The Asian Reporter

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Indonesia returns 20 green sea turtles to the ocean after Bali smuggling raid



TURTLE TRIBULATIONS. *Police officers release green sea turtles back into the ocean at Serangan Beach after they were found and seized on an empty boat seemingly abandoned by wildlife smugglers fleeing a police raid, on Bali island, Indonesia. Marine police officers in Bali foiled an attempt to smuggle 22 green sea turtles, known by the scientific name* Chelonia mydas*, in the waters off Serangan Island after receiving a report from residents who suspected sea turtle smuggling activity in the area. All of the turtles, which are protected species in Indonesia, were found alive on the boat, but the suspected smugglers had already fled the scene by the time officers arrived.* *See story on page 20.* *(AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)*



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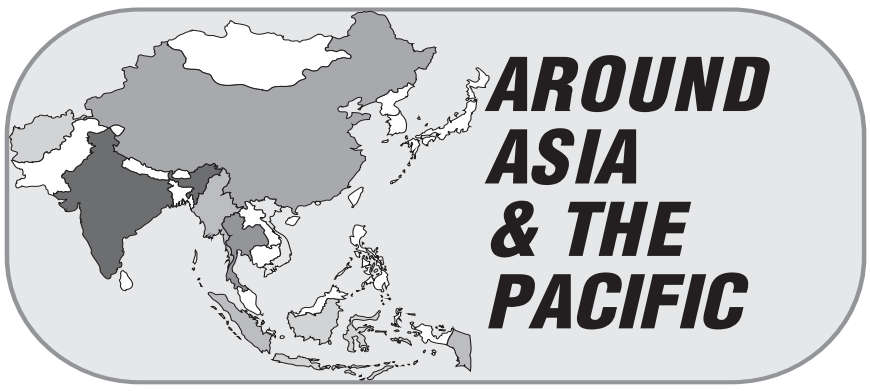
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Display advertising space reservations for our special Year of the Sheep issue are due ***Monday, January 18 at 5:00pm***.

The Asian Reporter's Lunar New Year special issue will be published on Monday, February 1, 2027.



Harmanpreet Kaur steps down as India cricket captain

NEW DELHI (AP) — Harmanpreet Kaur, the only cricketer to lead India to a Women's World Cup title, has given up the captaincy after 10 years. "I feel I have done my duty. I gave this team everything I had," the 37-year-old Kaur said. One of the greatest match-winners for India said she often put aside personal goals for the team. Kaur first captained India as a stand-in at the 2012 Women's T20 Asia Cup and led them to the title. She became the full-time Twenty20 captain in 2016, was elevated to the one-day international captaincy in 2022, and took over as the all-format leader in 2023. This year, Kaur became the most-capped international player in women's cricket. Her other highlights include India's maiden ODI World Cup triumph last year in Navi Mumbai and successive T20 Asian Games gold medals, most recently in Japan in September. Kaur had spoken of leading the team to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, for which India has qualified, but her mind was changed after a team review meeting with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia, coach Amol Muzumdar, and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. "Harmanpreet Kaur's contribution as captain will always hold a special place in the history of Indian cricket," BCCI president Mithun Manhas said. Kaur will continue to be available as a player. She said, "I'm ready to play for the love of the game again."

Japan launches spacecraft to mysterious moons of Mars

JAPAN (AP) — A Japanese spacecraft rocketed toward Mars in October on a quest to explore its mysterious moons and bring back samples. Five of the world's space agencies joined forces for the five-year mission that will attempt to land a robotic prospector plus a rover on Phobos, the larger and closer of Mars' two pint-sized moons. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), which is leading the bold sampling effort, launched the spacecraft before dawn from the country's main spaceport on Tanegashima Island. Officials declared success an hour later when the spacecraft separated as planned from the rocket's upper stage. Flight controllers burst into applause and jumped to their feet, shaking hands and embracing. While NASA has successfully landed nine spacecraft on Mars over the past 50 years and China scored a 2021 touchdown, no one has ever reached Phobos or its sidekick Deimos. And no one has managed to fetch samples from Mars, let alone its moons. If successful, bits of dust, soil, and rocks from Phobos will arrive on Earth in 2031. "There's a lot of adrenaline and a lot of excitement and a lot of wow," said NASA astrophysicist Tom Statler, who's involved with the project. Japan has an edge going in, with two asteroid sample returns already under its cosmic belt. Phobos is a lumpy, potato-shaped rock just 14 miles or so across. Examining pieces of it can explain how Mars' moons — and possibly moons elsewhere — came to be. Dubbed MMX for Martian Moons Exploration, the $578-million mission features a hefty 5-ton spacecraft that should reach Mars by late next summer. It will sync up with Phobos' tight orbit around the red planet, before ejecting the French-German rover that's named Idefix after the white terrier in the Asterix comics. No bigger than a microwave oven, Idefix will plop onto Phobos by itself, bouncing for several minutes before coming to a halt in the moon's extraordinarily low gravity.

Son Heung-min becomes S. Korea's all-time leading scorer

YONGIN, South Korea (AP) — Son Heung-min became South Korea's all-time leading scorer when his 59th goal helped the team beat Uzbekistan 2-0 in a friendly in early October. The sixth-minute free kick moved Son past Cha Bum-kun's record of 58. Cha retired from international soccer after the 1986 World Cup. Oh Se-hun added a second goal as South Korea won comfortably. Son also holds South Korea's appearance record with 151 caps. He made his international debut in 2010 and has played at four World Cups. The 34-year-old joined Los Angeles FC in 2025 after a decade with Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League. The win ended a mixed international break for South Korea and interim coach Robert Moreno. The team beat Ecuador 3-0, lost to Uruguay 1-4, and drew with Venezuela 0-0. South Korea and Uzbekistan are preparing for the 2027 Asian Cup which kicks off in Saudi Arabia on January 7.

Malaysia bans civil servants from using Waze app

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia has banned civil servants from using the navigation application Waze, citing data security concerns due to its Israeli links. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's office said in a statement that the decision took into account the status of Waze Mobile Limited as a data controller incorporated in Israel and operating under Israeli law. "Sensitive government information and the personal data of citizens must be protected from being exploited by the Israeli regime in a manner that could compromise national security and sovereignty," the statement said. It said Anwar urged all Malaysians to also cease using Waze and switch to local alternatives such as the TuJu application, which offers robust security guarantees and personal data protection. The Waze restriction adds a digital security dimension to that policy. Waze was developed in Israel before it was bought by U.S. tech company Google in 2013.

Hideki Matsui hired as manager of the Yomiuri Giants

TOKYO (AP) — Former New York Yankees slugger Hideki Matsui has been named the new manager of the Yomiuri Giants, his club until his departure for the United States. The 52-year-old Matsui hit a combined 507 home runs in Japan and the United States in a 20-year pro career. Matsui moved in 2003 to Major League Baseball and spent most of his career with the Yankees. He batted .282 with 175 home runs and 760 RBI in MLB. In Japan before that, he hit .304 with 332 home runs and 889 RBI. Matsui replaces interim manager Hideki Hashigami, who took over in May after Shinnosuke Abe resigned from the job.



BLESSINGS BESTOWED. *In this photo taken with a smartphone, pets wait while attending a service to mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology, at the Malate Church in Manila, the Philippines. (AP Photo/Joeal Calupitan)*

Wagging tails fill a Philippine church where priests bless pets for St. Francis feast

By Joeal Calupitan and Eileen Ng
The Associated Press

MANILA, The Philippines — It's a day for wagging tails, happy faces, and a special annual blessing at a church in the Philippine capital.

Every October 4, Catholics mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology, remembered for his humility, compassion, and deep love for all living things. Many parishes choose the first Sunday of October to hold community animal blessings or St. Francis service events.

At Malate Church in Manila, parishioners marked the feast by bringing their beloved pets for a special blessing — mostly dogs but also cats and even a pet snail.

They were "blessing the animals and plants and this is so much in relation to the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi ... so the Malate parish has been advocating this one," said Father Leonito Distor, parish priest of the church.

Parishioners formed a line as they walked up the aisle with their pets, waiting patiently for a priest to sprinkle their companions with holy water.

For pet owners, it was a simple expression of gratitude for the unconditional love, joy, and companionship these animal friends bring into their lives every day while honoring St. Francis' call to respect and care for all of God's creation.

"They are part of our family ... Not exactly like us in the sense that they can't speak, but they do have emotions," said 32-year-old nurse Gaudine Supnet, who owns four Shih Tzu dogs. "I want them to feel, in some way, that we are grateful for their presence in our lives; that's why we have them blessed."

The church also organized free pet vaccinations for dogs and cats in the church parking lot.

Associated Press writer Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contributed to this report.

A U.S. cruise ship suspends a global voyage in Asia due to fuel costs, stranding 200 passengers

By Sopheng Cheang
The Associated Press

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia — A U.S. cruise ship on an around-the-world voyage that touted its cabins as floating homes suspended its three-year journey in Cambodia due to fuel costs, forcing hundreds of passengers to disembark.

The *MV Odyssey* set sail two years ago on a voyage to the seven continents marketed as combining long-term living at sea with global travel. Its operator had offered to "make the *Odyssey* your permanent home," with the purchase price of a suite for the lifetime of the vessel starting around $230,000.

For now, it is docked at the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville on the Gulf of Thailand, with no certain departure date.

The ship has been carrying 203 passengers, mostly Americans, along with 156 crew mem-

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Units per U.S. dollar as of 10/30

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South Korean Won	1335.3
Sri Lankan Rupee	332.55
Taiwan Dollar	32.64
Thai Baht	33.701
Vietnam Dong	25796

A city in South Korea seeks new ways to free a huge gray shark after it slips back into canal

By Kim Tong-Hyung
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A city in South Korea was still trying in late October to come up with a new way to free a huge dusky shark out of a narrow canal. Workers in the port city of Busan had herded the shark, nicknamed Bukangi, out of the canal on October 21, after weeks of trial and error — only for it to swim right back in hours later.

Busan authorities and the country's Oceans and Fisheries Ministry are determined to guide Bukangi back to open water, saying it is critical for the shark's safety and health.

The unconventional rescue effort involved dozens of workers maneuvering a floating platform through the canal to push the 9.8-foot-long female shark out. After lingering in nearby waters for hours, the shark swam beneath an outer barrier net installed on the platform that night and reentered the waterway.

According to officials, Bukangi is now stuck between that net and a second one about 55 yards into the mouth of the canal, with on-site inspectors and rescuers debating ways to guide it back out as the shark circles the small patch of water.

Lee Gwang-seok, an official with the Oceans and Fisheries Ministry, said Bukangi was unlikely to slip past more barriers and move farther up the canal, considering the density of the nets and the narrow waterway in that section that leaves little room for the shark to squeeze through.

There were no signs that the shark had been feeding regularly during its monthlong stay in the canal, and falling water temperatures could pose additional health risks, officials say.

The local Busan authorities did not immediately say when a new rescue effort for Bukangi would proceed.

Marine scientists are perplexed as to why the shark is staying in the canal

Sharing the Korean name of Busan's North Port, where it was first spotted in mid-September, Bukangi had become a major tourist attraction as it slowly circled the canal, its fins slicing through the water's surface.

Busan officials, who made Bukangi a city mascot, say the shark attracted more than 1.7 million visitors to the canal, and hundreds of people lined up along the canal to watch the unusual rescue effort.

Marine scientists don't have a clear answer as to why the shark entered the canal, or why it has stayed.

Its behavior may have something to do with Busan being one of Asia's busiest ports — away from the ruckus, the narrow canal may appear to be a safe space, according to Kim Hyun-woo, a senior researcher at South Korea's National Institute of Fisheries Science.



STUCK SHARK. *A shark swims in a canal of the North Port Waterfront Park in Busan, South Korea, on October 22, 2026. The city in South Korea was still trying in late October to come up with a new way to free a huge dusky shark out of a narrow canal. Workers in the port city of Busan had herded the shark, nicknamed Bukangi, out of the canal on October 21, after weeks of trial and error — only for it to swim right back in hours later. (Cha Keun-ho/Yonhap via AP)*

The North Port is a major hub for container and cruise traffic, possibly producing an intimidating environment for the shark. It's also possible that the noise from vessels, bright lights, and electric fields generated by nearby facilities and equipment have interfered with the shark's senses, Kim said. While authorities have stressed the need to get Bukangi out to sea quickly, Kim said patience will be key, giving the shark time to adjust to the waters beyond the canal before venturing farther out.

"The shark has been staying inside the canal for an extended period, so I didn't expect it to head straight out into the open water," Kim said. "It would be best to give it about a week to leave on its own."

A third attempt to free the shark was a success for just a few hours

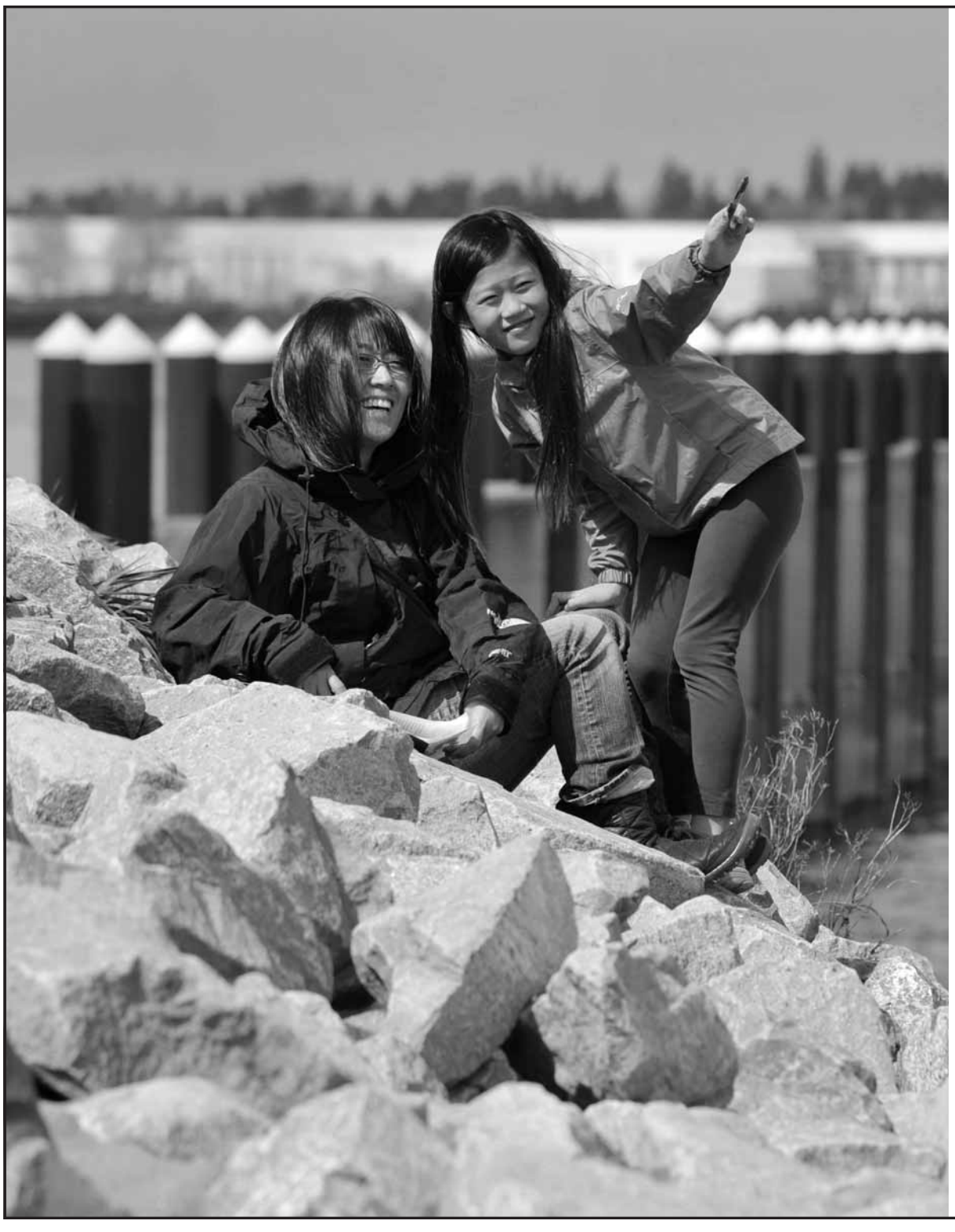
The October 21 operation was the third attempt to free Bukangi, following failed efforts on September 29 and October 2 that involved boats spraying streams of water and nets placed across the narrow waterway.

Bukangi avoided the boats and swam over the nets. Dusky sharks can grow up to 13.7 feet long and live in tropical and temperate waters around the world, roaming long distances to find waters ranging between 18º-26º Celsius (64º-79º Fahrenheit) while feeding on fish and squid, according to Kim's institute.

The species reproduces slowly, making it vulnerable to population declines, and is listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Water temperatures in the Busan area were around 20º Celsius (68º Fahrenheit) the morning after that third attempt, according to official data.

An online version of this issue is available at <www.asianreporter.com>.



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A cartoonist takes Japan's new imperial succession law to court over male-only heirs

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A popular Japanese cartoonist who has written books on history and monarchy has sued the government over a revised imperial succession law allowing royals to adopt male relatives from former branch families to father future heirs.

The revised law took effect in late October despite criticism over the male-only succession rules in Japan's 1,500-year-old monarchy. Next in line after Emperor Naruhito is his younger brother Akishino, followed by the emperor's 20-year-old nephew, Prince Hisahito. There are no other eligible heirs in his generation.

The revised law allows adoption of unmarried male descendants, aged 15 or older, of distant imperial relatives, but only through an unbroken male line, into a branch of the royal family. They would not be able to inherit the throne themselves, but their heirs would be eligible.

Four of the 11 former branch families who renounced their royal status in 1947 remain. Officials say they are at least 36 generations removed from Naruhito after splitting from a common male-line ancestor 600 years ago. Critics say they are too distant to be considered relatives.

In his lawsuit, Yoshinori Kobayashi says the adoption of former royals, who are commoners, discriminates against other commoners in violation of Article 14 of the constitution, which guarantees equality regardless of "race, creed, sex, social status, or family origin."

"The adoption would introduce a new class system of 'former imperial branch family' in Japan. ... It's a serious problem," Kobayashi told reporters after filing the lawsuit with the Tokyo District Court, a first legal step against the revised law. No trial date has been set.

He said the adoption system undermines "the fundamental value of the constitution ... and changes the monarchy into something completely different."

The law lets princesses retain their royal status and continue with their official duties after marrying commoners, but does not confer royal status on their husbands and children. It effectively eliminates a chance for Japan's beloved Princess Aiko to succeed her father, Naruhito.



IMPERIAL SUCCESSION. *Japanese manga artist Yoshinori Kobayashi, who has written books on history and monarchy, arrives at Tokyo District Court in Tokyo on October 26, 2026. Kobayashi has sued the government over a revised imperial succession law allowing royals to adopt male relatives from former branch families to father future heirs. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)*

Kobayashi calls it the "Aiko-sama exclusion law."

The male-only succession policy was pushed by the conservative government of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who has said only the paternal bloodline gives authority and legitimacy to the emperor.

Legal experts, including those on a government panel on the imperial succession, have also raised concerns over the constitutionality of the adoption system.

Kobayashi's lawyer, Rintaro Kuramochi, said winning the case would be difficult, but there was no other way to raise the issue in Japan, where there is no constitutional court and little hope for the law to be rectified by the current government.

In the lawsuit, Kobayashi also demanded damages of 1 million yen ($6,350) for psychological suffering experienced by the manga artist whose works are based on his love of Japan's monarchy, equal rights, and other democratic values.

Japan has had eight female monarchs. The paternal-line male succession was introduced for the first time in the 1890 Imperial House Law, when Japan promoted patriarchal systems of male superiority.

Tokyo shrine honors precious dolls

By Eugene Hoshiko
The Associated Press

TOKYO — At the Dairokuten Sakaki Shrine in Tokyo, Shinto priests are helping families say a final farewell to beloved dolls.

As representatives from a traditional Japanese doll company clap their hands in prayer, the priests symbolically release the spirits associated with the dolls, offering prayers for the health of their owners and families.

It's a ritual that honors the long-cherished toys and helps owners let go.

Many of them are elaborate dolls dressed in brightly colored kimono, some of which have been in families for more than 100 years, but next to them you can find ordinary children's toys: Snoopy, plush cats.

Prayers are then made over doll-shaped paper talismans, which are burned in place of the dolls.

The paper turns to gray ash. But the memories, and the dolls, remain as vivid as yesterday.



PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS. *Doll-shaped paper cutouts, top photo, are burned as part of a prayer ritual during a doll memorial ceremony at Dairokuten Sakaki Shrine in Tokyo. In the bottom photo, a Shinto priest performs a purification ritual in front of dolls and stuffed toys. (AP Photos/Eugene Hoshiko)*

A new bridge linking China and North Korea opens more than a decade late

BEIJING (AP) — A new bridge linking China and North Korea has opened after more than a decade of delays in the latest sign of closer ties between the two countries.

The official Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that both sides attended a ceremony for the launch of the New Yalu River Bridge. The four-lane, 1.8-mile bridge connects the northeastern Chinese city of Dandong to the North Korean city of Sinuiju.

The bridge initially was expected to enter use in 2014 after China apparently completed construction of access roads, customs facilities, and other related infrastructure on its side. But the date passed with no sign of an opening and without North Korea doing corresponding works on its side.

At that time, it prompted an unusually sharp report in the *Global Times*, a newspaper affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, which quoted Dandong residents expressing frustration over delays in what they had hoped would be an economic boon for their border city.

A lack of substantial work on the North Korean side prompted speculation that North Korea was wary of an increase in economic dependence or was unhappy with China voting for United Nations resolutions toughening international sanctions on the North over its nuclear program. Some observers said North Korea and China also differed over the location of the bridge.

The old bridge could only handle one-way vehicle traffic

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the new bridge will further promote economic, trade, and "people-to-people exchanges."

"China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors linked by rivers and mountains," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. She added the bridge is an important "project for connectivity" between the two countries.

The new link is expected to lessen the burden on an existing yet aging bridge on the Dandong-Sinuiju route, which handles more than 70% of official trade between the two countries. The old bridge, built in 1937, carries a railway line as well as cars and trucks, but vehicle traffic can move only one way at a time.

The South Korean government said last year there were at least 17 active road and rail links across the porous North Korea-China border, which stretches more than 870 miles.



LONG-AWAITED BRIDGE. *A new bridge connecting North Korea and China, viewed from the North Korean side of the Yalu River border, is seen on September 2, 2014, where it touches down in rice fields in Sinuiju, North Korea. (AP Photo, File)*

It is anticipated that the opening of the new bridge will boost bilateral trade and enhance logistical efficiency gradually. But in the short term, trade won't likely result in a sharp increase in Chinese exports to North Korea as Beijing would take Pyongyang's interests into consideration to some extent, according to a recent report by Gyubeom Kim, an expert at Seoul's state-run Institute for National Security Strategy.

North Korea's export of processed goods, food products, cosmetics, and alcoholic beverages to China could increase, Kim said.

Bridge could affect relations with China and Russia

The bridge's opening comes about a month after North Korea and Russia opened a 0.6-mile road bridge over the Tumen River as part of their efforts to cement relations.

Experts say Chinese officials likely felt uneasy about the opening of the North Korea-Russia bridge, which the Russian government said would allow daily passage of up to 300 vehicles through a newly built border crossing point.

The North Korea-China bridge is much bigger and likely capable of carrying round-the-clock, two-way traffic including containers and heavy cargo trucks, according to Jeong Eun-i, an analyst from South Korea's Institute for National Unification.

China has long been North Korea's biggest trading partner and economic pipeline. But in past years, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has prioritized Moscow, sending thousands of troops and conventional weapons to support Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, apparently in exchange for military and economic assistance.

Continued on page 7

Yoshida wins in South Korea to become fourth Japanese winner on LPGA this season

GWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Yuri Yoshida became the fourth player from Japan to win on the LPGA Tour this season when she closed with a 4-under 68 and won the BMW Ladies Championship when Haeran Ryu made bogey on the final hole.

Yoshida was four shots off the pace going into the final round but lit up the front nine with an eagle at the par-5 second, followed by three consecutive birdies to be 5-under 31 at the turn.

Ryu, who has won two LPGA majors this year, had a four-shot lead entering the final round but couldn't find the same rhythm and closed with a 73 to tie for second with Hye-Jin Choi (69).

The LPGA is playing in Malaysia over the weekend before wrapping up its four-week Asia swing in Japan.



JAPANESE STREAK. *Yuri Yoshida of Japan celebrates with the winner's trophy following the final round of the LPGA BMW Ladies Championship at Pine Beach Golf Links, in Haenam, South Korea, on October 25, 2026. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)*



Man keeps memorial garden for his beloved wife in an Indian village

By Yirmiyan Arthur
The Associated Press





LABOR OF LOVE. *Mosenyii Yakhro, 90, left photo, laughs while speaking about the garden he started in memory of his wife, in Kigwema village, in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland, on October 27, 2026. Before she died, she had already chosen the spot in her Indian village where she would be buried. In the right photo, Yakhro waves from the entrance of the memorial garden in Kigwema village. (AP Photos/Yirmiyan Arthur)*

KIGWEMA, India — Before she died, Vivolheri had already chosen the spot in her Indian village where she would be buried. She was 80.

Her husband, Mosenyii Yakhro, has since spent his mornings tending to the garden he built around her grave. Ten years later, and now called "Mosen Viewpoint," it is visited equally by tourists and children from the village.

"I feel very happy. I enjoy knowing their happiness," he says, referring to all the people who have flocked to witness his labor of love.

Yakhro calls his wife a "good woman and a good wife. My grandchildren also loved my wife."

At 90, his memory is razor-sharp. He narrates seeing Japanese soldiers arrive in his village with camouflaged outfits during the "Japanese war," as World War II is referred to in this region. He drops dates as he speaks, leaving those listening bewildered.

The garden lies just below the highway in Kigwema village, in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland, and overlooks terrace rice fields, which have been freshly harvested.

Yakhro only studied until sixth grade. But his knowledge about the world, he says, comes from spending time in the library.

He took advantage of the library while he worked as a peon, or office assistant, in a government office decades ago. "What I liked I read up in the library."

He's a bit annoyed with how tall the cosmos flowers have grown. "They've covered all the other plants in the garden," he grumbles.

This nonagenarian now looks forward to January 15, which is when the entire family gathers annually in this garden to celebrate his birthday.

"My burial place will also be here," he says with a smile.

18-day Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival in Myanmar featured during October

INLE LAKE, Myanmar (AP) — A few days after the monsoon rains subside, Inle Lake, nestled among picturesque mountains, becomes the setting for one of Myanmar's most important Buddhist festivals as sacred golden images glide across the water.

The 18-day Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival is an annual celebration on the country's second-largest freshwater lake in the southern part of Shan state, about 260 miles northeast of Yangon. During the festival, four revered Buddha images are carried aboard an ornate golden barge to 21 villages around the lake for people to pay homage to them.

Adorned with a golden figure of the mythical Karaweik bird at its bow, the barge is pulled by scores of wooden boats crewed by members of the Intha ethnic minority, who practice a unique style of rowing while standing with one leg wrapped around a single oar.

Since the festival began on October 12, hundreds of worshippers gathered along the procession route to venerate the sacred images and enjoy traditional dance performances as well as boat races.

The festival has faced repeated disruptions in recent years. The coronavirus pandemic curtailed the celebration in 2020, and political instability following the 2021 military takeover led to another interruption. The festival resumed in 2023, while flooding and the effects of a devastating earthquake complicated life around the lake last year.



LAKESIDE CELEBRATION. *Ethnic Inthas row in boats during the Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival on Inle Lake, Myanmar. The 18-day festival is an annual celebration on the country's second-largest freshwater lake in the southern part of Shan state. (AP Photo/Thein Zaw)*

Myanmar's religious festival season typically begins after the monsoon ends, around October or November.

Indonesia relocates 8 orangutans after rescue from wildfires

By Niniek Karmini and Andi Jatmiko
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Eight endangered orangutans were released into a protected forest weeks after wildfires destroyed large swaths of their habitat in Indonesian Borneo, a conservation group said.

The orangutans, including three mothers with infants and two adolescent males, were rescued from areas in Ketapang and North Kayong regencies that were ravaged by fires between August and September.

The animals were moved October 8 to Batu Nyambu protected forest in West Kalimantan province, said Heribertus Suciadi, a spokesperson for the Indonesian Nature Rehabilitation Initiative Foundation, or YIARI.

The wildfires cut off habitat corridors and reduced access to food sources, forcing the apes into plantations inhabited by people in search of food and shelter and stranding them there, Suciadi told The Associated Press.

"They had no burns, open wounds, broken bones, or other life-threatening injuries, but appeared to be suffering from malnutrition and dehydration," Suciadi said.

Among those rescued were a female orangutan known as Mama Man and her infant, Man, who had been moni-

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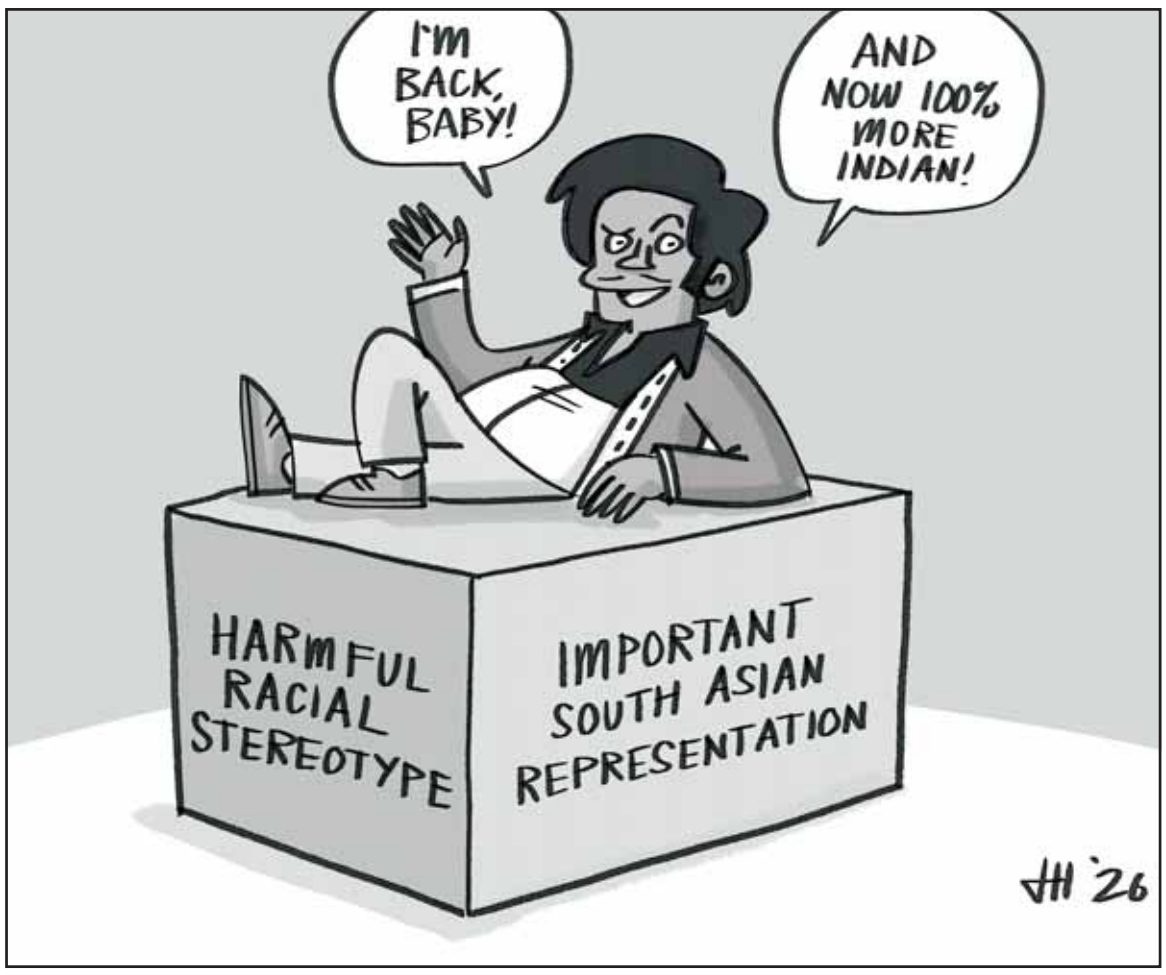
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Remember this acronym next time you're facing a big medical decision: B.R.A.I.N.

By Blake Farmer, Cara Anthony & Emily Siner

Gina Conley, an Army veteran in Aberdeen, North Carolina, knew she wanted a low-intervention birth for her first child. But her plan started to go off the rails as soon as she got to the hospital.

"Everything that I did not want to happen had happened," she said. "And I just remember that feeling of being just so utterly defeated."

Her cervix wasn't dilating quickly, and Conley said her midwife insisted that she take Pitocin to speed up the labor. Later, when she was nearly fully dilated, the midwife asked to break Conley's amniotic fluid sac, another intervention used to move labor along.

Even in a fast-paced medical setting, it's OK to ask: "What happens if I do nothing right now?"

Conley agreed to that step, reluctantly. But looking back, she said she didn't feel comfortable with many of the decisions that day. And Conley doesn't feel that her providers were fully hearing her.

Conley went on to become a birth doula, in part to help other women have better experiences than she had. Her work is not about helping people avoid medical interventions, she said, but helping them engage in shared decision-making, a collaborative approach in which medical providers and patients talk through options and make a choice together.

Studies show that patients who are involved in their medical decisions report higher satisfaction with their care and, in some settings, better outcomes.

"How were you treated?" she said. "And how many decisions did you feel like you got to truly make?"

The acronym to remember: B.R.A.I.N.

Birth doulas, including Conley, often advise clients to use the acronym B.R.A.I.N. to ask questions of their medical providers:

- What are the ***benefits*** of this intervention?
- What are the ***risks***?
- What are the ***alternative*** options?
- What does my ***intuition*** tell me?
- What happens if I do ***nothing*** right now?

"It's essentially a framework for talking to your healthcare provider when you're coming to a decision or a pivot point," said Margaret Buxton, a certified nurse midwife and vice president of clinical operations at Diana Health, a network of women's healthcare practices in the South.

Listening to your intuition is particularly valuable, Buxton said: "You do experience emotions in your body, not just in your head." Checking in with your intuition or gut can help you decide and ultimately feel more comfortable with a choice in front of you.

"We know that people who feel seen and heard in their healthcare visits, their anxiety goes down, their stress level goes down," she said. "And their ability to process information, think, and listen — all of that improves."

When all else fails, remember 'N,' for 'nothing'

If you don't have time or energy to go through all five questions, you can ask the N in B.R.A.I.N.: "What happens if I do nothing right now?"

Doing nothing provides an opportunity to pause, talk through options with people you trust, and feel more active in the decision-making process, Buxton said.

Of course, there are moments when a medical emergency takes precedence. "It's pretty clear when it's not a good time to talk, because people are ripping cords out of the wall and they're running you down to the OR," Conley said. But generally, "there's time for you to get to a point where you feel pretty comfortable and confident that this is a good decision."

B.R.A.I.N. won't replace a compassionate provider

Some patients feel uncomfortable questioning a doctor's authority, because of the power dynamics in the room. "Medicine was really set up to be top-down," Buxton said. "There's an expert, and there's a recipient."

Others fear being dismissed or not taken seriously. Research has shown that medical professionals are less likely to prescribe pain medication to women than men for the same symptoms and that Black women are three times as likely to die in childbirth than white women.

That's why it's important to find a provider you trust before a planned medical event, like childbirth, Conley said. Pay attention to how they respond to questions in appointments and whether they actively listen. And if they don't, find a different person to oversee your care.

"We need to choose a provider that we can truly trust to share their expertise with us in a way that is not going to push us away from our personal preferences," she said. "It's definitely harder to have those conversations with an abrasive provider who is not interested."

People and policy

Medical professionals are both legally and ethically required to obtain "informed consent" from patients before most procedures. This means they have to give you accurate and complete information

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AP investigation: Documents support claim ICE has detained a mentally ill U.S. citizen since January

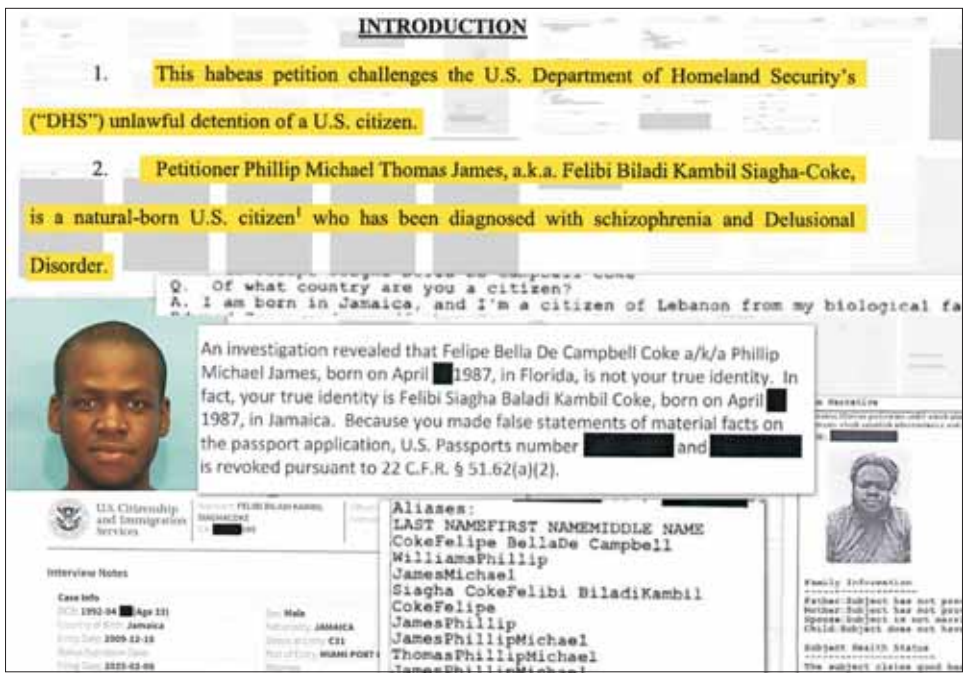
By Ryan J. Foley
The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — For nearly a year, immigration authorities have detained and sought to deport a mentally ill man whose mother, lawyers, and public records say was born in the United States and not Jamaica as he claims, a review by The Associated Press found.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has no authority to detain U.S. citizens, but has long done so, usually for hours or days, when officers mistake identities or can't immediately verify citizenship. Immigration lawyers say a nearly 10-month improper detention would be rare but not unprecedented.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, disputes that the man is a U.S. citizen and alleges, without providing evidence, that the birth certificate he submitted to obtain a U.S. passport that he held for 15 years was fraudulent. But AP's review found documents that support claims by his mother and legal team that he was born in Florida and therefore not subject to ICE's authority.

The findings suggest that a cursory investigation, lax oversight, and possibly a refusal to admit a mistake may have ensnared a U.S. citizen for nearly all of 2026 as the Trump administration rushes to deport large numbers of people suspected of being in the country illegally.



EXTENSIVE DETENTION. *Immigration authorities are seeking to deport a mentally ill man whose mother, lawyers, and public records say was born in the U.S. and not Jamaica as he claims. (AP Graphic)*

Detainee insists he was born in Jamaica

Still locked up at ICE's so-called Speedway Slammer in Indiana is Phillip James, a 39-year-old who also goes by the name Felibi Siagha-Coke, legal filings show. His lawyers are appealing an immigration judge's ruling that he be deported to Jamaica, and a federal judge has indicated he could soon rule on a petition to free him from custody.

In seeking to detain and deport him, immigration authorities relied on James' word that he was born in Jamaica and entered the U.S. illegally in 2009, The AP review found. But Jamaican officials have denied any record that he was born or has citizenship there, and James has been unable to provide proof, public records show.

James' insistence that he was born in Jamaica is a grand delusion, a symptom of paranoid schizophrenia with which he has been diagnosed, according to reports filed in court by medical experts who have recently assessed him. In particular, he claims that he is the illegitimate son of a former Jamaican prime minister and the descendant of a royal family in Lebanon, where he also claims citizenship despite a lack of evidence.

One psychologist concluded James was not "a reliable historian due to the serious nature of his mental illness, including a deeply entrenched delusional belief system."

Expert says case shows how ICE mishandles citizenship disputes

Northwestern University professor Jacqueline Stevens, who has studied ICE's wrongful detention of citizens for two decades, said she is not surprised ICE would seek to deport James based on his claims of being foreign-born. She said she was familiar with other cases where mental illness and disabilities have played a role in similar injustices.

"What's going on in these cases is that evidence that's consistent with deportation is treated as accurate and evidence that is inconsistent is treated as fraudulent," she said. "This case is not a one-off. This is a feature, not a bug, of how ICE handles claims of U.S. citizenship."

The Department of Homeland Security denied that ICE detains U.S. citizens, and says detainees facing removal proceedings receive due process.

The records detailing James' claim to citizenship, like thousands of cases involving ICE detainees, were not available in the federal court system's online database. The AP, with the assistance of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, has filed a lawsuit to overturn a policy limiting access to such documents.

A volunteer for the group Habeas Dockets, a nonprofit which works to make the records publicly available, went to an Indiana courthouse to make copies of the records at AP's request.

Detainee had a U.S. passport for 15 years

James was born to a U.S. citizen mother and Jamaican national father in Orange County, Florida, in 1987, according to the birth certificate filed by his lawyers and attested to by his mother. He has suffered from mental illness since he was a child, according to an affidavit submitted by his mother. He lived in Florida with his father, who died in 2024, after he became hard to control as an adolescent, the affidavit said.

A 1988 court document in a case that established James' paternity, obtained independently by AP, matches details on the birth certificate, including his date of birth, the identities of his birth parents, and their residence in Florida.

He was issued a U.S. passport in 2008 under his birth name, submitting the birth certificate with his application. In 2023, he asked for a new passport after getting a court order to change his name to Felipe Bella De Campbell Coke in New York, and that also was approved.

But beginning in 2024, for reasons that are unclear, he filed a series of applications for U.S. citizenship and protections from deportation. He claimed he was born in Jamaica and acquired citizenship as an adopted child of U.S. citizens, telling a convoluted story that could not be verified and falsely claiming he was born in 1992.

Nonetheless, the government revoked his passport and denied his application for citizenship. It said he was born in Jamaica in the same month as James in 1987 and that his "true identity" was Felibi Siagha Baladi Kambil Coke, a name he had recently adopted.

The decision revoking his passport did not elaborate on how it reached that conclusion. Jamaican authorities have told James' lawyers that they have no record of the birth or citizenship of a person by that name, according to court filings.

The Department of Homeland Security told AP the original passport was issued based on a "fraudulent birth certificate" but did not answer follow-up questions or provide any proof.

Records show James could not explain how he ended up with a Florida birth certificate.

"To this day I don't understand," he said in a July 2025 interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

ICE arrested him after immigration court hearing

Immigration authorities alleged he was in the country illegally after his applications for citizenship were rejected. In targeting James, ICE pointed to a criminal history that includes a 2011 assault with a deadly weapon conviction that sent him to prison in Florida for five years. But records in that case, and others, list him as a U.S. citizen.

ICE initiated proceedings to remove him in December 2025, issuing a notice to appear in immigration court, when he was living in New York City. A judge postponed his removal proceedings on January 5 and agents arrested him after the hearing.

James was taken to the Miami Detention Center in Bunker Hill, Indiana, a maximum-security prison that had recently started housing up to 1,000 ICE detainees under a state-federal partnership. Nicknamed the Speedway Slammer by the White House in a nod to Indiana's connection to motor racing, the facility has faced complaints about overcrowding and medical neglect, and at least two detainees have died.

It's a lucrative arrangement for the state that could generate $213 million in the first two years — including payments of $291 per detainee per day, over three times ICE's median bed rate of $92. Governor Mike Braun's office declined to comment on James' case.

Detainee initially acted as his own lawyer

Unlike criminal defendants, detainees are not guaranteed legal counsel. James initially acted as his own attorney in challenging his detention as unlawful, calling himself a Jamaica native and claiming citizenship in Lebanon.

Lawyers representing ICE and the immigration judge who ordered his removal to Jamaica in April have taken James at his word, court records show. Other than his claims of Jamaican birth, ICE submitted evidence showing he applied for a Jamaican national insurance registration card, which is available to noncitizens.

James is now represented by the Bronx Defenders, a nonprofit which has a contract to represent indigent New York detainees.

After discovering the birth certificate and his mother in Florida, they filed a petition in federal court seeking his release on August 19. They're also appealing his removal order to the Board of Immigration Appeals. His lawyers declined to comment and said James would not grant an interview.

The government has not acknowledged any error. In a September 28 filing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Irvin called James "a native of Jamaica and a citizen of Lebanon who entered the United States without admission." Irvin argued James' claim to citizenship should be decided in immigration court, rather than by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Damon Leichty is expected to rule on the petition seeking James' release.

Deborah Fleischaker, a former ICE official who once served as the agency's chief of staff, said the James case was complicated but the evidence that he's a U.S. citizen appears strong. Wrongful detentions happen, she said, "but you'd like it to be very rare and for as brief a time as possible."

She and other experts said Jamaican authorities would not likely accept James if he's not a citizen there, but that ICE could still try to remove him to a third-party country.

"I would worry that in their quest for deportation numbers, he is in the machine," she said.

A new bridge linking China and North Korea opens more than a decade late

Continued from page 4

Kim has recently drawn closer to China with the apparent intent to improve the economy and build a front against the United States. China, for its part, wants to restore its unique influence over North Korea. Last year, about 98% of North Korea's external trade was with China.

The bridge's opening has been anticipated since Chinese President Xi Jinping travelled to Pyongyang in June for a meeting with Kim.

During their summit, Xi expressed Beijing's willingness to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, agriculture, construction, and technology, while Kim described ties with China as a top strategic priority.

Remember this acronym next time you're facing a big medical decision: B.R.A.I.N.

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about the recommended treatment, typically in writing.

And nearly two decades ago, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists' ethics committee recommended that doctors go a step further and engage in shared decision-making, which involves discussing "the benefits and risks of available treatment options in the context of a patient's values and priorities."

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has also started requiring shared decision-making as a condition for paying for a limited number of treatments.

Cara Anthony is a correspondent with KFF Health News; Blake Farmer and Emily Siner are with Nashville Public Radio. Katherine Ruppelt at Nashville Public Radio contributed to this report.

HealthQ is a health series from reporters Cara Anthony and Blake Farmer — approachable guides to an unapproachable healthcare system. It's a collaboration between Nashville Public Radio and KFF Health News.

KFF Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF — the independent source for health policy research, polling, and journalism.

Lawsuit seeks to block ICE from hiding locations of detainees with final removal orders

By Ryan J. Foley
The Associated Press

Groups that provide legal services to immigrants filed a lawsuit in late October seeking to stop the Trump administration's new policy of hiding the locations of tens of thousands of detainees with final deportation orders.

The policy, adopted suddenly in September to expedite deportations, interferes with immigration lawyers' rights by making it difficult, and sometimes impossible, to locate their clients, according to the lawsuit filed in federal court in Boston. It asks a judge to issue an order blocking the "unlawful and inhumane" change.

"No one should be denied a meaningful opportunity to defend their rights because the government has made it impossible for their lawyer to find them," said Jacquelynne Bowman, executive director of Greater Boston Legal Services, one of the four groups listed as plaintiffs. "This arbitrary new administrative change leaves hundreds of thousands of people at risk of potentially life-altering consequences without essential legal help."

The lawsuit challenges U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) decision, first reported by The Associated Press, to remove the locations of people facing final removal orders from its Online Detainee Locator System and to instruct staff not to reveal their whereabouts. The



DETAINEES HIDDEN. *The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website, used to locate someone in immigration detention, is displayed on September 21, 2026, in New York. (AP Photo/Rachel Leathe, File)*

move has reportedly affected more than 16,000 of the nearly 69,000 detainees who were in ICE custody.

ICE and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), have not publicly confirmed the change but have said they are prioritizing people with final removal orders for deportation. They have also said they are facing a "historic number of injunctions" from courts blocking their efforts. The agencies have denied that they are disappearing detainees, saying they remain free to make phone calls.

"Illegal aliens in detention have several ways to communicate with their family members and lawyers," DHS said in a statement responding to the lawsuit. "The appropriate process due to an illegal alien with final deportation orders is removal, plain and simple."

Since 2010, lawyers and family members have used ICE's online system to track detainees as they get moved from facility to facility through ICE's sprawling detention network.

Approximately 1.4 million people living in the U.S. are subject to final orders of removal, which means an immigration judge has ruled they should be deported and the decision has been upheld on appeal or not appealed.

Those individuals still have several options to challenge the conditions of their detention and looming deportations, including asking to reopen proceedings, seeking relief from removal to third countries, and challenging violations of their rights. Federal judges have ruled thousands of times that detainees should be released or granted bond hearings.

Since the change went into effect, lawyers have been unable to find clients and potential clients and have spent "significantly more time" tracking down others, the lawsuit says. Calls to ICE, including to its Detention and Removal Information Line, "lead to long wait times on hold, sudden hang-ups, a general lack of information, or no answer at all," it says.

As a workaround, some lawyers have tried to find their clients through an ICE program that schedules legal calls, but only a small percentage of detention centers use it, the lawsuit says. The result has been delayed or missed legal filings and fewer cases taken, according to the organizations.

The lawsuit argues the change violates the Administrative Procedure Act because it was adopted without explanation and the First Amendment, which protects lawyers' ability to advise people of their legal rights and seek prospective clients.

A U.S. cruise ship suspends a global voyage in Asia due to fuel costs, stranding 200 passengers

Continued from page 2

bers, according to Cambodian officials. It has a 650-passenger capacity.

Its Florida-based operator, Villa Vie Residences, said monthly fuel expenses per cabin that historically averaged $1,800 have reached an estimated $6,000 to $8,000 in parts of Asia due to the war in Iran. The company said it sought to reduce fuel consumption by slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port, but was unable to offset the surging costs.

Traffic has been curtailed in the Strait of Hormuz since the war in Iran began, squeezing supplies of all kinds of petroleum-based fuels, especially in Southeast Asia, and sharply increasing prices.

"We have been unable to continue carrying the resulting operating losses," Villa Vie Residences said in a statement. "Passing the full increase on to residents is not a realistic solution. Our focus now is on supporting residents, crew, and employees" while it tries to restructure.

The company was working with residents to coordinate disembarkation and finding temporary living arrangements.

Those on the ship had hoped to sail for years to come

Passengers, however, said they received no support and had to make their own arrangements after being given seven hours notice to disembark. Some were devastated and expressed hope a new company could rescue the venture so life at sea can continue.



VOYAGE VACATED. *U.S. cruise ship* MV Odyssey *docked at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in Sihanoukville in southern Cambodia in late October. The cruise ship was on an around-the-world voyage that touted its cabins as floating homes. The ship suspended its three-year journey in Cambodia due to fuel costs, forcing hundreds of passengers to disembark. (AP Photo/Heng Sinith)*

Paul and Lynn Montoya, a retired couple from Wyoming, said they bought a window cabin and had expected to sail for years. They boarded the ship 17 months ago in Panama.

Paul praised the concept of residential cruising but said the shipowner lacked the expertise to make the business financially sustainable. While rising fuel costs had been cited publicly as the reason for the suspension, he said the company had already been struggling. Changes to itineraries, unreliable internet access, and declining food quality had pushed many residents to leave the ship in recent months, he said.

Lynn said residents were repeatedly asked to contribute additional money for fuel and other expenses, including a fresh call to raise funds for fuel to get out of Cambodia. She said the crew members were also not paid.

"We were tired of every two to four weeks being asked for money for fuel, money for everything," she said. "We had hopes but they just kept sinking further and further into the hole through mismanagement."

The company could not immediately be contacted for comment.

For some, the venture was a risk worth taking

Yet for some, even the financial and logistical turmoil couldn't outweigh the extraordinary experience of travelling the world and living at sea.

Carol Larson, 69, and her sister Crystal Lavering, 72, occupied separate cabins aboard the ship for 18 months. The siblings, from California, described the suspension as heartbreaking, and hoped the cruise would be resuscitated.

"I hope there is a movement for the residents to buy the ship and I am hoping that goes through because it's a dream to live on the ship and I don't want it to end," Larson said.

Lavering said her health improved during her time on the ship, and that she didn't need to use a cane to walk anymore. "You come to this ship to live … it's just sad that it's all over."

Larson bought her cabin for $120,000, paid in installments, in addition to monthly maintenance fees, under a plan that had promised the possibility of living aboard for up to 15 years. She said she blamed U.S. President Donald Trump for the ship's woes as fuel costs spiked due to the Iran war, in addition to poor management. But she said she didn't regret her investment.

"Because it was a startup company, I believe that it was a risk. From the very first day, I said to myself that if it lasts a year, I can walk away and feel like I got my money's worth … I still feel that way," she said.

The cruise began in Northern Ireland in 2024

The ship arrived in Sihanoukville in late October and was scheduled to depart shortly, according to a statement from Long Dimanche, the deputy governor of Preah Sihanouk province. It was expected to refuel and depart Cambodia over the weekend, but the ship's operator had not publicly confirmed anything.

Built in 1993 and operated under different names by several cruise lines over the years before being becalmed by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the *Odyssey* was bought by Villa Vie Residences in 2023.

Its current cruise, originally intended to last 3 1/2 years, began in October 2024 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the ship had been refitted. A second cruise had been tentatively scheduled to end in August 2030.

Associated Press writers Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Grant Peck in Bangkok contributed to this report.



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PEP22-08-03-002

6 citizens sue Trump, saying media ban deprives them of news as audience stakeholders

By Jocelyn Noveck
AP National Writer



FIRST AMENDMENT CASE. *Columbia College Chicago student Kailey Ryan reads a newspaper in Chicago in this November 5, 2024 file photo. In the increasingly bitter legal standoff between President Donald Trump and media outlets whose reporting he dislikes, a new and crucial third party has emerged: citizens who watch and read the news and need it to do their jobs. A lawsuit filed on behalf of six such citizens — essentially representing the wider public audience — argues that it's not only the rights of news organizations that are violated when Trump bans them from White House premises. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)*

In the increasingly bitter legal standoff between President Donald Trump and media outlets whose reporting he dislikes, a new and crucial third party has emerged: citizens who watch and read the news and need it to do their jobs.

A lawsuit filed on behalf of six such citizens — essentially representing the wider public audience — argues that it's not only the rights of news organizations that are violated when Trump bans them from White House premises. Even more fundamentally, the lawsuit argues, such bans violate the public's right to independent reporting about its president and government.

"The ultimate injury here … is to the democratic public," says the suit, filed in federal district court in New York against Trump and three key aides, including the White House chief of staff, Susie Wiles.

"The First Amendment protects the public's right to know what its government is doing," said Katie Fallow, deputy litigation director at the Knight First Amendment Institute, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of the plaintiffs, along with the Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School.

"The White House cannot decide what information Americans receive by punishing critical reporting," Fallow said in a statement. "When the White House expels reporters because of their coverage and threatens others with expulsion, it isn't just the press that suffers — the public loses access to independent reporting and gets something closer to government propaganda."

The Trump administration, asked for comment on the lawsuit, responded in a statement that it attributed to an unidentified White House official: "No person may demand access to the Oval Office." It said media that peddle "misinformation and defamation are completely capable of reporting their manufactured stories from directly outside."

The plaintiffs all rely on White House news for their work

The six plaintiffs are all people who say they rely on independent and diverse White House reporting for their teaching, journalism, or advocacy. They include a noted human rights advocate, a political journalist, a Yale history professor, a high school civics teacher, a legal journalist, and a student journalist at the University of Pennsylvania.

The complaint recounts how various news organizations that have been targeted by Trump are already battling the administration in the courts. These cases include the current lawsuit by CNN, MS NOW, and Politico, whose journalists were banished from the White House in September.

A federal judge recently extended an order preventing the White House from enforcing the ban while the case makes its way through the legal system. Still affected, though, is CNN's pool coverage of Trump. The White House has been denying the network its usual slots in the video pool covering the president's activities and travel, and CNN has threatened further action.

Also continuing is the legal case involving The Associated Press, whose reporters were barred last year from the Oval Office, Air Force One, and some events in retaliation for the outlet's decision not to follow Trump's lead in changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico, which lies partially in Mexican and other waters, to the Gulf of America.

The New York Times is also involved in litigation, over a Pentagon policy requiring escorts for journalists on its grounds. And ABC is fighting back against the Trump administration in a dispute over renewal of its broadcast licenses.

This lawsuit seeks more wide-ranging relief

The new lawsuit, though, is different from previous legal action against the president — first, in that the plaintiffs are ordinary citizens, shifting the focus from news gatherers to news consumers, and thus implying a much larger pool of stakeholders.

The lawsuit reframes the current debate over White House access in at least one key way. The public right to receive information is part of established law, said Jameel Jaffer, executive director of the Knight Institute. However, nobody has yet asserted this right in relation to the White House press corps and the issues currently at stake.

"We wanted to put the injury to the public at the center of the conversation," Jaffer said.

"It's one thing for CNN to say, 'We are here because the public needs us,'" he said. "It's another for a member of the public to say that interference with the White House press corps undermines our right to information about the government."

In addition, the litigation seeks more wide-ranging relief.

The suit, which names Trump as defendant along with Wiles, White House communications director Steven Cheung, and Secret Service director Sean M. Curran, calls not merely for reinstatement of access that has already been impacted, but for a broad injunction that would protect from retaliation every news outlet that covers the White House — now, and in the future.

"Defendants' policy of restricting the access of disfavored news organizations deprives the public of the reporting of those organizations," the complaint says. It also "inevitably deprives them of the independent reporting of other news organizations as well, since every journalist who reports from the White House must now account for the possibility that a critical or ill-advised word about the president may result in their access being summarily restricted or revoked."

"Plaintiffs ... seek a declaration that the policy is unconstitutional because it imposes restrictions on a limited public forum that are viewpoint-based and unreasonable," the complaint adds. "They also seek an injunction barring defendants from enforcing the policy."

Plaintiffs include a human rights advocate, a high school teacher, and a student journalist

Plaintiff Ethan Young, a student at the University of Pennsylvania and editor-in-chief of *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, said in an interview that White House reporting has become increasingly important at his college newspaper during Trump's second term.

"Over the last two years we've seen college campuses be a key avenue where President Trump's policies have really affected people across the country, and Penn's campus is no stranger to that," he said.

"So I use White House reporting almost daily to look at what's happening in both national higher education trends, but also just general federal policy changes, to see what might impact Penn," Young said. "You never know what policy could have an impact on the Penn student body."

Especially important to Young and his colleagues at the paper is a diversity of news outlets to choose from.

"We are not in the room. We are not in Washington," Young said. "The benefit of having access to a variety of publications ... means I am constantly seeing different questions being asked of White House officials."

And more often than not, he said, that means he'll get the answer to a question he has, too.

The other plaintiffs are:

- **Kenneth Roth**, former longtime executive director of Human Rights Watch and a lecturer at Yale's law school and school of global affairs.
- **Daniel Froomkin**, media and political journalist and editor of Press Watch, a nonprofit that encourages political journalists to "fulfill their essential mission of creating an informed electorate and holding the powerful accountable."
- **Beverly Gage**, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and professor at Yale University.
- **Peter Schmidt-Nowara**, a social studies and civics teacher at Brooklyn Technical High School in New York.
- **Benjamin Wittes**, editor-in-chief of Lawfare and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

More than 40% of names on DOJ list of alleged noncitizens are not on California voter rolls, analysis finds

By Nicholas Riccardi
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 4 in 10 names flagged as possible noncitizen voters in California by the Trump administration cannot be found on the state's voter rolls, according to a legal filing over the weekend by an immigrant-rights group.

It's the first outside analysis of a list that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has used to threaten prosecution of election officials. The analysis also found that thousands of U.S. citizens appear to be flagged as ineligible to vote on the government's list.

The contention was made in a filing by two data analysts at the University of California, Los Angeles. They analyzed the 20,930 names that the department demanded that California election officials treat as possible illegal voters by separating their ballots during the vote count on Election Day.

Multiple judges have rejected the demand as unconstitutional and a threat to democracy, and local and state officials have said the list appears riddled with errors.

Court filing outlines problems with government list

The breadth of the problems with the list was outlined in the filing. It describes an analysis by two members of UCLA's Voting Rights Project, who filed a lawsuit challenging it with the Los Angeles-based Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, or CHIRLA.

The research found that 8,880 of the names, representing 42% of the entire list, do not correspond to anyone in California's current voter file. It also found at least 22 are U.S. citizens, and many more may correspond to those of confirmed citizens.

"The expert analysis further makes clear that the mandated voter list endangers a significant number of eligible California voters," said the filing, which was cosigned by Xavier Becerra, the Democratic candidate for California governor and an adviser to the UCLA Voting Rights Project.

The Trump administration had objected to sharing the list, calling it a "fishing expedition" and noting that it included sensitive information. The federal prosecutor who spearheaded the Trump case in California called the analysis "bogus."

"This is a bogus report by the activist illegal immigrant rights group CHIRLA," Bill Essayli, who runs the U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles, posted on X.

Also over the weekend, President Donald Trump bemoaned the legal rulings against his effort to force California to separate votes from the individuals his administration labels suspected noncitizens, even though one came from a judge he himself nominated.

In a social media post, Trump claimed

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The Asian Reporter is published on the first Monday each month.
News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

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Space reservations due: Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, Dec. 3 at 1:00pm

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Space reservations due: Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 1:00pm

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Natalie Nakase's high-energy, hands-on coaching guided the Golden State Valkyries to the WNBA Finals

By Janie McCauley
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Natalie Nakase threw her arms up to guard Gabby Williams one moment, then moved to defend Veronica Burton the next as Golden State's high-octane coach got into it to help the Valkyries as they prepared for the WNBA Finals. She briefly stepped out of the action to observe before jumping right back in to take a turn against Tiffany Hayes.

And you bet Nakase can trash talk with the best of them: "Oh, yeah, I say, 'Yeahhh!' I say, 'Not here! Not this time!'"

"I let them know. Because that's effort," Nakase said. "Again, it goes back to you can control that. I'm 46 years old, why am I getting that (stop)?"

Nakase never stopped moving, and it's why everyone around her offered regular reminders that she needs to eat for energy and rest just the way she stresses those things to her players. The coach collapsed on the court late in the deciding game of the first round with Dallas and later called it "a wakeup call" to prioritize her wellbeing.

Her players love and appreciate how hands-on she is with practices and game planning.

"It probably brings back some memories of her being in uniform when she used to play," Hayes said. "It's definitely fun, but it's more fun when we actually get the bucket on it 'cause if she gets the stop we won't hear the end of it.'"

That intensity and drive is something Hayes has seen for years, dating to their days when Nakase was an assistant with the Las Vegas Aces coaching Hayes and the guards. And it played a key role in Hayes following her to the Bay Area.

Nakase had just been hired for her first head coaching job when she asked Hayes to take a chance on a brand new team and join her in San Francisco and start something special with the expansion Valkyries.

Hayes had absolutely no reservations and the answer was a resounding yes. Her unfamiliarity with the Bay Area hardly mattered, because she had Nakase — and that's a sentiment many of Golden State's players feel given how much she has invested in each one of them. Nakase has built a culture with the Valkyries in such a short time largely by finding a way to know each woman on a deeper level, far beyond just basketball.



HIGH-ENERGY COACH. *Golden State Valkyries head coach Natalie Nakase, front, talks with her players during a WNBA basketball semifinal game against the Las Vegas Aces in San Francisco. Nakase has found a way to relate to all of her players, and she works at it. Whether it's learning about their culture or language, favorite music or dance move, she makes an effort to know everyone on her team far beyond just basketball. (AP Photo/Tony Avelar)*

She is breaking barriers

With the Valkyries and their famous, violet-colored "Ballhalla" fan base on the big postseason stage, everybody is getting a glimpse of what Nakase vowed to do from Day 1: put Golden State on the map for women's basketball after all those special NBA championship runs by Stephen Curry, Steve Kerr, and the Warriors.

And, no, she's not surprised by the playoff success so soon — she thought the Valkyries should have made a run last year, when they lost in the first round to Minnesota after becoming the first expansion franchise to reach the postseason in its inaugural year.

Nakase was groomed by some greats: Clippers coach Tyronn Lue, former Los Angeles assistant Armond Hill, who was seen attending practice in Oakland, and Aces coach Becky Hammon.

"You just celebrate people that are blowing away ceilings for women in sports, specifically women's basketball, and obviously we're a little biased toward Natalie," UCLA coach Cori Close said of Nakase, the former Bruins guard.

"I just think about what she's done. She came to UCLA as a walk-on, then earned a scholarship, then became a captain, then was one of the first women hired on an NBA team and 10 years with the Clippers and really doing a great job with Becky Hammon and winning championships there. And now coming here and they say, 'We want to win it in the first five years,' and she's like, 'Bring it on, that's exactly the kind of organization I want to be a part of,' and then go back it up and then sell out every game. The list just goes on and on."

Nakase has found a way to relate to all of her players, and she works at it. Whether it's learning about their culture or language, favorite music or dance move, she makes an effort to know everyone on her team far beyond just basketball.

"I think my identity changes from year to year because I'm a constant learner," she said.

Uplifting the group does wonders

Celebrating in the locker room after winning on Las Vegas' home floor in mid-October, Nakase praised her team for its fight in overtime to eliminate the defending champion Aces.

She pointed to Kiah Stokes for making a key block, and teammates broke into chants of "Ki-ah! Ki-ah!"

Then it was Kayla Thornton's turn to be shouted out, for her rebounding. And cheers of "K-T, K-T!"

The coach finished by acknowledging her two clutch finishers in crunch time, "the closers, you two," and pointed at Hayes and Williams. Players started hollering "Tip! Tip! Tip!" and "Gab-by! Gab-by!"

The Valkyries rallied from an 11-point deficit to pull off an 87-77 overtime victory in Las Vegas for an improbable sweep in the best-of-five WNBA semifinals.

"Down 11 meant nothing, right? You guys stayed connected, you guys stayed composed. What I loved was your fight, everyone brought another level of fight," Nakase told them. "It was pure joy."

Success has affected her health

But this special season hasn't come without challenges for Nakase. She scared her family and everybody else when she went down in the closing minutes of the clinching Game 3 against the Wings last month. Yet the coach got back up and finished the final 1:40.

When Nakase saw her sister in tears afterward, she realized she had to take better care of herself to be there for others. She leaned more on her assistants.

"You could want to win as much as you want but if my tank is not full, whether it's rest, food, hydration, everything, then I'm not going to be able to give my full self during the game as you guys saw," she said. "It's doing that."

Nakase's late father, Gary, influenced most everything she does. She watched him overdo it at times.

Her former players are accustomed to how hard Nakase pushes herself.

"That's Natalie and that's about giving her all, literally 100%," Aces center A'ja Wilson said. "She's a warrior, it's what she does. She eats, sleeps, breathes basketball."

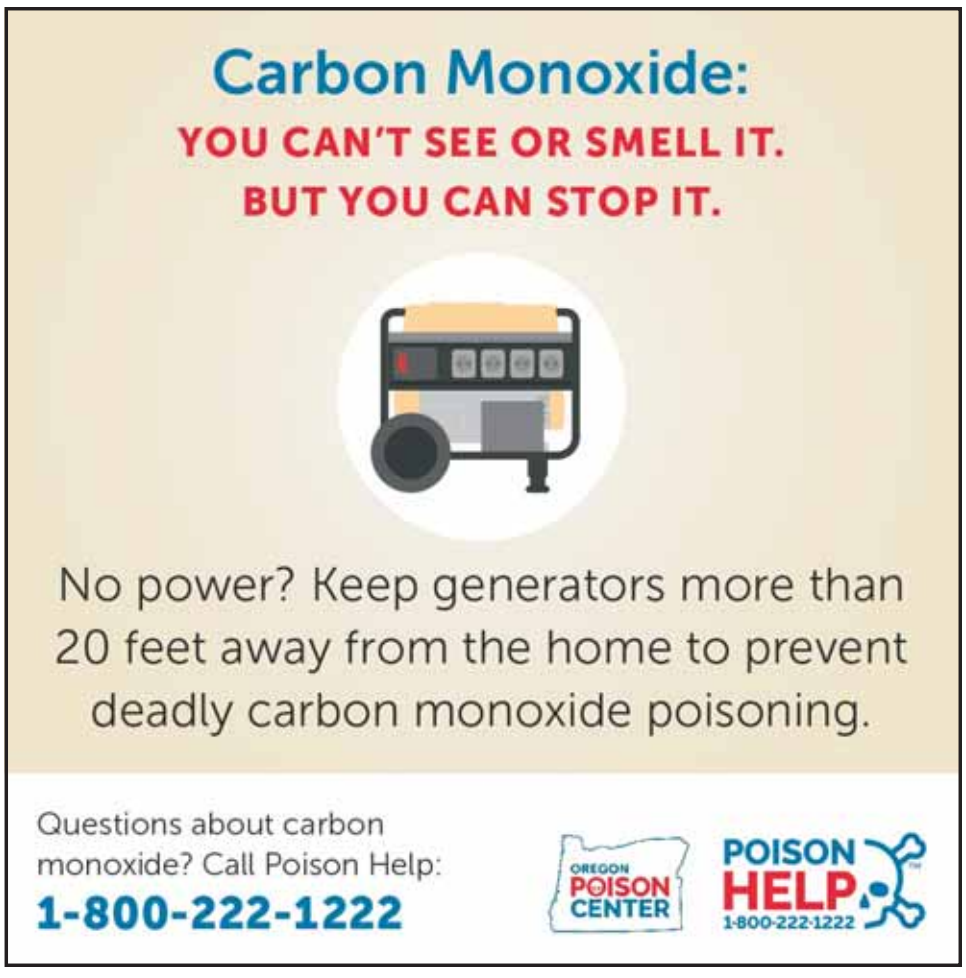
Valkyries owner Joe Lacob could see it when he interviewed Nakase over a late breakfast in Las Vegas two years ago.

"She's everything I thought she would be," Lacob said. "I'm so happy for her, she continues to impress me with her coaching, she's just terrific."

While handling video duties as an intern for the Clippers, Hill asked what her goal was and Nakase told him she wanted to be a head coach one day. He replied, "OK, let's get to it."

"He's the reason why I'm here, seriously," she said. "… He calls me grasshopper, because I'm always anxious, I want to do everything right, I'm a perfectionist, I'm an extremist but he's all

Continued on page 11





"The Simpsons" resurrects Apu after nearly a decade of silence

By Terry Tang and Deepti Hajela
The Associated Press



APU RETURNS. *This image provided by FOX shows the new Apu with his wife Manjula and children from an episode of "The Simpsons." Across 38 seasons of "The Simpsons," the Halloween-themed "Treehouse of Horror" episodes have always been a treat of spooky stand-alone storylines. In October, the show surprised viewers with a major resurrection: Apu, the beloved Kwik-E-Mart operator who had not been heard from for the better part of a decade, spoke once again in Springfield. (FOX via AP)*

Across 38 seasons of "The Simpsons," the Halloween-themed "Treehouse of Horror" episodes have always been a treat of spooky stand-alone storylines. In October, the show surprised viewers with a major resurrection: Apu, the beloved Kwik-E-Mart operator who had not been heard from for the better part of a decade, spoke once again in Springfield.

He and his wife, Manjula, were back with a meaty plotline — and the voices of actual Indian American actors: Sunil Malhotra, a veteran voice-over artist, and Janina Gavankar ("The Morning Show").

"Bringing Apu back feels like a reclamation. It truly *IS* his homecoming," Malhotra and Gavankar said in a joint Instagram post.

Apu's unheralded return is a remarkable twist to a yearslong discourse about how the character has represented a painful stereotype for some South Asian Americans. After a 2017 documentary by comedian Hari Kondabolu, *The Problem With Apu*, the character was largely exiled from the screen.

How a documentary on Apu became a turning point

In *The Problem With Apu*, Kondabolu, a self-described fan of the Fox show, tried to process his misgivings. He interviewed a slew of celebrities of South Asian origin, including Kal Penn, Utkarsh Ambudkar, and Hasan Minhaj, about growing up with the character. They shared memories of being bullied and called "Apu" as an insult. Adding to their view of Apu as just a caricature was that Hank Azaria, a white actor, voiced him.

With the full name of Apu Nahasapeemapetilon Jr., he felt like the "forever foreigner, someone who represents Indians in the United States through this sole typology of being a convenience store owner, being a recent immigrant, having this heavy accent, being really limited in this sort of like American identity," says Bhoomi Thakore, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut.

Thakore notes that Kondabolu's film raised the notion that Apu was the only portrayal of an Indian character most people knew when he debuted in 1990.

Azaria stepped away from the role after the documentary, continuing to voice other "Simpsons" characters, as Apu fell silent, seen only in the background. Kondabolu, however, had never called for Apu to be cancelled. He recently praised "The Simpsons" for devising "a clever solution to all this" and hiring Malhotra and Gavankar.

"I'm also still proud of the public conversation about race and representation my documentary started," he told The Associated Press in an e-mailed statement. "Finally, I'm hoping this stops all the hate mail in many languages that has been sent my way over the past decade."

After years in the background, Apu appears here to stay

In a 2018 episode, "The Simpsons" responded to Kondabolu's documentary by having Lisa Simpson bemoan how "something that started decades ago and was applauded and inoffensive is now politically incorrect. ... What can you do?" The camera then panned to a framed photo of Apu. The gag was branded by some as weak for not directly addressing the controversy.

In a 2020 *New York Times* interview, Azaria, who by then hadn't voiced Apu in a few years, announced he would bow out because "it just didn't feel right." Later that year, in response to racial reckoning demonstrations, "The Simpsons" announced it would no longer cast white voice actors as characters of color. The show then recast two Black characters, Carl Carlson and Dr. Julius Hibbert, with Black actors.

Kondabolu had not spoken with "The Simpsons" producers about Apu's comeback, he confirmed to The AP, "but they didn't owe me that." And it does sound like Apu is here to stay.

"We love this character and wanted to bring him back in a smart, Simpsons-y way that allowed him to evolve," executive producer Matt Selman said in a statement. "We're excited by what Sunil has already brought to the role and look forward to seeing more of Apu in the future."

Apu was also embraced by South Asians, despite the controversy

A few weeks after "The Simpsons" responded to the documentary, author and producer Amar Shah wrote a series of social media posts and then a *Washington Post* op-ed on why he felt mostly sentimental toward Apu. When he watched Apu, he thought of his own Indian father hard at work as a convenience store owner and how that shaped his Florida childhood.

"Apu even now is a character that I wouldn't mind my kids seeing represented because they'll see aspects of themselves and of their own grandparents," says Shah, reflecting on his 2018 piece. "I can totally empathize with someone of South Asian origin having a different POV (point of view) than me but this is my childhood. This is my story."

After watching this latest episode, Shah didn't sense any significant difference with Malhotra's performance.

"Obviously, there's a different voice, tenor, texture, and all that. But, the character is always going to be there, his genuine humanity," Shah says. "I think if they had incorporated this change earlier, it would have been a lot better."

At a time of anti-South Asian hate, Apu's return is welcomed

Apu is being revived amid a climate of rising anti-South Asian and Indian hate. Stop AAPI Hate and other research groups have found online use of racist slurs and threats against South Asians and Indians have jumped in the past few years.

Texas Railroad Commission candidate Bo French, a Republican, recently posted a photo of South Asian University of Texas students cheering at a football game and called them "a problem." Then last month, a man was charged with planning a mass shooting at a Hindu temple outside Chicago. Against that backdrop, Shah welcomes the show's careful approach reincarnating the character.

"It's great to see that the show has evolved in time and now, especially with the discrimination and, really, the targeting of South Asians and Indian Americans as of late — questioning our patriotism, our American identity, and even whether we're college football fans," he says.

The return also coincides with much more representation of prominent South Asian Americans, such as actor and showrunner Mindy Kaling, and people who have broken barriers in office, like New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani and former Vice President Kamala Harris.

When Apu first appeared, says University of Virginia associate professor of media studies Shilpa Davé, he was one of the only consistent representations of South Asians on TV.

Now, she says, "South Asians have become a part of the landscape from 'Bridgerton' to … 'Never Have I Ever' and there's a plethora of different kinds of representation."

Associated Press journalist Mallika Sen contributed to this report.

Nakase's high-energy, hands-on coaching guided the Golden State Valkyries to the WNBA Finals

Continued from page 10

about, 'Hey, just take a breath, make sure you're clear and concise with your game plan, try not to get everything done all in one night and more importantly take care of your health.'"

She honors her late father every day in all she does, committed to treating the job as a tremendous opportunity.

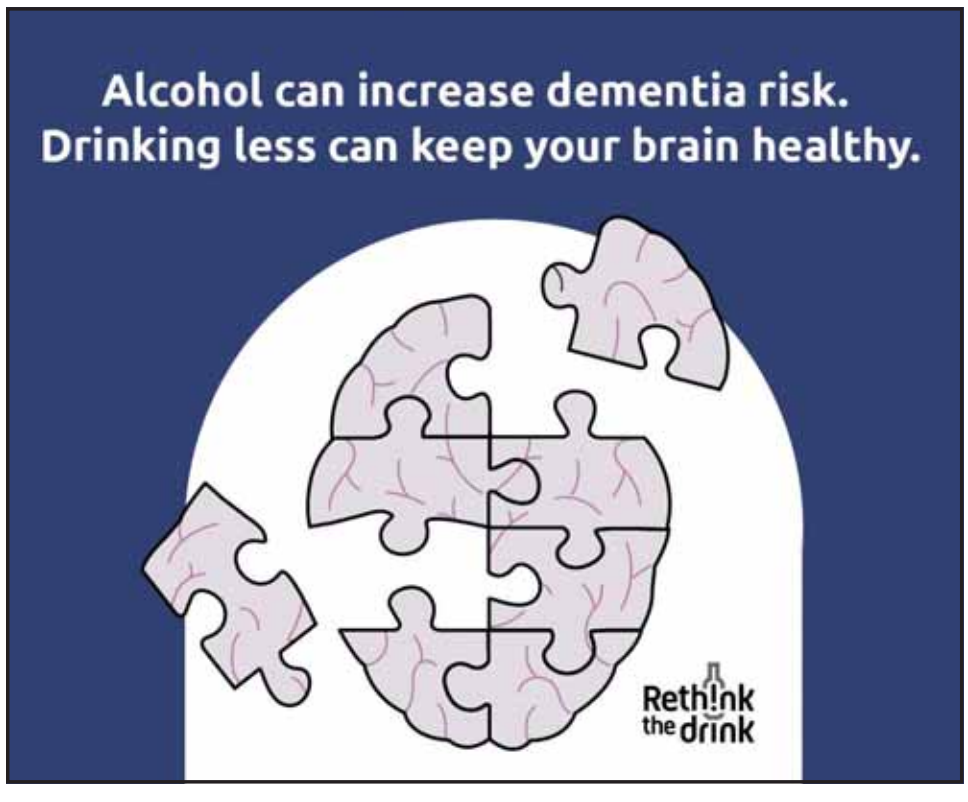
"I'm always going to be a fighter," Nakase said. "That's how my dad raised me."

The Golden State Valkyries defeated the Atlanta Dream in Game 7 of the best-of-seven series. The championship series began October 17 in San Francisco with the Valkyries winning 68-64. In Game 2, the Dream tied the series at 1-1 with a 79-65 win. The series then moved to Atlanta, where the Dream beat the Valkyries 97-71 in Game 3. In Game 4, the Valkyries beat Atlanta 67-62 to even up the series again. The Valkyries won Game 5, 64-55, back in San Francisco, but lost 69-80 in last Thursday's Game 6 in Atlanta, to force a seventh game in San Francisco on Halloween night. The Valkyries battled in that final game, beating Atlanta 68-63 to win their first championship.

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The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and memorable Thanksgiving!

Actor, "restaurant kid" Ming-Na Wen reflects on the Asian American experience in 70 recipes

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

Just like her mother, Ming-Na Wen will show you she cares through the love language of food.

"Whenever anyone comes to the house, it's always, 'Have you eaten yet?'" Wen told The Associated Press. "So that was how I came up with the title, because I wanted that as a greeting for my fans."

Wen, who found fame in the 1993 film adaptation of Amy Tan's novel *The Joy Luck Club* and went on to star in *Mulan*, is wading into the cookbook market. *Have You Eaten Yet? Family Recipes From a Restaurant Daughter* is sprinkled with Chinese and western recipes and first-person anecdotes.

The recipes parallel Wen's evolution from immigrant kid helping out at her parents' restaurant to working actor cooking for her own children.

For generations of Asian Americans, Wen became an icon for validating the bicultural experience as June in *The Joy Luck Club*. The first big studio feature with an all-Asian cast was praised for depicting Chinese characters and Chinese food in a non-demeaning way.

Despite being more prevalent now than ever, Chinese cuisine is still at times stereotyped or devalued. Wen might be an ideal ambassador to share experiences of growing up eating Chinese and American food.

"I didn't want it to just be about Chinese food," said Wen, 62. "I wanted it to be about the Asian American experience."

The cookbook is a way to honor her family

The idea for a cookbook began with Wen's Instagram cooking videos, posted from her Los Angeles home. Fans urged *The Mandalorian* star to write a cookbook, but she didn't feel qualified — until she learned there are "many celebrities who would write a book who didn't cook, which to me was such a no-no."

"It took a couple of years before my literary agent came up with this wonderful idea that we write the cookbook as my journey through food," Wen said.

She ended up whittling a list of a hundred recipes down to 70. Among those that made the cut are Popo's (Cantonese for grandmother) Wontons, and Chestnut Chicken, both reminiscent of her childhood in Hong Kong.

She also wanted to honor her stepfather, or "Chef Baba (Cantonese for father)," who taught her to cook western dishes he had learned cooking in the army. He could pivot from making clam chowder to winter melon soup.

At age 7, Wen rode in an airplane for the first time when her stepfather sponsored her, her mother, and brother to come to the U.S. They lived in New York City for three years before moving to Pittsburgh. There, her parents



FOOD & CULTURE. *Ming-Na Wen poses for a portrait in New York on September 30, 2026. Just like her mother, Ming-Na Wen will show you she cares through the love language of food. "Whenever anyone comes to the house, it's always, 'Have you eaten yet?'" Wen told The Associated Press. "So that was how I came up with the title, because I wanted that as a greeting for my fans." (Photo by Andy Kropa/Invision/AP)*

opened the Chinatown Inn restaurant. A good "restaurant daughter," Wen helped set tables, wash dishes, and other tasks.

"Being a restaurant kid was something that I sort of was either embarrassed about or rejected or didn't like because it took time away from hanging out with my friends," Wen said. "Looking back … it makes me so much more aware of how much that restaurant's given and provided for my family and for shaping who I am."

Having to cook far from home reawakened old skills

It wasn't until the Carnegie Mellon University alum moved to New York to pursue acting that she found she had a knack for cooking. She was on a shoestring budget, and the necessity of cooking awoke all those kitchen-prep skills she had seen as a child.

"It's interesting how all those things that I observed growing up became second nature when I did start cooking, like really feverishly," Wen said.

She went from making ramen and eggs to Cornish game hens with Chinese plum sauce.

Wen kept up cooking even after scoring a part on "As the World Turns" in 1988, making her the first Asian American actor on contract with a soap.

The cookbook has compelled her to revisit dishes she made back then, as well as those from Chinatown Inn, which her brother and sister-in-law run today. She felt like a "mad chemist" at times since her family cooks on instinct, not written recipes.

"The egg rolls — my brother was just like, 'OK, these are the ingredients.' I'm like, 'Well, how much to how much?' He's like, 'I don't know,'" Wen said. "I had to measure and measure and remeasure and taste-test and taste-test until I got it right."

By all means, get a wok

Nowadays, cookbooks on Asian cuisine make up a crowded field, including niche volumes, such as vegan or noodle dishes, or ones influenced by a region of the U.S.

"In a weird way, my cookbook is going back to the basics, and yet expanding on it through other foods that people are familiar with," Wen said.

She is eager for readers to try more challenging recipes like wontons and "lion's head," meatballs with napa cabbage. Wen also cannot recommend a wok enough.

"If there was ever an apocalyptic situation in L.A. and I have to leave with some essentials, I would grab my wok and my spatula, because you can cook anything in a wok," she said.

Eddie Lin, a Los Angeles-based food writer and past "MasterChef" TV judge, was also a production assistant on *The Joy Luck Club*. Chinese food was "all over the place" in many big scenes, he recalls. So, he sees it as a nice full-circle moment that Wen is again bringing attention to the Asian American experience.

Her cookbook will stick out, he thinks, because she is willing to be so personal.

"I feel that Ming-Na's book is probably her story on a plate or in a bowl," Lin said.

Despite the popularity of Asian foods, there are still instances of ugly stereotypes on social media that have resulted in real harm to a restaurant's reputation.

"It does irk me quite a bit," Wen said. "I know how difficult it is to keep a restaurant afloat, especially these days. All we can do is just ignore the negative, ignore the toxic, and just try to find joy and harmony. Food is the universal love language. So, I will go with that thought instead."

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Difficulty level: Hard *#19276*

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 #32621 (Medium)

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

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

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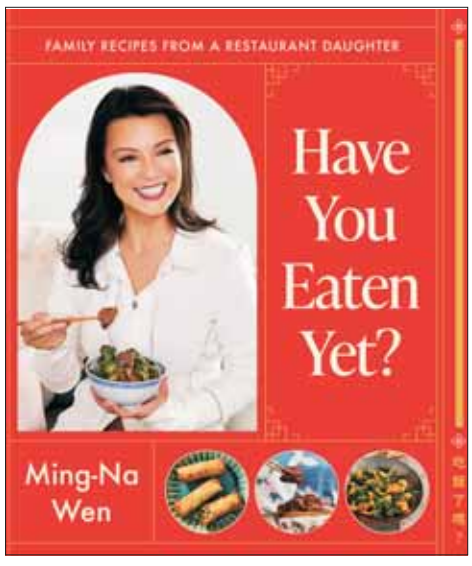
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Ming-Na Wen's recipe for 'Popo's Wontons' is as good as gold in her family

By Ming-Na Wen





HAVE YOU EATEN YET? *This image released by S&S/Element shows a recipe for Popo's Wontons from Ming-Na Wen's cookbook,* Have You Eaten Yet? *(Jennifer Chong/S&S/Element via AP)*

Wontons hold a special place in my heart. Sitting around our kitchen table making wontons is something I loved doing with my mother as a child.

Time was scarce, so the chance to make wontons with her became special mother-daughter moments for us. She always had all the fillings ready to go — my favorite was and still is pork, shrimp, and vegetables. I'd carefully scoop a bit of filling onto the wonton wrapper and do my best to fold it as neatly as possible.

Years later, I've continued the tradition with my own children, and together as a family we make Popo's wontons ("Popo" is the Chinese word for "maternal grandmother"). Just as it was for my mother and me, making wontons gives me and my kids the opportunity to escape the chaos of daily life and bond while we fold 34 together.

It also gives me the chance to share more about our heritage. For example, the Chinese revere wealth (like most people!). Wontons are a symbol for gold — when folding, your goal is to create a wonton shaped like a Chinese gold ingot. I suppose that's one way of getting rich. My kids thought it was the silliest, most fun thing to eat "gold."

Ming-Na Wen is an actor and author of the cookbook Have You Eaten Yet? Family Recipes From a Restaurant Daughter.

Popo's Wontons

Servings: Makes about 60

1 (3-inch) nob peeled ginger, minced
½ pound large (31 to 40) raw shrimp, shelled and deveined
2 tablespoons cornstarch, divided
2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
1 pound frozen shepherd's purse, defrosted (or 2 bunches fresh watercress)
2 tablespoons light soy sauce
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
½ teaspoon ground white pepper
1 pound ground meat (pork, turkey, or chicken)
1 large egg
2 (12-ounce) packages square, thin wonton wrappers (you won't use them all)

In a small bowl, soak the ginger in ¼ cup of water for 15 minutes.

Rinse the shrimp with cold water. Drain them and place in a medium bowl with 1 tablespoon of the cornstarch, massaging it gently into the shrimp to further clean them. Rinse the shrimp again with clean, cold water. Drain them, then toss with ½ teaspoon of the salt. Finely chop the shrimp. Set aside.

Rinse the defrosted shepherd's purse with cold water, then squeeze out the excess water. Finely chop the greens, then toss them with ½ teaspoon of the salt. Set aside. (If using watercress, boil 2 bunches for 3 minutes, then drain and rinse with cold water. Squeeze out the excess water and finely chop.)

Remove the ginger from the water and squeeze it over the water to retain as much of the ginger-scented soaking water as possible. Discard the ginger, keeping only the ginger water.

In a medium nonreactive bowl, combine the ginger water, soy sauce, the remaining 1½ teaspoons of salt, oil, the remaining 1 tablespoon of cornstarch, and the white pepper. Add the ground meat and thoroughly mix it with the seasoning. Add the shrimp and greens and mix everything together. Allow it to marinate, covered in the refrigerator, for 30 minutes. Take a small piece and cook the meat mixture in boiling water until the meat floats, about 3 minutes. Taste it to see if it's seasoned well. If not, then add another teaspoon of salt to the meat and mix well.

In a small bowl, whisk the egg so that it can be used to seal the wonton skins.

Fan the stack of skins out to create a pinwheel of skins. This separates the skins, making them easier to pick up. Take one wonton skin and place a dollop of meat mixture (about ½ tablespoon) in the center.

Using the tip of a butter knife dipped in the egg, brush the top and side edges of the skin. Fold the square in half and gently press edges together. The wonton is now a rectangle. Brush the bottom corners with egg. Holding the rectangle in your palm, bend the left and right corners together toward the center of the wonton. Squeeze the corners together to seal.

On a tray or plate lined with parchment paper, place the wontons in rows with a bit of separation between them so that they do not stick together. Make sure the tray or plate will fit in your freezer. Once the tray is full, freeze the wontons until the skin feels solid and frozen, about 1 hour. You can then place the wontons in a plastic freezer bag without worrying about them sticking together. Place the bag immediately back into the freezer to further freeze the wontons. Remember to write a date on the bags. They will keep for 3 to 4 months.

If you're starting with fresh wontons, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Leave enough room in the pot for 1 to 2 cups of additional water. Add the wontons. When the water boils again, add ½ cup cold water. When the water boils again, add another ½ cup of cold water. When wontons float to the top, they are done. Adding cold water in steps like this keeps the skin of the wontons from overcooking and becoming too soft.

With frozen wontons, repeat the above, but add ½ cup cold water one more time because the frozen meat needs a bit longer to cook through.

Excerpted from Have You Eaten Yet? Family Recipes From a Restaurant Daughter. *Copyright 2026 by Ming-Na Wen. Reproduced by permission of Simon Element, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. All rights reserved.*

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Where will your child **thrive?**



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Oregon Episcopal School

This recipe for a kimchi seafood pot keeps Esther Choi's mom coming back for more

By Esther Choi
Voracious

Like my recipes for Kimchi Bolognese and Kimchi Mac and Beef, this dish from my cookbook *Hand Taste: Cook Like a Korean Grandmother* is part of my Korean Italian American repertoire.

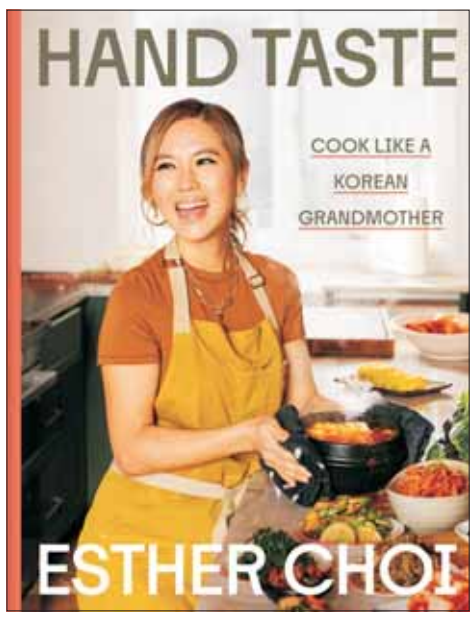
And out of them all, this Kimchi Seafood Pot is my mom's favorite. I made it for her once just for fun, and now she asks me to make it all the time. It's all about seafood in tomato sauce punched up with kimchi and fish sauce, like a Korean cioppino.

Tomato passata is essentially tomato purée. If you're shopping for canned tomato products and see a 24-ounce jar of tomato passata, that's perfect. I prefer it over chunky canned tomatoes for this recipe because the silky-smooth tomato texture is better for coating the seafood. If all you have is canned tomatoes, purée them in the blender first.

The specific seafood is less important than using the highest quality you can find. If the best thing in your area is clams and shrimp, and scallops are insanely expensive, go with those two and use more of them to make up the difference. Or use calamari or pieces of white fish fillets in place of the scallops, adding them at the end so they don't overcook. I love serving this with torn pieces of crusty bread for dipping directly into the pot, though I have also served it happily with pasta or rice.

Esther Choi is a chef, entrepreneur, and TV personality. She is the author of Hand Taste*, and owner of Mokbar (with locations ranging from New York City to Las Vegas) and Ms. Yoo, a Korean-style gastropub in Manhattan. Choi is the co-host of the Food Network's "24 in 24" and the host of "Heat Eaters," by "First We Feast." Choi has been a finalist on "Iron Chef: Quest for an Iron Legend." She lives in New York City with her husband and son.*





Kimchi Seafood Pot

Seafood:
2 pounds mussels
1 pound cockles (or clams) or more mussels
All-purpose flour
Kosher salt
8 ounces jumbo or large shrimp (about 8)
8 ounces bay or sea scallops

Sauce:
Vegetable oil
½ cup finely diced carrot
½ cup finely diced shallots
½ cup finely diced celery
1½ tablespoons minced garlic
2 scallions, white and green parts separated and thinly sliced crosswise
¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus more for garnish
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup chopped kimchi
1 tablespoon gochujang
½ cup white wine
3 cups (24 ounces) tomato passata (see headnote)
1 tablespoon fish sauce
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes

To serve:
1 lemon
1 loaf good crusty bread

Prep the seafood: If attached, pull the beards (the hairy bits near the joint) off the mussels. Scrub each well and drain, discarding any mussels that aren't firmly closed. Put the mussels in a bowl, cover with a cool, damp kitchen towel, and refrigerate.

Put the cockles in a bowl with a pinch of flour and pinch of salt. Cover with cold water and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes while preparing the rest of the seafood. Drain the cockles, discarding any sand and grit at the bottom of the bowl and discard any that aren't firmly closed. Cover the bowl with a cool, damp kitchen towel and refrigerate.

For each shrimp, cut along the backbone and devein, leaving the shell and tails attached (though if you don't like peeling shrimp as you eat, remove the shell). For each scallop, peel off the small piece of muscle, if attached. If using scallops that are very large (like some sea scallops), halve them first so they cook evenly in the center at the same time as the shrimp.

Make the sauce: Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large Dutch oven or pot over medium-high heat. Add the carrot, shallots, and celery and cook, lowering the heat to medium if needed to prevent scorching and stirring often, until the shallots begin to soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the garlic, scallion whites, and parsley and cook until very fragrant, about 1 more minute. Stir in the salt and kimchi and cook until the kimchi begins to soften, about 2 minutes.

Stir in the gochujang, ensuring it is evenly dispersed, then pour in the wine. Increase the heat to medium-high and let the wine reduce by half. Stir in the tomato passata, fish sauce, and red pepper flakes.

Cook the seafood: Stir the mussels and cockles into the pot and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook until the mussels and cockles have opened up, about 5 minutes; discard any that have not opened up. Stir in the shrimp and scallops, then cook uncovered, stirring often, until the rest of the seafood is cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes longer.

To serve: Using a Microplane rasp, grate the zest of the lemon into the pot. Cut the lemon in half and squeeze the juice from one half into the pot. Stir, then taste and add more lemon juice if you want. Garnish with the scallion greens and some parsley and serve immediately with crusty bread. This recipe is best as soon as it's made.

Excerpted from Hand Taste *by Esther Choi. Copyright 2026 by Esther Choi. Used with permission of Voracious, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company, New York, NY. All rights reserved.*

Indonesia relocates 8 orangutans after rescue from wildfires

Continued from page 5

tored for months in a small forest patch surrounded by plantations. Expanding fires and heavy smoke left them with no safe route back to larger forests before they were evacuated in early September, Suciadi said.

Two other mother-and-infant pairs and two juvenile males were found in similar conditions after fires swept through forests near villages in Ketapang and North Kayong, Suciadi said.

The orangutans underwent veterinary examinations and observation at a rehabilitation center operated by YIARI to ensure they were healthy enough to return to the wild. The release site in Batu Nyambu was selected because the area remains largely intact despite wildfires and offers abundant food sources, water, nesting trees, and connections to neighboring forests, YIARI Operational director Argitoe Ranting said before their release.

"We want to ensure that rescued orangutans are not simply moved from one place to another, but actually have a chance to survive in their natural habitat," he said, adding that protected forests capable of receiving displaced orangutans are becoming increasingly scarce as fires spread.

Forest and land fires in Indonesia have worsened this year as El Niño intensifies a prolonged dry season. Contributing factors also include land clearances using fire in the Indonesian part of Borneo and regions of Sumatra island, as well as water shortages that have hampered Indonesian firefighters, who have received assistance from Japan.

A male orangutan named Sampurna, believed to be around 20 years old, was found struggling to breathe by residents in early September on a palm oil plantation in West Kalimantan's Ketapang district, an area affected by wildfires. He died hours after being rescued, Indonesia's Forestry Ministry said.

As of October 10, the ministry said, more than 270 wild animals in Indonesia's part of Borneo had been rescued, rehabilitated, or guided to safer habitats, including 46 orangutans rescued by YIARI.

The relocation was a last resort after the orangutans' original habitat was no longer safe, YIARI CEO Karmele Llano Sanchez said.

"These orangutans have been traumatized and other impacts by wildfires that devastated their habitat, leaving them displaced," she said, "Rescuing them is one of the best ways we can help them survive."



Mark your calendar!

The Year of the Sheep begins February 6, 2027.

Display advertising space reservations for our special Year of the Sheep issue are due ***Monday, January 18 at 5:00pm***.

The Asian Reporter's Lunar New Year special issue will be published on Monday, February 1, 2027.

A humble oyster pail turned takeout icon: The American story of the Chinese food carton

By Deepti Hajela
The Associated Press



ICONIC CARTON. *It's an icon, that small white receptacle made from a single piece of cardboard folded into a trapezoid-shaped box. Sometimes there's a wire handle, sometimes a bright red graphic of a Chinese-style pagoda on the side. And inside, deliciousness. Pictured is a Chinese takeout container with fried rice inside. (AP Photo/ Dario Lopez-Mills)*

NEW YORK — It's an icon, that small white receptacle made from a single piece of cardboard folded into a trapezoid-shaped box. Sometimes there's a wire handle, sometimes a bright red graphic of a Chinese-style pagoda on the side. And inside, deliciousness.

The Chinese takeout container — at least, as it's commonly seen in the United States — is actually about as American as it gets, with its mix of ingenuity, immigrant cultures becoming homegrown staples, and the desire for convenience (also known as sitting at home in your PJs.)

The idea of what is essentially a paper bucket dates to 1894, when inventor Frederick Weeks Wilcox was granted a patent for what he called "a new and useful improvement" for pails used to carry oysters. A single piece of material would be folded in such a way that it would have structural stability while also limiting the ways it could leak, and also incorporate a lid.

That's the container. What about the contents we assume are inside it?

Chinese immigrants started coming to the U.S. in the mid-1800s, taking part in the Gold Rush and working to help build the railroads. The communities they created, known as Chinatowns, rose up in places like San Francisco and later around the country. They included eating spots where the foundations of an Americanized style of Chinese food was laid.

After World War II, there was a "real profusion of Chinese restaurants, diversifying away from just chop suey and chow mein ... we see this explosion of interest and growth in Chinese food," says Michelle King, professor of Chinese history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Crucially, it was also the start of an association in the public mind of Chinese food with cheaper prices, availability, and convenience, she said. And restaurant owners wanted to be considered accessible, for which takeout played a part, she said. "You need to take it home, you have a dinner party you want to cater for, we can do that for you, right?" King says.

At some point in the 1970s, at a packaging company then known as Fold-Pak, the pagoda design was added, sometimes along with words printed in a font used to stereotypically evoke an association with Chinese culture.

"It kind of becomes claimed as a Chinese American food eatery item, like the pizza box or something like that might be for Italian food," King said.

These days, takeout cartons come in a variety of shapes, and the food landscape has expanded to include a range of cuisines that might show up in the former oyster pail.

Even so, it *IS* still an icon — quite literally. Check your emojis for "takeout."

This story is part of a recurring series, "American Objects," marking the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Oregon Zoo mobilizes to treat elephant calf Tula-Tu for EEHV



MEDICAL INTERVENTION. *A team of Oregon Zoo veterinary experts and care specialists has launched a comprehensive treatment plan for Asian elephant Tula-Tu, who is battling elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus. The care team hopes its quick intervention helps Tula-Tu overcome the disease. (Photo/Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)*

PORTLAND — A team of Oregon Zoo veterinary experts and care specialists has launched a comprehensive treatment plan for Asian elephant Tula-Tu, who is currently battling elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus, or EEHV, a rapidly progressing disease to which young calves are particularly susceptible.

On October 24, care staff alerted veterinarians after noticing subtle changes in Tula's behavior and energy levels. The vet team responded immediately, collecting blood samples for rapid diagnostic testing and initiating precautionary treatment even before EEHV was confirmed.

"Early detection is critical," said Dr. Carlos Sanchez, the Oregon Zoo's director of animal health. "We conduct routine blood monitoring in-house, with veterinary technicians trained to recognize elephant-specific blood cells. Right away, they could see Tula's white-cell count was low, so we started her on antiviral medications while we waited for advanced molecular testing to confirm or rule out EEHV."

The next day, the molecular lab at the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Oregon State University (OSU) confirmed an elevated viral load of EEHV, triggering further protocols, including plasma transfusions to fight the virus.

Sanchez says the young elephant has remained stable throughout her treatment, and her current status is encouraging.

"The combination of stable viral loads, normal platelet counts, and improving white cell counts suggests a "favorable trajectory," Sanchez said. "She's not out of the woods yet, but these findings provide grounds for cautious optimism. Diagnostics and treatment for this disease have advanced so much over the past few years. Every hour of stability brings her one step closer to recovery."

Earlier this year, Tula-Tu became the first elephant on the West Coast to receive an mRNA vaccine aimed at protecting against EEHV-1A, the most common strain of the virus. However, Tula's current infection is from a different, related strain: EEHV-1B. Although EEHV-1B is responsible for fewer reported fatal infections, both variants can cause severe disease in young Asian elephants.

"We do not know whether the EEHV-1A vaccine is protective for the -1B variant," Dr. Sanchez said. "It's possible, but to what degree remains unknown."

Sanchez, who serves as chair of the North American EEHV Advisory Group Research Committee, says EEHV is a latent virus present in nearly all Asian elephants, both wild and in human care. Most elephants develop natural immunity over time, but calves become highly susceptible to the disease as their maternal antibodies decline, typically between the ages of 1 and 8.

Once EEHV becomes active, it can be life-threatening within a few days — as was the case with another of Rose-Tu's calves, Lily, who succumbed to the disease in 2018 shortly before her sixth birthday. But advancements in early detection, vaccines, and transfusion protocols have improved survival outcomes significantly.

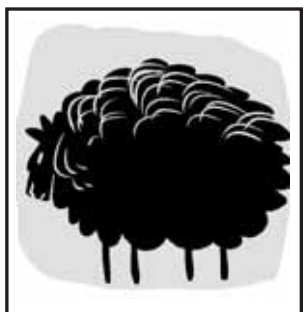
For nearly 25 years, the Oregon Zoo has contributed funding and elephant blood samples as part of a collaborative international effort to find a vaccine or effective treatment. Collaborating with accredited facilities nationwide, the Oregon Zoo has invested in critical research, testing, and monitoring to protect elephants from EEHV.

Sanchez said blood samples from Tula-Tu will help several ongoing studies — including one conducted in partnership with OSU and Baylor to help researchers further understand the vaccine response.

He notes that the virus affects wild elephants as well. Although it is harder to identify and diagnose — and its occurrence in range countries is overshadowed by much more serious threats such as poaching, habitat loss, and human-elephant conflict — scientists have confirmed around 200 EEHV deaths in Asian elephant range countries.

"The work we're doing now could play a significant role in protecting future elephant calves from the disease, including those in range countries," Sanchez said. "It's very difficult to study the virus in wild elephants, but zoos can monitor the elephants in their care closely and obtain samples of blood and other fluids."

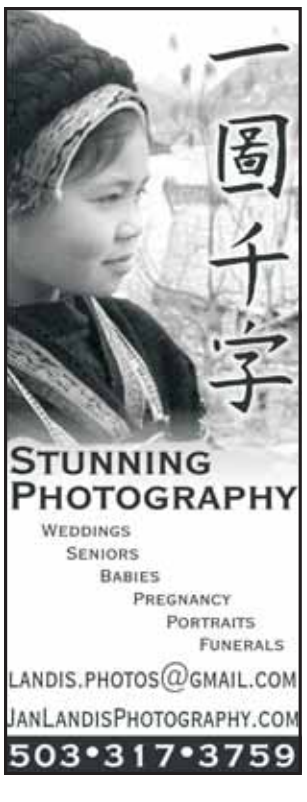
In 2023, Oregon Zoo veterinary staff worked with Malaysian wildlife officials to set up Sabah's first hematology lab to track signs of EEHV in elephants in the wild and in human care. Zoo veterinary staff provide workshops and support on EEHV diagnostics, monitoring, and response, providing clinical training and awareness for wildlife health practitioners across Southeast Asia.



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Events calendar





HUNG DANCE. *Hung Dance is performing at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton from November 5 through 7. The show features traditional Chinese arts — including tai chi, Peking Opera, and classical Chinese music — and current dance techniques and electronic music. (Images courtesy of Hung Dance)*

"Boundless: Stories of Asian Art"

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View "Boundless: Stories of Asian Art," a display highlighting themes central to arts and societies of Asia, such as worship and celebration, visual arts and literature, and clothing and identity. The museum's south galleries feature art inspired by spiritual life and the north galleries show art inspired by material life. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

"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>.

NANAY

Through Nov 14, Theatre Off Jackson (409 Seventh Ave S, Seattle). Watch Molly Olis Krost's haunting Filipino-American play, *NANAY*. Tickets are available at sliding-scale prices. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 365-0282 or visit <www.porkfilled.com>.

"Honoring Oregon's Chinese American Veterans & Active-Duty Service Members"

Through Nov 15, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). "Honoring Oregon's Chinese American Veterans & Active-Duty Service Members," a current project at the Portland Chinatown Museum's Memory Lab, is a temporary display of community knowledge of Chinatown's past and its community. As part of celebrations honoring the 250th anniversary of America, the Memory Lab is seeking military portraits (formal and informal, in uniform) of Chinese American veterans and all active-duty servicemen and women from Oregon, including veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War / Operation Desert Storm, the War in Afghanistan, and the Iraq War. For info, or to contribute to the exhibit, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

"Anish Kapoor: Dissolving Margins"

Through Dec 5, 11am-5pm (Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat), 11am-7pm (Thu), Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) at Portland State University (1855 SW Broadway, Portland). View "Anish Kapoor: Dissolving Margins, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation," a decade-spanning survey of the artist's printmaking practice featuring more than 150 unique works. The free exhibit, Kapoor's first retrospective survey dedicated to his printmaking, reflect his long-standing interest in iteration, variation, form, and color — all of which are central tenets of his artistic practice. A virtual talk with Dr. Mas Subramanian, "The Colorful Chemistry of Art," is scheduled for November 5 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. For info, call (503) 725-8013 or visit <www.pdx.edu/museum-of-art>.

"Bonsai United"

Through Dec 2027, 10am-4pm (Tue-Sun), Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). View "Bonsai United," a comparative exhibit exploring a remarkable human phenomenon — across continents, climates, and cultures, people dedicate their lives to cultivating miniature trees. By placing regional approaches side-by-side, the display reveals how a shared practice — care, observation, and creating meaning through living form — manifests differently depending on local landscape, native flora, cultural practices, and the passage of time. "Bonsai United" features perspectives from 15 traditions. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

"DISplace"

Through Jan 4, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View "DISplace," an exhibit featuring visual art by regional Native Hawaiian creatives; family stories and ephemera; historic photographs; and archival objects that honor these histories and reclaim the narrative through the voices of families and individual descendants today. Co-curated by Native Hawaiian artist and kapa-maker Lehuauakea and artist and educator Kanani Miyamoto, the display sheds light on the often-overlooked histories and movement of people who connect Hawai'i and the Pacific Northwest. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.



"Weaving Time: NUNO — Textiles of Tradition and Transformation"

Through Feb 14, 10am-3:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View "Weaving Time: NUNO — Textiles of Tradition and Transformation," an exhibit featuring the iconic Japanese textile design studio that weaves together centuries of tradition with cutting-edge innovation. NUNO's immersive installations demonstrate threads of connection across daily life and contemporary art with fabrics that reflect tradition alongside modern materials and sensibilities. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

"The Sky Is a Diasporic Space"

Through Spring 2027, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View "The Sky Is a Diasporic Space," an exhibit by YouthCAN exploring collective memory through art. In response to ongoing attacks on migrant communities, students created original works while learning how creativity has supported solidarity movements globally. The display features block prints, kites, oral histories, and more. These personal mementos and works by the youth experiment with the world-building possibilities of cataloguing our own lives and the importance of our own stories. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

"Ten Thousand Things"

Through Spring 2027, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View "Ten Thousand Things," an exploration of the objects that shape our identities, histories, and cultural narratives curated by podcast host and former civic poet Shin Yu Pai. Museum visitors are able to explore objects highlighted in the podcast alongside newly collected artifacts and stories from local communities. Featured artists include Pai, Anida Yoeu Al, Etsuko Ichikawa, Susie Kozawa, Serena Chopra, Tomo Nakayama, Stewart Wong, Paul Miyahara, and many others. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

"Finding Home: The Chinese American West"

Through Sep 5, 10am-8pm (Thu-Fri), 10am-5pm (Sat-Sun), Tacoma Art Museum (1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, Wash.). View "Finding Home: The Chinese American West," an exhibit by artists Monyee Chau, Zhi Lin, and Mian Situ about the history of racism and violence against the Chinese in America — specifically Tacoma's exclusionary past — in addition to the artists' views of Chinese immigrants finding a sense of home and hope and persevering despite hardship. The display explores the spiritual, the mythical, and the laborious path of these seekers of the American Dream in a counter-narrative to the conventional picture of America's history. The featured artworks were created in the 21st century, though they imagine the time of 1785 (when the first Chinese immigrants arrived) to 1912 (the end of the American frontier period). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 272-4258 or visit <www.tacomaartmuseum.org>.

Watanabe Sadao

Through Sep 26, 10am-5pm (Tue-Sun), Portland Art Museum (1219 SW Park Ave, Portland). Experience the artistry of Watanabe Sadao (1913-1996), who developed a unique stencil printing process based on traditional Japanese textile dyeing techniques. Tracing Watanabe's distinctive methods and expressive power over several decades, the exhibit explores the artist's alignment with the twentieth-century mingei (folk art) movement, which emphasized the beauty of handmade, everyday objects created from natural materials. Works on display will rotate halfway through the exhibit's run. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-2811 or visit <www.portlandartmuseum.org>.

Portland Book Festival

Nov 2-8, South Park Blocks & other venues (Portland). (Portland). Attend Literary Arts' Portland Book Festival, a city-wide celebration of books and stories. Held on ten stages at partner venues in downtown Portland, the festival features author discussions, music, visual art, workshops, and culinary experiences. The festival's main gathering on November 7 includes more than 100 local, regional, and nationally acclaimed authors, workshops, pop-up readings, an exhibitor fair, and more. For info, call (503) 227-2583. To purchase tickets (required), visit <www.pdxbookfest.org> or <www.literary-arts.org>.

Oregon Zoo $13 admission days

Nov 2-8, 9:30am-3:30pm, Oregon Zoo (4001 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Visit the Oregon Zoo during its $13 admission days special. Attendees are able to observe the many animals as well as attend informative keeper talks throughout the day. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

U.S. General Election

Nov 3, 8pm (ballots due). The U.S. General Election takes place on Tuesday, November 3. All ballots must be delivered to an official ballot drop box no later than 8:00pm. To learn more, visit your county election office or <www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/helpful-information/current-election-information>.

Portland Art Museum Free First Thursday

Nov 5, 10am-7pm, Portland Art Museum (1219 SW Park Ave, Portland). Attend Free First Thursday at the Portland Art Museum. Museum admission is free on the first Thursday of every month courtesy of the Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. For info, call (503) 226-2811 or visit <www.portlandartmuseum.org>.

Columbia Writers Series: Ed Park

Nov 5, 11am-noon, Clark College, Penguin Union Building (PUB), Room 258 (1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, Wash.). Attend the Clark College Columbia Writers Series kick-off event featuring Pulitzer-Prize finalist Ed Park. The series, which is free and open to the public, aims to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of Clark College by providing a platform for literature and the arts. Parking is available in the Green or Red lots. For info, call Alexis at (360) 992-2373 or e-mail <anelson@clark.edu>.

Hung Dance

Nov 5-7, 7:30pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Watch a performance of traditional Chinese arts — including tai chi, Peking Opera, and classical Chinese music — with current dance techniques and electronic music by Hung Dance. "Birdy," choreographer Lai Hung-chung's signature work for Hung Dance, moves between suspense and explosive energy, between the weight of tradition and the pull toward something new. The show, which is presented in partnership with the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, runs 60 minutes with no intermission. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (971) 501-7722 or visit <www.thereser.org>.

Chrysanthemum Festival

Nov 5-22, 10am-4pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Celebrate the beauty and cultural significance of chrysanthemums at the 2026 Chrysanthemum

Continued on page 17

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

News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

December 7, 2026 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, December 2 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, December 3 at 1:00pm

January 4, 2027 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, December 30 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Wednesday, December 30 at 1:00pm

For more information, please contact our advertising department at (503) 283-4440.

Events calendar

Continued from page 16

Festival. The flowers hold a rich and storied history in Chinese culture, symbolizing traits such as longevity, nobility, and endurance. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Yukai Chen: "The Factory of Desire"

Nov 5-28, noon-5pm (Wed-Sat); Nov 5, 5-8pm (reception); Blue Sky Gallery (122 NW Eighth Ave, Portland). View "The Factory of Desire," an exhibit by Yukai Chen that explores queer identity and cultural inheritance through self-portraits and staged photographs. Drawing on his upbringing in rural southeastern China, Chen transforms personal experiences of displacement into vibrant queer spaces. For info, call (503) 225-0210 or visit <www.blueskygallery.org>.

Gem Faire

Nov 6-8, 13-15 & 20-22; noon-6pm (Fri), 10am-6pm (Sat), 10am-5pm (Sun); Nov 6-8, Lane Events Center (796 W 13th Ave, Eugene, Ore.); Nov 13-15, Washington State Fair Event Center (110 9th Ave SW, Puyallup, Wash.); Nov 20-22, Westside Commons (801 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro, Ore.). Browse an assortment of jewelry, beads, crystals, gems, minerals, fashion accessories, and more at Gem Faire. For info, call (503) 252-8300 or visit <www.gemfaire.com>.

"Diwali: Lights of India"

Nov 7, noon-6pm, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Enjoy "Diwali: Lights of India," presented by Seattle Center Festál in partnership with NorthWest Share. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a major cultural celebration observed throughout India every fall. The event features music; classical and folk dances; visual arts galleries and workshops; hands-on activities and roti-making; demonstrations; free food provided by NorthWest Share; and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.nwshare.org>.

"refractive"

Nov 7-Mar 28, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO) at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View "refractive," an exhibit of photographs portraying Oregon's four seasons through a critical reimagining of Japanese seasonal aesthetics. Drawing on the visual techniques of sumi-e ink painting, the project explores how seasonality can be expressed through portraiture, gesture, everyday objects, and atmosphere. The display features a selection of photographs by Kenji Shimizu; zines and artwork by rei mastrogiovanni, along with kimono styled from his Hybrid Kimono zine; and sumi-e ink pieces from the Japanese American Museum of Oregon collection. An artist talk and gallery walk-through is scheduled for February 6 at 1:00pm in the JAMO Annex (431 NW Flanders St., Portland). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458, or visit <www.jamo.org>.

"Steep & Paint"

Nov 13 & 20, Dec 4 & 18, Jan 8 & 22, 1-4pm, 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>.

Seattle Hmong New Year

Nov 14, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend the Seattle Hmong New Year, a free cultural festival highlighting presentations, performances, intricate clothing, dance, food, and more. The event, which celebrates the end of the harvest season, is presented by Seattle Center Festál in partnership with the Hmong Association of Washington. For info, or to obtain hours, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.hmongofwa.org>.

OBT Holiday Craft Fair

Nov 14, 9am-3pm, Oregon Buddhist Temple (3720 SE 34th Ave, near Powell Blvd, Portland). Attend the Oregon Buddhist Temple's (OBT) Holiday Craft Fair. The event features more than 30 local artisans, unique handmade items, tasty treats, and festive treasures. Admission and parking are free. For info, call (503) 234-9456 or visit <www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/craft-fair>.



Repair Café

Nov 14, 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 and jewelry, mending garments and textiles, sharpening tools and 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>.

Indian classical instrumental music

Nov 14, 7pm, First Baptist Church (909 SW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend a Carnatic saxophone concert presented by Kalakendra. The performance features Prasant Radhakrishnan on Carnatic saxophone with Shiva Ramamurthi on violin and Rohan Krishnamurthy on mridangam. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 308-1050 or visit <www.kalakendra.org>.

Portland Taiko

Nov 14-15, 7pm (Sat), 2pm (Sun), Portland State University, Lincoln Performance Hall, Room 75 (1620 SW Park Ave, Portland). Attend the fall concert of Asian-American drum ensemble Portland Taiko. The theme for the performance, which features the big drums, is *kaeru*. In Japanese, *kaeru* has multiple meanings — to return home or to transform, and also, frog. The show includes pieces inspired by the Pacific Northwest, the city of Portland, and the idea of home. To pay by check or to purchase tickets with ticketing fees, e-mail <info@portlandtaiko.org>. For info, call (503) 28TAIKO (288-2456) or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>.

The Outsiders

Nov 17-24, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *The Outsiders*, a musical adapted from the seminal novel and iconic film that won the 2024 Tony Award for Best Musical. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 10 and above, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. Children younger than 5 years old are not permitted. The show contains flashing lights, periods of darkness, loud noises, theatrical haze, and herbal cigarettes. It also includes scenes involving suicide, domestic abuse, and violence. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

ZooLights

Opens Nov 20, 4:30pm, Oregon Zoo (4001 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Ring in the holiday season at the Oregon Zoo's ZooLights display. The family tradition features more than a million-and-a-half lights illuminating life-size animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways, and the zoo train. Popular returning displays include trumpeting elephants, swinging siamangs, a 35-foot-long Chinese dragon, leaping reindeer, playful penguins, and more. ZooLights is closed November 24 to 26 and December 25. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org/zoolights>.



KAERU. *The fall concert of Asian-American drum ensemble Portland Taiko includes the group's big drums and features the theme* kaeru. *In Japanese,* kaeru *has multiple meanings — to return home or to transform, and also, frog. The performances are scheduled for November 14 and 15 at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall. (Images courtesy of Portland Taiko)*

Bernice Ye: "Wuhan Clan Ain't Nuthin' ta Duck Wit"

Nov 22, 6:30pm (doors), 7pm (show), Kickstand Comedy (1006 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland). Watch "Wuhan Clan Ain't Nuthin' ta Duck Wit," an all-ages show about identity, ambition, and building your own clan when the world doesn't hand you one. The show collides stand-up, comedy rap, martial arts, and cinematic multimedia into one high-octane solo hour. For info, call (503) 719-5685. To purchase tickets, visit <www.crowdwork.com/e/bernice-ye>.

My People's Market

Dec 5-6, 11am-5pm, Low End, Albina District (2429 N Borthwick Ave, Portland). Attend My People's Market, a free marketplace featuring local vendors showcasing the best of Portland alongside live performances and family-friendly activities. The event highlights locally made gifts and food just in time for the holiday season. For info, call (503) 235-7575, or visit <www.mypeoplesmarket.com>.

"Celebrate PACCO"

Dec 11, 5pm, The Nines (525 SW Morrison St, Portland). Join the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO) for the 30th "Celebrate PACCO" event. The gathering is a fundraiser for the organization that brings together business leaders, changemakers, public agencies, and community champions. This year's emcee is Mia Villanueva, an anchor and reporter for KOIN 6 TV. Other highlights of the evening include dinner, awards honoring small business leaders, and more. For info, call (503) 862-6853 or e-mail <wecare@pacco.org>. To buy tickets (required), visit <www.pacco.org>.

"Free Day Series"

Dec 13, 10am-4pm, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum (4033 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Take advantage of free admission during the World Forestry Center's 60th-anniversary year. During the center's "Free Day Series," visitors of all ages are invited to explore the museum, participate in hands-on activities, and connect with partners focused on forestry, wildfire preparedness, and environmental education at no charge. For info, call (503) 228-1367 or visit <www.worldforestry.org>.



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BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

HAMILTON SUNDT
A JOINT VENTURE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH RAIMORE

Subcontracting Opportunities

Hamilton/Sundt, A Joint Venture in Association with Raimore Construction (HSJV) is requesting expressions of interest for the scopes of work listed below. These scopes are associated with the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project's Early Work Package Phase 1B.

Archaeologist Services	Asbestos/Lead Abatement
Concrete Flatwork	Concrete Pumping
Concrete Reinforcing	Construction Engineering
Crane Rental	Drilled Shaft Foundations
General Excavation	Electrical
Fencing	Hydro Demolition
Landscaping	Materials Testing
Methacrylate Bridge Coating	Milling
Noise & Vibration Monitoring	Painting
Pre-Cast Barrier	Sawcutting
Security Guard	Steel Erection
Striping	Survey
Sweeping	Temporary Barrier
Traffic Control	Trucking
Utilities	Welding

COBID-certified firms are encouraged to inquire. Expressions of interest must be received by December 4, 2026, sent via e-mail to <RQopportunities@hamiltonsundtjv.com>.

HSJV CCB # 231570



Celebrate
The Year of the Sheep

February 6, 2027 to
January 25, 2028!

The Asian Reporter's Lunar New Year special edition will be published on February 1, 2027.

Display advertising space reservations for the special issue are due Monday, January 18 at 5:00pm.

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

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Port of Vancouver USA

SMALL WORKS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ROSTERS, PUBLIC WORKS & VENDOR LIST REGISTRATION

Consultants, Contractors and Vendors are hereby notified the Port of Vancouver is seeking updates to its rosters on ProcureWare. ProcureWare registration places companies into categories used for notification of upcoming solicitations, providing approved accounts with access to solicitation documents. ProcureWare includes Professional Services Architectural and Engineer (A&E) and Small Works rosters as well as Public Works and Vendor lists. Users of ProcureWare are encouraged to log in annually, at minimum, to provide updates and maintain an approved account status. Idle accounts may be placed in inactive status or deleted.

The port maintains a Professional Services Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Roster. The requirements for A&E services comply with the scope of the general definition of professional practice in chapters 18.08, 18.43 or 18.96 and 39.80.030 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Services include, but are not limited to, disciplines in architectural and engineering services like construction administration. Consultants currently registered must log in at least once annually to verify information and ensure licensing requirements are current.

The Small Works Roster invites contractors bidding on public works projects with an estimated value up to $350,000. The port will make a reasonable effort to contact all contractors approved on the Small Works Roster and those qualified for particular projects on a rotating basis. Availability of work is not guaranteed. To qualify for this roster, contractors shall be registered and licensed to do business in Washington, meet responsibility criteria as defined in RCW 39.04.350, and upload a current insurance certificate and signed small works contract.

Registration for the Public Works list is for contractors bidding on public works projects with an estimated value of over $350,000. Port staff notifies registered contractors of solicitations through the ProcureWare system.

Other lists are also established on the ProcureWare website. The Vendor List is for companies proposing on personal services, materials, supplies, equipment, IT, purchased services or companies interested in "notifications only".

New registrations are reviewed for approval throughout the year. Use of the system is free and can be found at the following website: https://www.portvanusa.com/business-opportunities/projects-contracts/.

The Port of Vancouver seeks and encourages participation of Small, Minority, Women and Veteran-owned businesses.

Port of Vancouver Title VI Policy assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as amended, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.I. 100.259) be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Port of Vancouver further assures every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities, whether those programs or activities are federally funded or not. In the event the Port of Vancouver distributes federal aid funds to another governmental entity or other sub-recipient, The Port of Vancouver will include Title VI language in all written agreements and will monitor for compliance. The Port of Vancouver's Office of the Title VI Coordinator is responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing required reports and other Port of Vancouver responsibilities as required by 23 CFR 200 and 49 CFR 21.

For further information, contact (360) 693-3611.

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

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

December 7 issue: Friday, Dec. 4, 2:00pm

January 4 issue: Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2:00pm

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OREGON METRO

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/GENERAL CONTRACTOR FOR OREGON ZOO COASTAL SHORES EXHIBIT

RFP 4568

Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting proposals for Construction Manager/General Contractor Services for the Oregon Zoo Coastal Shores Exhibit.

Electronic proposals are due no later than 2:00pm, November 17, 2026. Proposals must be received through BidLocker at <http://bidlocker.us/a/oregonmetro/BidLocker> no later than the date and time indicated on the RFP cover page or as indicated in any addenda.

A voluntary Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled for all potential prime and sub-contractors on October 21, 2026, at 9:00am at the Oregon Zoo, 4001 SW Canton Road, Portland OR 97221. The meeting will start at the Conservation Hall, located between gates E and F.

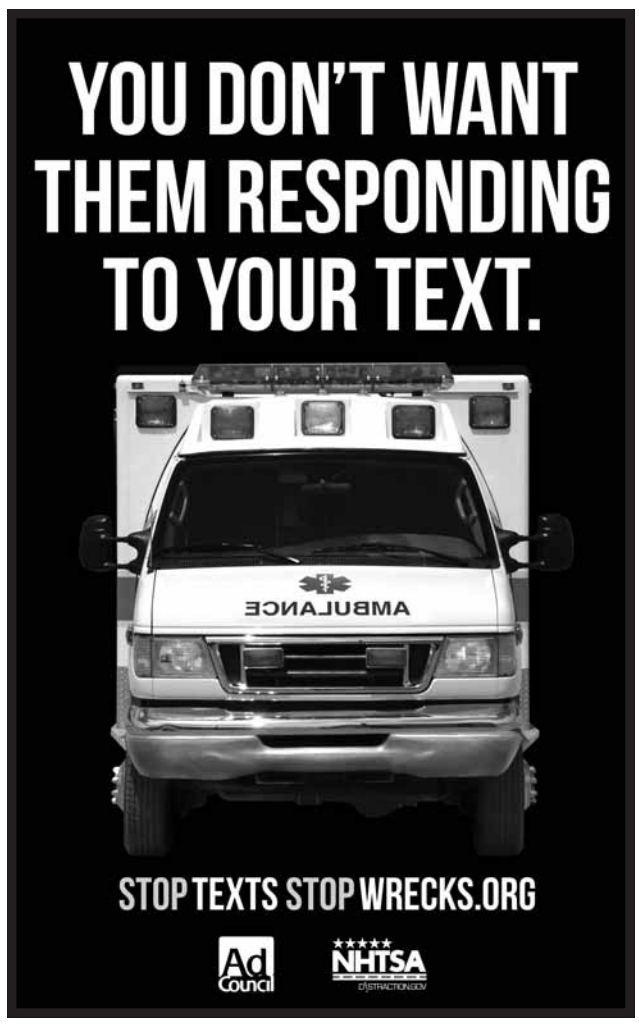
This project will include removal of Stellar Cove, the Penguinarium, tiger, and red panda exhibits to make way for a re-imagined Central Hub and new exhibits for seals, sea otters, and penguins. A new guest services building will provide direct access to the lower plaza, featuring a cafe, restrooms, and underwater views of seals, while a new carousel and open space will enhance the guest experience.

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

Bidding documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at <https://bidlocker.us/Home/BidLockerUS>.

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

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned, emerging small businesses and service disabled veteran owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services. Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <www.oregonmetro.gov>.



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Uwajimaya	Nam Phuong	H Mart	Lily Market	Lao Vieng Market	Hong Phat Supermarket
10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Beaverton	6834 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland	13600 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard	11001 NE Halsey St. Portland	1032 N Killingsworth St., Portland	11655 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SURFING THE WEB?
Check out our last two issues, jobs, news, lists of community groups, past stories, and more: <www.asianreporter.com>

FOR SALE

Farm-raised livestock

PORK FOR SALE
Pigs raised on our family farm in Newberg, Oregon, are for sale. Meat is available in half or whole pig and processed by our butcher in Portland, Oregon. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

GRASS-FED BEEF
Cattle raised in Yamhill County at our family farm in Newberg, Oregon. Beef is available in ¼, ½, or whole cow & processed by our butcher in Portland. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

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SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Have *The Asian Reporter* delivered directly to your home or office and receive a $4.00 discount. See page six for subscription options and an order form. Expiration date: December 31, 2026. *Discount applies to new subscribers only.*

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❑ Display Space (Asia, Opinion, Community, A.C.E. sections)
$25.00 per column inch; Reservation deadline: Wednesday prior to the next issue by 1:00pm

❑ Special "Business Card" Display Ad:
☐ $90 per issue (1 month) ☐ $240 for 3 consecutive issues (3 months) ☐ $420 for 6 consecutive issues (6 months)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

❑ Northwest Job Market/Bids & Public Notices section
$25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

❑ Community Classified Page
❑ Boxed Ad
❑ $25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

❑ Line Ad (up to 35 words):
☐ $24 per issue ☐ $51 for 3 consecutive issues ☐ $90 for 6 consecutive issues

❑ Name Listing (4 lines maximum ~ about 10 words):
☐ $14 per issue ☐ $30 for 3 consecutive issues ☐ $51 for 6 consecutive issues

❑ Prepayment required with Line Ad, Name Listing & Business Card.
❑ Add $1.00 per issue per line for bold headings (Line Ad & Name Listing).
❑ Add 25¢ per word per issue after 35 words (Line Ad).
❑ All advertisements must be submitted in writing; no phone ads accepted.

The Asian Reporter

Main classification: Run date(s): Total ad cost:

Ad type (circle one): Display ad Business Card Box ad Line ad Name listing ad

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Fax: (503) 283-4445 * E-mail: <ads@asianreporter.com>
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Name (as it appears on the card):

Type of card (circle): VISA Mastercard Exp. Date:

Zip Code & Address of Cardholder:

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More than 40% of names on DOJ list of alleged noncitizens are not on California voter rolls, analysis finds

Continued from page 9

his Justice Department found "20,000, but potentially Hundreds of Thousands, and maybe even Millions," of fraudulent votes, "and the Court has just ruled against it. Why would they reject fixing Election Fraud?"

The Trump administration has also urged Washington state to remove what it says were 400 possible noncitizens on its rolls, though state election officials there say that list is also unreliable and includes one voter who cast ballots in the 1990s.

The Justice Department has warned California election officials they could face criminal liability if they let noncitizens vote and issued subpoenas of election offices there.

Election officials say they have no time to investigate

Election officials have complained that the Trump administration has confronted them with lists of possible illegal voters at the last minute before Election Day, with no time to conduct the painstaking investigation required by law before removing someone from the rolls.

Multiple lawsuits have been filed to stop the administration from continuing to threaten local election officials.

This past Friday, a federal judge in California ordered the Justice Department to stop sending demands to state officials, a decision the Trump administration appealed Saturday. Several counties in the state had run quick checks of the Trump list and found numerous errors.

Saturday's broader analysis was possible because a federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to share the list with the plaintiffs in the case.

CHIRLA and the UCLA project sued the Homeland Security Department in early October to prevent it from using federal immigration data to challenge state voter rolls. The lawsuit cited examples in other states where the federal government's data has been proven to mistakenly include thousands of citizens.

Case argues that the government's methods pose risk to voting

The case argued that the data-matching methods risk disenfranchising or deterring citizens from voting. On top of that, plaintiffs argued, the lists could disproportionately target naturalized citizens who are legally entitled to vote.

Applying the government's methodology, the UCLA researchers found that nearly 7,500 naturalized citizens in the state were "highly likely" to be incorrectly flagged as ineligible.

The researchers noted that the administration apparently removed the voter identification number from the names, making it harder for election officials to determine whether the flagged individuals were already on their rolls or were duplicates in the Justice Department list. They described the voter ID number as the most crucial data point.

The Justice Department argues that there is just as much to lose if the ballots aren't separated.

"Every ballot cast by an ineligible voter cancels out the vote of an American citizen," Kiersten V. Pels, a spokesperson for the department, wrote in an e-mail. "The Department makes no apology for protecting those votes."



Mark your calendar!

The Year of the Sheep begins February 6, 2027.

Display advertising space reservations for our special Year of the Sheep issue are due Monday, January 18 at 5:00pm.

Indonesia returns 20 green sea turtles to the ocean after Bali smuggling raid

By Firdia Lisnawati
The Associated Press

SERANGAN ISLAND, Indonesia — Indonesian authorities on the tourist island of Bali released 20 protected green sea turtles back into the ocean after they were found and seized on an empty boat seemingly abandoned by wildlife smugglers fleeing a police raid.

Officers conducted final checks on the turtles at a conservation center on Serangan Island, also known as Turtle Island, in southern Bali. They then carefully lifted the turtles using blue cloths and transported them by small truck to the shoreline.

Marine police officers in Bali foiled an attempt to smuggle 22 green sea turtles, known by the scientific name *Chelonia mydas*, in the waters off Serangan Island after receiving a report from residents who suspected sea turtle smuggling activity in the area.

Two of the 22 turtles are still sick and need to be treated before they can also be released, Gusti Agung Purnama Wirahadi from the Bali Water and Air Police said.



All of the turtles, which are protected species in Indonesia, were found alive on the boat, but the suspected smugglers had already fled the scene by the time officers arrived.

"We hope that no one will dare to capture, keep, or trade these protected species anymore," Wirahadi said.

Turtle species in Indonesia have been legally protected under conservation and fisheries laws since 1990. A 2018 Environment Ministry regulation further clarified protections for the six species of sea turtles found in the country's waters.



REPTILES RELEASED. *A police officer and an activist load a green sea turtle, left photo, onto the back of a truck to be released back into the ocean after they were found on an empty boat seemingly abandoned by poachers fleeing a police raid, in Serangan, Bali island, Indonesia. In the right photo, police officers and activists release a protected green sea turtle back into the ocean. (AP Photos/Firdia Lisnawati)*

Additional government regulations also prohibit their trade.

According to a 2022 global study by researchers at Arizona State University, the green sea turtle accounted for 56% of sea turtle killings in the 30-year period to 2020.

Bali was once a major hub for green sea turtle trafficking, driven in part by the historical use of turtle meat in offerings in Balinese Hinduism, the predominant religion on the island of about 4.5 million people.

In June, authorities in Bali foiled an attempt to illegally trade 21 protected green sea turtles during a raid on the island's Pegametan coast and arrested a 67-year-old man suspected of storing the protected animals before they were distributed for sale.Associated Press writer Edna Tarigan in Jakarta contributed to this report.

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

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OPGR

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON





As the days get shorter and the holiday season begins, many Oregonians find themselves balancing family commitments and busy schedules. For some, gambling becomes a way to disconnect from holiday stress. Unfortunately, gambling can produce a host of stresses of its own.

Taking care of yourself isn't always about disconnecting. Sometimes, it's about checking in with yourself and talking with someone who can help you navigate life's challenges. Counseling isn't just for times of crisis. It can be a valuable tool for managing stress, exploring habits and behaviors, strengthening relationships, and supporting personal growth.

Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR) offers free, confidential counseling and support to anyone who wants to reconsider their relationship with gambling. Visit OPGR.org to connect with a counselor who's been there.

Find information, tools and support to help at OPGR.org