

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

CNN Poll: Trump maintains lead over Biden in 2024 race as opinions on their presidencies diverge

Encuesta según la importancia del tema

Economía	65%
Democracia	58%
Inmigración	48%
Control de armas	48%
Delincuencia	48%
Sanidad	43%
Aborto	42%
Tribunal Supremo	39%
Política Exterior	33%
Cambio Climático	27%
Guerra Palestina	26%
Credito estudiantil	24%

CNN, april 28, 2024

Synopsis: Beyond what these surveys may mean in the political sphere, there is one fact that is extremely worrying, and that is that, in it, almost half consider that immigration, crime and weapons policy are very important (48 % each), while healthcare (43%), abortion

(42%) and appointments to the Supreme Court (39%) are very important to 4 in 10 voters. At the lower end of the scale, only 33% consider foreign policy important, and just 27% CLIMATE CHANGE.

That only 1 in every four Americans considers the fight against Climate Change an important aspect, in the largest oil producing country, which has the largest number of automobiles and which has highly polluting industries, such as chemicals and the military. , is very serious, due to the consequences on the actions of politicians that come with having such a diminished percentage of public opinion, especially now that they are in an election year.

That perception must change. If this is not achieved, on the one hand, there will be no public pressure in North America and the efforts that other countries make to promote measures against Climate Change will be of no use and on the other, we Latin Americans must internalize that, in this situation, it is It is urgent that we begin to take the necessary measures to confront the consequences of the disdain for the consequences of Climate Change reflected in public opinion polls.

Panama Canal increases traffic after improvement in water level

Aporrea, 04/16/2024

Synopsis: The signs of an improvement in the water level have led the Panamanian authorities to a

maximum of 27 ships per day, as a result of the drought, to 32 ships per day, a considerable increase. although less than the 39 ships per day that it received on average in 2022.

The restriction on the water depth of ships passing through the largest

locks will increase in June by 13.71 meters, from 13.41 meters.



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) in a statement in March had anticipated that the canal could recover before February 2025 to normal vessel levels.

The level of the reservoirs was reduced by the lack of rain due to the El Niño phenomenon, aggravated by global warming, which forced strict savings measures to be established last year, which tightened the belt on global trade . It is estimated that 6% of world trade use this route

Venezuela has registered 4°C more above the average since 2023



Diario El Universal, 04/10/2024

Synopsis: The President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, reported that through the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology it was confirmed that Venezuela has registered 4°C more above the average since 2023..

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Bogotá begins to ration water for 9 million people



CNN, april 11, 2024

Synopsis: s significantly reduced the levels of the water reservoirs from which Bogotá is supplied, which has forced a rationing system, in which the capital and dozens of surrounding cities that are home to some nine million people , were divided into nine zones, in each of which running water will be cut off for 24 hours, in a rotation that will be restored every 10 days.

Mayor Galán explained that some of the reservoirs are at less than 20% of their capacity compared to historical averages for this time of year. The Chuza and San Rafael reservoirs, which are part of the Chingaza System, which supplies 70% of the city's drinking water, are in a particularly critical situation, according to local authorities.

In a country as politically divided as Colombia, the urgency of confronting El Niño is a rare point of consensus. Bogotá's water rationing plans have received support from the country's president, who has historically maintained a tense relationship with the city's mayor.

As global warming makes extreme weather events such as heat waves and droughts more frequent and severe, experts warn that the

pressure on city water systems will only increase.

N. A. This is particularly serious, given the studies that estimate that in a few decades many cities in our region will become megapolises with tens of millions of inhabitants.

Government of Guatemala declares a state of calamity for 30 days due to fires

CNN, april 10, 2024

Synopsis: The Council of Ministers of Guatemala declared a state of calamity throughout the country for 30 days due to the effects caused in the air by the fires, which will allow the purchase of material supplies for the brigades fighting the fires, as well as requesting help with aircraft to put out the fires as soon as possible, President Bernardo Arévalo reported in a press conference.

The measure seeks to make available all the necessary resources to control fires and prevent their effects, which put health at risk due to poor air quality.

According to the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Conred), it reports that most of the fires were arson, which is why they have already filed the respective complaints so that these events can be investigated.

They also recommend protecting the most vulnerable population. "Children, the elderly, people who have immunity problems or chronic diseases, patients who may be in the process of recovering from cancer," said Óscar Córdón, Minister of Health.

Likewise, classes were suspended in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla and Sacatepéquez, the most populated in the country. They are working on distance education programs that could be implemented if the suspension of classes is prolonged.

In Venezuela: More than 61 thousand hectares affected due to forest fires in the country



Diario El Universal, 04/10/2024

Synopsis: The Minister of Ecosocialism, Josué Lorca, expressed that after the 3,115 forest fires that have occurred in several states of the country, it has resulted in the burning of more than 61 thousand hectares of vegetation, of which 70% is low vegetation and the 25% is medium vegetation, which says that we do not have a great loss of biodiversity."

In addition to this, he explained that in the national parks an average of 4,500 and 5,000 thousand hectares of the high mountains have been consumed, which he indicated that the majority have been caused by unscrupulous hands, with several arrests being made in the Aragua states. , Miranda, Mérida and Capital District.

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

The group of older women who achieved an unprecedented judicial victory against the Swiss government over climate change



BBC News, , april 9, 2024

Synopsis: The women, more than 2,000 who are part of the so-called "Climate Elders" in Switzerland, mostly in their 70s, started the court case nine years ago, arguing that their age and gender made them particularly vulnerable, suffering from health problems.

health and cannot leave their homes during heat waves in their country, related to climate change.

"We know statistically that in 10 years we will disappear. So whatever we do now, we will not do it for ourselves, but for the good of our children and our children's children," she added.

The court ruled that Switzerland's efforts to meet its emissions reduction targets had been inadequate, that it had "breached its obligations under the Climate Change Convention" and that it had violated the right to respect for life private and family.

It also found that "there have been critical gaps" in the country's policies to address climate change, including a failure to quantify reductions in greenhouse gases, which warm the Earth's atmosphere when fossil fuels such as oil, coal are burned. and gas.

The ruling is binding and can influence the regulations of 46 countries and territories in Europe.

New car sales in the US increase almost 5% in 1st quarter; electrics lag behind



Diario El Universal, 04/03/2024

Synopsis: Sales of new cars in the United States increased almost 5% from January to March of this year. However, the growth in sales of electric vehicles slowed in those months, because conventional buyers remain somewhat wary of the limited autonomy and lack of charging stations.

Automakers sold almost 3.8 million vehicles in the first quarter, for an annual rate of 15.4 million units, while sales of electric vehicles increased just 2.7% to just over 268,000 units in that quarter, just 7.1% of the US market, well below last year's 47% growth.

That is, the sale of combustion vehicles represented 92.9% of the total. The slowdown, led by Tesla, confirms automakers' fears that they moved too quickly in their ambitions to go after electric vehicle buyers.

N.R. With these figures, can anyone think that Climate Change can slow down?

There are already 30,000 charging points for electric cars for public use in Spain, but they are used only 6.3% of the time

El País, march 20, 2024

Synopsis: One of the main obstacles when buying an electric car is the impression that there are not enough publicly accessible charging points. However, these have experienced exponential growth in

years: in 2022 they increased by 38%, going from 13,300 to 21,500 - The Electric Mobility Yearbook confirms that in 2023 almost 140,000 plug-in vehicles were sold, 12.2% of the total .



COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Heavy rains cause 'once in a century' flooding in southern China



Diario El Universal, 04/22/2024.

Synopsis: Torrential rains, unusually heavy with powerful storms, have caused severe flooding in several densely populated southern Chinese cities located on the Pearl River Delta Plain in central Guangzhou Province. 24 rivers registered water levels above the emergency threshold, and authorities expect that flow levels "once in a century" will be reached on Monday.

The storm has caused landslides, and has submerged and collapsed houses and shops. 11 people are missing and local schools have suspended classes.

More than a hundred dead in Pakistan and Afghanistan due to heavy rains

CNN, april 17, 2024

Synopsis: In Afghanistan, heavy rains and flooding in 23 provinces killed 66 people and injured 36 others, according to preliminary reports from Mullah Janan Sayeq,

spokesman for the Ministry of Disaster Management, adding that 600 animals were killed and more than 1,200 houses were completely or partially left. destroyed by the flood.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan stated that more than 1,200 families have been affected, almost 1,000 houses have been damaged, and more than 25,495 hectares of land have been damaged.

In addition to that, in Afghanistan more than 150 people died last year due to the harsh winter cold wave followed by dozens of deaths due to flash floods



Also on the border with Pakistan, heavy rains are wreaking havoc, where 40 people have died, nearly 170 houses were completely destroyed and more than 1,250 partially damaged, local authorities said.

Pakistan is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world, and has faced dramatic weather conditions, including record heat waves and catastrophic floods that submerged a third of the country in 2022, as the climate crisis exacerbates extreme weather events.

Stunning video of the beginning of the historic floods in Dubai

RT, april 18, 2024

Synopsis: A video shared on social networks exposed the process of formation of an unusual storm, from black clouds that envelop the city, causing chaos among its inhabitants and that, with more than 142 millimeters of rain per m2., (when the average is 94.7 mm) caused power outages, road blockages and chaos at the international airport and the metro in the city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The state news agency called it "a historic climate event" that surpassed "anything documented since the start of data collection in 1949.

Strong wind makes a cable car with people in Italy wobble dangerously



Sputnik, march 31,, 2024

Synopsis: The incident occurred in the Italian ski resort of Cervinia, near France. The wind reached 110 km/h, forcing the closure of recreational facilities for safety reasons.

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

The world dumps 2,000 trucks of plastic into the ocean every day



CNN, april 22, 2024

Synopsis: The world produces about 400 million metric tons of plastic waste per year. Every day, 2,000 truckloads are dumped into the sea, rivers and lakes. Despite global recycling efforts, only 9% of them are recycled.

This affects the lives of coastal inhabitants. In Indonesia, for example, which is the second largest producer of plastic waste in the world, there are 12 million people who make a living from fishing and are affected by this situation, which makes it increasingly laborious to separate fish from plastic, as the amount of waste increases.

Indonesia has taken measures and will only allow the shipment of fully recyclable products, while Thailand has gone further: It will ban all shipments of plastic waste from 2025.

This has led to an increase in exports of plastic waste from the European Union to Southeast Asia, as European companies rush to offload their waste before the ban comes into force.

Zara and H&M accused of using cotton obtained through illegal deforestation in Brazil

Aporrea, april 11, 2024

Synopsis: A report prepared by the British NGO Earthsight revealed how cotton produced in part on illegally deforested lands and exported from Brazil to eight clothing producers in Asia, is used for the production of clothing sold by several chains, including H&M and Zara. says the organization.

Cotton plantations that belong to rich families. They have judicial measures, rulings for corruption and fines for millions of dollars for the



region that covers a quarter of the surface of Brazil and is home to 5% of the species in the world, including the giant anteater and the giant armadillo.

As Earthsight denounces in its report, more than half of this region

has been cleared to dedicate that space to agriculture, in addition, every year billions of liters of fresh water are diverted to cotton fields, which also They are sprayed with 600 million liters of pesticides.

Amazon increases the amount of plastic packaging in its shipments in the United States



The guardian, april 4, 2024

Synopsis: The amount of plastic packaging waste created by Amazon has increased in the US, reaching, according to Oceana, a US company. marine conservation group, to 94 million kg. in 2022, which represents an increase of 9.8% compared to 2021.

Oceana says the continued reliance on plastics in the US is "concerning," pointing to evidence that much of this waste will end up ingested by marine animals or scattered along coastal areas. Oceana's analysis cites a 2020 scientific study published in Science that found that 11% of global plastic waste ended up in aquatic ecosystems in 2016.

Amazon maintains that Oceana's analysis is "misleading," although the company did not disclose specific US figures on plastic packaging that contradict the report's conclusions.

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Can decaffeinated coffee cause cancer? Experts give their opinion



CNN, april 5, 2024

Synopsis: Some health advocacy groups are asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of methylene chloride, a key chemical involved in the decaffeination process used by many companies, due to cancer concerns.

According to Dr. María Doa, director of chemical policy at the Environmental Defense Fund, it has long been known that methylene chloride is carcinogenic, and this has been declared by the National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health. and the World Health Organization.

The toxicity of the chemical led the EPA to ban its sale as a paint stripper in 2019; In 2023, the agency proposed a ban on its sale for other consumer uses and many industrial and commercial uses.

Climate change could be unleashing "killer" cold outbreaks in the oceans



CNN, april 15, 2024

Synopsis: According to the study published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change, as ocean temperatures rise, extreme cold current events (when strong winds and ocean currents bring pockets of cold water to the surface, replacing the warm water that had there) are becoming more frequent and intense, threatening marine life, already affected by ocean heat, which has already caused billions of crabs to disappear in the North Pacific; yes as sea lions and dolphins are being washed away sick and coral reefs are suffering from mass bleaching.

Nicolas Lubitz, lead author of the study said, "It's not just a warming planet, it's really changing the way our oceans work."

Researchers analyzed deadly upwelling events in the Indian Ocean Agulhas Current and the East Australian Current, using 41 years of sea surface temperature data and 33 years of wind records to see how deadly they can be. the cold extremes of the ocean, which if it lasts for several days, which has been happening more frequently,

marine animals, could suffer hypothermia and physiological malfunction or ultimately die.

In March 2021, for example, in 24 hours the temperature dropped 11 degrees in the ocean, a year in which marine animals such as sharks, manta rays and squid were found dead on the southeastern coast of South Africa. Lubitz said. "It's really an economic issue as well as biodiversity."

The United States automatically extends the work permits of some 800,000 immigrants for up to 540 days



CNN april 5, 2024

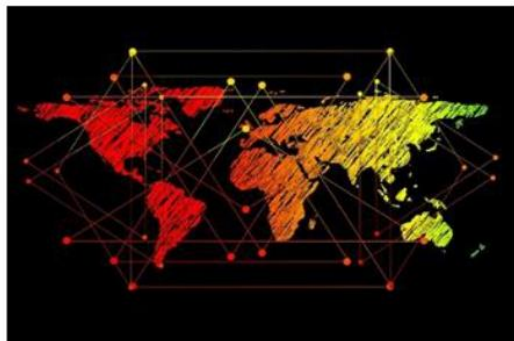
Synopsis: The USA Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it will automatically extend the validity of certain work permits for some 800,000 immigrants for up to 540 days, hoping to avoid interruptions in employment authorization, and bottlenecks in employment permit renewals. .

In the event that their work permits are not automatically renewed, the agency says that 60,000 and 80,000 employers would be affected as a result of this interruption and that what this measure seeks is to "stabilize the continuity of operations for employers."

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Estimate that world trade is experiencing interesting changes



El Universal, april 9, 2024

Synopsis: The president of the Venezuelan Association of Exporters, AVEX, Dr. Ramón Goyo, explained that world trade is changing as a result of the breakdown of supply chains, and the impact on global production, genera-

ted on the one hand by the problem of the war in Ukraine, (and the Iran - Israel war, we add) and on the other hand, due to the problem of water shortage in the Panama Canal that has affected 40% of its traffic, in addition to the havoc that left the pandemic, adding that as a consequence of that, an adjustment is being made within world trade by the market itself.

In our Latin American and Caribbean region, there is a tendency to buy in closer markets, for example, Mexico has increased sales to the USA.

In the case of Venezuela, Latin America came to occupy first place as a destination for its exports with 30%, highlighting metals such as aluminum, fish such as tuna and bonito, and also toilet paper, such as lead batteries, blue jeans, etc.

Goyo indicated that when talking about the composition of Venezuela's exports, "we see that Latin America has 30% of the destination of Venezuelan exports, which are non-oil exports, then there is the European Union with 27%, then the Asian countries led by China with 23% and finally the United States, but fundamentally Canada, with 17%."

Regarding imports, he pointed out that there is also a realignment in world trade, which has grown a lot in long-distance transportation.

In relation to trade regulations, Goyo explained that countries establish customs tariffs that impose tax quotas, "that is, a tax is placed on what is produced and the products that are not produced are released and, in that sense explained that what is sought is that, if raw materials, inputs, machinery and spare parts are required, that entire set of products enters the countries without paying taxes", but those produced with them must be taxed. , and all countries in the world do this, he said, aimed at creating an industrial structure and, as progress is made, they adjust. But they never stop protecting the national industry.

Finally, the president of AVEX referred to the need to enact the Export Promotion Law, which was expected to be enacted last December. "That has affected exports, because we are talking about how the time and costs of the product are impacted when leaving the country, we have to at least be equal to other countries."

UN: Humanity only has two years left to "save the world"



Diario El Universal, 04/11/2024

Synopsis: Humanity has only two years left to "save the world" by dramatically changing the way it manages heat-trapping emissions, and even less time to act and find the finances to support such a massive change, he warned. the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Simon Stiell.

While he acknowledged that his words may sound "overly dramatic," he said action in the next two years is "essential." "We still have an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a new generation of national climate plans. But we need those stronger plans, now," he said. In that context, the official pointed out that "the only sure way to get the climate included in the cabinet agenda is for a sufficient number of people to raise their voices."

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Video shows engine cover coming off of Boeing plane operated by Southwest Airlines



CNN, april 8, 2024

Synopsis: The video shows how the engine cover detaches from a Boeing 737 aircraft operated by Southwest Airlines and hits the wing flag. He returned safely to Denver International Airport after his engine cover came off.

"Extreme turbulence" leaves 22 passengers injured on a plane that made an emergency landing in the US



RT, march 30, 2024 03

Synopsis: The United Airlines Boeing 787 flight, which took off from Tel Aviv bound for Newark (New Jersey) with 312 passengers, had to make an emergency landing at Stewart International Airport in

New York, after 22 passengers were injured due to "extreme turbulence."

Seven passengers were taken to a hospital, while another 15 were treated at the airport by Emergency Medical Services.

On March 25, another flight of the same airline, which covered the route between San Francisco and Paris, had to be diverted to the city of Denver, in the state of Colorado, after the crew reported "a problem with the engine."

New study links flame retardants to cancer



CNN, april 1, 2024

Synopsis: Flame retardants may increase the risk of dying from cancer, according to a new study published in the journal JAMA Network Open, which finds that people with the highest levels of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in their blood had an approximately 300% higher risk of dying from cancer than people with the lowest levels.

The new report analyzed the levels of chemical compounds in the blood of 1,100 people between 2003 and 2004 who participated in the National Health and Nutrition Survey, a longitudinal federal study of the health of American citizens, comparing them with those certified of death between 15 and 17 years later, according to the study.

These ethers are known as endocrine disruptors, meaning they interfere with the body's hormones and have been linked in studies to poor blood sugar metabolism, gestational diabetes, obesity, thyroid disease, some cancers, reproductive disorders and neurodevelopmental disorders, and are the largest contributors to childhood intellectual disability, with a total loss of 162 million IQ points and more than 738,000 cases of intellectual disability, according to an August 2020 study.

The levels of these endocrine disruptors in the blood of most Americans are three to ten times higher than those of Europeans. These chemicals have a long half-life and therefore remain in the human body for years.

Manufacturers use flame retardants in all types of padded products, such as sofas, loveseats, recliners, office chairs, automobile upholstery, baby car seats, and some toys, as well as in the padding of rugs, foam-padded yoga mats, and padded baby items. Electronics and kitchen appliances may also be coated with these chemicals to reduce the possibility of fire.

These flame retardants have leaked from landfills for decades, contaminating air, soil, groundwater, rivers and streams, and accumulating in animal fat.

Since humans are at the top of the food chain, they have some of the highest concentrations of PBDEs. The average levels found in fish in USA are thousands of times higher than the environmental quality standards established by the European Parliament.

COMMENTED MEDIA HEADLINES

April 2024

Brazil and Colombia drastically reduce their deforestation levels



BBC News Mundo, abril 4, 2024

Synopsis: The number of trees lost in the rainforests of Brazil and Colombia decreased sharply last year due to political action, according to a new analysis, and tree loss in the Brazilian Amazon fell by 39% and Colombia also saw a significant decline: primary forest loss was almost halved compared to 2022.

Not all forested regions in Brazil experienced reductions. In the Cerrado, which is the center of agricultural production, there was a 6% increase in tree loss.

In places like the Amazon, these old-growth forests store large amounts of carbon that are critical to global efforts to limit the rise in global temperatures.

However, increased logging and fires in Bolivia, Laos and Nicaragua wiped out many of these achievements. Global losses increased by 25%, mainly due to wildfires in Canada.

While the decline has been welcomed, observers say tree losses are still greater than in the early 2010s.

Climate change: Europe is the fastest warming continent and almost doubles the global average



EuroNews, 04/22/2024

Synopsis: The UN World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's climate agency, Copernicus, reported. Both organizations warned of the consequences for human health, melting glaciers and economic activity. Temperatures on the continent are now 2.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, compared to 1.3 higher globally.

"Europe experienced another year of rising temperatures and intensifying climate extremes, including heat stress with record temperatures, forest fires, heat waves, loss of ice from glaciers and lack of snowfall," he said Elisabeth Hamdouch, deputy director of the Copernicus unit in the EU Executive.

The report notes that the continent generated 43% of its electricity from renewable resources last year, up from 36% the year before, more energy was generated from renewable sources than fossil fuels per second consecutive year.

The European report focused on the impact of high temperatures on human health, noting that warming-related deaths have increased across the continent.

The "Tren de la Quebrada", the first solar railway with lithium batteries in Latin America, manufactured by a Chinese company for Argentina



BBC News Mundo, march, 2024

Synopsis: The innovative train manufactured in China, travels 35 kilometers from Volcán to Maimará, at a speed of up to 60 kilometers per hour. Each of the two carriages has capacity for 73 people, carries six lithium batteries, with a range of up to 120 kilometers and seeks to reconnect the inhabitants of the small and remote towns in the north of the country. It is connected to a charger the size of a giant refrigerator that is powered at the terminal stations in part supplied by the solar parks of the province.

The train advances on the recovered tracks of the old C branch of the Belgrano Railway, abandoned in the 1990s, after the privatization of part of the Argentine railway. It has a differential rate, according to the different types of passengers. Residents of the area.

The initiative, according to its promoters, is an example of how lithium can be an invitation to sustainable development in the group of Latin American countries that sit on the largest world reserves of this mineral, among which is Argentina.