



Moldovans celebrate a quarter-century of Independence August 27 in Rîșcani.

Happy 25th birthday, Moldova!

Starting with a wreath-laying at the war memorial, and ending with fireworks, the Independence Day celebration in Rîșcani this year was an exciting time for Moldovans to pass the quarter-century milestone.

This year, every village in the Rîșcani district was invited to participate August 27, and most did, creating signs for their villages, and waving them as they walked in the procession from the memorial to downtown. They then put the signs in beautiful displays promoting their villages in tents provided by the city.

Organizers erected a stage in front of the district building, and the celebration was held on a beautiful new sidewalk and plaza made of paving stones.

It has been a very challenging 25 years for the people in Moldova; building a new government with everything from new laws and procedures, to a new currency, and even bringing back their beloved Romanian language.

Building a new country is one thing, but tearing it apart from a communist past, and into a democratic fu-

ture is much harder, as you need to not only remove the corruption, and the insular mentality of the old communist leaders, but you have to fight the urge of some people to return to the old ways.

To add to the challenge, two regions, Transnistria (with Moldova's second-largest city) and Gagauzia, want to be their own countries, and they have wrested a lot of autonomy.

At 25 years old, I feel that Moldovans are like many young adults, leaving the family nest and experiencing life on their own, with a whole new future, filled with great challenges and opportunities.

I am sure that all this history was on people's minds as they celebrated on that beautiful, sunny Saturday. Children danced traditional Moldovan dances, and many artists performed throughout the day.

Strada Independenței was very crowded in the evening as everyone danced and rejoiced, and watched a spectacular fireworks show, and when it was all over, their hearts must have been filled with great promise for a beautiful future. **For photos, [Click Here](#).**

In 1991

- Soviet Union dissolves.
- U.S. and Russia sign START Treaty seriously reducing nuclear weapons.
- Cyclone kills 200,000 people in Bangladesh.
- Earthquake kills 2,000 in Italy
- Web browser introduced, Internet commercially available.
- "Seinfeld" TV series begins.



HELP!
We need just \$400 more to make a dream a reality for the people of Varatic to rebuild their community stadium -- it is unsafe and needs repair!
[Click here to donate!](#)



Moldovan Of the Month
ALEXANDRU CRIGAN

Alexandru Crigan is my business partner here in Moldova. He is an auditor for the district council and manages a new NGO "Local Invest" to help schools and organizations throughout the district. "I love working for the council," Crigan said. "They are very supportive of the community."

"Limba noastră"
Limba noastră-i o comoară
În adâncuri înfundată
Un șirag de piatră rară
Pe moșie revărsată.
Limba noastră-i foc, ce arde
Într-un neam, ce fără veste
S-a trezit din somn de moarte,
Ca viteazul din poveste.
Moldova National Anthem

"Democracy is the least efficient way to make decisions, but the most efficient way to involve people."
Larry Faison

Moldova wins again in its sixth Olympics

One of the youngest countries in the world, the Republic of Moldova is building a solid record of success in sports, winning eight Olympic medals in only six summers at the Games.

Moldovans have brought home medals in every summer Olympics, except in 2004, when the trip home, from Athens, Greece, was the shortest.

On August 16, Serghei Tarnovschi paddled 1,000 meters in only 4 minutes (4:00.85) for a bronze medal in the canoe sprint.

The team of 23 athletes this year competed in the water in canoeing and swimming, outside in archery, indoors in weightlifting, wrestling, judo and taekwondo, on the courts in tennis, and on the track in the marathon, triple jump, shot put, and the discus and hammer throws. **For statistics, [Click Here](#).**



Serghei Tarnovschi in his Olympic canoe.

Year	City	Medal	Sport	MOLDOVA MEDALS
1996	Atlanta	Silver	Canoeing	
2000	Sydney	Bronze	Wrestling	
		Silver	Shooting	
2008	Beijing	Bronze	Boxing	
		Bronze	Boxing	
2012	London	Bronze	Weightlifting	
		Bronze	Weightlifting	
2016	Rio	Bronze	Canoeing	



A Varatic player kicks the ball as a Costești player braces. Below, a fan cheers players on in Moldovan colors. **Photos: [Click Here](#)**



Joke of the month

I wanted to tell you a good Moldovan joke, but Moldovans don't tell jokes! Seriously, I have never heard one here. I asked Alexandru Crigan and he told me one similar to election jokes we hear in America: Ziua alegerilor. Un bărbat a votat și pleacă spre casă, când acolo vede că spre biroul electoral

aleargă vecinul său: „Stooooop. Unde te grăbești în halul acesta?” „Mă duc să mă întâlnesc cu iubita mea bunică.” „Dar deja de cinci ani e moartă.” „Așa am crezut și eu, dar iată că, deja a doua oară așa de la biroul electoral mi-au spus că, a venit, a votat și a plecat.”



Imagine Rîșcani had a slow month as I look for a new bicycle (and for my old one!) I published photos of these beautiful villages: Stiubeieni, Mihaileni Noi, Vasileuți, Singureni and Corlateni.

For photos, [Click Here](#).

Photographs and videos, at:

www.Markstrail.com