



THE
American
Southwest

2015



Voice of America®

NEWS AND
INFORMATION IN
45 LANGUAGES

AFRICA

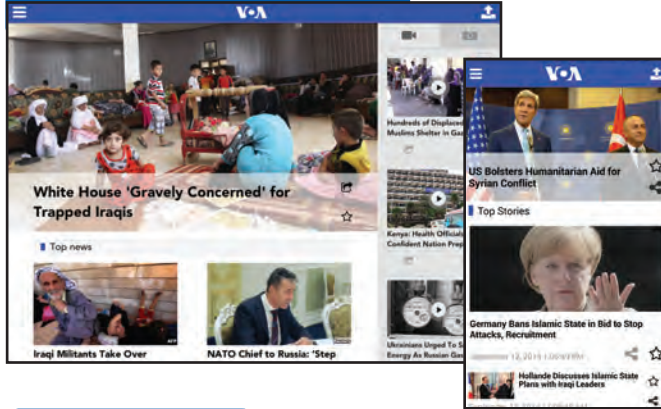
- Afan Oromo
- Amharic
- Bambara
- French
- Hausa
- Kinyarwanda
- Kirundi
- Ndebele
- Portuguese
- Sango
- Shona
- Somali
- Songhai
- Swahili
- Tigrigna

EAST ASIA

- Burmese
- Cantonese
- Indonesian
- Khmer
- Korean
- Lao
- Mandarin
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Vietnamese

VOA Brings You the World THROUGH RADIO, TV, AND DIGITAL MEDIA

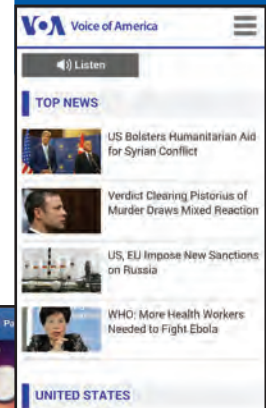
apps for tablets and phones:
android: bit.ly/voaandroid
ios: bit.ly/voaios



facebook.com/voiceofamerica



mobile website:
m.voanews.com



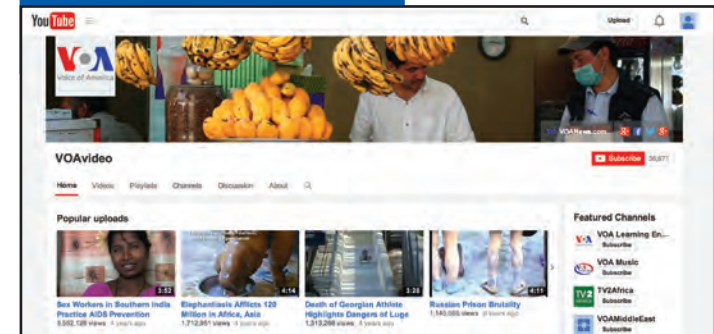
voanews.com



twitter.com/voa_news



youtube.com/voavideo



VOA ENGLISH

EURASIA

Albanian

Armenian

Bosnian

Georgian

Macedonian

Russian

Serbian

Ukrainian

LATIN AMERICA

Creole

Spanish

VOA PERSIAN

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

Azerbaijani

Bangla

Dari

Kurdish

Pashto

Turkish

Urdu

Uzbek

Dear Friends,

Last year's VOA calendar showcased our nation's capital, but for 2015 we are traveling across much of the country, to the southwestern United States. It is a region of great cultural diversity and breathtaking scenery. We hope the calendar will give you pleasure throughout the year.

We also hope you will continue to enjoy Voice of America journalism and programs. You will have a lot of company. Audience surveys show VOA has a weekly global audience of 164 million people, the highest number in its history. While a portion of this audience still listens to VOA on shortwave radio, the format of our first broadcasts in 1942, the growth of VOA's audience in recent years is primarily attributable to two factors.

New and deepening partnerships with some of the world's most respected television and radio companies are the biggest reason for the increase in VOA's audience, and we expect most of our audience growth in the next few years to come from new affiliates. Before too long, though, the future may belong to the mobile device. Already, more people reach out for VOA news through their mobile phone or tablet than do so through a desktop computer. Analysts predict that in the future the number of mobile users of VOA content may surpass our audience on radio and television combined.



Overall, the audience growth comes about because whether in a crowded media space, or in places where governments try to restrict information, more and more people around the world find VOA a credible, reliable source of news and insights about American policies and values.

As good as 2014 was for VOA, we will all be working hard to ensure that this year will be even better—and we wish you a wonderful 2015!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Ensor".

David Ensor

Director
Voice of America



VOA Charter

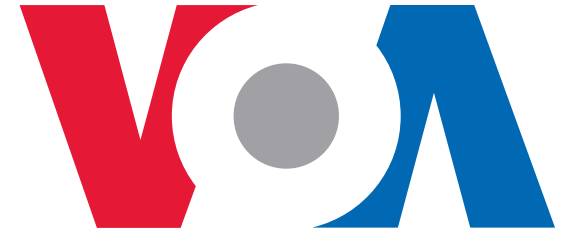
President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.

1. VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.
2. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.
3. VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussion and opinion on these policies.



JANUARY

A **POW WOW** is celebrated at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, near Phoenix, Arizona. A modern pow wow is an event where Native American people meet to dance, sing, socialize, and honor their culture. Dance competitions are popular, and dancers, such as the ones above, don colorful garments that are entirely handmade. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is a 950-member tribe that once gathered and hunted for food over a vast area of desert lowlands and highlands. Its 104-square-kilometer reservation is located within its ancestral territory.

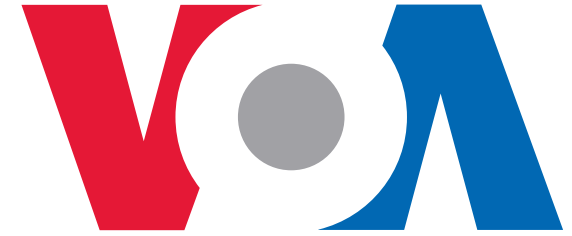


SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



FEBRUARY

SAN XAVIER DEL BAC MISSION is known as the “White Dove of the Desert.” It was founded in 1692 by Jesuit missionaries near present-day Tucson, Arizona, when the area was part of New Spain. The present-day church was built by Franciscans from 1783 to 1797 and is still a fully functioning church. A National Historic Landmark, it is the oldest intact European structure in Arizona and is widely considered to be the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States. Elaborate sculpted and painted surfaces grace the church’s interior.



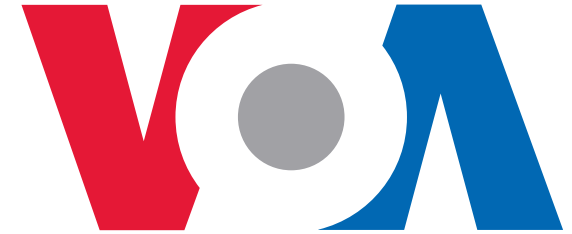
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

voanews.com



MARCH

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK in southwest Texas protects 324,219 hectares of the Chihuahuan Desert and is one of the largest and most remote national parks in the lower 48 states. It is situated along the U.S.-Mexico border within a “big bend” in the Rio Grande River (pictured above), which over time has cut deep canyons through the surrounding limestone. With the darkest nights in the lower 48 states, the park has been recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association as an International Dark Sky Park, one of only ten in the world.



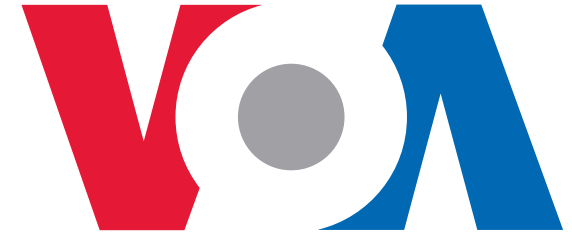
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

vodanews.com



APRIL

A **CACTUS** blooms in the desert of New Mexico. With one exception, the Cactus Family is native only to the Americas. Found in cold as well as hot desert regions, some species have also adapted to areas with higher rainfall in the tropics and subtropics. Cacti have leafless, spiny stems to store water and shallow roots to catch rainwater efficiently. Cacti usually bloom in the spring with bright flowers ranging in color from white to yellow to pink to red to deep magenta. Pictured is a cactus of the genus *Mammillaria tetrancistra*.

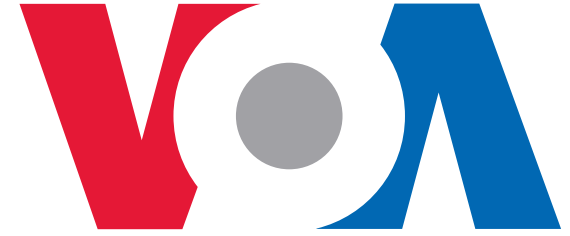


SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



MAY

A **TORNADIC SUPERCELL** forms over the plains of Oklahoma. Supercells, distinguishable in appearance by their large-scale cloud rotation, usually produce vast amounts of hail, strong winds, and torrential rainfall. They are one of the few types of clouds that spawn tornadoes, although only about 30 percent do so. Northern Texas and Oklahoma, along with Kansas and Nebraska, form the core of Tornado Alley, a colloquial term for the area of the United States where tornadoes are most frequent.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30



ODDFELLOWS

Oddfellows

FOOD FOR

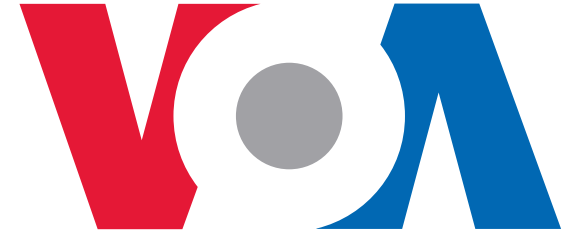
CALUMET 22
\$5
JULY 2012

FD

WV-186

JUNE

THE BISHOP ARTS DISTRICT is a small shopping and entertainment area near downtown Dallas, Texas, that has become a cultural hotspot in the city. Bustling with warehouses and shops in the 1920s, the area began to decline before community efforts in the 1980s transformed the district into a place filled with boutiques and shops, casual and upscale restaurants, bars, coffee shops, theaters, and art galleries. Dallas is the ninth-largest city in the U.S. and welcomes 22.6 million visitors each year from around the world. (Photo/Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau)



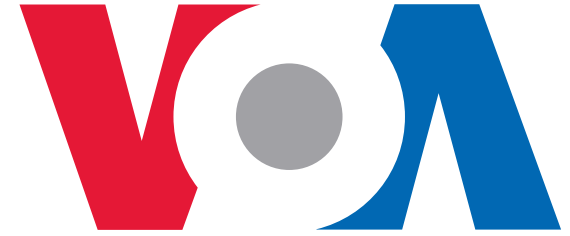
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

vodanews.com



JULY

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK (pictured above at sunset) is situated to the east and west of Tucson, Arizona, in the Sonoran Desert. The park was formed to protect the Giant Saguaro Cactus as well as a large variety of other desert plants and wildlife. Saguaros are only found in the Sonoran Desert, which in the U.S. covers parts of Arizona and southern California. A Saguaro can grow up to 18 meters tall. Column shaped, most Saguaros grow arms as they age, as well as white flowers in the spring and red fruit in the summer.

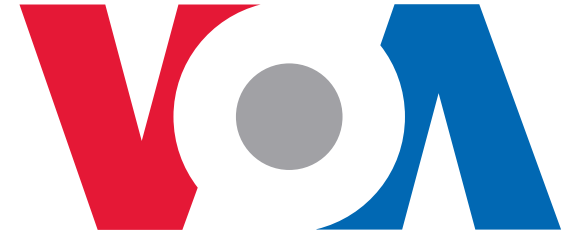


SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



AUGUST

THE SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK is a world-famous park and walkway along the scenic canal of the San Antonio River, in downtown San Antonio, Texas, the state's second-most populous city. The walk is an urban oasis of paved, cypress-lined paths and arched stone bridges. Along its path through the city's center, each year millions of tourists shop, dine, walk, ride boats, and visit historical and cultural attractions. At Christmastime, the walk becomes a festival of lights, and in summer the sound of folklorico and flamenco music sometimes fills the air.

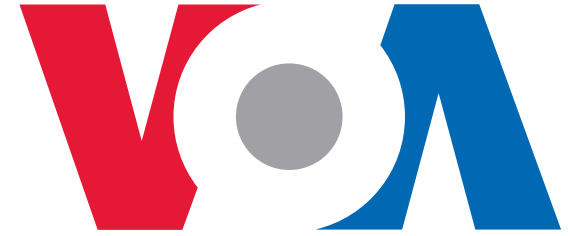


SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29



SEPTEMBER

MONUMENT VALLEY is a region of the Colorado Plateau characterized by crimson mesas and sandstone buttes that project up to 300 meters above the valley floor. Located on the Utah-Arizona border within the vast Navajo Nation Indian Reservation, the valley has been the setting for more Western movies than any other site in the U.S. The famous director John Ford shot ten films here, beginning with the 1939 film *Stagecoach* with John Wayne. While visitors may drive through the park on a 27-kilometer-long dirt road, some areas are accessible only by guided tour.



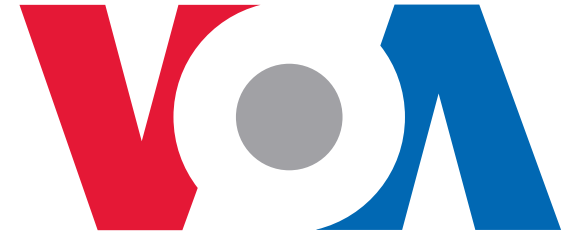
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

voanews.com



OCTOBER

TAOS PUEBLO is a Native American community near Taos, New Mexico. The main part of these apartment-like abode buildings—made of stone, mud, and other local materials—was most likely built between 1000 and 1450 A.D. by ancestors of the present-day Taos people. Today, approximately 150 people live within the Pueblo full time. Other families move in the summer to homes near their fields or have relocated to more modern homes within the 40,000 hectares of Taos Pueblo land. Over 1,900 Taos Indians live on the tribal lands.



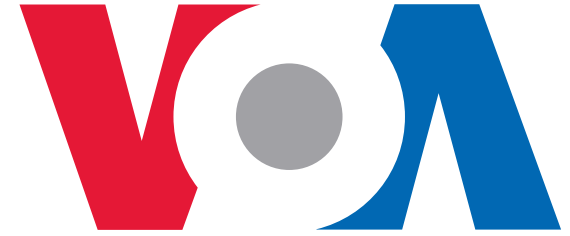
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

voanews.com



NOVEMBER

A LOCAL DANCE TROUPE performs at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, as part of the garden's celebration of Day of the Dead. An inheritance from Mexico and Latin America, this festival honoring departed loved ones is popular throughout the American Southwest. The Desert Botanical Garden displays more than 50,000 desert plants within landscaped outdoor exhibits. Visitors also enjoy tours, special events, seasonal exhibits, concerts, family activities, restaurants, and gift shops. (Photo/Desert Botanical Gardens)



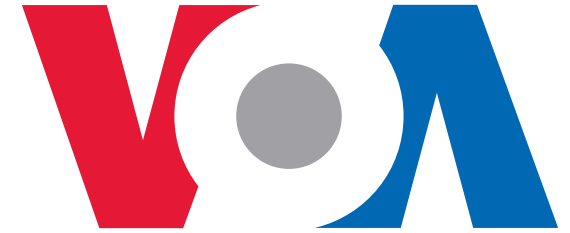
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

voanews.com



DECEMBER

TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE are an important attraction at the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District in Fort Worth. Twice daily, herd cowboys and cowgirls drive the cattle through the district, demonstrating the equipment, tools, and techniques used during the famous cattle drives of the late 1800s. With wooden corrals, brick streets and original buildings, the district is the sight of a former livestock market that began operating in 1866. Texas Longhorn cattle are known for their horns, which may measure up to 2.1 meters from tip to tip.



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

voanews.com



330 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20237
voanews.com | insidevoa.com

