

# Newspapers unite with uplifting, solutions-based news

USA TODAY 1:08 p.m. EDT June 26, 2015



with the world's leading newspapers

(Photo: Frank Pompa)

USA TODAY is a proud partner of [Impact Journalism Day \(http://impactjournalismday.com/\)](http://impactjournalismday.com/) -- an alliance of 45 news organizations committed to showcasing solution-based stories with the goal of inspiring readers to become changemakers in their own communities.



Christian-de-Boisredon (Photo: Thierry Mesnard)

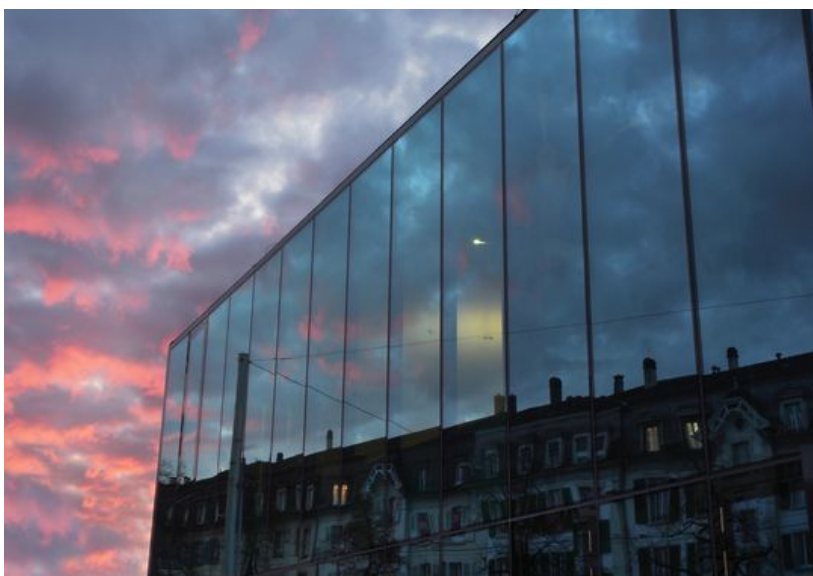
## 45 Newspapers Unite

Reading the news on a daily basis can be a depressing affair. Worldwide, readers and audiences repeatedly report that they are put off by how negative the news seems to be.

Yet the media's role is to bring major issues and problems to the foreground and to keep us alert. Must the headlines conform to the age-old adage that "when it bleeds, it leads"?

The idea behind Impact Journalism Day is to show that the media also fulfill their role by reporting on inspiring solutions to the world's problems....

[READ STORY \(/story/news/nation/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day/29275847/\)](/story/news/nation/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day/29275847/)



Five places of worship live under the same roof. (Photo: Stefan Maurer)

## Five faiths sharing one roof

It is possible for very different rituals and beliefs about life and the afterlife to co-exist: this little great miracle happens every day at the House of Religions, in the multicultural outskirts of Bern.

[READ STORY \(/story/news/world/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-five-faiths-sharing-one-roof/29282387/\)](/story/news/world/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-five-faiths-sharing-one-roof/29282387/)



Inventor Markus Weingartner's solar furniture creates energy that flows directly into the private power grid of its owner. (Photo: Urs Jaudas/Tages-Anzeiger)

### Energy producing furniture

The table in the garden of a family home in [Niederglatt](#), not far from Zurich, looks like many a garden table – simple design, chromium steel, matt finish. But there's a difference: one leg reveals a cable that runs along the ground and ends up in a power point. The table leaf is black and turns out to be made of glass, covering a set of solar panels. "My solar table – an energy-producing piece of furniture," says Markus Weingartner, an engineer, father of two, hobby innovator and furniture creator.

[READ STORY \(/story/tech/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-garden-electricity/29280087/\)](/story/tech/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-garden-electricity/29280087/)



The 'My Human Kit' foundation was set up to help disabled people in developing countries in particular. (Photo: François Tancreé)

### A robotic hand printed in 3D

At 31, Nicolas Huchet may still have the laid-back look of a teenager but that's not to say that he shouldn't be taken seriously. The young sound engineer is among ten 'innovators under 35' recently honored by the prestigious U.S. research center MIT, which named him French 'social innovator' for 2015. He is the man behind the BionicoHand, a robotic prosthetic hand that can be manufactured cheaply using widely available tools (like 3D printers) and is based on designs that will be made freely available online.

[READ STORY \(http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/06/25/le-figaro-impact-journalsim-robotic-prosthetic-hand/29277437/\)](http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/06/25/le-figaro-impact-journalsim-robotic-prosthetic-hand/29277437/)



The merry-go-round project is already in place in 42 schools out of the 40,000 across the country. (Photo: Empower Playgrounds Inc/Crys Kevan Lee)

## Electricity thanks to a merry-go-round

Generating electricity through play. That's the simple but inspired idea of an American humanitarian organization: Empower Playgrounds, which specializes in electricity-generating playground equipment for children in deprived countries.

[READ STORY \(http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-electricity-by-merry-go-round/29286985/\)](http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-electricity-by-merry-go-round/29286985/)

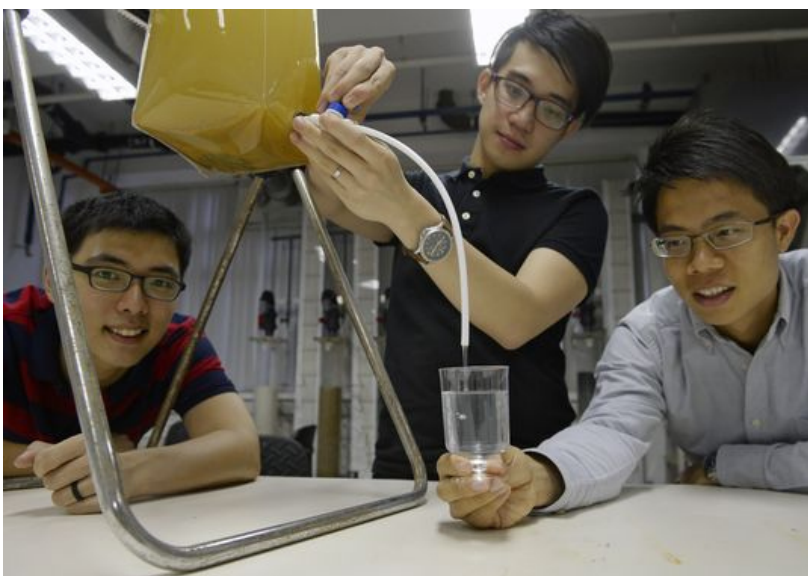


Favio Chávez playing a recycled guitar in the Cateura neighborhood, Paraguay. (Photo: Landfill Harmonic)

## From trash to Tchaikovsky

While many of the kids in Asuncion's Cateura slum pin their hopes for the future on landing careers as football players or pop stars, Brandon Cobone's ticket out of the shantytown was something stranger than a soccer ball and rarer than a microphone. It was a Frankenstein of a double bass, cobbled together from garbage plucked from the nearby landfill that gives Cateura both its name and its smell.

[READ STORY \(/story/news/world/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-from-trash-to-tchaikovsky/29287107/\)](/story/news/world/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-day-from-trash-to-tchaikovsky/29287107/)



WaterROAM's Vincent Loka, 22, Lim Chong Tee, 24, and David Pong, 26, with their portable water filtration system, Fieldtrate Lite. (Photo: The Straits Times/Mark Cheong)

## A clean bag of water



It weighs no more than 11 ounces, fits easily into a backpack and looks like any other plastic bag. But the simple device is a life-saver for people who have no access to clean drinking water. The bag, called Fieldtrate Lite, filters dirty water, such as river water, through a membrane and turns it into potable water in the same time it would take to run it from the tap.

[READ STORY \(/story/money/business/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-clean-bag-water/29287619/\)](http://story/money/business/2015/06/25/impact-journalism-clean-bag-water/29287619/)

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