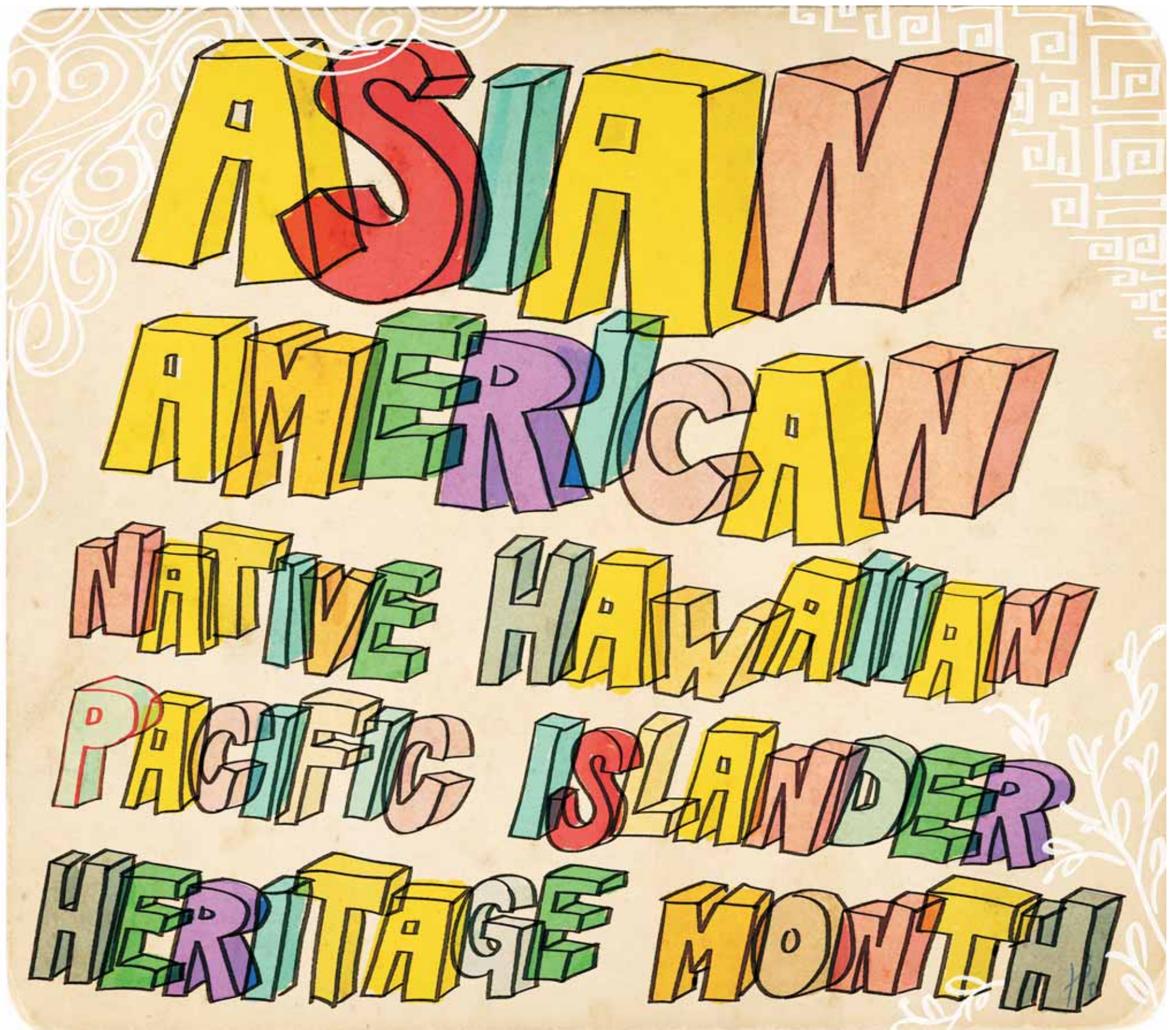


The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 36 Number 5 □ May 4, 2026 □ www.asianreporter.com

AANHPI Heritage Month Special Issue



HONORING OUR HISTORY. During the month of May, we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) heritage. It has been more than 50 years since the U.S. government established that AANHPIs and their accomplishments should be recognized annually across the nation. What started as just one week in May has expanded over the decades into a monthlong tribute of events in cities big and small, while the nature of celebrations has evolved. AANHPI Heritage Month is not just about showcasing festive fare like food and fashion, but also hard subjects such as grief and social justice. This year's heritage month special section begins on page 9. (Illustration by Jonathan Hill)



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Massive, unstable ice block stalls climbers on Everest

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A massive ice block on the route just above Mount Everest Base Camp forced hundreds of climbers and their local guides to delay their attempt to scale the world’s highest peak, according to officials. The serac between Base Camp and Camp One was found to be unstable in late April and was risky for climbers, said Himal Gautam of Nepal’s Department of Mountaineering. Officials have been working with climbers and expedition organizers to assess the situation as hundreds of climbers and their guides wait at base camp unable to move up the mountain. According to the department, 410 foreign climbers were issued permits to attempt to reach the Everest summit during the spring climbing season, which closes at the end of May. The “Icefall Doctors,” the elite guides who lay the yearly climbing route by setting ropes and securing aluminum ladders over crevasses usually finish the task by mid-April. The Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, which would deploy the team to lay the route, assessed the serac by aerial survey. The risk of avalanche is high and they have been waiting for the serac to melt down on its own to a safe level, committee chairman Lama Kazi Sherpa said. The serac is part of the Khumbu Icefall, a constantly shifting glacier with deep crevasses and huge overhanging ice that can be as big as 10-story buildings. It is considered one of the most difficult and trickiest sections of the climb to the peak. In 2014, a chunk of the glacier sheared away from the mountain, setting off an avalanche of ice that killed 16 Sherpa guides as they carried clients’ equipment up the mountain. It was one of the deadliest disasters in Everest climbing history. Hundreds of foreign climbers and about the same number of Nepalese guides and helpers are expected to attempt to scale the mountain when there are a few brief windows of favorable weather. Thousands of people have climbed the 29,032-foot high peak since it was first climbed on May 29, 1953, by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay. At presstime, reports emerged that a group of Sherpa climbers had opened the route that had been blocked for two weeks.

Explosion of invasive “janitor fish” sparks removal operation

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Cheers broke out in Indonesia’s capital as residents, city workers, and environmental volunteers hauled bulging nets of invasive fish to the surface of a reservoir in an operation to crack down on “janitor fish.” Authorities are seeking to remove at least 10 tons of the fish from Jakarta’s waterways, an effort officials hope will restore balance to the Ciliwung River and renew public attention on water quality. From the polluted river to the concrete embankments and skyscraper-lined canals of the city’s heart, the dark shapes of the fish cling tightly to the river walls. At first glance, they appear almost prehistoric, with armored bodies gleaming a dull brown beneath the murky surface. Janitor fish, or suckermouth catfish, known scientifically as *Pterygoplichthys* and locally as “sapu-sapu,” aren’t native to Indonesia. Imported decades ago for aquariums because of their ability to consume algae, they were later released and found a home in Jakarta’s heavily polluted rivers. The fish can grow up to nearly 20 inches long and live between 10 and 15 years. Experts have long warned that unchecked populations of invasive species can destabilize freshwater ecosystems, particularly in densely populated urban areas like Jakarta. Dian Rosleine, an ecologist from the Bandung Institute of Technology, said that the adaptability of janitor fish is very high, so that even in polluted conditions, it can survive when other species can’t. “So, these fish are biological indicators that the water is in poor condition,” she said. The Ciliwung once carried clear water from the mountains of West Java into Jakarta. Today, it flows through dense neighborhoods, carrying untreated household waste and industrial runoff. Concrete walls replaced riverbanks. During dry months, the water warms and slows — conditions that favor janitor fish over native species, Rosleine said. Jakarta authorities have responded with mass removals, targeting the janitor fish in city waterways.

Bangladesh offers measles vaccinations amid outbreak

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh is conducting emergency measles-rubella vaccinations while trying to contain an ongoing outbreak that has killed more than 100 children in less than a month. The government in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. children’s agency, and the Gavi vaccine alliance began working to vaccinate children age 6 months to 5 years old in 18 high-risk districts and will expand nationwide in phases, a joint statement said. A UNICEF official said the agency was deeply concerned about the sharp rise in cases, which was putting the youngest and most vulnerable children at serious risk. “This resurgence highlights critical immunity gaps, particularly among zero-dose and under-vaccinated children, while infections among infants under nine months, who are not yet eligible for routine vaccination, are especially alarming,” said Rana Flowers, the agency’s representative in Bangladesh. Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease causing fever, respiratory symptoms, and a characteristic rash, and can sometimes have severe or fatal complications, especially in young children, according to WHO. Vaccination is crucial to preventing the spread of measles, but WHO says 95% of the population has to be vaccinated in order to stop the disease from spreading. Bangladesh’s Health Minister, Sardar Mohammed Sakhawat Husain, responding to questions in parliament, said that the new outbreak was caused by the mismanagement and failures of past governments. Since the launch of a massive immunization campaign in 1979, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress — raising the coverage of fully immunized children from just 2% to 81.6%. But UNICEF warned last year that while Bangladesh has made strong strides to increase immunization coverage, stark disparities persist.



COMMUNITY MOVEMENT. People perform a stretching exercise while listening to music and guidance from radio at a public park in Tokyo. This is how Japan wakes up. It’s called Radio Taiso — Exercise Radio in English — a simple yet dynamic way to start the day. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

Japan awakens to Radio Taiso exercise tradition. One face of the country’s longevity.

By Stephen Wade
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — This is how Japan wakes up. It’s called Radio Taiso — Exercise Radio in English — a simple yet dynamic way to start the day.

Japanese radio plays music every morning at 6:30 to accompany basic instructions for calisthenics, and millions perform in the choreography: in parks, workplaces, schools — and at home.

Radio Taiso has an almost 100-year history, formally introduced in 1928 and coinciding with the enthronement of Emperor Hirohito. The tradition endures because the exercises are suitable for all ages and capabilities, and easily accessible.

We’re talking about basic exercise movements: reach to the sky to limber up, twist at the torso, bend at the hips, swing the arms, and get the shoulders loose, or jump or run in place.

Exercisers can make it as strenuous as they wish, and it’s over in just 10 minutes, all done to the rhythm of a soft piano melody. Japan has one of the longest-lived populations on Earth, and this ritual is credited for promoting physical and social wellbeing.

If you’re interested, you can find Radio Taiso routines on YouTube in English and in other languages.

The basic moves for all

There are about a dozen basic moves that can be done standing or seated. The idea is to keep moving and, though the program runs early in the morning, many devotees repeat it

on their own later in the day.

The routine features a trio of three-minute segments that get slightly more difficult — but not much. Most Radio Taiso followers know the sequences by heart, but beginners can join in and quickly pick up the routines. No equipment is needed.

The program begins with arms exercises — lifting the arms, circling the arms, and stretching the arms side-to-side. It’s followed by bending from the waist and twisting at the waist.

Shoulder raises are incorporated with a few mini-jumping exercises and marching-in place moves. Along the way you add in neck exercises, moves to stretch the chest, and small squats for leg power.

Each movement is repeated four to eight times with instructions throughout to relax, breathe, and inhale and exhale slowly.

A social event, too

Mieko Kobayashi is 88 and goes to Kiba Park — an expansive layout in the east Tokyo area — almost every day, where a large group gathers without fail.

“If it’s cold or raining, I don’t go,” she said. “By moving my body, I feel better.”

She and her 77-year-old friend, Yoshiko Nagao, said that some who go to the park daily live alone, and this is an important social anchor — particularly for the elderly.

“Laughing and chatting while taking a walk after (the exercise) is also good,” Nagao added. “We come even on New Year’s Day.”

Kenji Iguchi is 83 — he’d pass for 60 — and he’s been a regular for about 20 years.

Continued on page 4

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South Korean Won	1476.1
Sri Lankan Rupee	319.3
Taiwan Dollar	31.63
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Humanoid robot sprints past the human half-marathon world record in Beijing race

BEIJING (AP) — A humanoid robot that won a half-marathon race for robots in Beijing ran faster than the human world record in a show of China’s technological leaps.

The winner from Honor, a Chinese smartphone maker, completed the 13-mile race in 50 minutes and 26 seconds, according to a WeChat post by the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, also known as Beijing E-Town, where the race kicked off.

That was faster than the human world record holder, Uganda’s Jacob Kiplimo, who finished the same distance in about 57 minutes in March at the Lisbon road race.

The performance by the robot marked a significant step forward from last year’s inaugural race, during which the winning robot finished in 2 hours, 40 minutes, and 42 seconds.

But the competition, which was held alongside a race for humans, wasn’t without hiccups — one robot fell flat at the start line, another bumped into a barrier.

Du Xiaodi, Honor’s test development engineer, said his team was happy with the results. Du said its robot design was modelled on outstanding human athletes, with long legs of around 37 inches, and was equipped with what he called a powerful liquid-cooling system, which was largely developed in-house.

“Looking ahead, some of these technologies might be transferred to other areas. For example, structural reliability and liquid-cooling technology could be applied in future industrial scenarios,” he said.



FAST FEET. A robot, left photo, begins the Beijing E-Town Half-Marathon and Humanoid Half-Marathon on the outskirts of Beijing on April 19, 2026. The humanoid robot that won the half-marathon race for robots ran faster than the human world record. In the right photo, a robot is seen on the ground after crashing against a board soon after finishing the half-marathon race. (AP Photos/Ng Han Guan)

While it will still take time to achieve widespread commercialization of humanoid robots, spectators were already impressed by the robots.

Sun Zhigang, who had been in the audience last year, watched the race with his son.

“I feel enormous changes this year,” Sun said. “It’s the first time robots have surpassed humans, and that’s something I never imagined.”

Wang Wen, who came with his family, said robots seemed to have stolen much of the spotlight from human runners in the event.

“The robots’ speed far exceeds that of humans,” he said. “This may signal the arrival of sort of a new era.”

Beijing E-Town said about 40% of the

robots navigated the course autonomously, while the others were remotely controlled.

State media outlet *Global Times* reported that a separate, remote-controlled robot from Honor was the first to cross the finish line in 48 minutes and 19 seconds. But it said the winning one used autonomous navigation and received the championship under the event’s weighted scoring rules.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that the runners-up, which were also from Honor and used autonomous navigation, finished the race in about 51 minutes and 53 minutes respectively. A robot served as a traffic officer to direct the participants with its arm gestures and voice, CCTV added.

In China, technology has evolved into an

area of competition with the U.S. with national security implications. Beijing’s latest five-year plan vows to “target the frontiers of science and technology.” Speeding up the development of products like humanoid robots and their applications is part of the 2026-2030 plan for the world’s second-largest economy.

London-based technology research and advisory group Omdia recently ranked three Chinese companies — AGIBOT, Unitree Robotics, and UBTECH Robotics Corp. — as the only first-tier vendors in its global assessment for shipment numbers for general-purpose embodied intelligent robots.

They all shipped more than 1,000 units of the robots last year, with the first two companies shipping more than 5,000 units, the report said.

South Koreans breathe sighs of relief as escaped wolf is returned to zoo safely

By Kim Tong-Hyung
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The South Korean internet erupted in celebration as a 2-year-old wolf that escaped from a zoo in South Korea was captured safely after a nine-day search that kept the nation on edge and made it a national celebrity.

The male wolf, named Neukgu, burrowed out of his enclosure at the O-World zoo in Daejeon on April 8, prompting a search that gripped the nation and raised fears about his safety. Animal rights activists questioned whether the wolf could survive outside the zoo and also worried it might be killed during capture, something that happened to a puma that escaped from the same zoo in 2018.

Intense national concern even prompted President Lee Jae Myung to make a statement reassuring that the public police, fire officials, and military were doing their best to capture the wolf alive.

At one point, authorities nearly captured Neukgu after spotting him on a mountain near the zoo, but he broke away from a perimeter set by rescue workers. A driver also spotted the wolf and shared a video of him trotting along a dark mountain road, lit by the headlights of the vehicle trailing behind.

Neukgu was finally found and tranquilized on a hill near an expressway, after an hours-long search involving drones, police, emergency workers, and veterinarians, according to city and zoo officials. He was in stable condition after being taken back to the zoo, where veterinarians used a scope to remove a fishing hook from his stomach but found no other significant health issues.

Daejeon officials released social media videos showing rescuers pulling the limp wolf from a ditch and placing it in a carrier, and the animal undergoing medical



WANDERING WOLF. In this photo provided by Daejeon Municipality, a veterinarian examines the condition of a male wolf, named Neukgu, at Daejeon O-World theme park in Daejeon, South Korea. Neukgu was reported to be in stable condition after being taken back to the zoo, where veterinarians used a scope to remove a fishing hook from his stomach but found no other significant health issues. (Daejeon Municipality via AP)

examinations at the zoo.

Social media was flooded with celebratory posts, including messages like “welcome back” and “Neukgu, it’s dangerous outside the house.” Daejeon mayor Lee Jang-woo in a Facebook post expressed his “deepest gratitude to citizens of Daejeon and also the entire nation for your support in ensuring Neukgu’s safe return.”

Born at the zoo in 2024, Neukgu is a third-generation descendent of a group of wolves brought from Russia in 2008 as part of a project to reintroduce wolves resembling those that lived in the Korean wild before going extinct in the 1960s.

Lee Kwan Jong, director of O-World, said Neukgu would be kept in a separate area from other animals and receive care until he was fully recovered and stabilized.

The zoo’s management, which has been criticized over a series of animal escapes, closed the facility following Neukgu’s escape.

Lee Kwan Jong said the zoo, which was reviewing its security measures, would prioritize Neukgu’s recovery.

He’s expected to be a huge attraction.

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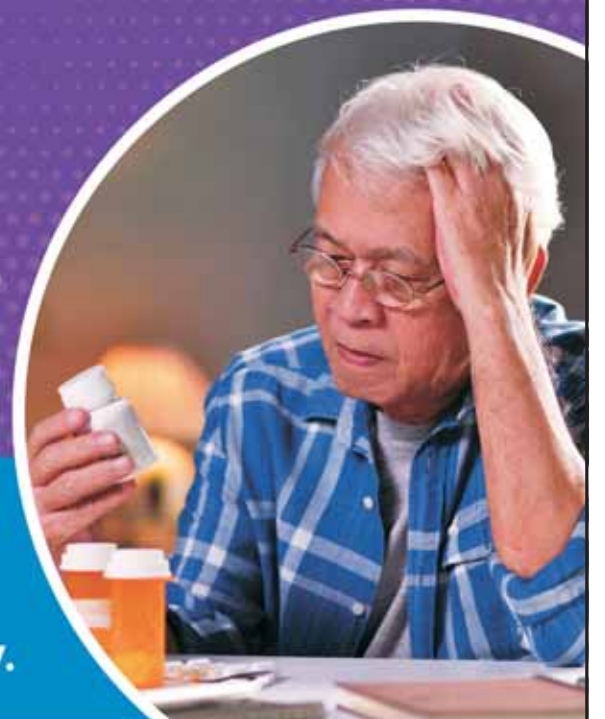
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Renewable energies overtook global electricity demand last year, led by solar growth in China, India

By Alexa St. John
The Associated Press

Record growth in solar, especially in China and India, was a driving factor for clean energy sources surpassing the world's strong demand for electricity in 2025, according to a new global power analysis.

Clean power generation grew 887 terawatt hours last year, exceeding overall global electricity demand growth of 849 terawatt hours, according to a report released by energy think tank Ember.

Ember analyzes electricity data from 215 countries, and studied 2025 data for 91 countries, which the firm says represents 93% of global demand.

Overall, the share of renewables — including solar, wind, hydropower, and other clean energies — hit more than one-third of the world's electricity mix for the first time in modern history last year, growing 33.8% to 10,730 terawatt hours.

It's promising news for a world embattled by climate change that's driven by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas to meet growing needs from economic growth, rising populations, and electrification. The analysis is also especially timely amid a global energy crisis exacerbated by the U.S. war in Iran.

In another historical first, coal power saw its share fall below one-third of global generation, dropping by 63 terawatt hours, or about 0.6%, to 10,476 terawatt hours in 2025.

"We're coming from a period over the last few decades where new electricity demand growth meant growth in fossil generation," said Nicolas Fulghum, Ember senior data analyst and lead author of the report. "We're now moving into a world where that's no longer the case."

Also: "Milestones like renewables overtaking coal mark an occasion, but they don't tell us everything about the story in the power sector," Fulghum added. "The big difference to 10, 15 years ago, where governments were pledging a build out of renewables, is that now those pledges are much more believable."

Solar and wind overall

Solar, which grew 30% in 2025, alone met three-quarters of last year's net rise in electricity demand — and combined with wind power generation, met 99% of it.

Though solar overtook wind power globally for the first time last year, and gained on nuclear power, Ember expects



the two to overtake nuclear this year.

Meanwhile, fossil fuel generation essentially halted, and fell about 0.2% in 2025, or 38 terawatt hours — making last year one of only a handful of years without a rise this century.

Growth in battery storage accompanied the acceleration of solar around the world; as battery costs fell 45% last year, storage grew 46% in 2025. Ember estimates that enough battery capacity was added last year to shift 14% of the solar generation added from midday to other hours of the day.

That's an important part of using solar generation beyond the daytime, when it can be collected.

So, "Despite the accelerated growth and electricity demand that comes with added electric vehicle build out, of heat pumps,

industrial sector electrification," Fulghum said, "clean power will be able to structurally meet that increase in demand going into the next few years, before then bending the curve and reducing the amount of fossil generation we're using. And that is a stark departure from the last few decades."

Regional impact

Last year also marked the first time this century that both China and India — historically major contributors of fossil power — saw declines in fossil fuel generation. In China, the decline was 0.9%, or 56 terawatt hours, and in India, 3.3%, or 56 terawatt hours.

Instead, they're "now aggressively pursuing a strategy of diversification through bringing renewables into the mix. And those are the sources that are the

COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

Workers, top photo, check the quality of a solar panel at a production line at a ReNew manufacturing plant on the outskirts of Jaipur, India. In the bottom photo, a solar farm operates with wind turbines in the background in Datong, China.

biggest drivers of change in their power system today," Fulghum said.

China led the globe in solar, and is responsible for more than half of the world's growth in both solar capacity and generation last year. China also accounted for most of the world's rise in wind, with 138 terawatt hours added.

India, meanwhile, saw record increases in both solar and wind generation, along with strong hydropower output. In a reversal from fossil fuel generation increases — which for years, were driven by an economic rebound following the pandemic — India also saw lower-than-average demand growth.

The U.S. and Europe added 85 terawatt hours and 60 terawatt hours, respectively, of solar last year as fossil fuels saw small increases.

President Donald Trump's administration has placed pressure on industry leaders to boost coal, oil, and gas production and reduced support for renewables; but in Europe, fossil generation is generally trending down. The analysis suggests that despite efforts attacking clean energy in the U.S., and war-related challenges, the transition continues to make headway around the world.

"As we're seeing the cost of oil be incredibly volatile right now because of the war, I think more and more people are looking to that national security argument as a reason to think about how we electrify more and how we're able to take advantage of additional solar and wind, which does not rely on other countries," said Alexis Abramson, dean of the Columbia University Climate School, who was not involved in the study.

"We've really crossed this important threshold that clean energy now can meet rising demand economically and at the same time really help address national security concerns," she added. "The next challenge is really turning that into a steady decline of fossil fuel use as well. So it's a great step in the right direction."

Alexa St. John is an Associated Press climate reporter. The Associated Press' climate and environmental coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations.

AP is solely responsible for content.

Beijing clamps down on drones: Sales now banned citywide

By Huizhong Wu
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Beijing is now banning all drones within city limits.

The Chinese capital's city government passed a series of ordinances in late March banning drone sales and flights, although users have long been blocked from flying drones within the city.

A search on Taobao, one of China's top online shopping platforms, showed that users with a Beijing delivery address could not check out with a drone in their cart. An employee at a Beijing store of consumer electronics brand DJI told state-backed media outlet Jiemian that they were told to get rid of any drones in stock.

The new regulations say that exceptions will be made for universities, research institutions, or public safety use, but that

users would have to get permission from the police. Individuals in violation face a possible fine of 500 yuan (\$73) and could have their machines confiscated.

Drone users in China already have to register an account on a government portal with their real name and identity before

they are allowed to fly the machines.

Chinese companies dominate the global consumer drone market, prompting security concerns in countries including the U.S., where the Federal Communications Commission has banned new models of foreign drones.

Japan awakens to Radio Taiso exercise tradition. One face of the country's longevity.

Continued from page 2

"It's for my joints, mainly the knees and back, because of my age," Iguchi said.

"I get up at 5:00am anyway," he added. "I come to the park about 6 and do a round of walking ahead of the Radio Taiso session. Most of the faces are familiar, and coming here and getting together with them is also one of the things I look forward to."

Japan has one of the world's longest-lived populations, attributed to its diet, healthcare system, and a lifestyle that encourages the elderly to be active. The average life expectancy is about 85, and only Hong Kong is reported to be slightly higher. By comparison, the United States life expectancy is about 79.

The Japanese government announced late last year that 99,763 people were alive

in Japan at 100 or more, a new national record for the 55th straight year. The breakdown was 87,784 female (88%) and 11,979 male (12%). Japan holds the record for the most centenarians relative to its population, which is about 122 million.

American roots

Radio Taiso was inspired a century ago by a similar radio program in the United States sponsored by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. The Japan Radio Taiso Federation says officials of the postal ministry visited the United States in the 1920s and returned to Japan with the concept.

Within a decade, millions were participating. The federation says the program was led by postal workers who distributed pamphlets and organized training sessions.

Security restrictions in Beijing are often tighter than in other parts of the country. Previously, China restricted drivers of Teslas from parking their vehicles in certain government compounds, including at an airport, owing to espionage concerns over cameras installed in the car.

Japan was under United States occupation after its defeat in 1945 in World War II, and the exercises were banned — largely because they were done in groups. The federation says the practice was seen as "totalitarian" with a possible air of militarism.

The group exercises resumed in 1951, backed by popular demand as the American occupation ended in 1952.

According to a 2023 survey by the federation, more than 20 million people in Japan practiced a Radio Taiso session at least once a week.

Radio Taiso has caught on in many countries abroad, most notably in Brazil, which has the largest population of people of Japanese decent living outside Japan.

Mayuko Ono and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Our AANHPI
Heritage Month
special issue
begins on page 9.

China will send giant pandas to Atlanta again

BEIJING (AP) — Atlanta will have giant pandas again.

China announced in late April that it will send two giant pandas to Zoo Atlanta in the U.S. in Beijing's latest efforts of panda diplomacy despite tensions with Washington, less than a month before a much-anticipated visit by U.S. President Donald Trump to Beijing.

The China Wildlife Conservation Association said in a statement that male panda Ping Ping and female panda Fu Shuang, from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, will kick off a decade-long conservation partnership under an agreement it signed with the zoo last year.

The association did not specify the pandas' departure date but said the U.S. side was carrying out facility upgrades, among other preparation work, to create a more comfortable and safer environment for the pair. Chinese experts provided technical guidance on the upgrades, it said.

The announcement came weeks ahead of Trump's planned visit to China in mid-May, during which he is expected to discuss various issues, including trade, with his counterpart, President Xi Jinping.

Zoo Atlanta said it was delighted and



PANDA DIPLOMACY. One of four giant pandas at Zoo Atlanta rests in its habitat in this December 30, 2023 file photo. China announced in late April that Zoo Atlanta will once again have giant pandas. The zoo's most recent giant panda residents left for China in October of 2024. Two giant pandas — Ping Ping and Fu Shuang — will be sent to Zoo Atlanta on a date still to be determined. (AP Photo/Kate Brumback, File)

U.S.-China friendship ever since Beijing gifted a pair of pandas to the National Zoo in Washington in 1972, and China has long used its giant panda loan program as a tool of Beijing's soft power diplomacy worldwide.

Beijing could also be renewing its cooperation with U.S. zoos at a time of otherwise sour relations in a bid to boost conservation efforts for the mammals.

The association said the new round of cooperation will help China and the U.S. to advance in areas ranging from disease prevention and treatment to scientific exchanges.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, a leading international group, took pandas off its endangered list in 2016 and classified them as "vulnerable" instead.

In 2024, the National Zoo in Washington and the San Diego Zoo also received pandas from China.

honored to be trusted as stewards of the pandas and to partner with the association.

"We can't wait to meet Ping Ping and Fu Shuang and to welcome our members, guests, city, and community back to the wonder and joy of giant pandas," the zoo's president, Raymond B. King, said in a statement.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Guo Jiakun, told reporters that the new round of cooperation on conservation would help improve the health and

wellbeing of the giant pandas, advance global biodiversity protection, and strengthen the friendship between the Chinese and American people.

During an earlier giant panda agreement between the zoo and China that concluded in 2024, pandas Lun Lun and Yang Yang gave birth to seven bears, the zoo said. Lun Lun and Yang Yang and their two youngest offspring left Atlanta for China in October 2024, where the rest of their offspring reside, it said.

Giant pandas have been a symbol of the

Japan's Haruki Murakami to publish first new novel in 3 years with *The Tale of Kaho* in July

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

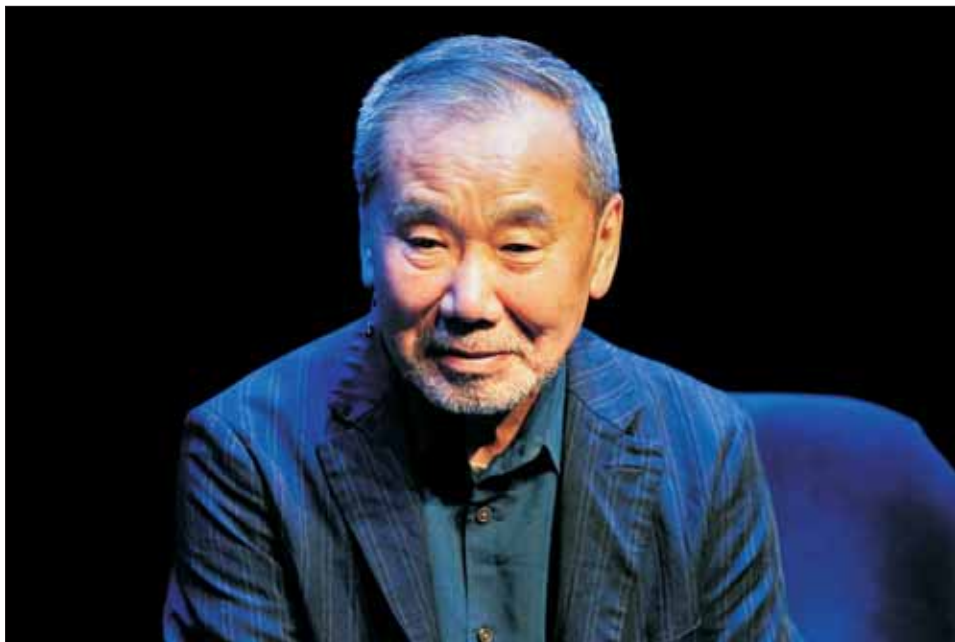
TOKYO — A new book by Haruki Murakami will mark the first time a full-length novel by the Japanese author features a female main character and her pursuit of finding a way out of a bizarre world.

The Tale of Kaho, which is scheduled to be released July 3 in print and digital formats, centers on a 26-year-old picture book author named Kaho.

The new novel is Murakami's first in three years. His previous novel, *The City and Its Uncertain Walls*, is a story of a male protagonist searching for love, loss, and the boundaries between real and subconscious worlds.

Kaho is the first lone woman protagonist featured in a full-length novel by Murakami, Shinchosha Publishing Co. said in a statement.

Initially, the novel started as a short story titled, "Kaho," which Murakami rehearsed at a book reading event two



THE TALE OF KAHO. The Tale of Kaho, a new book by Japanese author Haruki Murakami, is scheduled for release on July 3, 2026. The book centers on a 26-year-old picture book author named Kaho. Pictured is author Murakami at the Norwegian Literature Festival in Lillehammer, Norway, in this June 5, 2025 file photo. (Cornelius Poppe/NTB Scanpix via AP, File)

Soon she starts encountering bizarre things in her life.

"I must find the way out of this world," a brief promotional teaser released by the publisher says. "Murakami world is in full force."

Murakami has since released three subsequent "Kaho" series stories in *Shincho* magazine, most recently in the March edition. They include "The Anteater of Musashi-sakai," "Kaho and the Termite Queen," and "Kaho and the Motorcycle Man, and Scarlett Johansson."

The English version of the first piece, translated by Philip Gabriel, was published in *The New Yorker* magazine in 2024.

Murakami brings the four parts together and gives them new life in the new 352-page novel, the publisher said.

years ago at Waseda University, his alma mater in Tokyo, with Mieko Kawakami, a renowned female author and fan of his work. The story was published in the June 2024 edition of the monthly *Shincho*

magazine. The character Kaho, who has average looks and intelligence, is a curious person. One day she dines with a man who tells her, "I've never seen one as ugly as you." Not outraged but baffled, curious Kaho tries to find out his hidden message.

The "becoming Chinese" meme shows China's soft power moment is here

By Huizhong Wu
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Have you "become Chinese"? In recent months, 20-somethings around the world have taken over social media with posts enthusing about how they're embracing Chinese ways of life.

Videos proclaiming users are "Chinamaxxing," or "in a very Chinese time of their lives" — namely by drinking hot water with boiled goji berries, eating dumplings or wearing slippers in the house, or flying to China and gushing about its modern infrastructure — are racking up millions of views.

Along with its economic and geopolitical rise, China's government has tried for years to push its soft power on the global stage. But those official efforts never came close to the success the "becoming Chinese" meme is enjoying now.

Even senior Chinese diplomats have noted the trend. Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador to the U.S., referenced the internet craze recently as he promoted a new visa-free transit policy and urged more Americans to "experience for yourselves a real, dynamic, and panoramic

China."

The TikTok trend is the latest example of how Chinese products and consumables are enjoying a cultural cachet they've never had before globally. From movies to music, Labubu toys and even ordinary habits like drinking hot water, Chinese things are now seen by many as cool.

"China is gaining real soft power, and you can see it most clearly in how Chinese culture and 'Chineseness' are becoming familiar, repeatable, and globally consumable in everyday life," said Shaoyu Yuan, a professor at the New York University School of Professional Studies' Center for Global Affairs.


"That legitimacy," Yuan said, "is earned through taste, utility, and entertainment."

That soft power rise is enabled by China's development in many industries: From manufacturing, where it holds a record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus with the rest of the world, to social media, where it developed the addictive algorithms that made TikTok, to its own consumer culture, where homegrown names compete head to head with global brands.

Mixed feelings among Chinese Americans



Continued on page 18

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MY TURN

■ **Wayne Chan**



A Tale of two cities ... and two cuisines

Opposites attract. After 34 years of marriage, I can confidently make that claim. Heck, we're living proof of that.

My wife Maya loves taking walks. I would rather drive there — even if it's only two blocks away.

She likes to dance; I prefer to sit. She likes to read books; I prefer to listen to a podcast.

She's gregarious and very social; I prefer to listen to a podcast.

She's petite and beautiful. I'm ... uh ... I think I'm going on a tangent here.

Let me try to explain our differences another way. A few years ago, we went on a trip to Asia — Taiwan and South Korea, specifically. We're both foodies, which is one thing we do have in common. But what we like to eat puts us on opposite ends of the spectrum.

Our first stop was Taiwan — Maya's birthplace. Beyond seeing friends and family, the one thing she was craving was to eat some of her favorite Taiwanese dishes. This is where our tastes diverge.

Strolling down one street, Maya saw a vendor selling food. Her eyes opened wide. She saw the sign where they sell Taiwanese Mian Xian (pronounced *me-en shen*) — kind of a noodle soup.

I've had Mian Xian before, and what can I say? I'd rather listen to a podcast.

For those who haven't had it before, it's a soup noodle where the noodles are very fine, kind of glistening in a dark brown broth, with vegetables and sometimes bite-size morsels of oysters. Every time Maya has it, it brings back memories from her childhood, and she revels in the familiar flavors of the noodles and broth.

For me? It's something about the texture. What's the best adjective I can come up with? Gloopy? Gloppy? The consistency of the soup is more like a heavy gravy than actual soup. I don't hate it, but let's just say it's not on my top-ten list of well, anything.

Our next meal didn't get much better, at least for me. After walking through one of Taiwan's famous

street markets, we happened upon a shop that sold one of Taiwan's signature dishes, O Ah Jian (pronounced *oh wah jian*), which is basically an oyster omelet.

It's essentially a flat omelet mixed with a starchy liquid along with small oysters and greens topped off with a reddish-pink sauce.

How would I describe O Ah Jian? Mucus-like? Squishy? Slightly sludgy?

To each, their own, right? Obviously, this is a very popular dish in Taiwan. In fact, it's one of Maya's favorites. It's just not my cup of tea (or plate of squishy), as the case may be.

So, while my culinary travails in Taiwan may not have been my favorite, the tables were turned in South Korea.

Why? Two words — Korean barbecue.

My niece, Melody, was in charge of selecting all the restaurants in South Korea. Korea has a wide variety of cuisine — seafood, kimchi, dumplings, hot pot. But for some incredibly tasty reason, we had Korean BBQ four nights out of the seven we were there. And it was glorious.

Plates of fresh beef, chicken, pork, seafood, and vegetables covered in a variety of sauces cooked on specially designed grills. I was in heaven.

Maya, on the other hand, was not as pleased. "There's just too much meat! I can't eat any more meat!"

I didn't really hear any of her comments. I was focused on the meat. They actually had skewers of chicken skin basting over hot coals until they were scrumptiously crispy with just the perfect amount of seasoning. I was eating fried chicken skin as an entrée! What's not to love?

After our fourth night of carnivorous feasts, Maya had had enough.

"I just want a salad!" Maya insisted.

We made it home, both of us unscathed. After a few days of being in a meat coma, I was good as new.

I was thinking of getting some Texas BBQ spareribs tonight. What do you think?

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



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Ichiro's statue unveiling has a mishap as bat snaps during ceremony

By Andrew Destin
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Oh, snap. The unveiling last month of Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki's statue had an unforced error — a broken bat.

As broadcaster Rick Rizzs declared “we’re going to count down from 51!” — a nod to Suzuki’s jersey number, which was retired by the Seattle Mariners — the curtain covering the bronze statue was pulled down, and so, too, went the bat.

A snapping noise could be heard as the bronze bat flopped down and confetti sprouted up.

“Here it is! The statue of one of the greatest players in the history of the game!” Rizzs declared as the curtain was pulled and a celebratory tune played outside of T-Mobile Park.

The statue depicts Ichiro in his batting stance. He appeared to find the mishap to be hilarious, and joked through an interpreter that New York Yankees Hall of Fame closer Mariano Rivera got the best of him again.

“I didn’t think Mariano would come out here,” Ichiro said with a smile, “and break the bat.”

It did not take long for the Mariners to fix the statue; Ichiro’s bat was soon turned



STATUE SNAFU. Former Seattle Mariners Edgar Martinez, left, and Ken Griffey Jr., second from left, look on with right fielder Ichiro Suzuki, right, at the broken bat of Ichiro's statue during its unveiling outside T-Mobile Park in Seattle. The unveiling last month of Hall of Famer Ichiro's statue had an unforced error — a broken bat. As broadcaster Rick Rizzs declared “we’re going to count down from 51!” — a nod to Suzuki’s jersey number, which was retired by the Seattle Mariners — the curtain covering the bronze statue was pulled down, and so, too, went the bat. (AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson)

Griffey (No. 24) and Martinez (No. 11).

Griffey and Martinez joined Suzuki for the ceremony and helped him pull the curtain off the statue.

“To have this moment with them, I look back at how it all started,” Ichiro said. “And it’s just been an unbelievable experience.”

Ichiro made history as the first Japan-born player inducted into the Hall of Fame, earning a near-unanimous 99.7% of the vote from the Baseball Writers’ Association of America.

The way the jovial Ichiro saw it, his statue having an imperfection was only fitting.

“In the Hall of Fame, I was short one vote,” Suzuki said. “Today, the bat was broke. It kind of lets me know that I’m still not there, that I still need to keep going. So, this is a good example of that.”

upright and reconnected at the handle. The statue was sculpted by Chicago-based Lou Cella, who also produced statues of Mariners greats Ken Griffey Jr. and Edgar Martinez, University of Washington football coach Don James, Seattle Storm legend Sue Bird, and former Seattle SuperSonics player and coach Lenny Wilkens.

Ichiro said he wore a jersey from the 2001 season, when he won both AL MVP

and Rookie of the Year, for a photo shoot with Cella.

“I can say I was happy that I was still able to fit into that uniform, and probably could say Junior and Edgar probably couldn’t do that,” Suzuki said. “So, I was happy about that.”

Ichiro was inducted into the Hall of Fame last summer and last year became only the third Mariners player to have his jersey retired by the franchise, joining

Abuse claims prompt reflection on the history of Filipino farmworkers in the U.S.

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

Filipino and Mexican American farmworkers united in 1965 to strike against California grape growers, under the stewardship of Filipino labor leader Larry Itliong and one of the founders of the National Farm Workers Association, César Chávez. It was a pivotal moment that has been highlighted in books, monuments, and even a stage musical.

In the wake of recent allegations that Chávez sexually abused young women and girls in the labor rights movement, Filipino Americans — including descendants of the striking workers — are navigating how to celebrate this historic chapter moving forward.

Filipino groups cancelled plans to march on César Chávez Day in March. Multiple states, cities, and counties moved swiftly to rename the day Farmworkers Day. In California, the occasion is a recognized state holiday. State government offices and some local government offices were closed for the day.

Advocates want to rename the March 31 celebration to focus on Filipino and Chicano farmworkers, particularly women, while acknowledging the survivors of Chávez’s abuse.

“We really need to kind of center this trauma of women and sexual abuse,” said Dillon Delvo, executive director of Little Manila Rising, a longtime Filipino community hub in Stockton, California. “It’s definitely what the discussion needs to be.”

How Filipino immigrants came to work on U.S. farms

When the U.S. exerted colonial rule over the Philippines from 1898 to 1946, many Filipinos studied English and were authorized to immigrate to America. From the 1920s to the ’60s, tens of thousands of Filipinos joined the U.S. agricultural workforce, working on farms and in factories and canneries, primarily in the west. The first wave of men — who arrived from the Philippines’ Ilocano-speaking region — were known as “manong,” an affectionate term for older brother.

Many Filipino farmworkers suffered discrimination in the form of inferior wages, shabby housing, and poor working conditions, just so they could earn money

to send home. They also weathered loneliness since few Filipino women immigrated and anti-miscegenation laws prohibited marrying outside their race.

By the 1960s, Filipino farmworkers had formed the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to plan labor strikes.

“It came out of necessity and desperation to protect themselves, to try to live in dignity,” said Dennis Arguelles, Southern California director for the National Parks Conservation Association. The region Arguelles, who is Filipino, monitors includes monuments to Filipino farmworkers and Chávez.

Filipino organizers take strike initiative

Itliong and fellow organizer Philip Vera Cruz led the Committee to vote on September 8, 1965, to strike against grape growers in Delano, California. They demanded to be paid at least the federal minimum wage. Itliong, the more “fiery union leader,” called Chávez who — along with Dolores Huerta — headed the then-named National Farm Workers Association.

“Chávez was hesitant to strike,” Arguelles said. “You didn’t feel like the National Farm Workers Association was ready to take on these powerful agribusiness interests. These business structures were very effective in pitting different ethnicities against each other to break strikes.”

A week later, they officially joined forces as the United Farm Workers. The Delano grape strike lasted five years and rocked the industry, ending in collective bargaining agreements for thousands of laborers.

The popular narrative around Itliong’s leadership has almost always been attached to Chávez, as they appear together in textbooks, historical exhibits, and murals around California.

The allegations against Chávez have sparked warnings against elevating — even deifying — historical figures.

“There always seems to be a need to be like a main character,” Delvo said. “But the problem is that is not what a union is about.”

It’s also revived debate about Chávez overshadowing others in the labor movement.

“Maybe this is our opportunity to tell a more accurate and comprehensive narra-

tion of what took place, Arguelles said. “I see that as being a positive thing.”

In late March at a public meeting, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors took steps to rename César Chávez Day as Farmworkers Day. Some suggested moving the holiday to September 8 to honor striking Filipino workers. Itliong’s 60-year-old son, Johnny, said Chávez had tried to “erase the history” of how the Delano strike began.

“I’ve spent my whole life speaking up for my father and his generation of men and women who fed America,” Itliong said at the meeting.

Focus on the women

Larry the Musical: An American Journey, a musical about the Filipino

farmworkers movement, refers to Chávez only once, in a scene when Itliong calls him. The producers also made sure the story included the women in Itliong’s life. Recent events have reaffirmed the importance of that creative decision.

“From the beginning, we have always centered this musical on the women of the community as those who keep Larry and the community accountable, and the ones who pass on knowledge to the next generation,” co-producers Gayle Romasanta and Bryan Pangilinan said in a statement.

Vernadette Gonzalez, an ethnic studies professor at the University of California, Berkeley, said educators should seize the chance to herald the unsung heroes of the

Continued on page 19

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ORCHARDS 11:00 - 12:00 OCTOBER 16, NOVEMBER 20, DECEMBER 18, JANUARY 22, FEBRUARY 19, MARCH 20, APRIL 23, MAY 21	ENDEAVOUR 11:00 - 12:00 OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 16, JANUARY 20, FEBRUARY 17, MARCH 17, APRIL 21, MAY 19	MILL PLAIN 1:30 - 2:30 OCTOBER 22, NOVEMBER 19, JANUARY 28, FEBRUARY 25, MARCH 25, APRIL 29, MAY 27 (NO DECEMBER PANTRY)
HARMONY & PACIFIC 11:00 - 12:00 OCTOBER 25, NOVEMBER 25, DECEMBER 15, JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 24, APRIL 28, MAY 26	 <p>SCAN TO FIND FREE FOOD SITES</p> <p>CLARK COUNTY FOOD BANK Share Evergreen Public Schools</p>	

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Asian elephant calf Linh Mai makes her public debut at D.C.'s National Zoo

In celebration of Earth Day, Asian elephant calf Linh Mai [LIN-my] made her public debut at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI) in Washington, D.C. Following her birth on February 2, the Elephant Community Center was closed to provide a quiet space for Linh Mai to bond with her herdmates and the elephant care team.

Her public debut last month also marked Linh Mai's first appearance on the National Zoo's Elephant Cam.

"Watching an elephant calf explore and interact with her herd is one of the most heartwarming and joyful experiences you can have at a zoo," said Brandie Smith, the John and Adrienne Mars director of NZCBI. "We are so excited to introduce Linh Mai to our members and the public. As the first elephant born here in nearly 25 years, her birth was historic, not only for our zoo family but also for this critically endangered species."

Asian elephants are an intelligent, sensitive, and social species, so building



THREE MONTHS OLD. Asian elephant calf Linh Mai was born February 2, 2026 at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, D.C. The calf made her public debut on Earth Day. (Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Zoo)

the calf.

Early on, keepers worked around the clock to care for the calf and build positive relationships between her and Nhi Linh, her grandmother Trong Nhi, and her unrelated "aunties" Swarna and Bozie. These bonds are important as young elephants learn "herd smarts" by observing and mimicking their mothers, aunties, and grandmothers.

Linh Mai and the herd live at Elephant Trails, an expansive 114,000-square-foot exhibit composed of four outdoor habitats, an Elephant Exercise Trek, the Elephant Community Center, and an off-exhibit Elephant Barn. Admission to NZCBI is free. To learn more, visit <www.nationalzoo.si.edu>. To view the Elephant Cam, visit <www.nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/elephants>.

bonds among the herd is critical to the calf's development. The elephant care team worked hard to facilitate positive

interactions between Linh Mai and her first-time mother, Nhi Linh, after she displayed some initial aggression toward

Will Trump's reclassifying of medical marijuana have any impact on criminal justice reform?

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

The Trump administration's historic move to reclassify state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug was cheered by some advocates, but for others, it fell far short for the thousands still incarcerated on federal cannabis-related convictions.

The executive order, which acting Attorney General Todd Blanche signed in April, does not address current penalties for possessing and selling marijuana or those jailed with yearslong sentences.

"While this is a victory, the fight is far from over," said Jason Ortiz, director of strategic initiatives for the Last Prisoner Project, a nonprofit focused on cannabis criminal justice reform.

Proponents of legalizing marijuana as well as overhauling prison sentencing say this order, which does not completely decriminalize the drug, benefits only cannabis researchers, growers, and others in Big Weed. Meanwhile, thousands — many of whom are people of color — are stuck serving harsh sentences for marijuana-related offenses. Or they have served their time but having a conviction on their record has made life difficult.

Now, advocates are calling on congress and state



SMALL STEPS. Pictured is marijuana at NJ Weedman's Joint dispensary in Trenton, New Jersey. The Trump administration's move to reclassify state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug was cheered by some advocates, but for others, it fell far short for the thousands still incarcerated on federal cannabis-related convictions. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

the schedule," said Cat Packer, director of drug markets and legal regulation at the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance. "Even if marijuana were to be moved to Schedule V, those criminal penalties would still exist and there are mandatory minimums for simple possession."

Racial disparities exist in convictions and Big Weed

Destigmatizing marijuana has long been an issue for both political parties. Obama commuted the sentences of about 1,900 federal prisoners, almost all of whom were incarcerated for nonviolent drug crimes. Biden pardoned 6,500 people convicted of use and simple possession of marijuana on federal lands and in the District of Columbia. President Donald Trump's administration has taken far fewer drug clemency actions and does not have an overarching policy directing such actions.

"What many people on the right and the left would like is to move marijuana from this 'just as bad as heroin' category and to just sort of de-schedule it entirely," said Marta Nelson, director of sentencing reform at the Vera Institute of Justice. "Regulate it like you do alcohol or tobacco."

Studies show Black Americans are roughly 3.7 to 4 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Americans, despite usage rates being roughly the same across racial groups. Federal-level marijuana cases are pretty small today, but those serving sentences for federal drug offenses are overwhelmingly Hispanic and Black, according to Justice Department and Bureau of Justice Statistics data.

The racial disparity with drug convictions is reminiscent of 2010 legislation Obama signed reducing the gap between mandatory sentences for crack cocaine versus powder cocaine. In 2018, Trump made it apply retroactively.

Because business owners with state medical marijuana licenses are predominantly white, the tax relief created by the rescheduling will also likely give a leg-up to mostly white businesses, Packer said. A lot of equity programs won't apply.

"This is going to, in my mind, widen the gap, the financial disparities, the business disparities that currently exist between Black and brown, Latino and white owners in the cannabis industry because licenses were not distributed equitably," Packer said.

Possible next steps for marijuana convictions

In theory, Trump could issue a blanket pardon like he did for January 6 rioters. But Nelson thinks that is highly doubtful.

"Having marijuana convictions on the record for things like mass immigration enforcement is helpful to the administration," Nelson said.

An impactful next step would be for congress to outline very comprehensive legislation addressing existing marijuana-related convictions, expungements, and in-

Continued on page 20

lawmakers to take concrete steps to ensure those with marijuana-related convictions receive fair treatment or be forgiven altogether.

Prisoners and their families look for hope

Blanche's order reclassifies state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug. The major policy shift, which both Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden had considered, means cannabis won't be grouped with drugs like heroin.

But it does not legalize marijuana for medical or recreational use. It shifts licensed medical marijuana from Schedule I — reserved for drugs without medical use and with high potential for abuse — to the less strictly regulated Schedule III. This will likely give licensed medical marijuana operators and cannabis researchers a major tax break and less stringent barriers to doing normal business.

Virtually no one imprisoned at the federal level is there solely for marijuana possession. But many are there for large-scale possession, trafficking offenses, or both.

Hector Ruben McGurk, 66, has been serving life without the possibility of parole since 2007 for transporting thousands of pounds of marijuana and money laundering. He is currently imprisoned in Beaumont, Texas, more than 800 miles from his son's El Paso home. His incarceration has been hard on his son, said McGurk's daughter-in-law, Ferna Anguiano. And the distance makes visits logistically difficult.

So it's tempting to see this order as a glimmer of hope, given that the family believes McGurk's punishment far outweighs his crimes. But Anguiano has no idea how to navigate lobbying for his release.

"His release date is death," Anguiano said. "I mean, we see all this stuff on the news — bigger cases, fatal cases — and people are going in and out of prison and coming out to their families."

They try to keep in touch through phone calls and a prison texting service. They're concerned about McGurk's health and his diabetes management. It would be a dream come true for him to come home.

"He deserves a second chance," Anguiano said. "Yes, it was a poor decision he did in his lifetime. He was younger. But he is not a bad person. I think it's fair to say he has served enough time for it."

It's not clear whether punishments would be different had marijuana always been scheduled differently, drug policy experts say.

"In addition to schedule-specific penalties, there are marijuana-specific penalties that have nothing to do with

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Difficulty level: Hard

#18692

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 #65771 (Medium)

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

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

Celebrating Asian Heritage

The Asian Reporter celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month with this special edition. In this issue, we mark heritage month with a look at martial artist Bruce Lee (1940-1973), who now has a U.S. Postal Service stamp that features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke that is a reference to Lee's iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*.

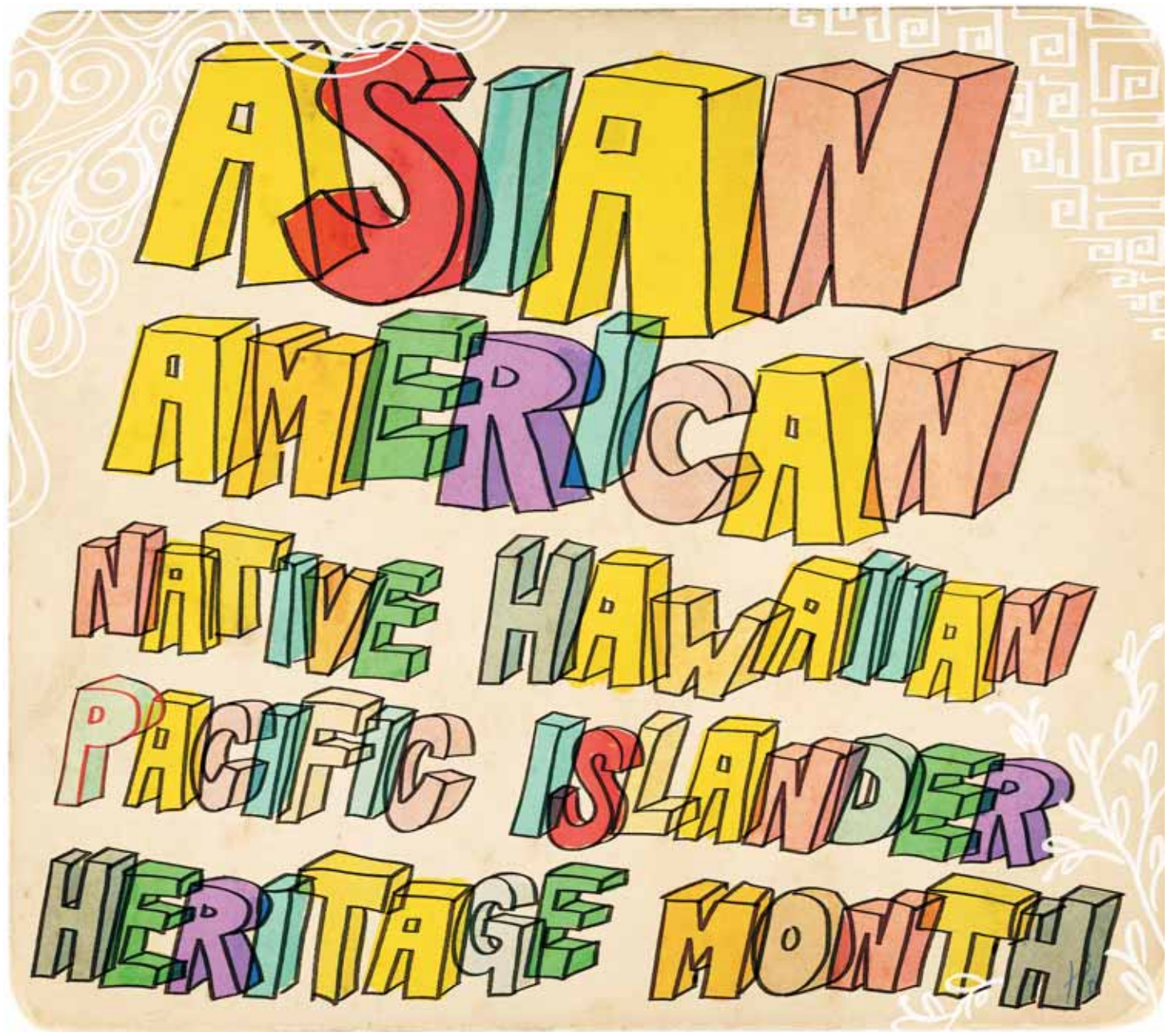
The edition next highlights "The Yasui Family: An American Story," a display at the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Museum in downtown Portland that tells the story of the Yasui family, who established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived.

"Many Bridges," a special invitational exhibition featuring works by 20 AANHPI artists, follows. The display, two years in the making, opens May 7 at the Blackfish Gallery in Portland.

The section continues with "Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit at the OHS Museum that honors the generations of students and instructors who have sustained the dojo for a century.

Another story brings to light the fact that Asian surnames have been the fastest-growing in the U.S., according to a Census Bureau report. Also, efforts to require Asian American history be taught in schools is starting to pay off, following years of increased anti-Asian hate.

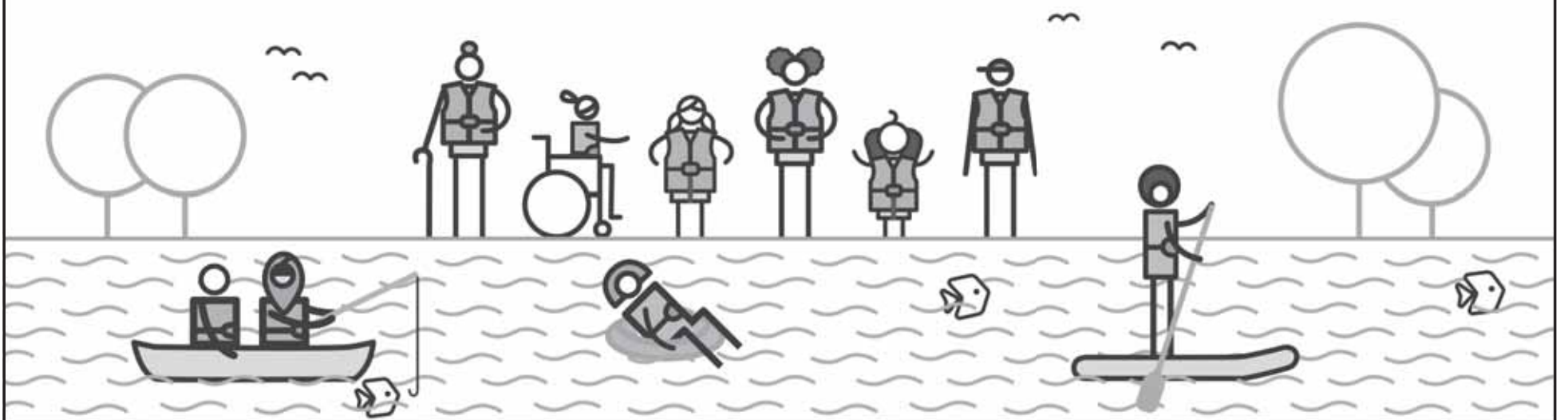
Finally, our expanded events calendar provides a monthlong guide to Asian art, history, culture, and entertainment.



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U.S. Postal Service celebrates martial arts icon Bruce Lee with a forever stamp

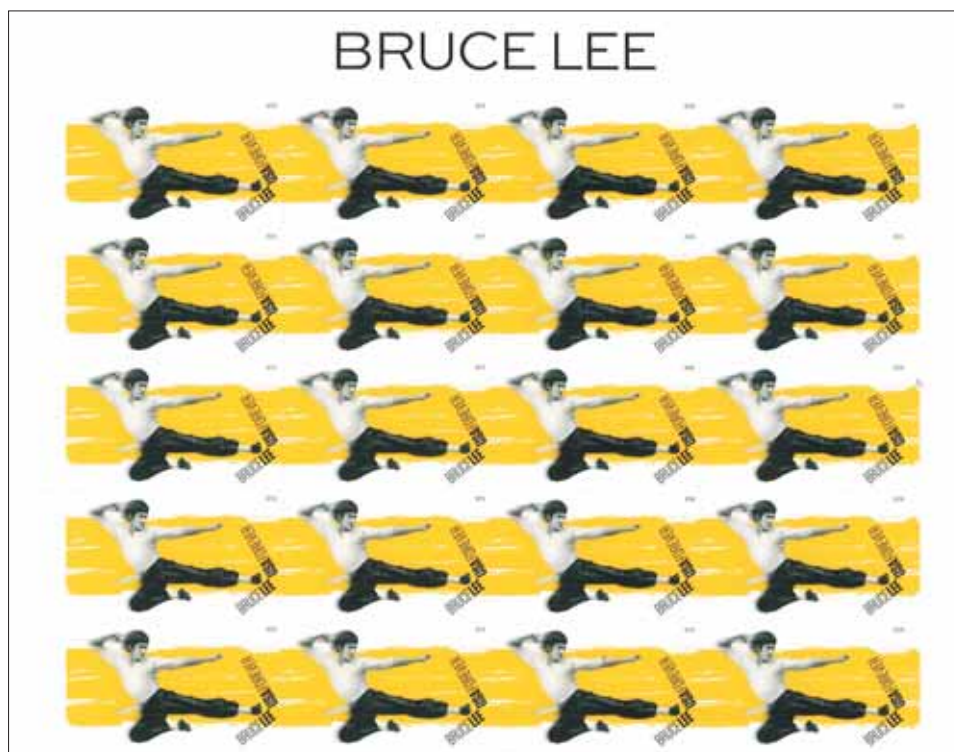
By **Kathleen Liermann**
The Asian Reporter

At a ceremony at the Nippon Kan Theater in Seattle earlier this year, martial arts icon Bruce Lee (1940-1973) was honored and celebrated by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) with a new forever stamp.

The stamp, by artist Kam Mak, features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background. According to USPS, the brushstroke is a reference to Lee's iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*, which was released years after his death. On the right side of the stamp printed vertically and slightly angled are Lee's name and the words "USA" and "FOREVER," arranged to appear as if the flying kick is breaking them in half.

Known as Hollywood's first Asian American leading man, Lee was a celebrated box office star in Hong Kong well before he dazzled American moviegoers. Shannon Lee, Bruce's daughter, said her father's life was about breaking through barriers and bringing people together along the way.

"He was mesmerizing to watch. Unlike the theatrical, acrobatic kung fu that came before, Lee's movements were economical, explosive, and real," said Ben Kuo of USPS, who spoke at the ceremony. "Bruce Lee has earned this special tribute because he wasn't just an action film star who could fight — he was a philosopher who could think and a teacher who inspired



millions."

Others attending the unveiling were Lee's daughter Shannon; Sue Ann Kay, a former student and friend of Lee; and journalist Jeff Chang. Serving as master of ceremonies was Mimi Gan, representing Seattle's Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. Genelia Lai performed the national anthem and the American Legion Cathay Post 186 served as color guard for the day.

Bruce's "legacy is one of resilience, self-mastery, and flow that resonates and connects people across multiple demographics, which is why this stamp is such a

profoundly perfect touchpoint and a true honor, especially at this moment in time," said Shannon, who is CEO of Bruce Lee Enterprises. "Our family is deeply grateful to the USPS for choosing to recognize Bruce Lee, and we are excited to see his kicks flying all across the country on our mail."

Lee Jun Fan was born at Jackson Street Hospital in San Francisco on November 27, 1940, while his father, Lee Hoi Chuen, a singer and actor from Hong Kong, and mother, Grace Ho, were in the United States on an extended tour with the Chinese Opera.

Their son, who had dual citizenship, received a Cantonese name as well as an American one suggested by a person at the hospital who helped delivered him — Bruce. Bruce had two older sisters, Phoebe and Agnes, an older brother, Peter, and a younger brother, Robert. The family returned to Hong Kong when Bruce was just three months old.

With family connections in the Hong Kong film industry, Bruce appeared in more than 20 films as a child, with his first lead role at age 10. His stage name was Li Xiao Long, or "Lee the Little Dragon," because he was born in both the Hour of the Dragon — between 6:00am and 8:00am — and the Year of the Dragon in Chinese astrology. At age 13, he began learning wing chun gung fu under renowned wing chun master, Yip Man, studying diligently for five years. He also became an expert boxer and competitor in cha-cha dancing.

Bruce took a steamship back to the

HONORING AN ICON. Martial arts icon Bruce Lee (1940-1973) was honored and celebrated by the U.S. Postal Service with a new forever stamp earlier this year. The stamp, by artist Kam Mak, features a black-and-white painting of Lee executing his famous flying kick set against a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background.

United States at age 18. He went to San Francisco then made his way to Seattle, where he worked in the restaurant of a family friend. After earning the equivalent of a high school diploma at Edison Technical School, he majored in philosophy at the University of Washington and taught martial arts on the side, eventually opening his first school, the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute. Two more schools followed in Oakland and Los Angeles.

Bruce opened the Oakland school and also married his wife, Linda Emery, in 1964. The couple would eventually have two children, Brandon in 1965 and Shannon in 1969.

At an exhibition at the Long Beach Internationals in the mid-'60s, Bruce demonstrated the "one-inch punch" technique, which enabled him to strike an opponent at close range with extraordinary force. A celebrity hairstylist and martial arts enthusiast, Jay Sebring, happened to be part of the crowd at the competition.

Sebring was in awe of Lee's remarkably chiselled frame, lightning-fast hands and feet, and zen-like composure — quite the combination. A few months later, when a producer-friend was looking for a Chinese actor, Sebring told him about Bruce Lee and his abilities.

In Hollywood, this was groundbreaking, as Asian roles usually went to Caucasian actors, with Asian actors rarely given a chance. William Dozier, a producer, gave Lee a screen test in 1965.

Lee's first major American role was in the television version of "The Green Hornet," which aired on ABC from September 1966 through March 1967. Bruce played Kato, the title character's martial arts partner. After one season, the TV program in the United States was cancelled, but it caught on in Hong Kong, where it became known as "The Kato Show."

Bruce tired of the resistance he encountered in Hollywood and headed to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he made three films, which broke box office records and showcased martial arts in an entirely new way. There, he choreographed movie fight scenes and appeared on television shows.

Bruce was developing his own martial
Continued on page 17

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OHS highlights the Yasui Family's American Story

By Jody Lim
The Asian Reporter

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Museum in downtown Portland is currently featuring "The Yasui Family: An American Story," a display that tells the story of the Yasui family, who were among the millions of immigrants who first came to the United States seeking new opportunities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The family established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived.

The exhibit is packed with artifacts, information, and history — too much to include here — so setting some time aside to visit the museum in person to take it all in is definitely warranted.

To visitors' benefit, the Yasui family carefully documented and preserved their history. Included in the display are photographs, belongings, business records, family papers, personal journals, and much more that show how the Yasui family story is intricate and at the same time similar to other Americans' stories.

The Yasui family's American story began in the mid-1890s, when Shinataro Yasui and his son Taiitsuro Yasui travelled to America. Masuo Yasui, the youngest son of Shinataro and his wife Tsuya, made his way to the United States in 1903 at the age of 16.

Issei (first-generation Japanese immigrants) began arriving on the West Coast in the 1880s as part of a wave of Japanese migration around the world. The migration overlapped with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned the entry of new immigrants from China and denied citizenship for those already in the U.S.

The discrimination and prejudice against Chinese immigrants, many whom worked as laborers, is represented in the exhibit with, among other items, signs and publications proclaiming "The Chinese Must Go!"

With the law in place, the labor market opened to laborers from Japan, specifically single, male, Japanese citizens who were looking to make money in the U.S. before returning home.

Masuo Yasui worked for Oregon Short Line for two years. Railroad jobs often involved long hours of physically difficult work. Masuo described the experience as physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging. There's a metal monkey wrench from a railroad handcar, circa 1900, and a story that are part of the exhibit.

Masuo arrived in Portland in 1905, adding to its growing Japantown neighborhood (known as Nihonmachi), which included hotels, laundries, restaurants, bathhouses, and grocery stores.

Following a trip to Hood River in 1907, Masuo discovered business opportunities available in the town, which had an established community of Japanese immigrants who worked in agriculture and logging.

According to family stories, Masuo was also drawn to Hood River because of the beauty of the Columbia Gorge and snow-covered Mount Hood, which reminded him of familiar landscapes in Japan.

By the spring of 1908, Masuo and his brother Renichi Fujimoto moved to Hood River to open a store called Yasui Bros. Co. to sell Japanese and western goods such as tea, rice, coffee, baking powder, and ice cream, as well as flashlights, dolls, sandals, lunch boxes, watch cases, and bird feeders.

Masuo and Renichi's Hood River store was not the first to carry Japanese goods

and offer various services, but they were the most successful and it became a hub for the town's growing Issei community. Among the many enterprises the family was involved in were selling American Express money orders and life insurance, booking passenger tickets for steamships headed to Japan, and renting out the second floor of the store.

Yasui Bros. Co. operated for only 34 years, unfortunately, because it was shut down permanently by the U.S. Treasury Department following the 1941 attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor.

When Masuo first settled in Hood River, apple orchards occupied about ten percent of the available farmland. The temperate climate, rich volcanic soil, and access to water in the Hood River Valley were ideal for farming, especially fruits and berries.

Growers sold Hood River apples at local markets and also shipped them across the country. They won awards for their fruit and also the innovative way they were shipped — in crates.

Japanese farmers in Oregon introduced several crops — celery, strawberries, and asparagus — to the region. In addition, the Yasui family was quite successful buying and leasing land for farming apples, pears, and other fruits and vegetables.

Masuo was involved in organizations that supported Hood River agriculture, including helping form the Japanese Farmers Association of Hood River, an organization to help market strawberries, in 1916. He also helped organize the Mid-Columbia Vegetable Growers Association, a cooperative that assisted with the packing and shipping of asparagus, in 1927.

Masuo encouraged his fellow Issei to stay in the United States and offered to help them buy land for farming despite the ongoing anti-Asian racist sentiments in Oregon. Outside of Multnomah County, Hood River had the largest Japanese agricultural settlement in Oregon and the community became a hotbed for exclusionist movements by white citizens such as the Anti-Alien League and the Anti-Asiatic Association that advocated for laws to prohibit Issei living in Oregon from purchasing land.

Unfortunately, the success of Japanese agricultural enterprises made them targets for racist attacks. White legislators, with the backing of the American Legion, Ku Klux Klan, and Oregon governor Walter Pierce, also tried to hamper their businesses by introducing various bills to prohibit the Japanese from owning land and businesses. In 1923, the Alien Land Law and the Alien Business Restriction Law were passed.

The Issei, including Masuo and Renichi, were barred from becoming U.S. citizens until 1952. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave birthright citizenship to their children born in the United States, making them American citizens. During World War II, anti-Japanese agitators waged legal battles aimed at stripping Nisei of their birthright citizenship. Those attempts ultimately failed.

Life for people of Japanese descent changed dramatically when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The bombing inflamed existing anti-Japanese propaganda and led to further violence and exclusion.

The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Yasui Bros. Co. Store was shut down. Renichi was briefly allowed to reopen the store for a monthlong liquidation sale, but the store closed its doors on April 18, 1942. It never reopened.

Several weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, on February 19, 1942, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. The U.S. military



OREGON PIONEERS. "The Yasui Family: An American Story," a display about how the Yasui family established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived, is on view through September 6, 2026 at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in Portland. Pictured are Masuo Yasui (far left on the wall photo), a strawberry plow (on the ground), and a strawberry carrier (far right), along with other items. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library)

enacted curfews, followed by notices of property and belongings and prepare to removal. By the spring of 1942, Oregon leave — with less than a week to comply. Nikkei were instructed to dispose of their

Continued on page 13



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“Many Bridges” opens May 7 at Blackfish Gallery

Two years in the making, “Many Bridges,” a special invitational exhibition featuring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) artists, opens Thursday, May 7, at northwest Portland’s Blackfish Gallery. An opening reception, scheduled for First Thursday at 5:00pm, kicks off the display.

Blackfish member and ceramic artist Ruri spearheaded the exhibit, which celebrates AANHPI Heritage Month. Ruri invited 19 artists from the Mashiko Ceramics and Arts Association (MCAA) and the Pacific Northwest to contribute to the project, with each artist showing their heritage — whether consciously or subconsciously reflected in their art works — connecting culture and people, and acting as a soaring bridge.

The 10 artists from MCAA include Emiko Asada, Douglas Black, Andrew Gemrich, Ikuzo Fujiwara, Akihiko Ishijima, Masayuki Miyajima, Yoshiji Onuki, Kei Shimaoka, Ryo Suzuki, and Satoshi Yokoo.

Pacific Northwest artists include Robert Dozono, Yuji Hiratsuka, mai ide, Limei Lai, Palmarin Merges, Kanani Miyamoto, Satoko Motouji, Roberta Wong, Kanetaka Ikeda, and Ruri.

The works on display were created by artists representing centuries of experience in many genres. Some are installation artists, printmakers, conceptual artists, and other artistic specialists. The pieces include drawings, mixed-media interactive visual art, sewing, paintings, abstract and pictorial compositions, clay sculptures, multidisciplinary art, and other mixed-media



CREATING BRIDGES. Two years in the making, “Many Bridges,” a special invitational exhibition featuring works by 20 AANHPI artists, opens May 7 at the Blackfish Gallery in Portland. Pictured are (L-R) “Tree of Life in All Seasons: Early Spring,” by Kanetaka Ikeda, mix-media assemblage, 47” x 45” x 36”, and “Hot Club Sale,” by Yuji Hiratsuka, intaglio and chine collé, 24” x 18”. (Images courtesy of the artists)



works.

In addition to First Thursday on May 7, an artist talk and reception is scheduled for May 17 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and the closing reception featuring a koto performance by Masumi Timson will be held May 24 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

Other cultural exchanges related to “Many Bridges” include a tea ceremony and talk using tea bowls made by

MCAA participating artists on May 20 at 2:00pm in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner at the Portland Japanese Garden (611 S.W. Kingston Avenue in Portland). On May 22 from 10:00am to 4:00pm, a demonstration and workshop by Yoshiji Onuki, Andrew Gemrich, and Douglas Black takes place at the Mt. Hood Community College Ceramics Department (26000 S.E. Stark Street in Gresham, Oregon).

“Many Bridges” is featured at the Blackfish Gallery, located at 938 N.W. Everett Street in Portland, through May 30. Regular hours are 11:00am to 5:00pm, Wednesday through Sunday. To learn more, call (503) 224-2634 or visit <www.blackfish.com>.

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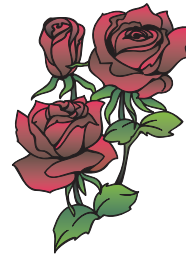
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Heritage Month calendar

Organizations and others are holding events in celebration of Heritage Month. Some activities include:

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

Currently on view, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (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>.



CELEBRATING AANHPI HERITAGE. AANHPI Heritage Month events at Lan Su Chinese Garden are featured through May 31. Festivities include Cultural Immersion Saturdays, a “Taste of Home, Where the Heart Belongs” cooking demonstration, the “Threading Together” exhibit, performances (pictured), and more. (Photos courtesy of Lan Su Chinese Garden)

A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns”

Currently on view, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). View “Beyond the Gate: A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns,” a display of rare objects such as Chinese opera costumes, theatrical sets, bilingual text, audio-visual media, and more that tell a sprawling transnational story of contact and trade between China and the west, focusing on Portland’s Old Chinatown (1850-1905) and New Chinatown (1905-1950). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

“New Years All Year Round”

Currently on display, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “New Years All Year Round,” a fun, family-friendly exhibit that looks at the origins of New Year traditions, colors, cuisine, and more, including lion dances, drums, and firecrackers. The display features new works from artist Nina Vichayapai, new community-submitted stories, and a refresh honoring the Year of the Fire Horse. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

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

Currently on view, 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>. See related story on page 10.

Satpreet Kahlon

Through May 23, 2-8pm (Thu), noon-6pm (Fri), noon-4pm (Sat), Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (15 NE Hancock St, Portland). Attend “an imagined place (here and now),” an exhibit by Satpreet Kahlon at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA). The display features immersive audio, reflected video fields, and photograph-based sculptures with images from the artist’s personal archive. For info, call (503) 242-1419 or visit <www.pica.org>.

AANHPI Heritage Month at Lan Su

Through May 31, 10am-6:30pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend “Celebrate Our Stories” events at Lan Su Chinese Garden during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Festivities include Cultural Immersion Saturdays, which highlight different cultures (May 9: Vietnam; May 16: India; May 23: China; May 30: Pacific Islanders), and “Taste of Home, Where the Heart Belongs,” a Chinese homestyle cooking demonstration with culinary expert Anna Xu (May 23, 11:00am to 12:30pm). Another feature is “Threading Together,” an exhibit of traditional clothing and attire; the participating

countries for 2026 are Thailand, Polynesia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Other programming includes a Mother’s Day special event on Sunday, May 10 (10:00am to 6:00pm), as well as music, dance, opera, drama, and acrobatics by Inner Mongolia Art Theatre on May 14 (1:00pm to 3:00pm). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org/celebrate-our-stories>.

“Minidoka on Our Minds”

Through June 14, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Minidoka on Our Minds,” an exhibit celebrating 25 years of preservation of the Minidoka National Historic Site, where many Nikkei from Oregon and Washington were forcibly incarcerated during World War II. The display features artwork by survivors, descendants, and Japanese American youth that highlight the park’s history and its importance as a site of memory. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

“Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints”

Through June 15, 10am-5:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View “Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints,” an exhibit featuring the art of mokuhanaga, a Japanese style of

Continued on page 14

OHS highlights the Yasui Family’s American Story

Continued from page 11

People of Japanese descent, both legal residents and American citizens, were uprooted and imprisoned.

Incarceration during World War II took an enormous mental and emotional toll. Many lost their homes, property, and businesses. Communities such as Hood River took a strong stance against people returning, so many, including Masuo and his wife Shidzuyo, moved to Portland.



OUR AMERICAN STORY. Along one wall of “The Yasui Family: An American Story” exhibit is a photograph of the Yasui Bros. Co. store in Hood River with every shelf filled with products available for sale. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society Research Library)

When the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act finally passed in 1952, Masuo organized classes to prepare Issei to become American citizens. He was, however, greatly affected by feelings of shame, fear, and suspicion that came from being unjustly imprisoned and he ultimately took his own life in 1957.

In the decades after the incarceration, Japanese Americans fought for restoration of their civil rights, monetary compensation, and most importantly, an apology from the U.S. government. With the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, a formal apology was given along with \$20,000 in monetary compensation to every surviving U.S. citizen or legal resident of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during World War II. Sadly, by the time of its passage, many former internees had already died.

Other topics covered in the display include Minoru Yasui and others taking the U.S. to court, the creation of A Day of Remembrance in the late 1970s, artwork created as part of the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project student contest, and much more. Throughout the exhibit, despite suffering racism, discrimination, and even incarceration, the Yasui family endured and advocated for justice and liberty.

There’s a short video just inside the entrance to the exhibit that features footage from 1986 of a Yasui family reunion at the family’s barn. I actually did

not stop to look at the video on my way in, but definitely enjoyed watching it before leaving, as it included many of the items I’d just seen in person.

Visitors may also watch an 8-minute, 16-second short film called *Matsutake*. Directed by Theodore Caleb Haas and produced by Mari Hayman, it features 95-year-old Homer Yasui and family members participating in a matsutake mushroom hunting adventure.

Everyone — youth and adults — can learn from the life experiences highlighted in “The Yasui Family: An American Story.” The artifacts, stories, and historical perspective are amazing. There’s so much more to this exhibit than can be included in this story, so plan a visit to see the display before it closes.

“The Yasui Family: An American Story” is on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum, which is located at 1200 S.W. Park Avenue in Portland, through September 6, 2026. Admission to the museum is free for Multnomah County residents. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

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Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 13

woodblock printmaking that uses wood, water-based pigments, and paper made from plant fibers. The display reveals how the centuries-old tradition is experiencing a contemporary revival as artists around the world use the quiet power and unique characteristics of woodblock printmaking to create captivating works of art. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

“Threading Together: AANHPI Traditional Attire Exhibit”

Through June 21, 10am-6:30pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend “Threading Together,” an exhibit of traditional clothing and attire, this year featuring garments from Thailand, Polynesia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Clothing is a powerful expression of culture, reflecting history, identity, and tradition through form, color, and pattern. Each Friday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, special interactive sessions — “Threading Together Show & Tell” — explore the stories behind traditional garments and how clothing reflects identity, heritage, and artistry (May 8: Korea; May 15: The Philippines; May 22: China; May 29: Japan). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Umico Niwa

Through July 3, 11am-5pm (Wed-Sat), ILY2 Portland (925 NW Flanders St, Portland). Attend an exhibit by Japan-born artist Umico Niwa at ILY2 Portland. For info, e-mail <info@ily2online.com> or visit <www.ily2online.com>.

Charlene Liu: “Scallion”

Through July 31, 10am-7pm (Thu), 10am-5pm (Fri-Sun), Henry Art Gallery (15th Ave NE & NE 41st St, Seattle). View “Scallion,” a mural presentation by Charlene Liu located in the Sculpture Court at the Henry Art Gallery. The work builds on her ongoing engagement with food as a means to locate culture and heritage amidst diaspora. Rendered in a fluid, multi-layered, visual language, the landscape offers a portal to reflect on how culinary traditions build belonging in place and playfully celebrates the importance of shared food experiences. For info, call (206) 543-2280 or visit <www.henryart.org>.

“Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea”

Through July 31, 10am-5pm (Tue-Fri), World Beat Gallery (390 Liberty St SE, Second Floor, Salem, Ore.). View “Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea,” an exhibit about the art, dance, music, and settlement of people in the Pacific Islands. The display includes weavings, fabric arts, carvings, and cultural artifacts, and a large portion of the gallery focuses on some of the dances of the Pacific Islands, such as Samoa, Tahiti, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Hawai'i, Tonga, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands. For info, call (503) 581-2004 or visit <www.salemmulticultural.org>.

“The Yasui Family: An American Story”

Through Sep 6, 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). View “The Yasui Family: An American Story,” a display that tells the story of the Yasui family, who were among the millions of immigrants who came to the United States seeking new opportunities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. They established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived. Following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, the U.S. government forcibly removed more than 110,000 Japanese Americans — including U.S. citizens — from their homes and imprisoned them in internment camps, often in harsh, remote areas. After the war,



BonsaiFEST! Immerse yourself in the beauty and serenity of bonsai culture at BonsaiFEST! The gathering, which takes place May 9 and 10 at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Washington, features hundreds of living works of art, live bonsai-making demonstrations, guided tours, games, food trucks, shopping, and more. (Photo courtesy of the Pacific Bonsai Museum)

many members of the Yasui family returned to Oregon, although some incarcerated chose not to return home due to persistent racism in their communities. While the Yasui family endured racism and incarceration, they also shared a commitment to equal justice through engagement with the local, state, and national forces that determined — and withheld — their civil rights. Through photographs, personal journals, documents, and objects, the exhibit explores how one Japanese American family's story reflects the complexity of the American story. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>. See story on page 11.

Voices of Change 2026

May 7, 5:30-8pm, World Forestry Center (4033 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Attend Voices of Change, the annual fundraiser of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. The 2026 theme, “Igniting Embers,” reflects the challenges we've faced over the past year and the strength we're building as we rise together. The evening features performances by the Cambodian Dance Troupe of Oregon and DJ Anjali and The Incredible Kid with the Gulabi Gang; speakers; and more. For info, or to register, call (971) 340-4861 or visit <www.apano.org>.

“A Glimpse of China”

May 9, 10:30am-5:30pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend “A Glimpse of China: Seattle Chinese Culture & Arts Festival” presented by Seattle Center Festal and the Washington Chinese Arts & Culture Committee (WCACC). The free event highlights the cultural roots and contemporary influences of China through live performances, visual arts, hands-on activities, games, a marketplace, food vendors, and more. For info, or to obtain event hours, call (206) 684-7200 or visit <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Mulan Drum Team

May 9, 1:30-2:30pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month with the Mulan Drum Team, an all-women drumming group with members from diverse backgrounds. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Densho Community Preservation Day

May 9, 1:30-5pm, Bellevue Library Makerspace (1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash.). Attend Densho Community Preservation Day, a DIY preservation workshop at which Densho and King County Library System Memory Lab staff share tips for preserving and archiving family photographs, home videos, documents, and mementos. Community members with materials specifically related to the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans are invited to share these invaluable objects with Densho. Densho is providing a mobile digitization kit to scan historical photos, documents, and other materials for inclusion in their online archives. The workshop is open to participants age 18 and older; registration is required. For info, call (425) 450-1765. To register (required), visit <https://kcls.biblicommons.com/events/69d6a29f8ddec1caf5f1ba1c8>.

The Orchid Trio

May 9, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Attend a free concert of classical music with a spring theme by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio features violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Origami Spring Flowers

May 9, 2-3:30pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Learn how to make origami flowers with origami artist Yuki Martin. Participants transform ordinary pieces of paper

into three-dimensional forms — paper tulips, trilliums, cherry blossoms, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Lone Fir Memorial open studio hours

May 9, 2-4pm, GeekEasy Anime Café (310 NW Davis St, Portland). Attend open studio hours featuring the Lone Fir Memorial artist team — Qi You and Sophia Xiao-fan Austrins. All community members are welcome to attend to talk with the artists and ask questions. For info, call (503) 797-1700, e-mail <lonefirgarden@oregonmetro.gov>, or visit <www.oregonmetro.gov/lonefirgarden>.

AAPI Night at the Portland Timbers

May 9, 7:30pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch the Portland Timbers take on Sporting Kansas City in Major League Soccer action as part of AAPI Night. The National Anthem for the match will be performed by Rachel Wong and other celebrations are held throughout the stadium. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.portlandtimbers.com>.

BonsaiFEST!

May 9-10, 10am-4pm, Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). Immerse yourself in the beauty and serenity of bonsai culture at the free, family-friendly BonsaiFEST! The gathering features hundreds of living works of art, live bonsai-making demonstrations, guided tours, games, food trucks, shopping, an arts and coloring tent for children, and more. Free admission for attendees is courtesy of 4Culture. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

Bollywood Family Dance Party

May 9 & 16; May 9, 3-4pm, Hollywood Library (4040 NE Tillamook St, Portland); May 16, 2-3pm, Hillsdale Library (1525 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland). Attend a Bollywood Family Dance Party as part of AANHPI Heritage Month festivities. Participants learn dance moves that will teleport you into a Bollywood world full of possibilities and big smiles, complete with the authentic Indian head shake. All skill levels are welcome. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Re-Rite” Musical

May 9 & 16, 5-9pm; May 9, APANO (12655 SW Center St, Beaverton, Ore.); May 16, Filipino Bayanihan Center (1537 SE Morrison St, Portland). Attend the “Re-Rite” Musical, an original Asian-American musical that reimagines South and Southeast Asian traditional dance music through contemporary, beat-driven songs and storytelling. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

AANHPI Speakers Panel

May 12, 4:30-7pm, Portland State University, Karl Miller Center (1828 SW Broadway, Portland). Attend an AANHPI Speakers Panel presented by API Forward, the Filipino American Northwest Association, and FilAmFest Portland. The panel is held from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and a networking social follows. Moderated by Christian Anicete and Anna Lyra Venaglia, the event features Dean Qing Hu of the Portland State University School of Business, Dr. Arlene Binoya-Strugar of the Naturelle WellEarth Foundation, Jhus Custodio of Re-Rite and the Portland Trail Blazers, Phuong Nguyen of OnPoint Credit Union, and Prasenjit Tito Chowdhury of FashionXT. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

J Chen Project's AAPI Heroes

May 12 & 16; May 12, 5:30-6:30pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland); May 16, 2:30-3:30pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Attend an inspiring performance by the J Chen Project, a dance company based in New York City, as part of AANHPI Heritage Month festivities. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>. To learn more, visit <www.jchenproject.com>.

Keiki Stories

May 12 & 17; May 12, 6:30-7:30pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland); May 17, 3-4pm, Northwest Library (2030 NW Pettygrove St, Portland). Celebrate Native Hawaiian culture and traditions making crafts and listening to keiki stories with Ka 'Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon & SW Washington. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>. To learn more, visit <www.kalohcc.org>.

AAPI Night with the Hillsboro Hops

May 14, 6:35pm, Hops Ballpark, Gordon Faber Recreation Complex (4530 NE Century Blvd, Hillsboro, Ore.). Watch the Hillsboro Hops take on the Spokane Indians on AAPI Night. By using access code “HOMERUN” when ordering tickets, a \$5 donation will be made to APANO. To buy tickets (code HOMERUN), visit <https://pa.exchange/marketplace/2c6525a8-1d6d-11f1-a67c-3b9a141d9fe/storefront/2c65271a-1d6d-11f1-a688-c57959ab37bd?emci=6731ac01-e938-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&emdi=7531ac01-e938-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&ceid=13211245>.

“Steep & Paint”

May 15 & 22, 2-5pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend the “Steep & Paint” series at Lan Su. In partnership with Oregon Botanical Artists (OBA), the immersive afternoon experience invites guests to slow down, look closely, and connect with plants through tea, conversation, and hands-on art-making. Each session weaves together horticulture, tea culture, and botanical art. All materials are included. For info, or to purchase tickets (required), call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Heart Strings Mandarin Trio

May 16, 4-4:45pm, North Portland Library (512 N Killingsworth St, Portland). Attend a performance by the Heart Strings Mandarin Trio as part of AANHPI Heritage Month. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“I Am An American Live:

Stories of Exclusion and Belonging”

May 16, 6pm (Happy Hour), 6:30pm (auditorium opens), 7-9:30pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Join The Immigrant Story for “I Am An American Live.” The event, titled “Stories of Exclusion and

Continued on page 17

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Obukan Judo Dojo crosses the century mark

The Obukan Judo Dojo, one of the oldest continuously operating judo schools in the United States, is celebrating its 100th year. Founded by members of Portland's Japanese community in 1926, the dojo has been a place to practice judo while fostering discipline, respect, and connection.

"Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit currently on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in downtown Portland, explores Obukan's deep roots in Portland's Japanese American community and its lasting impact on the city's cultural life.

The display honors the generations of students and instructors who sustained the dojo for a century. With photographs, trophies, memorabilia, uniforms, and more, the community's resilience and the enduring power of sport to build character and connection shines through.

Obukan Judo was founded at a time when Japanese immigrants faced widespread difficulties,



including discrimination and limited opportunities, so the dojo was more than a martial arts school. It grew into a community gathering place where friendship, mutual respect, and perseverance thrived.

It was a place where people could train, build friendships, and pass on cultural traditions.

Judo is a Japanese martial art and Olympic sport that incorporates throwing and pinning maneuvers. Judo was founded in

1882 by Jigoro Kano Shihan at the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo, Japan. (Shihan is an honorific meaning "master teacher.") Developed from earlier martial arts traditions, judo emphasizes balance, technique, and strategy rather than strength alone.

Kano Shihan believed judo was more than a sport. Its guiding principles — Mutual Welfare and Benefit (Jita Kyoei) and Maximum Efficiency (Seiryoku



DOJO MILESTONE. "Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy," an exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society Museum in downtown Portland, is on view through August 30, 2026. The display explores Obukan's deep roots in Portland's Japanese American community. (Photos/Evan Kierstead, courtesy of Oregon Historical Society Museum)

Zenyo) — encourage cooperation, discipline, and personal growth.

Obukan Judo Dojo's connection to judo's founder is especially significant, as he visited the Portland dojo twice in the 1930s. Obukan was also one of the last dojos he personally named before he passed away in 1938.

The Obukan Judo Dojo is located in northeast Portland. To learn more, call (503) 208-3035 or

visit <www.obukanjudo.org>.

"Obukan Judo: A 100-Year Portland Legacy" is on view at the Oregon Historical Society Museum, located at 1200 S.W. Park Avenue in Portland, through August 30, 2026. Admission to the museum is free for Multnomah County residents. For more information, please call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

Efforts to require Asian American history in schools after anti-Asian hate starting to pay off

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

When high school students in the West Hartford Public Schools district study World War II this year, they will learn about more than just the typical hallmarks like Japanese American detention camps. They will also hear about Sadao Munemori, a soldier who died protecting comrades from a grenade. The 22-year-old posthumously became the first Japanese American awarded the Medal of Honor.

Lessons like this that delve beyond the expected have left teachers humbled, said Jessica Blitzer, the district's social studies department supervisor who helped design curriculum for secondary grade levels.

"It's one of those moments where you think 'How have we not been doing that?' These are moments where you realize this is really important, particularly given the population that we have in West Hartford, which is incredibly diverse in many ways," Blitzer said.

Three years after Connecticut became the third state to require Asian American and Pacific Islander history in K-12 education, a developed curriculum is being put into motion. For now, instruction is

Asian surnames have been the fastest-growing in the U.S., according to Census Bureau report

By Mike Schneider
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The most popular last names in the U.S. might be unchanged from the previous decade, but Asian surnames were the fastest-growing at the start of this decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Smith, Johnson, Williams, Brown, and Jones remained the top five last names in the United States in 2020, as they were in 2010, according to a tally from the last U.S. head count. Most of the fastest-growing last names from 2010 to 2020 were Asian, according to the Census Bureau.

The top three of those were Zhang, Liu, and Wang. In the 21st century, Asians have been the fastest-growing of the country's largest racial or ethnic groups, and they now make up 7% of the U.S. population.

While Asian growth will continue to

being rolled out in every grade except fourth and fifth. Most of the district's 9,300 students will have lessons integrated year-round. It will not be "the heritage month approach," Blitzer said.

Since pandemic-fueled anti-Asian hate surged in 2020, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander advocates have mobilized to make AAPI history mandatory learning through legislation or state education boards. Today, most AAPI adults want educators to teach history through the lens of racism, slavery, and segregation, according to a 2024 survey. There have been some successes, with around a dozen states passing statutes requiring curriculum.

Beyond well-known events, classes are diving into topics like stereotypes of South Asians and Vietnamese refugees. But as efforts arise, so has disagreement among Asian Americans.

More progressive voices question the fairness and optics of seeking approval from lawmakers who have rejected history focused on other historically marginalized groups, such as expanded Black history curriculum that some critics more recently maligned as woke ideology or likened to critical race theory.

outpace overall U.S. growth, the immigration crackdown during the second Trump administration could slow down future expansion of that population in the United States, said Paul Ong, a public affairs professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Much of the growth of the Asian population has been driven by immigrants and their children," Ong said. "Consequently, when Asians crack the top surname rank will be pushed further into the future."

Rounding out the top 10 most common last names in 2020 were Garcia, Miller, Rodriguez, Davis, and Martinez. The only change from 2010 was Rodriguez, which jumped ahead of Davis for the No. 8 spot.

There were 7.8 million unique last names, according to the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau has tallied counts of the most common last names in each once-a-decade head count since 1990.

How teaching AAPI history finally came to the forefront

AAPI organizations devastated by reports of thousands of verbal and physical attacks, including the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings that left six Asian women dead, ramped up lobbying for more inclusive education. The hope was teaching about AAPI contributions would foster understanding. In July 2021, Illinois became the first state to mandate Asian American history. In 2022, New Jersey and Connecticut followed.

An expanded look at history includes reading accounts of new immigrants in San Francisco and Wong Kim Ark's Supreme Court fight for birthright citizenship. It also includes studying living figures like Chinese American architect Maya Lin.

Jason Oliver Chang, director of the University of Connecticut Asian and Asian American Studies Institute, helped develop legislation and train teachers. He remembers how lawmakers were moved by student testimonials.

"They were talking about their experiences sort of living two lives — one at school, one at home — feeling invisible and not feeling seen by their peers or respected by their peers," Chang said. "Any time there's a mention of someone that looks like them in a school curriculum, it's that they're the bad guys."

President Donald Trump has intensified scrutiny of how schools address race, threatening to withhold federal funds over diversity initiatives. The guidance has left some educators uncertain, despite some anti-DEI measures being blocked or put on hold by federal judges. Concerned teachers should stick to the framework and consult with colleagues, advises Kate Dias, president of Connecticut's largest teachers' union.

"Almost every person who teaches content of this nature does not do it in a way to say, 'Here's all the injustices of the world,'" Dias said. "The call to action is 'You need to now look at this information and you need to decide what it means.'"

Working with critics of race-conscious curriculum

Requiring AAPI history in schools has garnered bipartisan support. But in some conservative states, divisions have arisen over lawmakers who don't see systemic

racism and social justice as essential to history.

When Florida adopted AAPI history legislation in 2023, critics saw it as hypocritical given the state denied Advanced Placement African American studies for being "critical race theory."

In Arizona, failed legislation mandating AAPI and Native Hawaiian history lessons was initially endorsed by some past presidents of the Japanese American Citizens League. The Arizona chapter came out against it. Current JAACL leaders also withheld their support.

Chapter leaders asserted the bill's co-sponsor, state Republican senator John Kavanagh, and other supporters were only interested in rubber-stamping a sanitized history and ignoring African American and LGBTQ+ history.

Kavanagh equates talk of systemic racism with indoctrination. He previously supported barring college groups based on racial or ethnic identity and high school ethnic studies classes that seemed politicized.

He says teaching the history must be done in a "neutral, thorough manner."

"I certainly have no problem teaching the history of Blacks or Hispanics or anybody," Kavanagh said. "I don't think there should be a course in a high school teaching students that this country is systemically racist when it's not."

The Arizona chapter of Make Us Visible, a national organization trying to establish AAPI history in every state, has faced criticism for not calling out right-leaning legislators. Astria Wong, chapter director, dismissed it.

"It's really a good thing that even a conservative senator will support it. That means there is some bones in it," Wong said. "It should be bipartisan anyway."

Amber Reed, co-executive director of AAPI New Jersey, finds it upsetting.

"What teacher wants to suddenly start teaching Asian American history while sort of being discouraged from teaching African American history or Latinx history, the history of all of our communities," Reed said.

A "deeper, richer" look at American history

Before next summer, West Hartford Public Schools will assess how to improve curricula.

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Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 14

Belonging,” features four storytellers from Vietnam, China, the Philippines, and Burma sharing their experiences of what it means to belong in America — even while at times being excluded — and what has inspired them to become agents of change. The event is part of programming by the Oregon Rises Above Hate coalition in honor of AANHPI Heritage Month. For info, or to reserve tickets (highly suggested), call (971) 501-7722 or visit <www.thereser.org>.

The Orchid Trio

May 16 & 23; May 16, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland); May 23, 2-3pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Attend a free concert by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio — violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu — will perform music originating from Asia. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration in Lake Oswego

May 17, noon-3pm, Millennium Plaza Park (200 1st St, Lake Oswego, Ore.). Attend the Lake Oswego AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration. The afternoon features performances and a marketplace featuring AANHPI-owned businesses, artisans, food vendors, and local nonprofits. The main program, which runs from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, includes Tahitian rhythms and storytelling, dragon and lion dances, and more. For info, visit <www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/community-events>.

Origami Spring Flowers for tweens & teens

May 17, 2-3:30pm, Sellwood-Moreland Library (7860 SE 13th Ave, Portland). Tweens and teens are invited to learn how to make origami flowers with origami artist Yuki Martin. Participants transform ordinary pieces of paper into three-dimensional forms — paper tulips, trilliums, cherry blossoms, and more. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Paradise of Samoa Dance Troupe

May 17, 3-4pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Watch a performance by the Paradise of Samoa Dance Troupe featuring colorful and authentic music and dance from the islands of Hawai'i, Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Tonga, and Fiji. The event includes cultural history narrated between dances. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Voices of the World – IRCO Gala 2026”

May 21, 5:30pm (reception), 6:30pm (program), Portland Art Museum, Kridel Grand Ballroom (1219 SW Park Ave, Portland). Attend “Voices of the World — IRCO Gala 2026,” an event highlighting five decades of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) empowering refugee and immigrant communities in Portland and beyond. The event features cultural performances, inspiring stories, dinner, and more. Contributions raised during the celebration directly benefit families and clients of IRCO. To reserve a space, call (503) 234-1541 or visit <www.irc.org>.

Asian Night Market

May 22, 5-10pm, Eugene Downtown Farmers Market Pavilion & Plaza (8th St & Oak St, Eugene, Ore.). Enjoy culture and community at the 2026 Asian Night Market in Eugene. Hosted by the Asian American Council of Oregon, the evening features live cultural performances, Asian cuisine, and a

U.S. Postal Service celebrates martial arts icon Bruce Lee with a forever stamp

Continued from page 10

art during this time, which he ultimately named Jeet Kune Do, which roughly translates as “the way of the intercepting fist.” He used a philosophical foundation instead of rigid traditional martial arts to create a free-flowing approach. At its core were the ideas of simplicity, directness, and personal freedom. “When there is freedom from mechanical conditioning, there is simplicity,” he wrote in his posthumously published book *Tao of Jeet Kune Do*.

Several years passed before Lee starred in a Hollywood-Hong Kong movie co-production. Released in 1972, *Enter the Dragon* became a worldwide phenomenon. It was eventually added to the National Film Registry, which honors “culturally, historically, or aesthetically” significant motion pictures.

Sadly, Lee passed away before *Enter the Dragon* was released to American audiences and became a global success. On July 20, 1973, a month before the film’s premiere, Bruce fell into a coma while asleep. He died at age 32 of cerebral edema.

In the following decades, Bruce Lee’s legend grew. In 1999, he was included in *TIME* magazine’s list of the Top 100 Most Important People of the Century. In 2012, the U.S. House of Representatives paid tribute to him with an official statement calling Lee “a true catalyst for social change and civil rights” and “a cultural and American icon.” The statement concluded that Lee “remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for future generations in America.”

The Bruce Lee USPS stamp is available in panes of 20. It’s a Forever stamp, so it will always be equal in value to the current one-ounce first-class mail price.

To learn more about Bruce Lee, readers are encouraged to view “Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee,” an interactive exhibit currently on view at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, located at 719 S. King Street in Seattle. The display



HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS. “Pacific Islanders: Navigators of the Sea,” an exhibit about the art, dance, music, and settlement of people in the Pacific Islands, is on view through July 31 at the World Beat Gallery in Salem. (Photo courtesy of the World Beat Gallery)

marketplace of local craft vendors. For info, e-mail <info@asiancouncil.org> or visit <www.asiancouncil.org/asian-night-market-2026>.

Pasifika & Asian American Community Science Night

May 22, 6-9pm, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). Join community members and the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry for the fourth annual Pasifika & Asian American Community Science Night. The event welcomes visitors of all ages for an evening of museum exploring, science demonstrations, vendor tables, and cultural entertainment. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.oms.edu>.

APIC SPS AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration

May 23, 11am-4pm, South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey Campus, Building #1 (4220 6th Ave SE, Lacey, Wash.). Enjoy performances, food vendors, activities, and more at a family-friendly AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration presented by the Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition of South Puget Sound (APIC SPS). The event, held in partnership with the City of Olympia and area community organizations, highlights AANHPI communities, cultures, traditions, and experiences. For info, call (323) 609-5757, e-mail <apic.southpugetsound@gmail.com>, or visit <www.apicsouthpugetsound.org>.

AANHPI Food Fest

May 23, noon-3pm, Director Park (815 SW Park Ave, Portland). Taste vibrant AANHPI cuisine and meet the chefs behind some of our area’s beloved eateries at AANHPI Food Fest, an event presented by API Forward, the Filipino American Northwest Association, and FilAmFest Portland. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Washington County AANHPI Educational Fair

May 27, 10am-2pm, Public Services Building (155 N First Ave, Hillsboro, Ore.). Join Washington County employees celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month at their second annual Educational Fair. The event, which is free and open to the public, features information booths, a chance to win prizes, and more.



GONE TOO SOON. The Bruce Lee stamp created by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has a yellow calligraphic brushstroke on a white background, which, according to USPS, is a reference to Lee’s iconic yellow tracksuit in the film *The Game of Death*, which was released years after his death. Pictured is a promotional poster for *The Game of Death*.

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.

For more information about “Be Water, My Friend,” or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Hula for the Family

May 30, 10:30-11:30am, Kenton Library (8226 N Denver Ave, Portland). Discover the art of hula at Hula for the Family, a hands-on, all-ages cultural adventure. Participants learn about authentic Hawaiian culture through language, song, and dance. No experience is required; just bring an open heart and a willingness to have fun. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

The Orchid Trio: Journey to China

May 30, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Attend Journey to China, a free concert highlighting traditional music performed by The Orchid Trio in celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month. The Orchid Trio features violinist Siying Ge, violist Deborah Shuster, and cellist Quinn Liu. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

“Islands to Asia — A Runway of Heritage”

May 30, 6-9pm, Shawn Gardner Dancing (8900 SW Commercial St, Tigard, Ore.). Attend “Islands to Asia — A Runway of Heritage,” an AANHPI fashion show celebrating the stories, styles, and roots that connect us. For more info, call (971) 221-7070 or visit <www.filamfestpdx.com>.

Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival

June 6-7, 11am-7pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend the Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival, a celebration of Filipino culture, history, and heritage presented by Seattle Center Festal. The free event observes Philippine independence from colonial rule and the strength of Filipino identity and imagination through art exhibits, performances, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.festalpagdiriwang.com>.



TEACHING TOLERANCE. A sign posted outside kindergarten teacher Christin Labriola’s classroom shows the diverse population of her students at Webster Hill Elementary School in West Hartford, Connecticut. Three years after Connecticut became the third state to require Asian American and Pacific Islander history in K-12 education, a developed curriculum is being put into motion. In the bottom photo, teacher Labriola reads the book *Dumpling Soup* by Jama Kim Rattigan to students at Webster Hill Elementary School. (AP Photos/Jessica Hill)

Efforts to require Asian American history in schools after anti-Asian hate starting to pay off

Continued from page 16

The goal is not to teach just “doom and gloom” to the student body — of which white children make up about 55%, Hispanics 21%, and Asians and Black students more than 10% each — but a balanced look at history, said assistant superintendent Anne McKernan.

“There’s resistance, there’s perseverance, there’s greatness,” McKernan said. “As I look through the changes in elementary and the changes in secondary, it’s a richer look.”

Elementary grades are using books to learn culture, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, said Erika Hanusch, district literacy and social studies curriculum specialist. For example, kindergartners are reading the picture book *Dumpling Soup* by Jama Kim Rattigan. Centered around a family in Hawai'i, the characters come from different Asian backgrounds.

“It’s really more so embedded through story and lens,” Hanusch said. “And it’s giving teachers and students that natural opportunity to learn a little bit more about the where and the who and the traditions that come from those stories.”

Tang reported from Phoenix.

Events calendar



SUNDAY PARKWAYS. Attend the first Portland Sunday Parkways of the season on May 17. The route in Southwest Portland includes stops at Gabriel Park, the Multnomah Arts Center, Spring Garden Park, Village Park, and Multnomah Village. (Photo courtesy of the Portland Bureau of Transportation)

Phantom of the Opera

Through May 10, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *Phantom of the Opera*, a musical that tells the tale of a disfigured musical genius known only as “The Phantom,” who haunts the depths of the Paris Opera House. Mesmerized by the talents and beauty of a young soprano, Christine, The Phantom lures her as his protégé and falls fiercely in love with her. Andrew Lloyd Webber’s score includes “The Music of the Night,” “All I Ask of You,” “Masquerade,” and more. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 8 and above, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. The show contains theatrical haze, fog, prop guns, blank firing, and open flame. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

Repair Café

May 9, noon-3pm, Leaven Community Center (5431 NE 20th Ave, Portland). Repair PDX is holding a Repair Café in northeast Portland. Volunteers are on hand fixing small appliances, mending garments, sharpening tools/knives, and repairing bikes on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, or to let volunteers know in advance what items you might bring in, call (503) 893-9656, e-mail <RepairPDX@gmail.com>, or visit <www.RepairPDX.org>.

Oregon Tradeswomen’s Career Fair

May 16, 9am-3pm, Portland Expo Center, Hall E (2060 N Marine Dr, Portland). Attend the 31st annual Oregon Tradeswomen’s Career Fair, a free, interactive, trades-related career event highlighting apprenticeship and debt-free training options for careers in the construction, manufacturing, mechanical, energy, and utility industries. To learn more, call (503) 335-8200 or visit <www.oregontradeswomen.org/fair>.

Sunday Parkways: Southwest Portland

May 17, 11am-4pm, Gabriel Park (SW 45th Ave & Vermont St, Portland), Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland), Spring Garden Park (3332 SW Spring Garden St, Portland), Village Park (SW 36th Ave & Troy St, Portland), and Multnomah Village. Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, and more around southwest Portland without motor traffic during a Sunday Parkways event. Entertainment, live music, bike education and repair, activities for both adults and children, and more take place in the parks and along a 2-mile multi-modal route as well as a separate 2.6-mile walking route. Both options are two-way routes. For info, call (503) 823-7599 or visit <www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways/2026>. To receive event updates, text “Southwest” to 1-888-520-0526.

Portland Thorns FC

May 17, 20 & 30; May 17, 3pm; May 20, 7pm; May 30, 1pm; Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch Portland Thorns FC take on Angel City FC (May 17), Bay FC (May 20), and the Utah Royals (May 30) in the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.thorns.com>.

Oregon Statewide Election

May 19, 8pm. The Oregon Statewide Election takes place on Tuesday, May 19. Ballots must be delivered to an approved ballot collection box by May 19 at 8:00pm. For other options, visit <www.oregonvotes.org> or go to your county elections office.

“Race, Citizenship, and Labor”

May 21, noon-1pm, Virtual. Attend “Oregon Connections: Race, Citizenship, and Labor,” a free virtual conversation with Jennifer Fang and Jo Ogden. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 222-1741 or visit <https://orhs.ejoinme.org/OregonConnections>.

Centennial Neighborhood Bike Fair

May 29, 2:45-5:45pm, Parklane Elementary School (15811 SE Main St, Portland). Attend the Centennial Neighborhood Bike Fair. The free, family-friendly event features activities such as learn-to-ride coaching for adults and children, a quick-fix bike repair station, helmet fitting, bike safety stations, a Bike Skills Course, guided community rides in the neighborhood, and more. Participants are welcome to bring their own bikes or borrow one during the event. There will be different bike sizes available for children and adults. For info, call (503) 823-7699, e-mail <timo.forsberg@portlandoregon.gov>, or visit <www.portland.gov>.

Mamma Mia!

June 2-7, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *Mamma Mia!*, a musical that tells a tale of love, friendship, and identity through the timeless hits of ABBA. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 6 and above, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. The show contains theatrical fog, haze, and strobe/flashing lights. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

The “becoming Chinese” meme shows China’s soft power moment is here

Continued from page 5

Sherry Zhu, a 23-year-old from New Jersey, posted a couple of videos last year joking about how if you liked noodles and hotpot and wore slippers at home you were Chinese. One of her videos was shared almost a million times in December, and other TikTokers quickly caught on with the “becoming Chinese” meme.

But the trend has also raised thornier questions. For many Chinese people who have long faced discrimination in the west, the internet’s fascination with Chinese culture seems to be the latest form of cultural appropriation.

“Appreciation does not erase the racism that many Chinese people grew up with,” said Elise Zeng, 28, from Brooklyn, New York. A video she posted critiquing the social media phenomenon was liked by more than 36,000 people.

She recalls how during the COVID-19 pandemic she was afraid for her parents stepping out of the house because they heard about people getting attacked just walking down the street. At the time, many Asians reported being assaulted or verbally abused by people who blamed East Asians for the spread of the virus.

“Those experiences don’t just disappear because Chinese culture is suddenly cool and trendy,” she said.

Zhu acknowledged that she, too, has experienced bullying based on her identity, but said she was proud of her Chinese heritage. “I believe that visibility and cultural sharing can reduce misunderstanding over time,” she said.

China’s success in soft power has been building

The meme is riding on a broader embrace of Chinese popular culture that’s been building globally.

The frenzy over Labubus, the fuzzy ugly-cute dolls carried by the likes of Rihanna and other top celebrities, reached a peak last spring and summer, bringing a 300% rise in annual profit for Chinese parent company PopMart.

Several other cultural exports with more distinctly Chinese attributes have also found global success. On TikTok, the Chinese rapper known as Skaii isyourgod or “Lanlao” has gained fans around the world — even though he raps in Cantonese and with a thick regional accent, which many people in China wouldn’t understand either.

But that didn’t matter. Skaii isyourgod’s single “Blueprint Supreme” went viral last summer in China and abroad, amassing billions of views on TikTok globally.

Last year *Ne Zha 2*, the animated blockbuster about a young god from a popular Chinese children’s tale, became the highest grossing animated film of all time even before its release in North America.

Another success, the big budget video game *Black Myth: Wukong*, was similarly based on a story familiar to many Chinese kids about an adventurous monkey hero. The game broke the record for most-played single-player game on Steam when 2.4 million people played it simultaneously after its release.

More recently, Chinese digital maps like Amap have gone viral on social media over standard ones like Apple or Google for their level of detail, such as the ability to inform users if they will be in the shade versus the sun.

Soft power goes beyond official narratives

Xi has long pushed for his government to promote Chinese soft power abroad, calling on officials to “tell China’s story well” since 2013.

They have attempted to do so with ambitious projects like the multibillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative — a plan to build Chinese-funded infrastructure across the world — and investing in hundreds of Confucius Institutes.

But many Confucius Institutes, meant to be Beijing-funded centers teaching Chinese language and culture, have shut down in the west over concerns they were fronts for spying and propaganda, while the Belt and Road Initiative has been criticized as a debt trap by western countries.

China’s ascending hard power has been well documented. It is the dominant manufacturer in the green energy sector, most visibly with its electric vehicles, but also across solar energy. It has the world’s second-largest military, behind the U.S. It is a manufacturing powerhouse, and its exports have swept the world.

Soft power, in contrast, is harder to quantify — or manufacture. China’s government has been eager to capitalize on the latest social media trend and throw state support behind cultural moments after they’ve broken out.

Global Times, a state-owned tabloid, claimed that the popularity of the “becoming Chinese” meme is linked to the success of “China’s social development.”

But the more officials vocally claim such successes and frame them as part of the “China story,” the more it may be received with skepticism, said Yuan, the professor.

“Cultural influence travels farther when it is chosen rather than announced,” he said.

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BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

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METRO

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RFP 4581

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DEADLINE, NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON DESIGNATED FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS

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PRE PROPOSAL MEETING

A voluntary pre-proposal conference for all potential prime contractors is scheduled on April 21, 2026, at 10:00am at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Interested sub-contractors are also invited.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

A facilities conditions assessment was performed in early 2026 showing that the HVAC equipment (chiller, boiler, and an air handling unit) for the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall is past its useful life. Metro requires architectural and engineering design services from a qualified firm for the purpose of analyzing existing conditions and preparing comprehensive construction documents to be used for soliciting bids for construction and installation of the new equipment.

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS

RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at:

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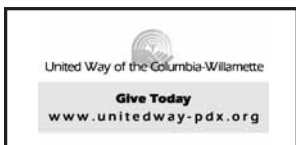
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The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.



FILIPINO FARMWORKERS. United Farm Workers leader César Chávez, left, who led the fight as head of the AFL-CIO union local, talks with Larry Itliong, leader of the Filipino Agriculture Workers Organizing Committee, in front of union headquarters in Delano, California, in this July 28, 1967 file photo. (AP Photo/Harold Filan, File)

Abuse claims prompt reflection on the history of Filipino farmworkers in the U.S.

Continued from page 7

Filipino farmworkers movement. For example, Hispanic female members of the United Farm Workers were busy raising their families and preparing food for meetings.

"Nobody's crediting them in the minutes of the meeting," Gonzalez said. "Who's missing from the story? In the United Farmworkers movement, folks will say 'It's Larry Itliong and the Filipino farmworkers.' But I would also say 'Where are the women?'"

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After a paralyzing stroke, a South Korean pianist re-creates himself as a one-handed performer

By Hyung-Jin Kim
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — When a major stroke paralyzed South Korean pianist Lee Hun's right side in 2012, he first worried about whether he would ever walk again. Playing the piano wasn't even a consideration.

He returned to the piano only after a mentor told him about a large number of piano pieces for the left hand alone.

After exhaustive practice he made a comeback, playing recitals as South Korea's only known professional left-hand-only pianist.

He is now preparing for a new challenge: his first joint performance with an orchestra at an international music festival.

"I'm so, so nervous I could die," Lee, 54, said with a smile during a recent interview with The Associated Press at his Seoul home. "It's just one concerto but working with an orchestra has its own difficulties."

Thrown into despair

In August 2012, Lee, then a doctorate candidate at the music school at the University of Cincinnati, abruptly collapsed at his home.

He survived after extensive surgery, but the stroke damaged about 60% of his brain's left hemisphere. He couldn't move his right arm and leg and suffered temporary aphasia.

Lee was later brought back to South Korea in a wheelchair. His father, Lee Hae Chang, a baseball legend in South Korea, said his son couldn't recognize him upon arrival.

"After the stroke, I didn't even imagine playing the piano. I only thought about whether I could stand on my feet again," Lee Hun said.

Performing with five fingers

Lee's condition was also hard on his family, who had to care for him daily. His mother Poong Ok Hee recalled she had fought a lot with her son because of his mood swings. He often resisted her advice and assistance.

Things began changing after he dined



with his former piano teacher, Chun Yung Hae, in 2013. Chun encouraged him to play the piano again, saying there were more than 1,000 pieces for the left hand alone. That rekindled his passion for the piano, and Lee began practicing immediately that night.

In 2016, Lee made a formal debut as a one-handed pianist at Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, where he received treatment and rehabilitation. After performing Camille Saint-Saens' "6 Etudes for the Left Hand Alone," Lee played "Amazing Grace" with Chun, with Lee using his left hand and Chun her right hand. At least one spectator cried.

"He is a pianist so he must play the piano. He was completely hopeless and in despair, so I tried to give him some hope. But I didn't expect him to play as well as this," said Chun, who served as dean of the College of Music at Seoul's Kyung Hee University.

Performing a masterpiece with orchestra

Lee has steadily given recitals, appeared on TV programs, and written a memoir. He now walks without assistance and communicates relatively smoothly in Korean.

Local media dub him as "Korea's Paul Wittgenstein," an acclaimed Austrian pianist who is considered a pioneer in one-handed piano music. He lost his right arm in World War I and commissioned left-hand repertoires by famed composers, including Ravel, Strauss, Prokofiev, and Britten. His brother was philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Lee was scheduled to appear over the weekend at the annual Icheon Young-Artist International Music Festival in South Korea, performing with a festival orchestra. They'll play Ravel's "Piano Concerto for the Left Hand," which was also commissioned by Wittgenstein.

It's a highly difficult piece for a pianist, Lee said, but it's something he's been eager to play.

PERSISTENT PIANIST. South Korean pianist Lee Hun demonstrates how to play the piano after an interview in Seoul, South Korea. When a major stroke paralyzed Lee's right side in 2012, he first worried about whether he would ever walk again. Playing the piano wasn't even a consideration. He returned to the piano only after a mentor told him about a large number of piano pieces for the left hand alone. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

Chung Eun-hyon, head of Lee's agency, Tool Music, said Lee has told him it's his dream to play the concerto. Chung said he feels deeply emotional as he helps "make his dream come true."

Dreams of a two-handed comeback

Before becoming a one-handed pianist, Lee said he focused on how to perfect skills to wow audiences. Now, he agonizes over how to convey his emotions and interpretation of music to people.

"He plays a sort of music that truly touches the heart of people and it's not about finger dexterity," said Lee Eungkwang, head of a cultural foundation responsible for the Icheon festival.

"I'm really curious what it was like when he played with both hands," Lee said.

Lee Hun said he hopes to make a two-handed comeback one day, saying he succeeded in pressing a piano key once with his right hand at a concert in November 2024.

Medically speaking, prospects for Lee regaining the use of his right hand and performing with both hands are dim, according to his doctor at St. Mary's Hospital, Koo Jaseong.

"I still would like to give him a round of applause to his efforts. Though rare, there have been reports of miraculous recoveries too," Koo said.

Will Trump's reclassifying of medical marijuana have any impact on criminal justice reform?

Continued from page 8

dustry regulations, she added.

The Last Prisoner Project and other organizations are planning to renew a dialogue with federal lawmakers, including the Congressional Cannabis Caucus, which includes Democratic Representative Ilhan Omar and Republican Representative David Joyce. They will also continue to lobby for Trump to conduct a large-scale act of commutation and clemency.

Advocates are also hoping Trump's order will prompt every state to rethink their marijuana classification and penalties.

"It is imperative that every state review their situation, as a lot of their controlled substances at the state level are tied to the federal government," Ortiz said. "We're gonna see other states that are going to need a little help from the public to remind them what the right thing to do is."

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