

The Asian Reporter

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Popular talk show host declares “You are the father!” to 30-year-old orangutan



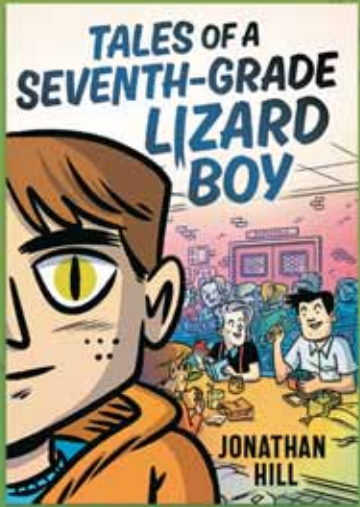
BIG REVEAL. This undated photo provided by the Denver Zoo shows Sumatran orangutan Eirina with her baby, named Siska. The zoo performed a DNA test to determine which of two male orangutans was Siska's father and recruited talk show host Maury Povich to record a video announcing that 30-year-old Berani was the father. Siska's father had been a mystery because the zoo's animal care team had to wait a few months before Eirina was comfortable allowing them to get close enough to get a hair sample from Siska to compare her DNA to the zoo's male orangutans. See story on page 10. (Denver Zoo via AP)

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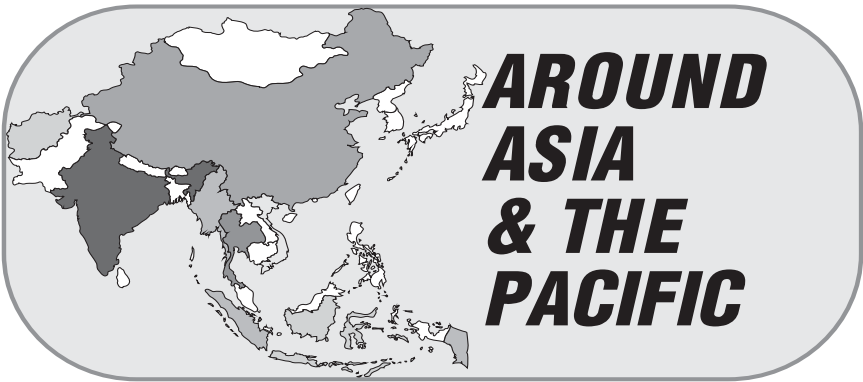
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Chinese navy ships are first to dock at new pier at Cambodian naval base linked to Beijing

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Chinese naval vessels were the first ships to dock at a new pier at a Cambodian naval base that the United States and some international security analysts say is destined to serve as a strategic outpost for Beijing’s navy. The docking of the two ships, which received little publicity, coincided with an official visit to Cambodia in December by China’s top defense official, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission He Weidong. News of at least two Chinese ships docking at the Ream Naval Base on the Gulf of Thailand came out indirectly, through a Facebook post by Cambodian defense minister Tea Seiha. It said he visited the base to see preparations for Cambodian navy training and to inspect progress on infrastructure construction, but did not mention China by name. He also posted photos showing Cambodian officials with Chinese ambassador Wang Wentian, and reviewing Chinese sailors. At least two warships could be seen in the photos, one whose gangway identified it as the Chinese navy corvette Wenshan. Satellite photos taken by Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press showed what appeared to be two Chinese warships docked at the base. They correspond to the images shared online by Tea Seiha. The AP analysis, comparing the ship’s measurements and the images released by the minister, suggest they were Type 56 Chinese corvettes. Controversy over Ream Naval Base initially arose in 2019 when *The Wall Street Journal* reported that an early draft of a reputed agreement seen by U.S. officials would allow China 30-year use of the base, where it would be able to post military personnel, store weapons, and berth warships. Cambodia’s then-Prime Minister Hun Sen denied there was such an agreement. He pointed out that Cambodia’s constitution does not allow foreign military bases to be established on its soil, but said visiting ships from all nations are welcome.

Beijing sees most December sub-freezing temps since 1951

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing recorded the most hours of sub-freezing temperatures in December in more than seven decades as a cold wave enveloped northern and central swathes of China, bringing snowstorms and record-breaking temperatures. A weather observatory in the Chinese capital as of December 24 had recorded more than 300 hours of sub-freezing temperatures since December 11 — the most since records began in 1951, according to the official newspaper *Beijing Daily*. The city saw nine consecutive days with temperatures below minus 10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit), the paper added. Parts of northern and central China shivered under frigid cold snaps last month, with authorities closing schools and highways several times due to snowstorms. Temperatures at 78 weather stations across the country hit record lows for the month of December, while average temperatures in northern and some central parts of China hit record lows set in 1961, according to the National Meteorological Centre.

Eddie Jones hired for second stint as Japan rugby coach

TOKYO (AP) — Eddie Jones has been hired for a second stint as Japan’s coach in a deal taking him through to the 2027 Rugby World Cup. The 63-year-old Jones quit as the Australia coach on October 29 after his native country’s woeful World Cup campaign in France, during which he denied holding talks with the Japanese Rugby Football Union. Jones, whose mother is Japanese, will start his new role January 1st on a four-year deal, returning to a position he had from 2012 to 2015 and that culminated in him leading the Brave Blossoms to one of the biggest upsets in rugby — and any sport — when they beat South Africa at the 2015 World Cup. After leaving that job following the World Cup, he coached England for seven years — leading the team to the 2019 final — before spending less than a year in a second spell with the Wallabies. Jamie Joseph departed as Japan’s coach after the recent World Cup, where the team was eliminated in the pool stage.

Tesla to build energy-storage battery factory in China

BEIJING (AP) — American electric automaker Tesla’s plans to produce energy-storage batteries in China has moved forward with a signing ceremony for the land acquisition in Shanghai, according to China’s state media. The factory won’t build batteries for cars, but for electric utilities and other companies to store power. Such storage units have become increasingly important with the growth in solar and wind energy, which only generate electricity when weather conditions are favorable and need to store it for when residential and commercial users need it. The new factory will initially produce 10,000 of Tesla’s Megapack units annually for sale worldwide, Xinhua said. The Tesla project is a rare piece of good news for the Chinese economy, which saw a sharp drop in foreign investment in 2023. The Commerce Ministry said foreign investment in the first 11 months of 2023 was down 10% compared with the same period last year. Foreign companies are worried about the Chinese government’s increasing control over business on national security and other grounds, as well as growing U.S. restrictions on technology trade with China. China is a major market and manufacturing center for Tesla, and the company’s CEO, Elon Musk, has built close ties with Chinese officials even as U.S.-China relations soured. In May, he met the commerce minister and the then-foreign minister in Beijing. Tesla built an electric vehicle plant in Shanghai in 2019 that assembles cars for China, Europe, and other overseas markets. China is also by far the world leader in installing wind and solar capacity, making it a major market for energy storage.



SPIRITED CHANGE. In this image taken from video, visitors look at the bottling process of a customized bottle of *The Chuan* whisky at the Chuan Malt Distillery in Emeishan, in southwestern China’s Sichuan province. The more than \$100 million distillery, owned by Pernod Ricard and based at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mount Emei, has launched a pure-malt whisky, *The Chuan* is aiming to tap a growing taste among young Chinese for whisky in place of the traditional “baijiu” used to toast festive occasions. (AP Photo/Caroline Chen)

Whisky wooing young Chinese away from “baijiu” as top distillers target a growing market

BEIJING (AP) — A distillery in southwestern China is aiming to tap a growing taste among young Chinese for whisky in place of the traditional “baijiu” liquor used to toast festive occasions.

The more than \$100 million distillery owned by Pernod Ricard based at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mount Emei has launched a pure-malt whisky, *The Chuan*.

The French wine and spirits group says it is produced using traditional whisky-making techniques combined with Chinese characteristics including locally grown barley and barrels made with oak from the Changbai mountains in northeastern China.

“Chinese terroir means an exceptional and unique environment for aging, including the water source here — top-notch mineral water. The source of water at Mount Emei is very famous,” says Yang Tao, master distiller at the distillery.

A centuries-old drink, whisky is relatively new to China, but there are already more than 30 whisky distilleries in the mainland, according to the whisky website Billion Bottle.

Whisky consumption in China, as measured by volume, rose at a 10% compound annual growth rate from 2017 to 2022, according to IWSR, a beverage market analysis firm. Sales volume is forecast to continue to grow at double digit rates through 2028, according to Harry Han, an analyst with market research provider Euromonitor International.

“We see huge potential for whisky here in China. It is a product which is developing very nicely, very strongly,” said Alexandre Ricard,

chairman and CEO of Pernod Ricard. “We do believe that the Chinese have developed a real taste, particularly for malt whisky.”

Raymond Lee, founder of the Single Malt Club China, a whisky trading and distribution company in Beijing, said whisky has become more popular as the economy has grown.

“As the economy develops and personal income increases, many people are pursuing individuality. In the past we all lived the same lives. When your economic conditions reach a certain level, you will start to seek your own individuality. Whisky caters just to the consumption mindset of these people. And its quality is very different from that of other alcoholic drinks,” he says.

On a recent Friday night at a bar in Beijing, 28-year-old Sylvia Sun, who works in the music industry, was enjoying a whisky on the rocks.

“The taste of it lingers in your mouth for a very long time. If I drink it, I will keep thinking about it the rest of tonight,” she said.

Lee, who has been in the industry for more than 35 years, said the whisky boom is largely driven by younger Chinese who are more open to western cultures and lifestyles than their parents’ generation was.

More than half of China’s whisky consumers are between 18 and 29 years old, according to an analysis based on data from the e-commerce channel of Billion Bottle, which has more than 2 million registered users.

“Now the country is more and more open, and there are increasing opportunities to go

Continued on page 4

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South Korean Won	1294.5
Sri Lankan Rupee	323.92
Taiwan Dollar	30.7
Thai Baht	34.38
Vietnam Dong	24270

Cambodia welcomes the Metropolitan Museum of Art's plan to return looted antiquities

By Maysoon Khan and Sopheng Cheang
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodia has welcomed the announcement that New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art will return more than a dozen pieces of ancient artwork to Cambodia and Thailand that were tied to an art dealer and collector accused of running a huge antiquities trafficking network out of Southeast Asia.

This most recent repatriation of artwork comes as many museums in the United States and Europe reckon with collections that contain objects looted from Asia, Africa, and other places during centuries of colonialism or in times of upheaval.

Fourteen Khmer sculptures will be returned to Cambodia and two will be returned to Thailand, the Manhattan museum announced in December, though no specific timeline was given.

"We appreciate this first step in the right direction," said a statement issued by Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. "We look forward to further returns and acknowledgements of the truth regarding our lost national treasures, taken from Cambodia in the time of war and genocide."

Cambodia suffered from war and the brutal rule of the communist Khmer Rouge in the 1970s and 1980s, causing disorder that opened the opportunity for its archaeological treasures to be looted.

The repatriation of the ancient pieces was linked to well-known art dealer Douglas Latchford, who was indicted in 2019 for allegedly orchestrating a multi-year scheme to sell looted Cambodian antiquities on the international art market. Latchford, who died the following



RELICS REPATRIATED. Cambodia has welcomed the announcement that New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art will return more than a dozen pieces of ancient artwork to Cambodia and Thailand that were tied to an art dealer and collector accused of running a huge antiquities trafficking network out of Southeast Asia. Pictured are "The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Seated in Royal Ease" (late 10th to early 11th century sculpture), left, and "Standing Shiva" (bronze sculpture), right, pieces which are slated for return. (Metropolitan Museum of Art via AP)

year, had denied any involvement in smuggling.

The museum initially cooperated with the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan and the New York office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on the return of 13 sculptures tied to Latchford before determining there were three more that should be repatriated.

"As demonstrated with today's announcement, pieces linked to the investigation of Douglas Latchford continue to reveal themselves," HSI acting special agent in charge Erin Keegan said in a statement last month. "The Metropolitan Museum of Art has not only recognized the significance of these 13 Khmer artifacts, which were shamelessly stolen, but has also volunteered to return them, as part of their ongoing cooperation, to their rightful owners: the People of Cambodia."

This isn't the first time the museum has repatriated art linked to Latchford. In 2013, it returned two objects to Cambodia.

The Latchford family also had a load of centuries-old Cambodian jewelry in their possession that they later returned to Cambodia. In February, 77 pieces of jewelry made of gold and other precious metal pieces — including



items such as crowns, necklaces, and earrings — were returned to their homeland. Other stone and bronze artifacts were returned in September 2021.

Pieces being returned include a bronze sculpture called "The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Seated in Royal Ease," made sometime between the late 10th century and early 11th century. Another piece of art, made of stone in the seventh century and named "Head of Buddha," will also be returned. Those pieces are part of 10 that can still be viewed in the museum's galleries while arrangements are made for their return.

"These returns contribute to the reconciliation and healing of the Cambodian people who went through decades of civil war and suffered tremendously from the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge genocide, and to a greater strengthening of our relationship with the United States," Cambodia's Minister of Culture and Fine Arts, Phoeurng Sackona, said in her agency's statement.

Research efforts were already underway by the museum to examine the ownership history of its objects, focusing on how ancient art and cultural property changed hands, as well as the provenance of Nazi-looted artwork.

Associated Press writer Maysoon Khan in Albany, New York, contributed to this report. Khan is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

Thai police seize a record haul of methamphetamine tablets

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police have seized what is being called a record haul of methamphetamine tablets in the western province of Kanchanaburi, close to the Myanmar border.

Officers found an estimated 50 million tablets hidden in sacks in a six-wheeler truck they stopped at a joint police-military checkpoint. The occupants of the truck — a man and a woman — were arrested.

The quantity of methamphetamine tablets seized is a record for Thailand, Jeremy Douglas, the Southeast Asia regional representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said. The region's biggest known seizure took place in neighboring Laos in October 2021, when a consignment of 55 million pills was discovered.

"We've not seen major cases here in Kanchanaburi for a couple of years, and never anything like this," Douglas said. "But it's also not a surprise given the extreme supply being produced by militias and traffickers in northern Myanmar."

Myanmar has historically been the region's main drug production area in part because of lax security measures in border areas where minority ethnic groups have long been fighting for greater autonomy. Some of the powerful ethnic armed groups there have been heavily involved in narcotics production for decades.

A 2021 military takeover in Myanmar that unseated the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi triggered armed resistance nationwide, further destabilizing the country.

The U.N. drug agency's June 2023 report on synthetic drugs in East and Southeast Asia warned that the huge trade in methamphetamine and other illegal drugs shows no signs of slowing down.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who is also interior minister, told reporters that illegal drugs used to be smuggled into Thailand's northern and northeastern provinces, but had moved to western provinces such as Kanchanaburi because of more intense surveillance and security along the old routes, a point the U.N. agency had also made.

Anutin said increased combat between Myanmar's military and its foes among the country's pro-democracy movement and ethnic minority armed groups also increased the smugglers' risks along their old routes.

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China emerged from “zero-COVID” in 2023 to confront new challenges in a changed world

By Ken Moritsugu
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China’s prospects for 2024 look uncertain, as a year that opened free of COVID-19 lockdowns wound down without the dreamed-of robust recovery for the world’s No. 2 economy.

The wars in Gaza and Ukraine are straining China’s ties with the west. A U.S.-China leaders’ summit helped get relations back on track, but also clearly defined the stark divide between the two global powers. To counter a U.S.-led world order, China is pushing alternative visions for global security and development whose prospects depend partly on restoring its own economic vitality.

Pandemic-related restrictions ended, but China still faces long-term, fundamental challenges: a falling birthrate and aging population — India surpassed it as the world’s largest country in April — and its rivalry with the United States over technology, Taiwan, and control of the high seas. Another: to balance the ruling Communist Party’s tightening grip on myriad aspects of life with the flexibility needed to keep the economy dynamic and growing.

“This year started on a such optimistic note,” said Wang Xiangwei, a China expert and former editor-in-chief of the *South China Morning Post* newspaper. “And now (as) we are ending 2023, I think people are getting more worried about what ... will be in store” for next year.

A winter of hope

As China’s mask and testing requirements faded, for the first time in three years, crowds thronged temples and parks last January for the Lunar New Year.

“Life is returning to normal,” said Zhang Yiwen, visiting a historic Beijing district bustling with tourists. “I look forward to seeing how the economy grows in the new year and what the country can accomplish in the international market.”

Hopes for warming ties with Washington were dashed with the shooting down of an apparently off-course Chinese balloon that drifted over the United States in February. Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelled a trip to Beijing. A month later during the annual session of the largely ceremonial legislature, Chinese leader Xi Jinping accused the U.S. of seeking to isolate and “contain” China.

But China’s re-opening brought a



parade of foreign leaders to Beijing as it strengthened links with the Mideast and other developing regions and showed support for Russia, and set about mending relations with Europe, the U.S., and Australia.

China raised its international profile when Saudi Arabia and Iran reached an agreement in Beijing to reestablish diplomatic relations. Shi Shusi, a regular analyst on Chinese TV, highlighted China’s capacity to play a diplomatic role in the developing world.

“China has traditional friendships with these countries,” Shi said. “If we provide some assistance and strengthen cooperation ... it seems to be a realistic solution for China to participate in the game of great powers and in global governance.”

During the National People’s Congress, Premier Li Keqiang announced an economic growth target of around 5% for the year. But Li, who died in October, was on his way out, replaced by close associates of Xi as he further consolidated his hold on power.

Spring’s electric vehicle surprise

China’s economic rebound was short-lived, though the Shanghai auto show showcased one gleaming bright spot: electric vehicles. Exports of EVs have soared, to the extent that by September, the European Union launched a trade investigation into Chinese subsidies to EV makers.

“The EV market is getting better year by year, even though the overall economy is not promising,” said Li Jing, a salesperson

at a small electric car dealer in Wuwei, a city of 1.2 million people in eastern China’s Anhui province.

Li said his pay remained steady through the pandemic. Still, he was putting off plans to buy an apartment, expecting housing prices to fall amid a real estate crisis that has many Chinese cutting back on spending, hobbling efforts to tap consumer demand to drive economic growth.

A summer of economic doldrums

Blinken made his balloon-delayed trip to Beijing, followed by visits by U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, climate envoy John Kerry, and then Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

Meanwhile, the economy was slowing as growing numbers of property developers defaulted on debts, caught short in a crackdown on excessive borrowing that began in 2020 and has hamstrung the entire industry. The jobless rate among young Chinese surged to about one-in-five, leading the government to stop publishing that data.

“Life hasn’t returned to how it was before the pandemic,” said Liu Qingyu, a young worker in Shanghai’s financial sector who was hoping for more opportunities but instead is fretting over layoffs at her company.

When the Zhongzhi Enterprise Group missed payments to investors, worries deepened that the real estate meltdown could spread into a financial crisis. The government began loosening restrictions on lending for home purchases and stepped up spending on construction, though housing prices kept falling.

“I think in July, the Chinese leadership realized that the economy ... was in more serious trouble than (they had) expected,” Wang said. “So they started to pump more money into the economy. But all those measures were considered incremental.”

Small business owners like Dong Jun cut costs to avoid going into the red. Orders

POST-PANDEMIC CHALLENGES. A woman walks past a store with a sign that reads, “Clearing at a lost, leftover sizes clearance,” at a store in Beijing, in this July 27, 2023 file photo. China’s prospects for 2024 look uncertain after a year that opened free of COVID-19 lockdowns wound down without the dreamed-of robust recovery for the world’s No. 2 economy. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

were less than half the pre-pandemic level, he said.

Stewed meat maker Xinyang Food Co. laid off more than a dozen employees, reducing its workforce to 20. “We are afraid of losing money,” said Gao Weiping, a co-owner and manager.

Autumn’s challenges

Relations with the United States warmed further in the fall, though fundamental differences over technology and territorial disputes remain.

Visits by Philadelphia Orchestra members, the American Ballet Theatre, American World War II veterans, and California governor Gavin Newsom set a friendly tone ahead of a November meeting in San Francisco between Xi and U.S. President Joe Biden.

“China has not treated its customers very well over the past five years because of geopolitical tensions,” Wang said, referring to the American, European, and other export markets. “Now, China wants to focus on growing the economy. So China will have to make nice with its biggest customers.”

Still, ahead of the Biden-Xi meeting, the U.S. broadened its export controls on advanced computer chips. And a collision of Chinese and Philippine ships in the South China Sea harkened to tensions that could draw the U.S. into conflict.

As the year’s end drew near, the passing of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger underscored how times have changed. Kissinger helped engineer the normalization of China-U.S. ties in the early 1970s and had met with Xi in Beijing in August at age 100. But his was another era, when the two sides found common ground despite their disagreements.

The future will test the wisdom of both Chinese and Western leaders, Shi said.

“The future for all of us lies not in making a big fortune but in security, in the effort to ... avoid global conflicts,” he said.

Li Yu just wants a job. He wound up at a day labor market in Beijing in September after his family’s restaurant in northeast China went bankrupt. He started out earning about 300 yuan (\$40) for a 12-hour day as a package delivery person. By December, that had fallen almost by half.

“Honestly, all are just trying to get a job, to put food on the table,” he said, describing how people jostle for jobs and even end up in fights.

Analysts now think the government will achieve its 5% growth target but they expect a slowdown in 2024.

This matters not only for China’s workers but for the whole world. The U.S. economy is the foundation of America’s status as the dominant global power. Even after its auto and steelmakers faltered, Silicon Valley led the way into the 21st century.

In his second decade in power, Xi aims to restore China’s global stature. That will depend largely on the Communist Party’s capacity to overcome its many challenges in 2024 and beyond.

Associated Press researchers Yu Bing and Wanqing Chen and video producer Caroline Chen contributed.

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Whisky wooing young Chinese away from “baijiu”

Continued from page 2

abroad, and they have absorbed different kinds of cultures. They also have the courage to try new things. When they try something new — for example whisky — they realize that it’s very different from China’s baijiu. Whisky may be easier for them to accept,” Lee said.

Associated Press video producer Caroline Chen contributed to this report.

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In the salt deserts bordering Pakistan, India builds its largest renewable energy project

By Sibi Arasu
The Associated Press

KHAVDA, India — Rising from the bare expanse of the large salt desert that separates India from Pakistan is what will likely be the world’s largest renewable energy project when completed three years from now.

The solar and wind energy project will be so big that it will be visible from space, according to developers of what is called the Khavda renewable energy park, named after the village nearest to the project site.

At the site, thousands of laborers install pillars on which solar panels will be mounted. The pillars rise like perfectly aligned concrete cactuses that stretch as far as the eye can see. Other workers are building foundations for enormous wind turbines to be installed; they also are transporting construction material, building substations, and laying wires for miles.

When completed, the project will be about as large as Singapore, spreading out over 280 square miles. The Indian government estimates it will cost at least \$2.26 billion.

Shifting to renewable energy was a key issue at the COP28 climate summit. Some leaders voiced support for a target of tripling renewable energy worldwide in any final agreement while curbing the use of coal, oil, and natural gas, which spew planet-warming gasses into the atmosphere.

What makes this heavy industrial activity peculiar is that it’s taking place in the middle of the Rann of Kutch in western India’s Gujarat state. The Rann is an unforgiving salt desert and marshland at



least 43.5 miles from the nearest human habitation but just a short army truck ride away from one of the world’s most tense international borders separating the two South Asian nations.

Ground zero of India’s clean energy transition

When The Associated Press visited the renewable energy park, two days of unseasonal heavy rains had left the ground muddy and water logged since the only escape for water in this rough terrain is evaporation. This made it even harder for the workers to do their job.

Notwithstanding the tough conditions, an estimated 4,000 workers and 500 engineers have been living in makeshift camps for the better part of the past year toiling to get this project up and running.

Once completed, it will supply 30 gigawatts of renewable energy annually,

enough to power nearly 18 million Indian homes.

As India aims to install 500 gigawatts of clean energy by the end of the decade and to reach net zero emissions by 2070, the project site will likely contribute significantly to the world’s most populous country’s transition to producing energy from non-carbon spewing sources.

As things stand, India is still mostly powered by fossil fuels, especially coal, which generate more than 70% of India’s electricity. Renewable energy currently contributes about 10% of India’s electricity needs. The country is also currently the third-largest emitter of planet-warming gasses behind China and the United States.

“There are people working here from all over India,” said KSRK Verma, Khavda project head for Adani Green Energy

AMBITIOUS ENERGY PROJECT.

Employees work on a wind turbine blade at Adani New Industries Limited in the port town of Mundra in Western India’s Gujarat state. It is one of the few locations in the country where most solar energy components are made from scratch. India is developing a 30-gigawatt hybrid — wind and solar — renewable energy project on one of the largest salt deserts in the world. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool, File)

Limited, the renewable energy arm of the Adani Group, which the Indian government has contracted to build 20 gigawatts of the project. Verma, with more than 35 years of experience building dams across turbulent South Asian rivers and enormous natural gas tanks under the Bay of Bengal, says this is one of the most difficult projects he’s undertaken.

“It’s not at all (an) easy site to work at. There is no habitation, the land is marshy, there are a lot of high winds, rains, and this is a high earthquake prone area,” said Vneet Jaain, managing director of Adani Green at its headquarters in the city of Ahmedabad.

Jaain, who has overseen multiple ambitious projects for the Adani Group, said the first six months were spent just building basic infrastructure. “From April this year is when we started working on the actual project,” he added.

The Adani Group has been in the lime-light this year ever since the U.S.-based short-selling Hindenburg Research firm accused the Group and its head, Gautam Adani, of “brazen stock manipulation” and “accounting fraud.” Adani Group has called the allegations baseless.

Jaain of Adani Green says the allegations have had little impact on its ongoing projects including work at the

Continued on page 9



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The Asian Reporter

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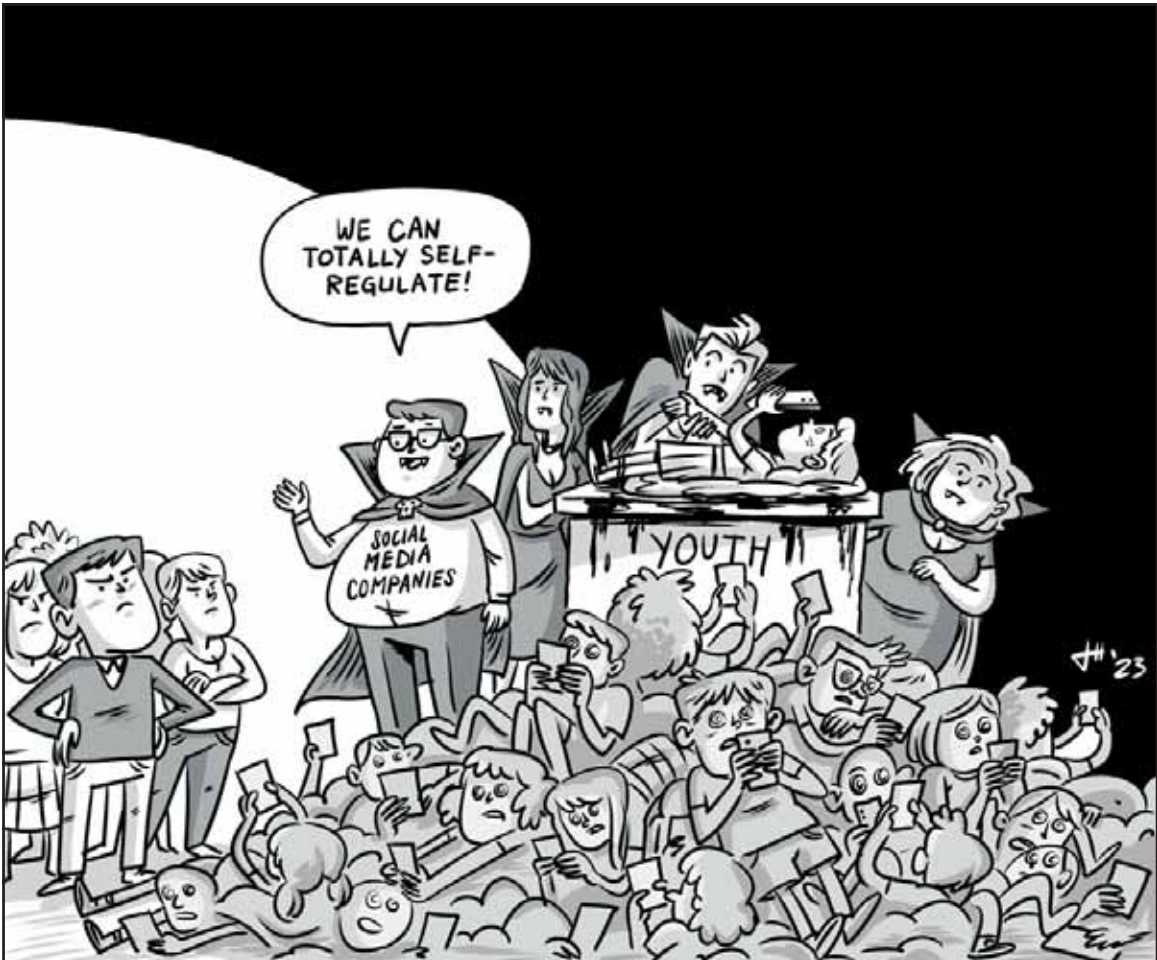
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MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



The promise and reality of our Asian vegetable garden

Picture this: A gentle climb into a rolling hillside gives way to an organic family farm with rows of delectable fruits, herbs, and vegetables sprouting up in a celebration of Mother Nature's bounty, nourishing our family with crops our own brood has harvested under the clear skies of Southern California.

This is the vision I had looking at our backyard hillside. As an Asian family, I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to grow vegetables specific to Asian cooking. Instead of lettuce — bok choy and napa cabbage; instead of carrots — Asian green beans.

I'm not a farmer. I don't claim to have a green thumb. But, if there's a will, there's a way. And at least for a few months, there was definitely a will.

I started on one small patch of land on our hillside. I cleared the area, dug it up, added rich soil and a programmable sprinkler system, and planted an assortment of Asian vegetables.

Our first harvest was beautiful — an explosion of bok choy, big, healthy bunches of green beans, and napa cabbage galore. I made proclamations: I am a planter! I am the giver of life! I am the grower of things! I am the provider for my family!

Then came the second harvest.

It's like I started my own homegrown zoo of squirrels, rabbits, gophers, snails, and birds. The animals should have been required to tip me 15% for the bounty of food I provided. Apparently, these animals loved the variety of vegetables they can't get from our neighbor's garden.

I tried everything. Nothing worked. I gave up.

Then I had an epiphany. Instead of growing everything in the ground, I bought and built three large, elevated vegetable gardens. That should solve my problem.

Our first harvest in the raised vegetable garden was another beautiful bounty of goodies. Napa cab-

bage galore. A big, bountiful bloom of green beans!

And time for more proclamations: I have beat back the rodents of my previous demise! I am horticulturist extraordinaire! I am greenskeeper incarnate!

Then came the second harvest from our raised vegetable garden. You may sense a pattern here.

Apparently, the animals had found their way into the raised beds. My raised vegetable garden was now an all-you-can-eat vegetable buffet.

I tried everything. I put barriers on the legs of the planters. It didn't work. I put netting around the tops of the planters. The animals forced their

way under the netting.

I started researching what animal could possibly navigate through the sophisticated barricade I'd erected around the vegetable garden. From what I could ascertain, a small bunny can't leap three feet straight into the air to reach the edge of the box! How would birds get through the netting? How could squirrels crawl up what I would describe as barbed wire nailed against the legs of the planters?

Late at night after I went to bed, I envisioned a horde of squirrels setting up an elaborate catapult that flung them into the far reaches of my raised vegetable garden.

In the end, I finally managed to protect my precious vegetables by adding a flexible, metal mesh around each of the raised beds.

I probably now need to revise the original idyllic vision I had in mind and replace it with something a little closer to reality.

Picture this: Three cramped, raised vegetable garden beds that look like a detention center for offending vegetables, forever in solitary confinement until the warden frees them from their involuntary lives of isolation.

Humor writer Wayne Chan lives in the San Diego area; cartoonist Wayne Chan is based in the Bay Area.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors and not necessarily those of this publication.

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MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



MINOR VICTORY. In this photo provided by the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, Peter Park, right, is sworn in by District Attorney Tim Ward in Visalia, California. A county prosecutor's office has reported that one of its law clerks passed the State Bar of California exam at age 17. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office said that, according to research, Peter Park is the youngest person to pass the exam. (Photo courtesy of the Tulare County District Attorney's Office)

Beware of the unconstitutional yoga pose

Uuuuggghh!
That's the sound I made that got me into trouble. Specifically, it's the sound I tend to make when I'm getting out of a nice, comfy sofa.

I don't know why it happens. I don't know what causes it. I don't know why I didn't make this sound 10 years ago. The problem is, my wife Maya seems to have the answer.

She says, "Your whole body is tight. You don't have any flexibility. You need to do some stretching — you are just so stiff all over!"

My retort? I say, "What are you talking about? I play tennis four to five times a week! I run around that court like there's no tomorrow! You're off your rocker, lady!!!"

To be honest, I didn't actually say the words, "You're off your rocker, lady!" I think the exact words I used were, "Yes dear, you're completely right, sweetie."

But Maya wasn't finished yet. She said, "You need to do some stretching. You can't even walk anymore! You need to do some yoga!"

Ahh, yoga. I've seen yoga. I've heard about yoga. From my understanding, it started about 5,000 years ago in India. As originally envisioned, yoga was a way of joining, of bringing together, of finding connection. And all this time, I thought the definition of yoga was "creating unnecessary pain out of ludicrous and inhumane body contortions."

Despite my belief that forcing me to do yoga is not what I want and it may actually violate my right to remain silent, Maya was determined for me to try it. She then punched up some videos by Rodney Yee, a famous American yoga instructor.

When the video started, I sat down on my comfy sofa so I could analyze the type of yoga poses Mr. Yee was demonstrating. Then I began a running commentary:



Pose #1: I can tell you right now, that's not gonna happen.

Pose #2: Anatomically speaking, I don't think your left foot is ever supposed to touch your right ear. Is his knee double-jointed?

Pose #3: Has he been in a tragic car accident? I don't see how a normal body can do that.

Pose #4: Rodney didn't say anything, but are you supposed to take muscle relaxants before doing that pose?

Pose #5: OK, the downward dog pose I can definitely try. After that, I'd like to try the "dog taking a nap" pose.

After my commentary, and after, yes, trying a few poses, I finished my first day of yoga. By the way, in case anyone is wondering, the closest my left foot can get to my right ear is around my right knee.

The next day, while on the way to play tennis, I picked up my tennis partner (Ron) and told him about my yoga experience. Thinking he would naturally like to add some additional commentary to mine, I was quite surprised by his reaction.

"Actually, I do hot yoga," he said, "and it's done wonders for me!"

Ron goes on to tell me that in hot yoga, it's all the same poses done in a confined yoga studio where the room is heated to above 100° Fahrenheit, which is supposed to help relax the muscles while attempting poses.

After hearing what hot yoga was, my running commentary mode automatically kicked in.

Hot yoga pose #1: Do they tell you where to find the defibrillator in the room *before* you get going?

You may all want to plug your ears right now. I'm about to get out of my nice, comfy sofa.

Humor writer Wayne Chan lives in the San Diego area; cartoonist Wayne Chan is based in the Bay Area.

Audit finds low compliance by Seattle police with law requiring youth to have access to lawyers

SEATTLE (AP) — A new audit shows the Seattle Police Department has a low rate of compliance with a law requiring it to provide young people with access to a lawyer before they are interviewed.

The city Office of Inspector General's audit, dated Friday, December 22, found officers complied with the law 4% of the time, based on an examination of 50 cases in 2021 and 2022, *The Seattle Times* reported.

Under a 2020 city law, after a young person is read their Miranda rights, police are supposed to connect them with a lawyer before questioning them or searching their vehicle, though there is an exception if an officer believes someone's life is at risk.

The state legislature in 2021 passed a similar law, under which police are supposed to call the state Office of Public Defense after an arrest and let the young person talk to a lawyer before questioning.

"Studies suggest that juveniles often do not fully comprehend the potential consequences of their actions, including waiving their rights after receiving Miranda warnings," the Office of Inspector General wrote. "It is important that juveniles have access to an attorney to assist them in making decisions that impact their constitutional rights and have serious consequences in the criminal justice system."

The audit found most officers seemed unaware of the requirements

and of how to connect youth with lawyers. Audit recommendations mostly involved updating training and guidance, and police leadership agreed with them.

In a letter responding to the audit, Brian Maxey, the department's chief operating officer, said it's not always obvious whether someone is younger than 18. And, he wrote, the law only applies when someone is in custody and being questioned, not when officers are asking preliminary questions to determine if a crime has occurred.

Still, he said, the department agreed with the findings that "in some instances there are clear gaps in officers' understanding of the laws and inconsistencies in practice."

Heart of Hawai'i's historic Lahaina, scene of deadly wildfire, reopens to residents after 4 months

By Lindsey Wasson and Audrey McAvoy
The Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawai'i — The heart of Lahaina, the historic town on the Hawaiian island of Maui that burned in a deadly wildfire that killed at least 100 people, reopened in mid-December to residents and business owners holding day passes.

The renewed access marked an important emotional milestone for victims of the August 8 fire, but much work remains to be done to safely clear properties of burned debris and rebuild. Some residents are concerned about where the fire debris will wind up on the island with a vibrant and delicate ecosystem.

The reopened areas include Banyan Tree Park, home to the 150-year-old tree that burned in the fire but is now sprouting new leaves, as well as Lahaina's public library, an elementary school, and popular restaurants.

An oceanfront section of Front Street, where the fire ripped through a traffic jam of cars trying to escape town, also reopened.

Authorities are continuing to recommend that people entering scorched lots wear protective gear to shield them

from hazards.

The state Department of Health released test results confirming the ash and dust left by the fire is toxic and that arsenic is the biggest concern. Arsenic is a heavy metal that adheres to wildfire dust and ash, the department said.

The tests examined ash samples collected November 7 and 8 from 100 properties built from the 1900s to the 2000s. Samples also showed high levels of lead, which was used to paint houses built before 1978.

Clean-up is still in its early stages. For the past few months, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been removing batteries, propane tanks, pesticides, and other hazards from the town's more than 2,000 destroyed buildings.

Residents and business owners have been able to visit their properties after the EPA has finished clearing their lots. In some cases, residents — often wearing white full-body suits, masks, and gloves — have found family heirlooms and mementos after sifting through the charred rubble of their homes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is beginning to haul

Continued on page 9



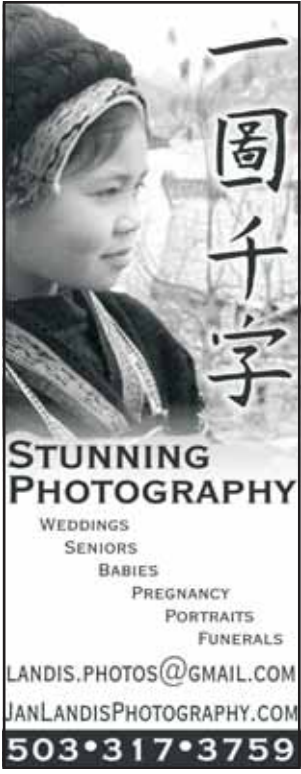
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Heart of Hawai‘i’s historic Lahaina, scene of deadly wildfire, reopens to residents after 4 months

Continued from page 7

away the remaining debris and take it to a landfill after it gets permission from property owners.

Officials have said the debris would be put into dumpsters lined with impermeable plastic, then wrapped up and sealed with glue. Another layer of plastic would then cover it before it’s placed in the landfill site, which would be closed and covered with grass to look like a park.

The county plans to monitor the area for the next 30 years, the county has said. Officials plan to install groundwater wells between the landfill and the ocean to check for potential contaminant leaks.

Some Maui residents are skeptical about the plan, in part because the landfill is just 400 yards from the coast. The reef off Olowalu hosts the largest known manta ray population in the U.S. and is a primary source of coral larvae for the reefs of Lanai,

Consulting firm McKinsey agrees to \$78 million settlement with insurers over opioids

By Dee-Ann Durbin
The Associated Press

Consulting firm McKinsey and Co. has agreed to pay \$78 million to settle claims from insurers and healthcare funds that its work with drug companies helped fuel an opioid addiction crisis.

By Mike Schneider
The Associated Press

The world population grew by 75 million people over the past year and on New Year’s Day it will stand at more than 8 billion people, according to figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The worldwide growth rate in the past year was just under 1%. At the start of 2024, 4.3 births and two deaths are

Molokai, and West Maui, according to The Nature Conservancy in Hawai‘i.

“Part of our fears and part of the dangers of this is, you don’t smell it. You don’t see it. It’s an accumulative toxin,” Eddy Garcia, executive director of Regenerative Education Centers in Olowalu, said of the potential toxins in the wildfire debris. “Every time you touch it, it goes into your face. It also seeps into the ocean. Algae will pick it up and then fish eat the algae, bigger fish eat those fish. And then we eat those fish.”

The EPA and the state’s health department have also installed 53 air monitors in Lahaina and Upcountry Maui, where a separate fire burned homes in early August. The department is urging people to avoid outdoor activity when monitor levels show elevated air pollution and to close windows and doors.

McAvoy reported from Honolulu.

World population up 75 million this year, standing at 8 billion on January 1

expected worldwide every second, according to the Census Bureau figures.

The growth rate for the United States in the past year was 0.53%, about half the worldwide figure. The U.S. added 1.7 million people and will have a population on New Year’s Day of 335.8 million people.

If the current pace continues through the end of the decade, the 2020s could be the slowest-growing decade in U.S.

Menu signed by Mao Zedong brings a quarter million dollars at auction

BOSTON (AP) — An official menu for a state banquet that bears the signature of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong has been auctioned for \$275,000.

Boston-based RR Auction said the menu was auctioned for a banquet held in Beijing on October 19, 1956, and commemorated the first state visit to China by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.

The menu was signed in fountain pen by six influential Chinese statesmen, including Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai. The banquet featured foods from both nations and included delicacies such as “Consommé of Swallow Nest and White Agaric,” “Shark’s Fin in Brown Sauce,” and “Roast Peking Duck.”

“To hold a menu signed by Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai is to hold a piece of the past — a piece that tells a story of diplomatic engagement, cultural exchange, and the forging of friendships that have endured through the decades,” Bobby Livingston, executive vice president at RR Auction, said in a statement.



SPENDY SIGNATURE. This photo provided by RR Auction shows an official menu for a state banquet signed by former Chinese leader Mao Zedong that was auctioned for \$275,000. (Photo/ RR Auction)

\$4.01, and was signed by Jobs the same year he and Steve Wozniak launched Apple in a Silicon Valley garage.

Other items auctioned off included a fully operational World War II-era Enigma coding machine for \$206,253, a Thomas Edison-signed document for a light bulb patent for \$22,154, and a check signed by Steve Jobs to Radio Shack that sold for \$46,063.

The check, dated July 23, 1976, is payable to RadioShack for a whopping

At the start of 2024, the U.S. is expected to experience one birth every nine seconds and one death every 9.5 seconds. However, immigration will keep the population from dropping. Net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 28.3 seconds. The births, deaths, and net international migration will increase the U.S. population by one person every 24.2 seconds.

In the salt deserts bordering Pakistan, India builds its largest renewable energy project

Continued from page 5

Khavda renewable energy park.

An example to emulate

“Twenty years ago, India was exactly where a vast expanse of (the) developing world was,” Ajay Mathur, director general of the International Solar Alliance, said of the country’s renewable energy production. The alliance has 120 member countries and promotes renewable energy — primarily solar — across the world.

About 124 miles away in the industrial city of Mundra, also located along the Gujarat state’s coastline, the Adani Group is manufacturing the solar and wind energy parts needed for the project. It’s one of the few locations in India where most solar energy components are made from scratch. Some of the factories are run like laboratories, with protective gear, face masks, and head covers required to avoid dust particles that can compromise solar cells.

The nearby wind energy factory aims to produce 300 turbines a year, with each blade stretching nearly 86 yards and weighing 24 tons. Each wind turbine generator is capable of producing 5.2 megawatts of clean energy. They will be India’s biggest.

As Mathur of the solar alliance said, “India has travelled a long way,” and its large-scale renewable energy projects including the Khavda park will be inspiring for other developing countries. “Here is a country that was exactly where they are today and was able to make the change,” he said.

Environmental impact

While acknowledging the importance of transitioning to renewable energy, environmental experts and social activists

say India’s decision to allow clean energy projects without any environmental impact assessments is bound to have adverse consequences.

“The salt desert is a unique landscape” that is “rich in flora and fauna,” including flamingos, desert foxes, and migratory bird species that fly from Europe and Africa to winter in this region, according to Abi T Vanak, a conservation scientist with the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment. Vanak has overseen multiple environment-related research projects in the Kutch region.

Kutch and other similar regions are classified as “wastelands,” by the Indian government — and Vanak says this is extremely unfortunate. “They are not recognized as valid ecosystems,” he said.

With renewable energy projects exempt from environmental impact assessments, “There is no system in place” to determine the best places for them, according to Sandip Virmani, an environmentalist based in Kutch.

At a little over 17,374.5 square miles, the Kutch district is as big as Denmark and is India’s largest district. Given this, Virmani said there is enough land in Kutch for various renewable energy projects. But he fears that dairies and other local businesses in the region might be impacted by large-scale projects. “It has to be in the context of not compromising on another economy,” he said.

Meanwhile, longtime residents are still waiting to see how this huge project near their village will affect them.

Hirelal Rajde, 75, who has spent most of his life in Khavda, is mindful of the upcoming energy project as well as the increase in tourism in recent years in this

otherwise desolate region. “I think these developments are both good and bad,” said Rajde.

“I think overall though it will benefit more than it will cause problems,” he said. “I tell everyone who lives here to hold onto

their land, don’t sell it. In a few years, I tell them they’ll have so much business that they won’t be able to rest even at night.”

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B

BALANCE

Did they suddenly lose balance or coordination?

E

EYES

Do they have sudden blurred or double vision, or loss of vision in one or both eyes?

F

FACE

Ask them to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A

ARM

Ask them to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S

SPEECH

Ask them to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can they repeat the sentence correctly?

T

TIME

If they show any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911

Popular talk show host declares “You are the father!” to 30-year-old Denver Zoo orangutan

By Amy Beth Hanson
The Associated Press

Initially unsure of which orangutan was the father of a new baby primate, the Denver Zoo decided to have a little fun with the results and turned to the paternity announcement guru himself: former daytime talk show host Maury Povich.

Just as he would do on his long-running show, Povich pulled the purported DNA results for 4-month-old Siska out of an envelope and declared: “Berani. You are the father!”

The zoo posted the video on social media.

Siska, a female who was born on August 27, is the first baby for Eirina, a 15-year-old Sumatran orangutan, who came to the Denver Zoo from Germany’s Dortmund Zoo in 2016.

Sumatran orangutans are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with a rapidly declining wild population due to habitat loss, illegal hunting, and the black-market pet trade, the zoo said in announcing Siska’s birth.

Siska’s father remained a mystery because the zoo’s animal care team had to wait a few months before Eirina was



PRIMATE PATERNITY TEST. This undated photo provided by the Denver Zoo shows Sumatran orangutan Eirina with her baby, named Siska. The zoo performed a DNA test to determine which of two male orangutans was Siska’s father and recruited talk show host Maury Povich to record a video announcing that 30-year-old Berani was the father. (Denver Zoo via AP)

stalking to track down (Povich’s) former executive producer, who was kind enough to connect me with his executive assistant,” Kubié said.

Kubié e-mailed the assistant, asking if it might be possible to have “Maury reveal the paternity results as only he can.”

“Everyone was incredibly friendly and enthusiastic about the idea, and I can’t express enough gratitude to Maury for dedicating a bit of his time and energy to supporting the Denver Zoo — especially on such a big day for him personally,” Kubié said.

Povich, 84, taped his announcement before attending the Daytime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles where he received a Lifetime Achievement Honor presented by his wife, journalist Connie Chung.

“As much as I’d like to think he dressed in a tux for our announcement, it was actually for his big moment at the Emmys,” Kubié said.

comfortable allowing them to get close enough to get a hair sample from Siska to compare her DNA against 30-year-old Berani and 16-year-old Jaya.

“When I heard we received the results, the first thing that popped into my mind was, ‘Berani, you ARE the father!’” Jake Kubié, the zoo’s director of communications, said in an e-mail.

“That led me to do a little light online

Embezzlement of Oregon weekly newspaper’s funds forces it to layoff entire staff and halt print

By Claire Rush
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon weekly newspaper has had to lay off its entire staff and halt print after 40 years because its funds were embezzled by a former employee, its editor said, in a devastating blow to a publication that serves as an important source of information in a community that, like many others nationwide, is struggling with growing gaps in local news coverage.

About a week before Christmas, the *Eugene Weekly* found inaccuracies in its bookkeeping, editor Camilla Mortensen said. It discovered that a former employee who was “heavily involved” with the paper’s finances had used its bank account to pay themselves \$90,000 since at least 2022, she said.

The paper also became aware of at least \$100,000 in unpaid bills — including to the paper’s printer — stretching back several months, she said.

Additionally, multiple employees, including Mortensen, realized that money from their paychecks that was supposed to



be going into retirement accounts was never deposited.

When the paper realized it couldn’t make the next payroll, it was forced to lay off all of its 10 staff members and stop its print edition, Mortensen said. The alternative weekly, founded in 1982, printed 30,000 copies each week to distribute for free in Eugene, the third-largest city in the state and home to the University of Oregon.

“To lay off a whole family’s income three days before Christmas is the absolute worst,” Mortensen said, expressing her sense of devastation. “It was not on my radar that anything like this could have happened or was happening.”

The suspected employee had worked for the paper for about four years and has since been fired, Mortensen said.

The Eugene police department’s financial crimes unit is investigating, and the paper’s owners have hired forensic accountants to piece together what happened, she said.

Brent Walth, a journalism professor at the University of Oregon, said he was concerned about the loss of a paper that has had “an outsized impact in filling the widening gaps in news coverage” in Eugene. He described the paper as an inde-

pendent watchdog and a compassionate voice for the community, citing its obituaries of homeless people as an example of how the paper has helped put a human face on some of the city’s biggest issues.

He also noted how the paper has made “an enormous difference” for journalism students seeking internships or launching their career. He said there were feature and investigative stories that “the community would not have had if not for the weekly’s commitment to make sure that journalism students have a place to publish in a professional outlet.”

A tidal wave of closures of local news outlets across the country in recent decades has left many Americans without access to vital information about their local governments and communities and has contributed to increasing polarization, said Tim Gleason, the former dean of the University of Oregon’s journalism school.

“The loss of local news across the country is profound,” he said. “Instead of having the healthy kind of community connections that local journalism helps create, we’re losing that and becoming

Continued on page 12

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Raja the elephant, a big draw at the St. Louis Zoo, is moving to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium to breed

By Jim Salter
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Raja the elephant has been one of the biggest attractions — literally and figuratively — at the St. Louis Zoo for decades. Now, he’s moving away.

The zoo announced that the male Asian elephant born at the zoo nearly 31 years ago will be relocated to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio, probably in about a year. The hope is that he’ll bond with four females in Columbus, breed, and mentor a young male there.

Raja was the first elephant ever born at the St. Louis Zoo, and the 10,000-pound animal’s birthday on December 27 has always been a big deal each year, complete with treats, songs, and lots of visitors signing an oversized birthday card.

“This news is bittersweet for all of us,” Michael Macek, director of the St. Louis Zoo, said in a statement. “We know Raja is dear to his fans and to the zoo family and he’ll be missed here, but we know this is for the best for Raja and the survival of this species.”

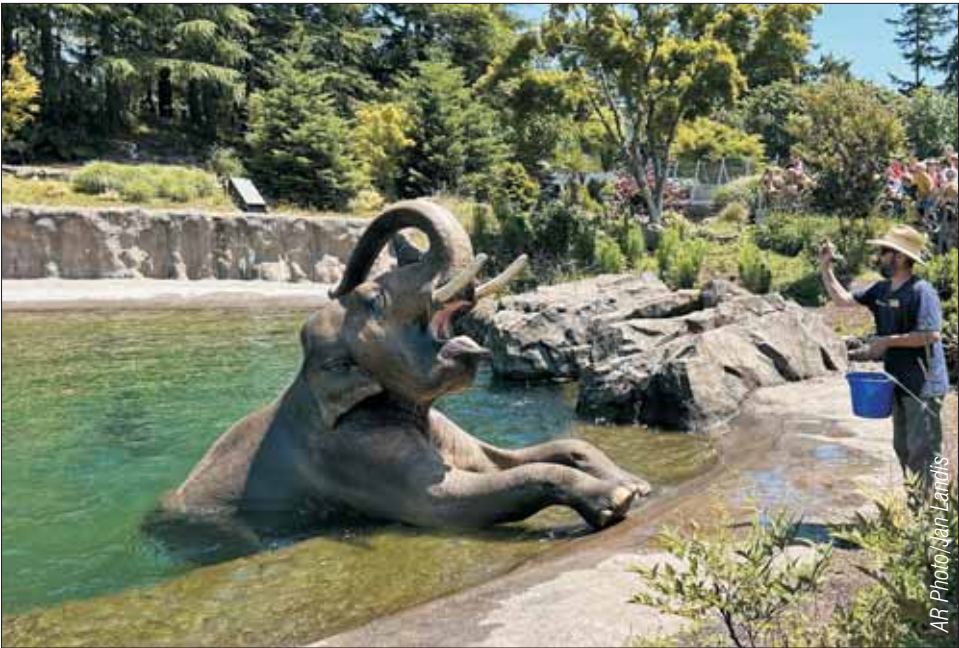
Asian elephants are endangered, with fewer than 50,000 in the wild, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Habitat loss and poaching are blamed for their plight. They are the largest land mammal on the Asian continent.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Asian Elephant Species Survival Plan recommended the move of Raja, the St. Louis Zoo said. The program seeks to manage the Asian elephant population in North America and maximize the health, wellbeing, and genetic diversity of the elephants, the zoo said.

Raja is the father of the only three female Asian elephants of breeding age in St. Louis. The other three females there



Photo courtesy of the St. Louis Zoo, File



AR Photo: Jen Landis

are too old to reproduce, and one of them is Raja’s mother. In October, Rani, a 27-year-old female Asian elephant, died after becoming agitated when a small loose

dog managed to get into the zoo and upset the herd.

Macek said the move of Raja mirrors the natural behavior of wild elephants. While

SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN. Raja the elephant (top photo) has been one of the biggest attractions — literally and figuratively — at the St. Louis Zoo for decades. Now, he’s moving away. The zoo announced that the male Asian elephant born at the zoo nearly 31 years ago will be relocated to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio, probably in about a year. When Raja leaves, the St. Louis Zoo will have room for a new male. The zoo said that male is tentatively expected to be a 15-year-old named Samudra (bottom photo) from the Oregon Zoo in Portland.

females raise the calves and live in multi-generational family groups, males live alone or in small bachelor herds. They breed, then move on, Macek said.

“Raja moving to Columbus provides an environment where he and others can naturally grow their families, which is an important component to their wellbeing,” Macek said.

The move is expected to occur in late 2024 or early 2025. When Raja leaves, the St. Louis Zoo will have room for a new male. The zoo said that male is tentatively expected to be a 15-year-old named Samudra from the Oregon Zoo in Portland.

Samudra was born at the Oregon Zoo on August 23, 2008, weighing in at 286 pounds. He was the first third-generation elephant born in the United States. Samudra has always loved the water — his name means “ocean” in Sanskrit. The roughly 10,000-pound pachyderm is often seen playfully splashing in the 160,000-gallon pool at the zoo’s Elephant Lands exhibit. His care team expects him to put on another ton or two over the next couple of decades.

Meanwhile, Raja’s 16-year-old daughter Jade is pregnant with her first calf and due to give birth at around the time that Raja leaves — Asian elephants are typically pregnant for up to 22 months. It will be the first elephant calf born at the zoo through artificial insemination. The father is housed at the Denver Zoo.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

		5		6				
	7						2	3
		3			1	4	7	
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Difficulty level: Medium

#56723

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #95376 (Easy)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

9	8	5	3	2	7	6	1	4
6	7	2	8	4	1	3	9	5
4	1	3	6	5	9	8	2	7
8	4	9	7	3	2	5	6	1
1	2	7	9	6	5	4	8	3
3	5	6	4	1	8	9	7	2
5	9	8	1	7	3	2	4	6
7	3	4	2	8	6	1	5	9
2	6	1	5	9	4	7	3	8

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Mixing up homemade granola is simple

By Katie Workman
The Associated Press

Need a gift for a friend or family member? A homemade gift with a little personal touch might be a good choice. For me, granola fits the bill. Not only is it good to eat, it can be shared.

A beautiful jar of crunchy, chewy, slightly sweet granola for quick breakfasts, tossing onto little bowls of yogurt or skyr, or (if you are my older son) grabbing by the handful every time you pass through the kitchen, is perfect.

Granola is so customizable that once you start playing around with it, making it can become almost as addictive as eating it. Change up the dried fruits, use all maple syrup or all honey, add a bit of crystallized ginger or a pinch of ground cloves.

Because nut allergies are so prevalent (I speak from personal experience), keeping your granola nut-free will make it a gift that almost everyone can enjoy.

Many store-bought granolas have a lot of added fat and sugar. This recipe has a much more manageable amount of oil and sweeteners. Note this granola is vegetarian but not vegan, thanks to the honey and egg whites. The egg whites help create nice little clumps of granola without necessitating the addition of more fat or sugar.

This is also a great recipe for getting the kids involved. They can measure, mix, and spread everything out on the baking sheet. With supervision around the hot baking sheet, older kids can gently stir the granola during baking.

Baking tips

Because the dried fruit will burn if baked too long, add it to the oat mix only during the second part of bake time. Baking it lets it becomes chewy and incorporated into the mix.

If you want your granola crunchier, bake the oat part a bit longer before stirring in the fruit.

If you're certain nut allergies aren't an issue, add a handful or two of chopped nuts when you add the dried fruit midway through baking.

This granola keeps for three weeks in a cool place, well sealed (though I have never once had it last that long).

Presentation

I like to package up this granola in clear glass Mason jars with attached lids, ribbons, and labels. You can also find jars that have spoons attached.

Think about adding some suggestions on a little card attached to the jar for how the recipients can use the granola. Recommend using it as a topping for everything from ice cream to yogurt, a complement to oatmeal, a dip for a banana, or blended into a crumble on a fruit crisp.

You can double or triple the recipe easily — and I always do, because I don't want to give it all away!

Katie Workman writes regularly about food for The Associated Press. She has written two cookbooks focused on family-friendly cooking, Dinner Solved! and The Mom 100 Cookbook.

Granola Recipe

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 2 large egg whites
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil, plus oil for the baking sheet (optional)
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon grated orange zest, optional
- 4 cups old-fashioned oats, not quick-cooking
- 2 cups mixed chopped dried fruit such as apricots or prunes, and/or dried cherries, blueberries, cranberries, and raisins
- Nonstick cooking spray (optional)

Preheat the oven to 275° Fahrenheit.

Place the honey, maple syrup, egg whites, oil, vanilla, cinnamon, salt, and orange zest, if using, in a large bowl and mix until well blended. Set 1/2 cup of the honey mixture aside in a medium-size bowl. Add the oats to the large bowl and mix with a spoon or your hands until everything is well combined and coated.

Add the dried fruit to the reserved 1/2 cup of the honey mixture and stir to combine. Set the dried fruit mixture aside.

Spray a rimmed baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray, or coat it lightly with oil, or line it with parchment paper. Spread the oat mixture out on the prepared baking sheet in a thin, even layer. Bake the oat mixture for 30 minutes (see baking tips above).

Add the dried fruit mixture to the oat mixture and stir well with a spoon or spatula to combine. Spread the granola out again in an even layer. Bake it until the oats are golden brown and crunchy, 25 to 30 minutes, stirring it once more halfway through the baking time, but leave some clumps! Let the granola cool on the baking sheet on a wire rack.

Pitch the boxed broth! Indian-spiced tomato soup doesn't need it

By Christopher Kimball
Christopher Kimball's Milk Street

Buying a box of broth at the supermarket feels like a soup shortcut because most people don't have time or energy to make homemade stock. But many store-bought stocks are filled with salt and lack much real flavor.

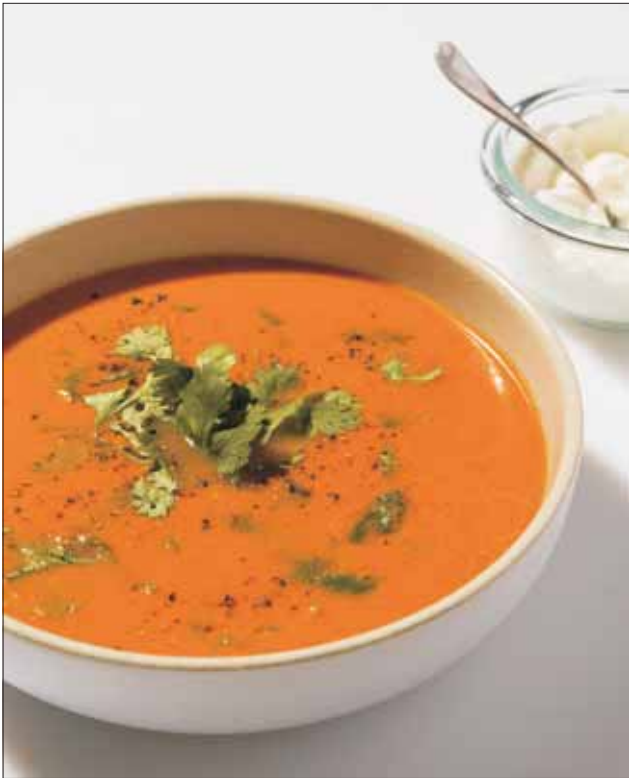
As it turns out, you don't need it anyway. We prefer to use water, not stock, for soups that have clearer, brighter flavor. It's easy with the right ingredients as long as you keep a couple things in mind.

For one, make sure to brown the aromatics. Browning translates to flavor, and scraping up those browned bits when you add the water to the pot releases flavor into the soup.

And two, don't be afraid to use spices. Toast the spices first to release their delicate aromas into the dish, just as we do in this Indian-spiced tomato soup recipe from our book *Cook What You Have*, which draws on pantry staples to assemble easy, weeknight meals.

The recipe was inspired by Indian soups known as shorba, which comes from the Arabic word "shurba," meaning "soup." Often simple, brothy, puréed soups, they are considered comfort food — the kind of soothing dish you'd find in home kitchens rather than in restaurants. In our version, we stir in garam masala, a blend of warming spices, to add depth of flavor and to complement the slightly acidic tomatoes and yogurt.

The brightness of the tomato and ginger shines through, and the toasted spice mixture provides the backbone of the soup's flavor. If you happen to have ghee



SIMPLE & SATISFYING. Pictured is a bowl of Indian-Style Tomato-Ginger Soup, a soothing dish with garam masala, a blend of warming spices, and more. (Milk Street via AP)

on hand, use it in place of butter for a subtly richer, more nuanced flavor. We like this soup served with warm naan for dipping.

Editor's note: To view additional recipes, visit <177milkstreet.com/ap>.

Indian-Style Tomato-Ginger Soup

Start to finish: 25 minutes
Servings: 4 to 6

- 2 tablespoons salted butter or ghee
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 1 small bunch cilantro, tender stems finely chopped, leaves roughly chopped, reserved separately
- 4 teaspoons garam masala
- 28-ounce can whole peeled tomatoes
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- ½ cup plain whole-milk yogurt, plus more to serve

In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the ginger and cilantro stems; cook, stirring occasionally, until the ginger begins to stick to the pot and brown lightly, about 2 minutes. Add the garam masala and cook, stirring, until fragrant, 30 to 60 seconds. Stir in the tomatoes with juices, 3 cups water, and ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Bring to a simmer, scraping up any browned bits, then cover and cook, stirring occasionally and breaking up the tomatoes with a wooden spoon, until the tomatoes have softened, about 10 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and let cool, uncovered, for about 5 minutes.

Using a blender and working in batches so the jar is never more than half full, purée the tomato mixture until smooth, about 20 seconds, then return to the saucepan. (Alternatively, use an immersion blender to purée the soup directly in the saucepan.) Stir in half of the cilantro leaves and cook over medium, stirring occasionally, until heated through, about 3 minutes.

Off heat, whisk in the yogurt, then taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve sprinkled with the remaining cilantro leaves and topped with yogurt.



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Shohei Ohtani is The AP Male Athlete of the Year for second time

By Greg Beacham
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Before Shohei Ohtani stepped into the bright lights of Hollywood and signed the most lucrative contract in professional sports history, baseball’s two-way superstar put together yet another season of unparalleled brilliance from Tokyo to Anaheim.

What can this singular talent possibly do next? The Los Angeles Dodgers are eagerly paying \$700 million to see for themselves.

But what Ohtani already did in 2023 — both for the Los Angeles Angels and for Japan’s team in the World Baseball Classic — is the reason he was selected as The Associated Press’ Male Athlete of the Year for the second time in three years.

“Shohei is arguably the most talented player who’s ever played this game,” said Andrew Friedman, the Dodgers’ president of baseball operations, after signing Ohtani to a 10-year contract last month.

Ohtani edged Inter Miami superstar Lionel Messi and tennis great Novak Djokovic for The AP honor in voting by a panel of sports media professionals.

Ohtani received 20 of 87 votes, while Messi and Djokovic got 16 apiece. Nikola Jokic, the Denver Nuggets’ NBA Finals MVP, received 12 votes.

After winning his first AP Male Athlete of the Year award in 2021, Ohtani has

Shohei Ohtani reveals dog’s name at Dodgers’ introduction: Decoy

By Beth Harris
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly all the mystery around Shohei Ohtani’s unprecedented free agency was revealed last month, yet baseball fans kept sniffing around on a most fuzzy question.

Just who was the pup sitting on Ohtani’s lap when he was voted AL MVP for the second time?

Fans speculated the dog’s name could have been a hint at his intentions — What if the pooch was named Dodger? Or Giant? Or Blue Jay?

All a Decoy, turns out.

Introduced by the Los Angeles Dodgers after agreeing to a \$700-million, 10-year deal, Ohtani revealed that the brown and white dog who joined him on television is named Dekopin or Decopin in Japanese, depending on the transliteration — but he suggests Americans call him Decoy.

“I figured it would be hard for American people to pronounce it, so he has an American name,” Ohtani said via translator Ippei Mizuhara.

Ohtani didn’t speak to reporters after winning his MVP award, and the dog’s name never surfaced while Ohtani stayed silent amid highly secretive free agent talks. He was asked about the dog twice during the news conference.

By the time Ohtani announced that he’d picked the Dodgers, even his new teammates were eager to learn more about his furry friend.

“I’d like to think it was named Walker, but I guess I’ll find out soon,” pitcher Walker Buehler had tweeted.



joined an impressive list of two-time winners of the honor, which was first handed out in 1931.

Multiple-time winners include Don Budge, Byron Nelson, Carl Lewis, Joe Montana, Michael Jordan, Michael Phelps, and four-time honorees Tiger Woods and Lance Armstrong. Four-time winner LeBron James is another generational superstar who chose Los Angeles as a free agent, while two-time honoree Sandy Koufax remains one of the greatest players to wear Dodger Blue.

Ohtani has upended decades of conventional wisdom during his six years in the majors, even surpassing most achievements of Babe Ruth while playing in an infinitely more difficult era. Most new frontiers in sports are crossed incrementally and gradually, but Ohtani has toppled barriers that stood for a century with peerless skills, confidence, and hard work.

Ohtani unanimously won the AL MVP award in 2021, and he repeated the feat in 2023 after finishing second in 2022 to Yankees slugger Aaron Judge, last year’s AP Male Athlete of the Year.

This year began with Ohtani’s dazzling MVP performance for Japan’s championship team in the World Baseball Classic — complete with a clinching strikeout of Angels teammate Mike Trout. He then turned in his third consecutive spectacular season both on the mound and at the plate in Anaheim despite an early end after he injured his pitching elbow in August.

Ohtani led the AL with 44 homers, 78 extra-base hits, 325 total bases, and 1.066

Padres, Japanese reliever Yuki Matsui agree to \$28-million, 5-year deal

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

At 5’8”, Yuki Matsui figures to be among the shortest pitchers in the major leagues.

“It’s a very a clean delivery. Good mechanics. I think pitchers come in all shape and sizes,” San Diego general manager A.J. Preller said after the 28-year-old left-hander agreed to a \$28-million, five-year contract with the Padres. “He’s left-handed. He does things very efficiently. Obviously, there’s been some great pitchers that have been sub-6-footers and he’s been one of them so far in Japan.”

Matsui made his Japanese big league debut at age 18 and became a five-time All-Star for the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles, leading the Pacific League in saves in 2019, 2022, and this year. He had a career-best 39 saves with a 1.57 Earned Run Average (ERA) and 2-3 record this season, striking out 72 and walking 13 in 57 1/3 innings.

He has a 2.40 career ERA, 236 saves, and a 1.11 Walks & Hits per Innings Pitched (WHIP) in Nippon Professional Baseball. Matsui became the youngest pitcher in the Japanese major leagues to reach 200 saves.

“He’s got a great track record in Japan really dating back to his amateur days,

On-base Plus Slugging (OPS) as the Halos’ designated hitter. He also held hitters to an AL-best .184 batting average while ranking second in the league with 11.39 strikeouts per nine innings and third with a 3.14 Earned Run Average (ERA) at the time of his injury.

“There’s nobody like him, and there’s nothing that you would say he can’t do,” former Angels manager Phil Nevin said late in the season. “Anything is possible with Sho. I don’t know who else you could say that about in baseball history.”

Ohtani left Japan in late 2017 to pursue his dreams at his sport’s highest level, and his exploits are followed in microscopic detail by his fans in his homeland. When he got his first chance to play for Japan in the World Baseball Classic last spring, Ohtani seized the moment with both hands.

Ohtani was outstanding in Japan’s games in Tokyo and Miami, batting .435 with four doubles and a homer despite getting walked 10 times. He also pitched 9 2/3 innings, racking up 11 strikeouts with a 1.86 ERA.

The championship game ended in storybook fashion with Ohtani striking out Trout, the three-time AL MVP and Ohtani’s longtime Angels teammate, for the final out in Japan’s victory over the U.S.

Ohtani then turned in another outstanding, unique season with the Angels before he hurt his elbow and eventually had a second surgery that will almost certainly prevent him from pitching in 2024, just as he missed nearly all of 2019 and 2020 as a pitcher. His injury



PADRES PITCHER. Japan relief pitcher Yuki Matsui throws the ball during the eighth inning of the first round Pool B game between South Korea and Japan at the World Baseball Classic at the Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, in this March 10, 2023 file photo. Matsui has agreed to a five-year contract with the San Diego Padres. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

somebody that was a highly acclaimed amateur player and then for him to do what he did really right out of the gate, that’s something that is very unique,” Preller said. “It’s been a 10-year run of just consistent performance and excellence.”

Because Matsui had nine years of service time, he was a free agent and no posting fee is involved in his acquisition. The deal includes opt-outs.

Matsui struck out one in a perfect inning

OUTSTANDING OHTANI. Shohei Ohtani, left, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, jokes with his interpreter, Ippei Mizuhara, before an NFL football game between the Los Angeles Rams and the New Orleans Saints in Inglewood, California, on December 21, 2023. Ohtani has been named The AP Male Athlete of the Year for second time in three years. (AP Photo/Ashley Landis)

history did nothing to suppress his free-agent value, partly because Ohtani can remain one of the majors’ best hitters while he waits to see if his pitching elbow will heal again.

“One of the many things we’ve come to appreciate over the years about Shohei is watching him never take a pitch off, no matter the score of the game,” Friedman said. “I’ve seen him in games where his team is up big or down big, grinding each pitch late in an at-bat — hustling, doing everything he can to leg out an infield hit late in a game.”

While Ohtani has redefined what’s possible in modern baseball, he accomplished another unprecedented feat by signing his record-setting contract. The deep-pocketed Dodgers eagerly invested in the 29-year-old Ohtani’s next decade while knowing his worldwide fame generates revenue no other baseball player can touch.

“I’m still in the pinch-me phase, to be honest,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “Can’t believe we’re going to have the opportunity to have him wear a Dodger uniform. One of the most talented players ever to put on a baseball uniform is now a Dodger.”

Ohtani did nearly everything except win with the Angels, who haven’t had a winning season since 2015. When he hit free agency this winter, he eventually chose the nearby club that has had only two losing seasons in the 21st century, none since 2010.

The Dodgers won the aggressive competition for Ohtani’s services by offering that gargantuan — and structurally creative — contract, but also a supportive environment on the west coast, supremely talented teammates, and the resources to get more — along with a winning culture around a team that has made 11 consecutive playoff appearances.

“I can’t wait to join the Dodgers,” Ohtani said through his translator, Ippei Mizuhara. “They share the same passion as me. They have a vision and history all about winning. I share the same values.”

for Japan in the World Baseball Classic against South Korea in the group stage. He threw 15 fastballs averaging 91.7 mph among 23 pitches, mixing in five changeups, two sliders, and one curveball.

“We know he can pitch in back of the bullpen,” Preller said. “So whether that’s pitching somewhere seven, eight, nine, he’s been at that back of the bullpen where he’s shook hands as a closer, so we know he can pitch in those big pressure spots.”



MAGICAL MIDFIELDER. Midfielder Hina Sugita, left, of the Portland Thorns plays in a National Women's Soccer League soccer match in Seattle in this June 3, 2023 file photo. Sugita has signed a contract extension through 2026 with the Thorns. (AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson, File)

Midfielder Hina Sugita to remain with Thorns FC through 2026

Hina Sugita has signed a contract extension with Thorns FC of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), which will keep the nearly 27-year-old midfielder (her birthday is January 31) in Portland through 2026. Sugita originally arrived in Oregon in 2022 through a transfer with Japanese club INAC Kobe Leonessa.

During her first season in Portland, Sugita appeared in 21 games, tallied five goals, and gave four assists. In 2023, she scored eight goals and handed out three assists in 27 appearances.

Since joining the Thorns, Sugita ranks in the top four amongst all Portland players in duels won (190), tackles won (47), chances created (65), and dribbles completed (43). Additionally, she has kept the best passing accuracy rate (81.95) of all midfielders and forwards for the club over the last two seasons combined.

"We are thrilled Hina has chosen to sign a long-term contract in Portland. It demonstrates her commitment to the club and community and solidifies her as part of the Thorns family for years to come," shared Karina LeBlanc, Thorns FC general manager and president of soccer operations. "Hina's obviously a special talent and adds a unique flare to our style of play. We are lucky to have a player of her caliber and character on the roster."

"Hina has had a massively positive impact for us in her two years here, not only on the field but also off the field. We are over the moon that she has committed her longer-term future with us," said Mike Norris, head coach of the Thorns. "She has not only adapted extremely well to our team, she also continues to set new standards for what

Continued on page 19

18-month-old critically endangered Amur tigers arrive at the Oregon Zoo

Two Amur tigers — the largest of the nine tiger subspecies — have arrived at the Oregon Zoo. The zoo's care staff welcomed brothers Luka and Dmitri last month. The 18-month-old big cats are settling into their new Portland home and have been venturing outside to explore.

The tiger brothers were born in Minot, North Dakota, in 2022. Though they look very similar, the easiest way to tell them apart is by their distinct markings, according to Amy Hash, who oversees the zoo's tiger habitat. Dmitri, for example, has a V-shaped stripe over his left eye.

"Tiger stripes are unique to each individual, similar to our fingerprints," said Hash.

"We're so happy to have Luka and Dmitri here," Hash continued. "They're curious and playful and seem to be enjoying their new surroundings. Luka is calm and sweet, and Dmitri is a bit feistier."

Amur tigers are at serious risk of extinction, with only around 500 believed to remain in their native range. The Oregon Zoo has been a Tiger Conservation Campaign partner since 2012, supporting efforts to restore tiger populations through research, counter-poaching measures, and human-tiger coexistence efforts across their range countries.

While the iconic big cats continue to face threats from habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade, some populations are on the rise thanks in part to this partnership, which is led by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Another threat facing the critically endangered cats is lack of genetic variation, so accredited zoos are participating in coordinated breeding programs to help preserve them. Dmitri and Luka came to Portland on a recommendation from the Species



TIGER BROTHERS. Amur tiger brothers Luka (top photo) and Dmitri (bottom photo) are seen in their new home at the Oregon Zoo. The 18-month-old brothers were born in Minot, North Dakota, in 2022. According to Amy Hash, who oversees the zoo's tiger habitat, "Luka is calm and sweet, and Dmitri is a bit feistier." (Photos/Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)

Survival Plan (SSP) for Amur tigers — a cooperative program among zoos to help create genetically diverse, self-sustaining populations to guarantee the long-term future of the animal species. Though the Oregon Zoo lacks adequate denning space for

tigers to raise cubs, it plays a critical role in the SSP by housing tigers not currently recommended for breeding.

The Oregon Zoo is located at 4001 S.W. Canyon Road in Portland. To learn more, visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

Dodgers and free-agent pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto finalize their 12-year deal

By Greg Beacham
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers have finalized their 12-year deal with right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto, teaming the prized free agent with Shohei Ohtani in their prolific winter spending spree.

The Dodgers didn't disclose the value of the deal they announced late in December, but several media reports have tagged it at \$325 million. That would be the largest and longest contract ever guaranteed to a major league pitcher.

The 25-year-old Yamamoto has been Japan's most dominant pitcher over the past few seasons, and he was coveted by teams across the majors after he elected to leave the Orix Buffaloes this offseason. The big-budget, pitching-poor Dodgers landed him with another mammoth December deal after signing two-way AL MVP Ohtani to a \$700-million contract and signing right-hander Tyler Glasnow to a \$136.5-million, five-year deal after his acquisition from Tampa Bay.

"I'd like to thank everyone in the Orix organization, the Dodger organization, and all the people close to me who have given me so much support throughout this free-agent process," Yamamoto said in a statement. "I am truly excited to wear Dodger Blue and can't wait to play in front of a packed Dodger Stadium."

The Dodgers are getting a 5'10" right-hander widely regarded as the world's best pitcher outside North America — and one with potential to become a major league ace after a stellar start to his career in Japan.

Yamamoto has posted spectacular numbers in Japan's top league in recent years, winning three straight Most Valuable Player awards in the Nippon Pacific League. He went 16-6 with a 1.21 Earned Run Average (ERA) while striking out 169 and walking just 28 this year, winning the Japanese pitching triple crown by leading the league in wins, strikeouts, and ERA.

"You don't win three MVP awards by the age of 25 without an exceptional combination of talent, work ethic, and mental toughness," Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said. "He's an elite pitcher with an impressive dedication to his craft who will only become more dynamic in a Dodger uniform. We are thrilled for him to be a mainstay at the top of our starting rotation for years to come."

Yamamoto's six-pitch repertoire includes a dependable splitter, an effective four-seam fastball, and a vicious curveball, all thrown with excellent command.

He has thrown two no-hitters in the past two years, and he has a 1.72 ERA in his career. Yamamoto is exceptionally good at limiting his opponents' power, allowing just 36 homers over his seven seasons in Japan — including just two in 164 innings last season.

The contracts given out by the Dodgers to Ohtani, Yamamoto, and Glasnow are potentially worth well over \$1.1 billion — and Los Angeles also will owe a posting fee around \$50 million for signing Yamamoto — but the two Japanese stars generate significant international revenue that will offset the cost of the deals. And Los Angeles is one of the majors' richest teams under Guggenheim Baseball Management ownership led by Mark Walter.

The three players are joining one of the most consistent winners in recent major league history. Los Angeles has had 13 straight winning seasons, made 11 consecutive playoff appearances, and won at least 100 games in five of the past six full major league campaigns, winning three NL pennants and the 2020 World Series title.

But the Dodgers were in significant need of pitching after a dismal series of injuries and setbacks for a roster led by returning sluggers Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman.

Los Angeles still won 100 games in 2023 even though injury-plagued Clayton Kershaw was its only starting pitcher who threw more than 125 innings or posted a qualifying ERA lower than 3.75, but the Dodgers were swept out of the division series by eventual NL champion Arizona.

Yamamoto and Glasnow will be immediate additions to the Dodgers' rotation, while Ohtani is highly unlikely to pitch in 2024 after undergoing a second elbow surgery in the offseason. Kershaw is a free agent who recently had shoulder surgery that he said will likely keep him out of the majors until summer.

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Events calendar

“Boundless: Stories of Asian Art”

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Art Museum (1300 First Ave, Seattle). View “Boundless: Stories of Asian Art,” a display highlighting themes central to arts and societies of Asia, such as worship and celebration, visual arts and literature, and clothing and identity. The museum’s south galleries feature art inspired by spiritual life and the north galleries show art inspired by material life. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

“Deities & Demons: Supernatural in Japanese Art”

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Art Museum (1300 First Ave, Seattle). View “Deities & Demons: Supernatural in Japanese Art,” a display of paintings, sculptures, prints, and textiles from the museum’s collection that presents the rich visual culture of the supernatural in Japan. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

“Oregon’s Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience”

Currently on view, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Oregon’s Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience,” an exhibit that highlights the discrimination, resilience, and identity of the Japanese-American community in Oregon. The display begins in rural Oregon and the streets of Portland’s Japantown where Japanese immigrants embraced American ideals. What they built was abruptly taken away during World War II when people of Japanese descent were imprisoned in American internment camps. From early immigration through current day, the exhibit explores the Japanese-American experience and includes the rebuilding of communities and the ongoing fight for justice. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

The Boy and the Heron

Currently showing, Cinema 21 (616 NW 21st Ave, Portland). Watch *The Boy and the Heron*, a film about a young boy named Mahito who yearns for his mother while venturing into a world shared by the living and the dead. *The Boy and the Heron* is director Hayao Miyazaki’s first feature film in 10 years. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-4515 or visit <www.cinema21.com>.

Beaverton Winter Lights

Through Jan 4, 4pm-8am, Beaverton City Park (SW 5th St & SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton) & The Round (12655 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton). Stroll along outdoor light displays at Beaverton City Park and The Round nightly from 4:00pm to 8:00am. Participants are encouraged to bring a camera to capture the moment, dress in warm clothing, and pack an umbrella in case of rain. For info, call (503) 526-2222 or visit <www.beavertonoregon.gov/winterlights>.

ZooLights

Through Jan 7, 4:30-8pm, Oregon Zoo (4001 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Say goodbye to the holiday season at the Oregon Zoo’s ZooLights display. The family tradition features more than a million-and-a-half lights illuminating life-size animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways, and the zoo train. Popular returning displays include trumpeting elephants, swinging siamangs, a 35-foot-long Chinese dragon, leaping reindeer, playful penguins, and more. Admission to ZooLights is only \$12 per person on January 1, 5, 6, and 7. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org/zoolights>.

“Fields of Color”

Through Jan 20 (Tue-Sat), 11am-5:30pm, ArtXchange (512 First Ave S, Seattle). View “Fields of Color,” a display of works by William Song and Marcio Diaz, who layer paint and color to create textural abstract paintings in their own signature styles. Song uses color and depth to create energetic portals attuned to express connection, contemplation, and freedom, while Diaz’s canvasses are covered in stalagmites of paint and evoke macro and micro patterns found in the natural world. For info, call (206) 839-0377 or visit <www.artxchange.org>.

“Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence, from the Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston”

Through Jan 21, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Art Museum (1300 First Ave, Seattle). View “Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence, from the Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,” a display highlighting the works of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), who has become one of the most famous Japanese artists in the world. The exhibit explores the fascinating life and enduring legacy of this trailblazing master by pairing more than 100 of his woodblock prints, paintings, and illustrated books alongside more than 200 works by his teachers, students, rivals, and admirers, including Yoshitomo Nara, Chiho Aoshima, and Helen Frankenthaler. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

Hanako O’Leary

Through Jan 28, 11am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Frye Art Museum (704 Terry Ave, Seattle). View “Izanami,” the first solo museum presentation of works by Seattle artist Hanako O’Leary. O’Leary’s ceramic objects embrace visual storytelling, interweaving Shinto mythology and contemporary feminist ideologies. Raised by her Japanese mother and American father in the Midwest, she travelled yearly to her maternal home, Japan’s Setonaikai Islands. Influenced by these experiences, as well as folkloric Japanese imagery, the artist bridges her identities and matriarchal lineages to narrate her own “American story.” For info, call (206) 622-9250 or visit <www.fryemuseum.org>.

“Nobody Lives Here: The People in the Path of Progress”

Through Mar 17, 10am-5pm (Wed-Mon), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Nobody Lives Here: The People in the Path of Progress,” an exhibit about the high toll of transit infrastructure on vulnerable communities. In the display, artist and historian Tessa Hulls illuminates the businesses, homes, and people who were displaced when the I-5 freeway was built through the Chinatown-International District in the 1960s. Using historic photos, oral histories, and archival research, “Nobody Lives Here” connects this history to broader themes of racist land use policy and the erasure of marginalized communities — nationally and locally, past and present. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“Stone Images XIII”

Through Mar 31, 10am-4pm (Tue-Sun), Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). View “Stone Images XIII,” the latest in a series of viewing stone exhibits presented annually by the Northwest Viewing Stone Group of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association. The practice of



BATTLEGROUND. “*Battlegrounds*,” an exhibit of new work by HARTS artist-in-residence Una Kim, is on view through January 8 in Portland Community College’s North View Gallery on the Sylvania Campus. Pictured is “*We Are Here*,” by Una Kim, diptych, 2023, mixed media on rice paper, 71” x 76”. (Photo courtesy of the artist)

viewing and appreciating stones dates back more than 1,500 years. The art originated in China, Japan, and Korea, but has spread during the past century and is now practiced worldwide. “Viewing Stones” are naturally formed stones valued for their shape, color, beauty, pattern, and/or for what they can be seen to represent. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

“Re:Generation — Manifesting at the Peach Blossom Spring”

Through April 2024, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). View “Re:Generation — Manifesting at the Peach Blossom Spring,” a display of works by resident artists Lark Pien, Josh Sin, and Yuyang Zhang, who braid together generations of Pacific Northwest Chinese immigrant history with their personal narratives to reveal the complex and nuanced psychological landscape of being ethnic Chinese living in America. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

“Guma’ Gela’: Part Land, Part Sea, All Ancestry”

Through May 12, 10am-5pm (Wed-Mon), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Guma’ Gela’: Part Land, Part Sea, All Ancestry,” an exhibit featuring the work of the Guma’ Gela’, a queer CHamoru art collective comprised of members from the Marianas and in the diaspora. The exhibit explores their motto, “part land, part sea, all ancestry,” through a broad spectrum of media, including sculpture, soundscape, writing, printmaking, weaving, costume design, adornments, and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee”

Through July 2024, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee,” an interactive exhibit that invites viewers to step into the mind, body, and spirit of Bruce Lee to see how his unquenchable pursuit of knowledge informed his philosophy and life. The display follows Bruce’s path, beginning with his revelations on water, through the wealth of knowledge found in his 2,800-book personal library, to his philosophy of self-understanding and self-expression. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“Sound Check! The Music We Make”

Through Sep 14, 10am-5pm (Wed-Mon), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Sound Check! The Music We Make,” an exhibit exploring the role music has played in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander lives and communities as an element of cultural heritage/identity, a form of personal/creative expression, a commercial industry, a connecting/healing force, and an integral part of thriving communities and culture. The interactive display includes behind-the-scenes photos, framed artworks, podcasts, artifacts, storylines, audio, and video. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

White House Fellows Program

Jan 5, noon (application deadline). Apply for the White House Fellows Class of 2024-2025. The application window closes January 5 at noon. For more info, eligibility requirements, selection criteria, or to ask specific questions, call the program office at (202) 395-4522 or e-mail <whitehousefellows@who.eop.gov>.

Camerata PYP

Jan 5, 7:30pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Celebrate the new year with the Portland Youth Philharmonic’s (PYP) advanced chamber orchestra, Camerata PYP. The concert, “Sound Garden,” features PYP’s co-principal second violinist Derek Choi performing Antonio Vivaldi’s “Winter from The Four Seasons” and PYP’s co-principal cellist Sarah Lee performing Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s “Pezzo Capriccioso.” For info, call (503) 223-5939. To purchase tickets, call (971) 501-7722, or visit <www.portlandyouthphil.org> or <www.thereser.org>.

Eleanor Klock

Jan 5-Feb 10, 9am-9:30pm (Mon-Thu), 9am-5pm (Fri-Sat); Jan 25, 6-8pm, (reception); Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland). View an exhibit of drawings, risograph prints, and comicsworks by Filipino-American cartoonist and illustrator Eleanor Klock. Klock’s most recent body of work is entitled “Call Me Home.” In it, she seeks to identify what makes up a home. Utilizing drawings made from childhood photos, inspiration from children’s books, and auto-fiction comics, she discovers that home isn’t a place so much as a feeling. Also exhibiting pieces is Erick Martinez. For info, call (503) 823-ARTS (2787) or visit <www.multnomahartscenter.org>.

“Dialogues: An Emerging Artist Showcase”

Jan 5-Feb 17, noon-6pm (Wed-Sat) + 90 minutes before all performances; Jan 5, 6-9pm (reception); Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). View “Dialogues: An Emerging Artist Showcase,” a display of paintings, natural forms, reclaimed objects, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and more by artists Leah Yao, Jamie Dang, Hali Wilmunson, and others. All gallery events are free and open to the public. For info, call (971) 501-7722, e-mail <gallery@thereser.org>, or visit <www.thereser.org/gallery>.

Continued on page 17

For timely information about upcoming events, visit <www.facebook.com/TheAsianReporter>.

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Events calendar

Continued from page 16

Japanese New Year celebration

Jan 7, 10:30am-3:30pm, Portland Japanese Garden, Pavilion (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Ring in the incoming Year of the Dragon at *O-Shogatsu*, the traditional Japanese New Year celebration. The family-friendly event includes activities, performances, *kadomatsu* — traditional handmade arrangements of pine, bamboo, and plum branches — and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Shishimai Lion Dance Blessing

Jan 7, 2:30-3pm, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, Welcome Hall (719 S King St, Seattle). Join members of the Choeizan Enkyoji Nichiren Buddhist Temple as they hold the Shishimai Lion Dance Blessing at The Wing. The shishimai dance is often seen at temple and shrine festivals during the new year. Attendance at the blessing is free. For info, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

The Lion King

Jan 7-28, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Experience the stunning artistry, unforgettable music, and exhilarating choreography of *The Lion King*. The Serengeti comes to life as never before in the show, when giraffes strut, birds swoop, gazelles leap, and music soars. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

Una Kim

Jan 8-Feb 8, 8am-4pm (Mon-Fri); Jan 13, 3-6pm (reception); Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, North View Gallery (12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland). View “Battlegrounds,” an exhibit of new work by HARTS artist-in-residence Una Kim. The display features recent mixed-media paintings of abstracted figures that dance and struggle against internal and external forces. A series of rice paper banners also investigates both the liberatory and colonizing practices of formal education. Kim is the last of six artists and writers selected for an innovative residency program at Portland Community College, initiated by former PCC president Mark Mitsui. Saturday hours are available by appointment. The North View Gallery is located behind the bookstore in the Communications and Technology (CT) building. When driving to campus, follow the bookstore signs. For info, call (971) 722-6111 or visit <www.pcc.edu/galleries/sylvania>.

Lion and Dragon Dance Academy workshops

Jan 14, 21 & 28, 10:30am-noon, Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). The Portland Chinatown Museum is launching a Lion and Dragon Dance Academy workshop series in partnership with area organizations. The 90-minute sessions introduce participants age 13 and older to the rich cultural heritage of lion and dragon dancing and performance basics, and also provides an opportunity for an up-close and personal look at the magnificently colored lions that bring Lunar New Year festivities to life each year. The partner performance groups are the White Lotus Dragon & Lion Dance Team (January 14), the International Lion Dance Team (January 21), and the Lee’s Association Lion Dance Team (January 28). Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Each workshop has a limit of 40 attendees. For info, call (503) 224-0008 or visit or <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

Goodnight Moon

Jan 14-Feb 11, 11am & 2pm (Sat & Sun), Dolores Winningstad Theatre (1111 SW Broadway, Portland). Watch *Goodnight Moon*, a musical tale adapted from the book *Goodnight Moon*, written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Clement Hurd. The performance takes place in the Great Green Room, where the beloved children’s story — featuring the three little bears, the pair of kittens, the young mouse, and more — comes to life on stage. The show, presented by Oregon Children’s Theatre, has a runtime of approximately 60 minutes and is recommended for children age three and older. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-9571 or visit <www.octc.org/goodnight-moon>.



ELEANOR KLOCK. An exhibit of drawings, risograph prints, and comicsworks by Filipino-American cartoonist and illustrator Eleanor Klock begins January 5 at the Multnomah Arts Center in southwest Portland. (Photos courtesy of the artist)

“Labor of Love”

Jan 16-Apr 27, 11am-5pm (Tue-Sat); Jan 18, 4-7pm (panel discussion & reception); Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) at Portland State University (1855 SW Broadway, Portland). View “Labor of Love,” an exhibit featuring pieces that aim to expose and highlight labor practices that have been historically and systematically concealed from the public sphere. The display includes a wide variety of media by Tannaz Farsi, Midori Hirose, Charlene Liu, Alberto Lule, Jay Lynn Gomez, and others. The exhibit and all related programs and events — tours, talks, storytime, a workshop, and more — are free and open to the public. For info, call (503) 725-8013 or visit <www.pdx.edu/museum-of-art>.

“Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern”

Jan 20, 10:30am-noon, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). Join Lane Wilcken for “Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern,” a talk about the history and culture of precolonial Philippine tattoos. The event is being held while Wilcken is in Seattle to explore the archives of the Burke Museum and Filipino American National Historical Society. A scholar, cultural tattoo practitioner, and advocate for the critically endangered practice commonly known as “batok” (the cultural tattoos of the Philippines), Wilcken has studied indigenous traditions of the Philippines and the greater Pacific for more than three decades. For info, or to register (required), call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

The Lightning Thief

Jan 21-Feb 18, 11am & 2pm (Sat & Sun), Newmark Theatre (1111 SW Broadway, Portland). Watch *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, a show about 12-year-old Percy Jackson who discovers he is a demigod. Percy and his friends then embark on an epic journey to find Zeus’ missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods. The musical, based on the best-selling *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* book series by Rick Riordan, features a rock score and shares messages of strength, perseverance, tenacity, and believing in oneself. The performance, presented by Oregon Children’s Theatre, has a runtime of approximately 60 minutes and is recommended for children eight to twelve years old. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-9571 or visit <www.octc.org>.

District 3 candidate forum

Jan 23, 7-9pm, Recovery Café Roseway (3516 NE 71st Ave, Portland). Listen to all ten District 3 city council candidates at a forum hosted by the Roseway Neighborhood Association. The candidate forum includes a question-and-answer session, information about how neighbors are able to connect to the new city government, and what it means to live in District 3. The event, which is free and open to the public, may also be viewed online. For info, call (503) 272-1272 or visit <www.roseway.org>.

Lunar New Year family craft

Jan 30, 5:30-7pm, Rockwood Library (17917 SE Stark St, Portland). Welcome the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon, by making a mixed-media wall decoration using makerspace materials. The event is open to all ages; children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. For info, call (503) 988-5396 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.



2024 Lunar New Year Fair at The Wing

Feb 3, 10am-3pm, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience’s family-friendly Lunar New Year Fair. Events include an outdoor lion dance performance by the Mak Fai Kung Fu Dragon and Lion Dance Association, information booths, crafts, prizes, and more. Indoor activities require paid museum admission. For info, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Chinese New Year Cultural Fair

Feb 3, 11am-5pm, Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the Chinese New Year Cultural Fair. The daylong event includes traditional and contemporary Chinese cultural activities; Chinese folk dance and music; booths offering food, beverages, products, and services; and much more. For info, or to obtain the full schedule of events, call (503) 771-9560 or visit <www.portlandchinesetimes.com>.

Tet in Seattle

Feb 3-4, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend *Tet Nguyen Dan* — the Vietnamese New Year — presented by Seattle Center Festál in partnership with Tet in Seattle. Tet in Seattle 2024 ushers in the Lunar New Year with a lion dance, performances, a fashion show, and more, in celebration of the Year of the Dragon. For info and hours, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.tetinseattle.org> or <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Chinese New Year at Lan Su

Feb 10-25 (daily), 10am-4pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Ring in the Chinese Lunar New Year — the Year of the Dragon — with cultural performances, festival decorations, craft activities, demonstrations, and more at Lan Su Chinese Garden. Another highlight of the celebration is Lunar New Year Lantern Viewing — illuminated hanging red lanterns and large lantern sculptures — which is held during the evening from February 7 through March 2 (separate admission tickets are required). For info, to obtain a complete schedule of activities, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration

Feb 17, NW Davis Street near the Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). Kick off the Lunar New Year with a mile-long parade in Portland coordinated by the Oregon Historical Society and numerous community partners. The Lunar New Year Dragon Dance Parade & Celebration starts near the Portland Chinatown Museum with lion dances, drummers, and a 150-foot dragon, followed by a parade that marches under the China Gate and through downtown Portland to the Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland) for a joyous conclusion. Members of the community who are interested in volunteering for the event should e-mail <info@portlandchinatown.org>. For info and hours, call (503) 222-1741 or (503) 224-0008, or visit <www.ohs.org> or <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

TET in Oregon 2024

Feb 17, 11:30am-4:30pm, Clackamas High School (14486 SE 122nd Ave, Clackamas, Ore.). Attend TET in Oregon, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival. The celebration, presented by the Vietnamese Community of Oregon, features lucky red envelopes, a dragon dance, music performances, traditional dance, vendors, and much more. For info, call (503) 349-9232, e-mail <thaotvnco@gmail.com>, or visit <www.facebook.com/vncousa>.

“Craft, Community, and Care: The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro”

Feb 17-Apr 14, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Craft, Community, and Care: The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro,” an exhibit about the acclaimed woodworker and furniture maker known for his design of the Portland restaurant Tanuki and who served as an editor and columnist for *The Pacific Citizen*, the official paper for the Japanese American Citizens League, and the *International Examiner* in Seattle. An activist, artist, and writer, Shimabukuro was instrumental in the Pacific Northwest’s Japanese American Redress Movement. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.



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The AR’s Lunar New Year special issue will be published on Monday, February 5, 2024.

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Details are provided in the solicitation document. Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from Bid Locker at:

<<http://bidlocker.us/a/oregonmetro/BidLocker>>

Pre-Proposal Conference/Walkthrough: A voluntary pre-proposal conference will be held at the Oregon Zoo on December 12, 2023, at 12:30pm. Interested bidders and subcontractors are encouraged to attend the conference to gain information about the RFP requirements.

Metro may accept or reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

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Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <www.oregonmetro.gov>.

The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.

The classified advertising deadlines for our next two print editions are:

February 5 issue: Friday, February 2, 2:00pm
March 4 issue: Friday, March 1, 2:00pm

Additional career, public notice, bid & sub-bid listings are updated online as new opportunities arrive.

View new posts at
<www.asianreporter.com/nwjobmarket.htm>
or <www.asianreporter.com/notices.htm>.

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2023-88 (RFP)
BUS STOP REAL TIME
INFORMATION DISPLAYS

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) has issued an 2023-88 (RFP) Bus Stop Real Time Information Displays. This RFP may be found at <<https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>>. Proposals will be accepted until 3:00pm on Friday, January 19, 2024.



The Portland Metro Workforce Development Board

WORKSYSTEMS, THE PORTLAND
METRO WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING NOTICE *

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETS QUARTERLY ON THE
2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH IN
JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER

8:00am to 9:30am

2024 Schedule

1/12/2024

4/12/2024

7/12/2024

10/11/2024

WORKSYSTEMS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

The Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month from 11:30am to 1:00pm

Agendas for meetings will be posted on our website at least 5 days prior to meeting date

**Meeting dates, time and locations are subject to change. For more information, visit our website:*
<<https://www.worksystems.org>>
or e-mail <jweller@worksystems.org>

Worksystems is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
To place a free relay call in Oregon dial 711.



Celebrate The Year
of the Dragon

February 10, 2024 to January 28, 2025!

The AR's Lunar New Year special section
will be published February 5, 2024.

Display advertising space reservations for the
special issue are due Monday, January 22 at 5:00pm.

To place a space reservation, please contact our
Advertising Department at (503) 283-4440 or
<ads@asianreporter.com>.



TEXT your ZIP CODE
to 438829 to find a
vaccination site near you.

Message and data rates may apply.
Reply **HELP** for help or **STOP** to cancel.



INVITATION TO BID

Portland Expo Center
HALL E AHU REPLACEMENT
ITB 4277

Portland Expo Center of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting sealed bids for Hall E AHU Replacement at Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Dr., Portland, OR 97217.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00pm, February 6, 2024, to Metro, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736. First Tier Subcontractor forms are due from all bidders within two hours of the bid due time or the bid will be considered non-responsive.

A voluntary pre-bid conference for all potential prime contractors is scheduled on January 16, 2024, at 10:00am in front of Hall E at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Dr., Portland OR 97217. Interested sub-contractors are also invited.

The Portland Expo Center is looking to replace existing HVAC rooftop units on Hall E. Current HVAC units are at end of useful life and are failing.

All bidders submitting a bid for public improvements over \$50,000 certify that they will pay and comply with the minimum prevailing wage requirements of ORS 279C.800-279C.870 and if applicable 40 U.S.C.276a.

Bidding documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at:

<<https://bidlocker.us/a/oregonmetro/BidLocker>>

Metro may accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned, emerging small businesses and service disabled veteran owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services. Metro Local Contract Review Board Rules require all Bidders to follow and document a specific outreach effort to State-certified Minority, Emerging, Women-owned and Service Disabled Veteran owned Businesses. Certification of good faith compliance and a declaration of any actual utilization pursuant to both programs are required at the time of Bid Opening.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <www.oregonmetro.gov>.



VANCOUVER
HOUSING AUTHORITY

VANCOUVER HOUSING
AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES
WAITLIST OPENING FOR
ALLEGRO POINTE

Vancouver Housing Authority is accepting applications for new Project-Based Vouchers for studio, one-bedroom, and a two-bedroom unit at Allegro Pointe. Allegro Pointe is a new, mixed-income building where we will prioritize households 62 years or older and/or individuals with verified disabilities for the subsidized apartments.

The building is located near Fourth Plain Blvd and Andresen Rd for easy public transportation access.

This is a newly constructed, three-floor apartment building with an elevator and washer/dryer in unit.

Applications will be selected through a random lottery. Applications are being accepted beginning December 11, 2023, through March 1, 2024.

To apply, please create or update your existing applicant portal at our website:

<<https://vhausa.myhousing.com>>

Applicants must have income less than 50% of Area Median Income for their family size. For a family of one, the 2023 limit is \$39,500; for a family of two, this limit is \$45,150. Applicants will be subject to background checks and approval by the property management company.



Equal Housing Opportunity

Indonesia’s youth clean up trash from waterways, but more permanent solutions are still elusive

By Edna Tarigan
The Associated Press

BOGOR, Indonesia — At a lake in the West Javan city of Bogor, children and teenagers paddle toward piles of floating trash, pick it up, and store it in their kayaks, before passing it to friends sorting it onshore.

The group of around 20 youngsters started off as a team of one, a decade ago, when Giri Marhara decided to start cleaning up the lake. He was just 16 years old at the time, and already had a penchant for wanting to clean up his environment — from his classroom to his neighborhood.

Young people like Marhara have been at the forefront of environmental and climate change movements in recent years: initiatives like school strikes for climate action, protests at United Nations climate talks and around the world, and local clean-ups have often been youth-led. When it comes to waste picking, experts say it’s a stop-gap solution, and the larger problem of creating too much waste needs to be addressed. But the relatively small-scale efforts in Indonesia have resonated with younger people, attracting support and attention.

“For me, cleaning up is catharsis, cleaning up is refreshing,” said Marhara, who would often be asked by children playing nearby if they could help with the clean-ups. “I don’t want to miss the opportunity to educate kids that this is something that’s positive, something that you should probably try making a habit too,” Marhara said, so he encouraged them to help.

They formed a group last year, called the Situ Gede Cleanliness Warrior, named



after the lake. They paddle or kayak across the lake, pick up trash, and identify what can be recycled. A local kayaking group lends their boats to Marhara’s initiative, and members take turns between paddling across the lake or sorting trash shoreside into what can be recycled or reused and what will need to be disposed.

Over 10 years, Marhara and his friends have collected more than 5,900 pounds of trash in and around Situ Gede lake through various initiatives.

But the country’s trash problem is far bigger than what the group can take out of waterways.

Indonesia produced more than 35 million tons of waste last year, according to Indonesia’s Environmental and Forestry Ministry. It estimates that 35% of waste in the country is unmanaged. Garbage on roadsides and in waterways and natural environments is a common sight.

Waste is also responsible for around 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the World Resources Institute. Much of that comes from food waste, that, if left to decompose in landfills, can emit methane, a planet-warming gas that is around 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.

The trash problem has also raised health concerns: Plastic waste, for example, gets broken down into tiny pieces called microplastics, which can enter the human body. Some studies suggest it can impact the endocrine, nervous, and immune systems, and can carry an increased risk of cancers.

“The implications are very serious and need to be addressed,” said Abdul Ghofar, an urban and pollution specialist at The Indonesian Forum for the Environment. “There are environmental losses, as well as the health losses, and of course there

YOUTH-LED ACTIVISM. Environmental activists of Situ Gede Cleanliness Warrior pick up trash at Situ Gede lake in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. Young people have been at the forefront of environmental and climate change movements in recent years: initiatives like school strikes for climate action, protests at United Nations climate talks and around the world, and local cleanups have often been youth-led. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim, File)

are economic losses” because of the cost of restoring environments.

There are alternatives to landfill or littering for some waste products: food waste can be composted, and some other types of waste, like certain types of plastic, can be reused or recycled. But environmentalists also say the world needs to make less waste in the first place, as much of it ends up in the landfill or in the world’s oceans.

“We should be encouraged to find out where the source of the pollution comes from and how to stop it,” said Ghofar. “The term among environmentalist is to close the tap, or turn off the tap. This pollution will never end if the source of the pollution is not closed.”

But as waste taps stay on, youth-led clean-ups can still make an impact, even if it’s just for small areas or communities. It’s something Trisna Rengganis has witnessed in his neighborhood in Depok, on the outskirts of Jakarta.

The group Ciliwung Depok Community works with neighborhoods around greater Jakarta on conservation efforts like cleaning up rivers and riverbanks.

Rengganis, who volunteers with the group, said that there’s a stigma toward those who say the Ciliwung river has a trash problem, even though many residents throw garbage into the water and

Continued on page 19

OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

OPGR

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GAMBLING

Looking Back and Forward

It's that time of year when we look back on what we accomplished, the memories we made, the highs and the lows of 2023. And it's also a time we look forward and plan for our best 2024.

Planning for Change

If you find yourself thinking that last year wasn't so great because you were spending too much time and money on gambling, instead of making memories - then now is a perfect time to plan for change in the new year. Whether you just want to cut down, take a break for a while, quit all together or simply be more mindful about how you gamble, we have tips, tools, and resources to help you make a plan that works for you.

Visit OPGR.org to explore options for change. Your timeline. Your way.