



Olympic medalist from Watkins Glen part of restoration of Corsair

SPORTS, 1B

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Honduran ex-president returns home after pardon



Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez arrives in Honduras July 26. He is expected to appear before a court on Aug. 3 to face charges of fraud and money laundering. FREDY RODRIGUEZ/REUTERS

Trump ended official's sentence for drug trafficking

Laura Garcia
REUTERS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras – Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez returned to Honduras on July 26, eight months after President Donald Trump pardoned him while he was serv-

ing a 45-year U.S. prison sentence for drug and arms trafficking.

Hernandez, 57, who served two consecutive terms as president from 2014 to 2022, landed at Palmerola International Airport, about 37 miles northwest of the capital, Tegucigalpa, on a private flight.

The former president was greeted by several members of his family, including his mother, daughters and wife Ana Garcia, the latter who ran unsuccessfully for his party's presidential candidature in 2025 but lost to current President Nasry Asfura.

Once on the runway, they knelt down

to pray, then waved at hundreds of party supporters who arrived by bus to receive Hernandez before he took another flight to Tegucigalpa.

He is expected to appear before a court on Aug. 3 to face charges of fraud and money laundering. An arrest warrant issued against him was suspended in June, meaning he will not be detained upon arrival.

In an interview with Reuters on July 22, Hernandez said he would request the charges be dismissed.

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Pleasant Valley Winery set for \$47M investment

Jeff Smith
Corning Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Work is expected to begin this fall to modernize the historic Pleasant Valley Winery in Hammondsport.

Vine Enterprises, LLC will invest at least \$47 million to restore operations at New York State's second largest winery, located in the town of Urbana in the Finger Lakes Wine Region.

Gov. Kathy Hochul on July 24 announced that \$12 million in state funding will support the project and help spur more demand for New York grown grapes.

The company plans to take over operations from the current owners and redevelop the historic Pleasant Valley Winery, ensuring that the site will once again handle processing and beverage manufacturing.

Vine Enterprises plans to hire 69 new employees, relaunch legacy brands, and rehabilitate and reopen the historic Champagne Cellars on the winery campus in the Finger Lakes Wine region, according to the governor's office.

"The Finger Lakes is known across the globe as one of the top destinations to come to enjoy some of the best wines in the world," Hochul said. "New York's partnership with Vine Enterprises will revive the legacy of one of our most historic and storied wineries and ensure that our incredible winemakers and vineyards across the region will continue to grow and flourish."

Hochul said the project represents

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Patriot Games set to be held on August 9-11 in Ohio

Kinsey Crowley and Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Fourth of July festivities are over, but celebrations for the country's 250th anniversary are ongoing.

Next up will be an August sports competition in northeastern Ohio for high school athletes from across the country called the Patriot Games, a concept that has drawn comparisons from critics to

"The Hunger Games." A boy and a girl representing their state or territory will compete in a dayslong event for the chance to win scholarship money.

The games are put on by Freedom 250, the organization started by President Donald Trump to bring his vision for the country's anniversary to life. Freedom 250 was also behind the Great American State Fair, the Ultimate Fighting Championship card at the White House and the upcoming

IndyCar Grand Prix through the streets of Washington, DC.

The Patriot Games are scheduled for Aug. 9-11, with live streams available on the ESPN app. At 9 p.m. ET Aug. 13, there will also be a special on ABC, showing highlights of the competitions and features of the athletes.

At Spire Academy in Geneva, Ohio, about 45 miles northeast of Cleveland, individuals and teams will test their skills in

American sports like football, basketball, soccer and track, Freedom 250 announced on July 10. The athletes will also go through the Presidential Fitness Test, a military-style boot camp circuit and an obstacle course.

The winners will share a \$250,000 scholarship prize pool.

"The event will feature a series of

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