

Weekly Asado

September 1, 2017
Argentina Project, Wilson Center

RIP: BAH

The Buenos Aires Herald, founded in 1876 and famous for covering human rights abuses during the “Dirty War,” [has closed](#). The English-language publication established its reputation in a perilous era for journalists. In his visit last year to the Parque de la Memoria, in Buenos Aires, then-President Barack Obama praised [former Herald editor](#) Robert Cox and his colleagues, “who bravely reported on human rights abuses despite threats to them and their families.”

CEGA: ¿Tinto o Blanco?

The Centro Argentino – a non-profit that raises money for scholarships for Argentine students – is hosting its annual wine tasting fundraiser on October 27 at the Argentine Embassy. CEGA will pair the Malbec and Torrontés with dishes from Pampa’s Fox.

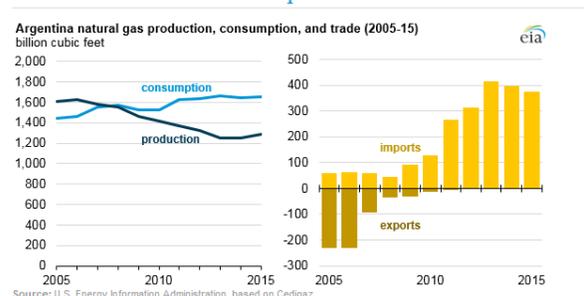
YPF: Bye bye bye

Ricardo Darre, CEO of YPF, Argentina’s national oil company, [has resigned](#). Last year, President Mauricio Macri appointed Darre to replace Miguel Galuccio, who had been highly respected in global energy circles. At the time, Mr. Macri had high hopes for attracting foreign investment to Argentina’s unconventional oil and gas sector, and to return Argentina to its onetime status as a net exporter of natural gas. (Argentine gas production declined every year from 2006 to 2014, and it has been a net importer since 2008.) *Argentina has the world’s second-largest deposits of unconventional gas* and fourth-largest reserves of unconventional oil. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that YPF and its partners have [drilled 588 wells](#) in the Vaca Muerta shale play since 2010. Still, low global oil prices and high drilling costs in Argentina have limited investment. Baker Hughes counts just 65 rigs operating in Argentina today, down from 70 in November and far below the 110 operating in 2015.

JSNEC: Wish they all could be... civilian nuclear programs

U.S. and Argentine technical experts were in Livermore, Calif., from Monday to Thursday, for the 14th meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation. The two governments have long cooperated on civilian nuclear issues, even in periods of bilateral tension. We hear that this week’s JSNEC meetings addressed nuclear security and nonproliferation, among other themes. The gathering follows a [similar meeting](#) in August 2016 in Córdoba related to civil nuclear cooperation. Argentina is a significant, and constructive, global player on nuclear issues — a sharp departure from the late 1970s and early 1980s, when nonproliferation experts feared a potential nuclear arms race between Argentina and Brazil. (For more on the contemporary U.S.-Argentine diplomatic relationship, see my [recent piece](#) for Global Americans.)

Argentina seeking increased natural gas production from shale resources to reduce imports



LAP: In a gala far, far away

The Wilson Center's Latin American Program – home to the Argentina Project – is holding a gala to celebrate its 40th anniversary, on September 28, at the National Museum of Natural History. [Tables and tickets](#) are still available.

Santa Fe: Radical agenda

Santa Fe Mayor José Manuel Corral, of the Unión Cívica Radical, is expected to be in Washington September 6-7. Also, Laura Alonso, who we earlier noted was headed to town for the [CAF conference](#) this month, will discuss her role as director of Argentina's Anti-corruption Office in remarks at the Argentine Embassy on Wednesday at 8:45 a.m.

Empate: No help in Montevideo match

Argentina's national team tied Uruguay last night in Montevideo, leaving Argentina still in fifth place in the South America competition for spots in next year's World Cup in Russia. *Only the top four finishers are guaranteed to participate*; the fifth faces the winner of the Oceania zone tournament in a November playoff. Argentina, coached since May by Jorge Sampaoli, has only three qualifying games left, against Venezuela September 5; Peru October 5; and Ecuador October 10. So far, it has logged a disappointing six wins, five ties and four losses.

Think 20: Deep thoughts

Two of Argentina's principal research organizations, CARI and CIPPEC, [will lead](#) the Think20 during Argentina's 2018 G-20 presidency. (The T20 coordinates activities among think tanks and other research institutions to support the G-20.) Representatives from Argentina's Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales and Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento launched the joint effort earlier this month in a meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie and Argentina's G-20 Sherpa, Pedro Villagra Delgado. Villagra Delgado is Argentina's former ambassador to Australia, which hosted the 2014 G-20 summit in Brisbane. He is being advised by former Argentine Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra, who is now based in Spain, but will also be in town for the CAF conference.

Netanyahu: Gran simbolismo

The Argentine Foreign Ministry has confirmed Benjamin Netanyahu's September visit, the first by a sitting Israeli prime minister. The visit is a milestone for Argentina's Jewish community, the largest in Latin America. Israel's Jewish Agency counts 330,000 Jews in South America, and more than 180,000 live in Argentina alone. Despite their numbers, Argentine Jews felt vulnerable in the last years of the Kirchner era, as community leaders clashed with President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner over Iran. Anti-Semitism is also a challenge; a [2015 survey](#) by the Anti-Defamation League found that nearly *a quarter of Argentines hold anti-Semitic views*. Nevertheless, there are high hopes for Mr. Netanyahu's September 11-13 trip, when he will visit the AMIA Jewish community center and the former site of the Israeli Embassy, destroyed in a 1992 bombing. We're told he is also expected to address global issues, including counterterrorism and counternarcotics, and will be accompanied by business executives from Israel's energy, communications and defense industries.



Celebrating 40 Years
Latin American Program

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