likely to win the White House.

3. U.S. Economy Grows: Private Spending Up, Government Spending Down

The U.S. economy posted its 11th straight quarter of positive growth with a 2.2 percent increase in GDP from January to March, according to the Commerce Department.

4. USTR Releases Annual Report on Intellectual Property Rights

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative releases its annual report on successes and shortcomings of U.S. trading partners in protecting intellectual property rights.

5. International Travel to United States Increasing

International travelers increasingly are choosing the United States as their destination. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates the country will welcome 65.4 million travelers from other nations in 2012, with projected annual increases through at least 2016.

6. The Benefits of Bilingualism

Bilingualism provides many benefits, including adeptness at mental puzzles and resistance to dementia in later years, researchers have found.

In Case You Missed It:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook Page](#)

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [YouTube Channel](#) 



[More to US-Macedonia Partnership than NATO](#)

OP-ED by the Honorable Paul D. Wohlers: "NATO remains the most effective alliance in the world, and nobody wants to see Macedonia join NATO more than the United States. Until that happens, nobody stands more ready to assist Macedonia in taking the steps needed for a successful accession in the future." ...



[Talking Trash on Earth Day](#)

Ambassador Wohlers marked Earth Day 2012 on Saturday, April 21 with the Minister of Environment Ademi, Centar Mayor Todorovic, and over 100 volunteers in a trash cleanup on Skopje's Vodno mountain. ...

ALSO: [Photos](#)



[Single Country Promotion Opens New Doors For Transition Networks](#)

April 19, 2012, the Econ/Commercial Office of the U.S. Embassy welcomed 40 company representatives for a Single Company Promotion event organized in support of Transition Networks exploration of new business opportunities in Macedonia.

ALSO: [Story](#)



[The 3rd Annual Spelling Bee in Macedonia](#)

In April 2012, Peace Corps Volunteers, English Language Teachers from all over Macedonia, and the American Corners - Macedonia, with support from other institutions and businesses, jointly organized the 3rd Annual Spelling Bee Contest. ...

ALSO: [Story Photos](#)



["The Sound of Silence" Images Contest](#)

May 3, 2012 - On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the U.S. Embassy Skopje invites both professional and citizen photo-journalists and videographers currently residing in Macedonia to participate in a contest on the ... [- Highlights of the U.S. Department of State and USAID's Efforts to Support Press and Media Freedom.](#) »



[Visa Application Fees to Change April 13](#)

On March 29, 2012, the Department of State announced an adjustment to visa processing fees. The fees for most nonimmigrant visa applications will increase, while all immigrant visa processing fees will decrease. The new fees are scheduled to go into effect on April 13, 2012.



["Jazz and Fashion" at the Embassy](#)

Ambassador Wohlers opened the "Jazz and Fashion" fashion show yesterday as part of Skopje Fashion Weekend. Attending the event, the first of its kind in the embassy's atrium, were President and Mrs. Ivanov, Minister of Defense Besimi, Minister without Portfolio Samak, and ... [Video](#) »



[International Roma Day](#)

Secretary Clinton (Feb. 05): "Today, I am proud to announce that the United States will join the Decade of Roma Inclusion as an official observer. This commitment is admirable by European governments, and it will help improve opportunities for ... [Video.](#) »



[Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Conference - April 22-24](#)

On Sunday, April 22, a group of more than 60 young elected political and civil society minority leaders from across Europe and the United States will gather in Copenhagen, Denmark for the 2012 Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Conference.

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/grants.html>

American Educational Exchange Information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/educational-exchange2.html>

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