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Shopping for a robot? Visit China's new robot store.

CYBORG SHOP. *A visitor examines a dinosaur robot at the Robot Mall, said to be the world's first humanoid intelligent robot 4S store, in Beijing, China. A high-tech district in the Chinese capital has opened the all-service robot store to push a national drive to develop humanoid robots. From plucking boxes off a pharmacy shelf to serving drinks from behind a bar, robots at the government-run facility showcase how far humanoid robot development has come — and how far it has to go. See story on page 2. (AP Photo/Mahesh Kumar A.)*

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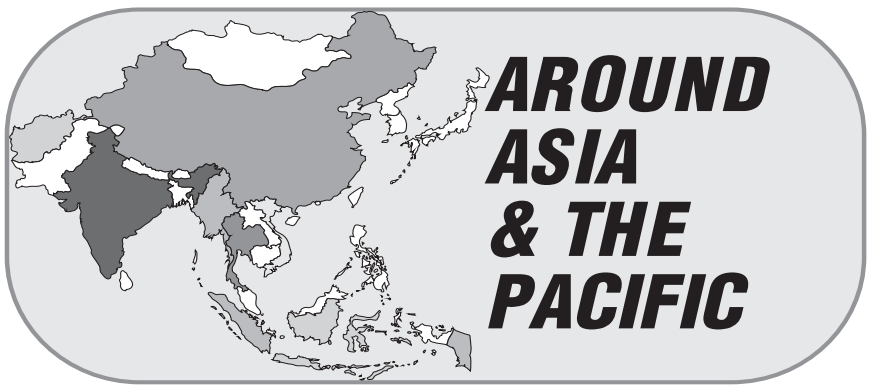

Nintendo reports robust profits on strong Switch 2 sales

TOKYO (AP) — Nintendo, the Japanese video game maker behind the Super Mario and Pokémon franchises, reported an 18.6% surge in net profit for the first fiscal quarter on the back of strong demand for its new Switch 2 console. Kyoto-based Nintendo Co.'s April-June profit totalled 96.03 billion yen ($640 million), up from nearly 81 billion yen. Quarterly sales more than doubled to 572.36 billion yen ($3.8 billion). Nintendo said it sold 3.5 million Switch 2 game consoles globally on the first four days after it hit store shelves June 5, a record pace for a Nintendo game machine. Its sales continue to be strong, it said. The company said the new console's higher price added to sales growth momentum. The new version sells for about $450 compared to $300 for the previous Switch when it first went on sale in 2017. Especially popular games included "Mario Kart World" and "Donkey Kong Bananza." "Pokémon Friends," which went on sale in July for the older Switch, can also be played on the new Switch. The Switch works both as a handheld portable machine and as a home console. Nintendo stuck to its forecast to sell 15 million Switch 2 machines through this fiscal year. Nintendo left unchanged its profit forecast for the year through March 2026, at 300 billion yen ($2 billion) profit, up nearly 8% on year. Nintendo stock, which has steadily climbed in the past year gaining more than 50%, edged down nearly 1% before earnings were announced. There are some worries about the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Japanese exports, but that did not appear to affect Nintendo's overall projections.

China's Xi Jinping makes rare visit to Tibet

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a rare visit to Tibet in August to mark the 60th anniversary of the consolidation of Beijing's long-contested rule over the Himalayan territory. Xi arrived in Tibet's regional capital of Lhasa, where he "received a warm welcome from people of various ethnic groups" who waved bouquets of flowers and danced "to joyful rhythms," the Xinhua News Agency said. The agency said Xi urged the building of a "modern socialist" Tibet "that is united, prosperous, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful." Communist forces occupied Tibet in 1951. In 1965, Mao Zedong's single-party dictatorship established the Tibet autonomous region. Decades of political repression followed, including the demolition of some Buddhist monasteries and the imprisonment of monks. Recent years have seen the large-scale migration of majority Han Chinese to the high-altitude region, the virtual closure of Tibet to journalists and foreigners, the removal of Tibetan children from their families to boarding schools where they are taught in Mandarin, and the repression of all forms of political or cultural expression outside Communist Party control. China also insists on the right to appoint a reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's highest-ranking leader, who recently turned 90 and lives in self-imposed exile in neighboring India after fleeing Chinese rule in 1959. Exiled Tibetans protested in India against the Chinese foreign minister's visit there. Critics say repression in Tibet has become more systematic and wide-reaching since the crushing of anti-government protests in 2008, while China claims to have reduced poverty and built up the region's infrastructure. China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans say they were essentially independent for most of that time under their Buddhist theocracy. China's contested border with India runs along Tibet's southern edge, where China has been building roads and other infrastructure for possible military use.

Top court orders stray dogs removed from New Delhi streets

NEW DELHI (AP) — No stray dogs roaming the streets of New Delhi? That could be possible in the future after India's top court ordered authorities in New Delhi to start removing all stray dogs from the streets, and to sterilize and relocate them to shelters permanently. In its order in mid-August, the Supreme Court directed the capital's civic bodies to immediately initiate the process of capturing 5,000 stray dogs from "high-risk areas" for now and send them to shelters equipped with adequate staff and CCTV surveillance within six to eight weeks. It is unclear how the court arrived at the figure of 5,000 stray dogs. Various estimates put the number of strays in New Delhi between 500,000 to one million. While many of the dogs that roam New Delhi's streets are harmless, the court's order aims to control rising dog biting cases, including cases involving children. Some estimates, based on hospital records, suggest New Delhi sees nearly 2,000 dog bite incidents every day. "The situation is extremely grim," the court said in its order, adding that it was passed while "keeping (the) larger public interest in mind." "Infants, young children should not at any cost fall prey to stray dogs," it said. The court also ordered authorities to create an animal helpline so all dog bite cases in the capital can be reported. It said any individual or organization that stops authorities from removing stray dogs from the streets will face "strict" legal consequences, while adding the strays should not to be released back on streets, in residential areas, or in public places. Animal lovers and activists had earlier opposed the court taking up the case. The court chided them, too. "All these animal activists … will they be able to bring back those who have fallen prey to rabies?" the court asked. Rabies through dog bites is caused by a virus that invades the central nervous system. If left untreated, it is almost always fatal. Shortly after the court's order, a senior minister of the state legislature in Delhi said his government will begin the process of rounding up the strays. Cabinet minister Kapil Mishra said the court's order is a step towards freeing New Delhi "from the fear of rabies and stray animals." "Special attention will also be given to the comprehensive welfare of stray animals," Mishra said in a post on X.

ROBOT RETAIL. *A staff member walks in front of a robotic arm at the Robot Mall, the world's first embodied intelligent robot 4S store in Beijing, China. The four-story facility is dubbed a 4S store for sales, service, spare parts, and surveys — or collecting and analyzing customer feedback. It is the first such store in China, though other cities are also building them. Besides those performing tasks, the robots on display include ones that play soccer or Chinese chess, as well as historical figures from scientists Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton to Li Bai, considered one of China's greatest poets. Pictured below are a visitor playing chess with a robot and robots performing as part of a band. (AP Photos/Mahesh Kumar A.)*

Shopping for a robot? Visit China's new robot store.

BEIJING (AP) — A high-tech district in the Chinese capital has opened an all-service robot store to push a national drive to develop humanoid robots.

From plucking boxes off a pharmacy shelf to serving drinks from behind a bar, robots at the government-run facility showcase how far humanoid robot development has come — and how far it has to go.

The goal is to help robotics companies commercialize what has been largely a research-focused endeavor to date. China has produced eye-catching shows of two-legged robots dancing in sync, but can they be put to practical use?

"With the mass production of humanoid robots, we believe that both enterprises and customers will face pain points," said Wang Yifan, the director of the Robot Mall in Beijing E-Town, about 40 minutes southeast of downtown by car.

Many of the companies have no experience in sales and marketing and there are few opportunities to display their products, he told a pack of journalists at a media preview last month.

The four-story facility is dubbed a 4S store, meaning sales, service, spare parts, and surveys — or collecting and analyzing customer feedback. It is the first such store in China, though other cities are building them too, Wang said.

Besides those performing tasks, the robots on display include ones that play soccer or

Chinese chess, as well as historical figures from scientists Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton to Li Bai, considered one of China's greatest poets.

Robots, showing perhaps a humanlike tendency, are not infallible.

One was designed to recognize and separate trash from dishware returned by customers at a café. Its hand picked up a coffee cup and swung to one side but then held the blue-green mug in the air, not putting it down on a tray. A worker intervened to reset the software.

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News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

October 6, 2025 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 1:00pm

Artwork due: Thursday, Oct. 2 at 1:00pm

November 3, 2025 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 1:00pm

Artwork due: Thursday, Oct. 30 at 1:00pm

Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 8/29

Bangladesh Taka	121.4
Cambodian Riel	4013.6
China Renminbi	7.131
Fijian Dollar	2.25
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7964
Indian Rupee	88.168
Indonesian Rupiah	16416
Iranian Rial	42072
Japanese Yen	147.05
Laos New Kip	21636
Malaysian Ringgit	4.225
Nepal Rupee	141.27
Pakistani Rupee	282.81
Papua N.G. Kina	4.22
Philippine Peso	57.186
Russian Ruble	80.66
Saudi Riyal	3.7525
Singapore Dollar	1.2841
South Korean Won	1389.0
Sri Lankan Rupee	302.01
Taiwan Dollar	30.58
Thai Baht	32.32
Vietnam Dong	26345

Bugs are popular pets in nature-loving Japan, buzzing with lessons about ecology and species

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The pet of choice in Japan, as much as cuddly kitties and playful puppies, is the humble bug.

The bug has been a key part of Japanese culture from the Heian era classic *The Tale of Genji* to popular modern-day manga and animation like *Mushishi*, featuring insect-like supernatural creatures.

Japanese people appreciate the glitter of fireflies let loose in the garden or the gentle chirping of crickets kept in a little cage. You can feed the bug pets watermelon, but special jelly pet food for bugs is also available at stores. Naturally, bugs are on sale as well, with the more esoteric ones selling for 20,000 yen ($133).

Here, crawly and buzzing critters are not just relegated to the scientific realm of the entomologist working on a taxidermy of pinned butterflies. Celebrities boast about their fascination with bug-hunting as their hobbies just like a western movie star might talk about his yacht or golf score.

The bug as companion is an essential part of what's observed, enjoyed, and cared for in everyday life, reflecting a deeply rooted celebration of humankind's oneness with nature.

"They are so tiny. If you catch and study them, you're sure to discover something new," says Munetoshi Maruyama, professor of bioenvironmental sciences at Kyushu University, whose fascination with bugs began as a child, like many Japanese.

"They are so beautiful in shape and form."

One thrill that comes from studying insects is discovering a new species, simply because there are more than 1.2 million known kinds of insects, far more than mammals, which translates to a lot of undiscovered ones, said Maruyama, who has discovered 250 new insect species himself and shrugs that off as a relatively small number.

Japan differs from much of the west in encouraging interaction with bugs from childhood, with lots of books written for children, as well as classes and tours.

"In Japan, kids love bugs. You can even buy a net at a convenience store," he said. "It's fantastic that bugs can serve as a doorway to science."

The fact some insects go through metamorphoses, transforming from a larva to a butterfly, for instance, adds to the excitement, allowing kids to observe the stages of a life span, Maruyama said.

Tracing the movement of bugs can be a way to study global warming, too, while so-called "social insects," like bees and ants show intelligence in how they communicate, remember routes to find their way back to their nests, or burrow elaborate underground paths as colonies.

Because bugs carry out important functions in the ecosystem, such as pollinating crops and becoming food for birds and other wildlife, human life isn't ultimately sustainable if all bugs were to disappear from earth.

The love affair with bugs was clear at an exhibit in Tokyo, aptly called "The Great Insect Exhibition," which ran through the end of August at the Sky Tree Tower, where crowds of children gathered around trees inside indoor cages so they could observe and touch the various beetles.

One kind of rhinoceros beetle known as Hercules, which originated in the Caribbean but is now also found in Japan, is reputed to be the biggest beetle on record, although it's just several inches in length. Its back coat is a shiny khaki color, though such shades change depending on the season. The other parts, like its horn and delicate but spiky legs, are dark.

"We want the kids to feel the emotions and joy of actually touching the insects here. That's really positive for the workings of a child's brain," said Toyoji Suzuki, one of the event's organizers, who insisted everyone, including adults, touch the bottom of the beetles' horns and wings to feel how surprisingly soft and fluffy they are.

Four-year-old Asahi Yamauchi, who was at the exhibit with his grandmother and getting his photo taken inside a special installation that made it look like he was inside a beetle, loves bugs as much as he loves dinosaurs and has what he called a cute beetle as a pet at home.

"My friend had one so I wanted one," he said.




BEETLEMANIA. *A beetle known as Hercules, top left photo, is seen at an exhibition devoted to insects in Tokyo. The pet of choice in Japan, as much as cuddly kitties and playful puppies, is the humble bug. The bug has been a key part of Japanese culture from the Heian era classic* The Tale of Genji *to popular modern-day manga and animation like* Mushishi*, featuring insect-like supernatural creatures. Also pictured are (clockwise from top right) children looking at beetles, four-year-old Asahi Yamauchi playing with a large beetle displayed behind him, and attendees walking around the exhibit. (AP Photos/Yuri Kageyama)*

❑

Nepal's LGBTQ+ community holds first Pride rally since Trump cuts

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Members of the Nepal's LGBTQ+ community and supporters rallied last month in the capital at the annual pride rally, which was the first since a major cut in funding after U.S. President Donald Trump's administration ceased financial aid.

Hundreds of people took part in the rally through the heart of Kathmandu, playing music and dancing in the Gai Jatra festival, which is celebrated to remember family members who have passed away during the year. But it has long drawn colorful parades by bringing in sexual minorities to join the festivities.

Nepal's LGBTQ+ campaign was hit after the Trump administration began dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which was responsible for humanitarian aid.

Most of the support centers for Nepal's LGBTQ+ community have closed because of the lack of funds. In the past few years, Nepal's LGBTQ+ community made rapid advancements in securing their rights.

The nation became one of the first in Asia to allow same sex-sex marriage. The constitution adopted in 2015 explicitly stated there can be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The U.S. was among the biggest donors for the LGBTQ+ rights campaign. Over the years, USAID and others stepped in and partnered with help centers to support initiatives like HIV prevention and care, and safe-sex counselling.

The U.S. funds were vital for running the centers and clinics that helped with distributing free condoms, screenings, and follow-up treatment for people with HIV.

Now the USAID office in Nepal is closed. "Because of the cut in funding, many of the services we have been providing to the community have been hit badly, but we are not discouraged but are hopeful we will get alternative sources and fundings to help us restart those services," said Simran Sherchan, a LGBTQ+ rights activist in the rally.

Matcha madness leaves Japan's tea ceremony pros skeptical

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Clad in an elegant kimono of pale green, tea ceremony instructor Keiko Kaneko uses a tiny wooden spoon to place a speck of matcha into a porcelain bowl.

She froths up the special powdered Japanese green tea with a bamboo whisk after pouring hot water with a ladle from a pot simmering over hot coal.

Her solemn, dance-like movements celebrate a Zen-like transient moment, solitude broken up by the ritualistic sharing of a drink.

No wonder Kaneko and others serious about "sado," or "the way of tea," are a bit taken aback by how matcha is suddenly popping up in all sorts of things, from lattes and ice cream to cakes and chocolate.

No one knows for sure who started the global matcha boom, which has been going on for several years. But it's clear that harvests, especially of fine-grade matcha, can't keep up with demand.

MATCHA CRAZE. *Tea ceremony master Keiko Kaneko, left photo, demonstrates the tea ceremony at her tea house in Tokyo. Pictured in the right photo is Matcha Kaki Gori, shaved ice desserts, served at Ogikubo Three Gardens in Tokyo. (AP Photos/Yuri Kageyama)*

A booming market

Matcha is a type of tea that's grown in shade, steamed, and then ground into a very fine powder. It's processed differently from regular green tea, with the best matcha ground using stone mills, and switching from one to the other takes time. No farmer wants to switch and then find that matcha fever has died.

The Japanese agricultural ministry has been working to boost tea growth, offering help for farmers with new machines, special soil, financial aid, and counselling to try to coax tea growers to switch to matcha from regular green "sencha" tea.

"We don't want this to end up just a fad, but instead make matcha a standard as a flavor and Japanese global brand," said Tomoyuki Kawai, who works at the tea section of the agricultural ministry.

Production of "tencha," the kind of tea used for matcha, nearly tripled from 1,452 tons in 2008, to 4,176 tons in 2023, according to government data.

Japan's tea exports have more than doubled over the last decade, with the U.S. now accounting for about a third. Much of that growth is of matcha, according to Japanese government data. The concern is that with labor shortages as aging farmers leave their fields, the matcha crunch may worsen in coming years.

Other countries, including China and some Southeast Asian countries, also are producing matcha, so Japan is racing to establish its branding as the origin of the tea.

An art form turned into a global fun drink

Tea ceremony practitioners aren't angered by the craze, just perplexed. They hope it will lead to people taking an interest in sado, whose followers have been steadily declining. But they aren't counting on it.

The tea ceremony is "reminding us to cherish every encounter as unique and unrepeatable," said Kaneko, who is a licensed instructor.

She pointed to the special small entrance to her tea house. Noble samurai had to stoop to enter, leaving their swords behind them. The message: when partaking of tea, everyone is equal.

The purity and stillness of the ceremony are a world apart from the hectic and mundane, and from the craze for matcha that's brewing outside the tea house.

The Matcha Crème Frappuccino is standard fare at the Starbucks coffee outlets everywhere. While matcha, a special ingredient traditionally used in the tea ceremony, isn't meant to be drunk in great quantities at once like regular tea or juices, it's suddenly being consumed like other fruit and flavors.

Matcha drinks have become popular at cafés from Melbourne to Los Angeles. Various cookbooks offer matcha recipes, and foreign tourists to Japan are taking home tins and bags of matcha as souvenirs.

It's a modern take on traditions perfected by the 16th century Buddhist monk Sen no Rikyu in Kyoto, who helped shape the traditions of the tea ceremony and of "wabi-sabi," the rustic, imperfect but pure and nature-oriented aesthetic often seen as synonymous with high-class Japanese culture.

Matcha's future

Minoru Handa, the third-generation chief of suburban tea store Tokyo Handa-en, which sells green and brown tea as well as matcha, says the appeal of matcha is in its versatility. Unlike tea leaves, the powder can be easily mixed into just about anything.

"The health boom and the interest in Japanese culture have added to the momentum," he said, stirring a machine that was roasting brown tea, sending a pungent aroma through the streets.

"It's safe and healthy so there's practically no reason it won't sell," said Handa.

His business, which dates back to 1815, has a longtime relationship with growers in Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, and has a steady supply of matcha. To guard against hoarders he limits purchases at his store to one can per customer.

Handa, who has exhibited his prize-winning tea in the U.S. and Europe, expects that growers will increase the supply and shrugs off the hullabaloo over the matcha shortage.

But Anna Poian, co-director and founder of the Global Japanese Tea Association, thinks lower-grade matcha should be used for things like lattes, since one has to put in quite a lot of fine-grade matcha to be able to taste it.

"It's a bit of a shame. It's a bit of a waste," she said.

The best matcha should be reserved for the real thing, she said in an interview from Madrid.

"It is a very delicate, complex tea that is produced with the idea to be drunk only with water," she said.

A royal pardon frees a Thai woman serving a 43-year prison term for defaming the monarchy

By Papitchaya Schwarz
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — A woman in Thailand sentenced to a prison term of more than four decades on a charge of royal defamation was released by a royal pardon after serving just under one-fifth of her term, said a human rights organization.

Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said 69-year-old Anchan Preelert was one of six political prisoners freed under a July 29 pardon on the occasion of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's birthday.

Anchan, a former civil servant, was sentenced in January 2021 by the Bangkok Criminal Court on 29 counts of violating the country's lese majeste law for posting audio clips to Facebook and YouTube with comments deemed critical of the monarchy.

She was initially sentenced to 87 years, at that time the longest such sentence ever handed down, but her term was reduced by half to 43 years and six months because she pleaded guilty to the offenses.

Violating Thailand's law on royal defamation is punishable by three to 15 years of imprisonment per count. The law is controversial not only because it has been used to punish things as simple as liking a post on Facebook, but also because anyone — not just royals or the authorities — can lodge a complaint. The main criticism is that it is used as a tool to quash political dissent.

Anchan, wearing a white t-shirt and face mask, was embraced by friends and family and received bouquets of flowers from supporters when she walked out of Bangkok's Central Women's Correctional Institution, where she spent eight years and four months in total, including pretrial detention, after her arrest in 2015.

"I feel immensely happy. I want to be free for a long time because I'm getting old and my time is running short now," Anchan told reporters. "For over eight years, it felt like it was all my life, it was bitter because it was not my place to be. It was torturous, it doesn't matter whether it's comfortable or not, but it isn't my home."

Thai Lawyers for Human Rights has said that more than 270 people have been charged with lese majeste since early 2020, when there was a flurry of protests for reforms to Thailand's monarchy.

SENTENCE SHORTENED. *In this photo supplied by Amnesty International Thailand, Anchan Preelert greets well-wishers after her release by a royal pardon on August 27, 2025 from the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok, Thailand, where she had spent years on a charge of royal defamation. (Amnesty International Thailand via AP)*

In 2024, an appeals court handed political activist Mongkhon Thirakot in the northern province of Chiang Rai a record 50-year prison term after finding him guilty of violating the lese majeste law.

Public criticism of the monarchy, a linchpin of Thai identity, used to be rare, but student-led pro-democracy protests began to challenge that taboo in 2020, openly criticizing the institution. That led to vigorous prosecutions under what once had been a little-used law.

More than 50 people remain in prison as political prisoners and 32 of them are charged with insulting or defaming the monarchy, said Thai Lawyers for Human Rights.

Thailand's former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was acquitted in August of a royal defamation charge after the Bangkok Criminal Court found the witnesses and evidence against him were too weak to support a conviction. He was originally charged in 2016 over remarks he made a year earlier to journalists in South Korea

The same court also recently acquitted Piyarat Chongthep, a lawmaker from the opposition People's Party, of royal defamation for posting messages criticizing how protests in 2020 were dispersed and referring to the alleged involvement of the country's king. It said there was no clear evidence he had personally posted the messages on his Facebook account.

An AI simulation of a Mount Fuji eruption is being used to prepare Tokyo for the worst

By Reeno Hashimoto
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Mount Fuji hasn't erupted since 1707. But for Volcanic Disaster Preparedness Day, Japanese officials released computer- and AI-generated videos showing a simulation of a potential violent eruption of the active volcano.

The videos, released in late August, are meant to prepare the 37 million residents in the greater Tokyo metropolitan area for potential disasters.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government's video warns an eruption could strike "at any moment, without warning," depicting volcanic ash shrouding central Tokyo, about 60 miles away, within hours, paralyzing transportation, disrupting food and power, and causing long-term respiratory problems.

The video ends with the message: "We need to arm ourselves with facts and prepare for disaster in our daily lives." It shows a family's pantry stocked with canned food and a first-aid kit.

The Tokyo government said in a statement that there are currently no signs of Fuji erupting. "The simulation is designed to equip residents with accurate knowledge and preparedness measures they can take in case of an emergency," it explained.

But the videos have caused anxiety and confusion among some residents.

"Are there actually any signs of eruption?" said Shinichiro Kariya, a 57-year-old hospital employee. "Why are we now hearing things like '10 centimeters of ash could fall,' even in Tokyo? I'm wondering why this is happening all of a sudden."

Hiromi Ooki, who lives in Mishima City, which has prime views of Fuji, said she planned to buy emergency supplies the next day. "Nature's power is so great that maybe it's better if it scares us a little," she said.

Continued on page 10

China's fiery baijiu spirit evolves to attract younger drinkers

BEIJING (AP) — The centuries-old fiery Chinese spirit baijiu, long associated with business dinners, is being reshaped to appeal to younger generations as its makers adapt to changing times.

Mostly distilled from sorghum, the clear but pungent liquor contains as much as 60% alcohol. It's the usual choice for toasts of "gan bei," the Chinese expression for bottoms up, and raucous drinking games.

"If you like to drink spirits and you've never had baijiu, it's kind of like eating noodles but you've never had spaghetti," said Jim Boyce, a Canadian writer and wine expert who founded World Baijiu Day a decade ago. The annual event aims to promote the traditional liquor, which is far less known internationally than whiskey or vodka.

Moutai, a kind of baijiu made in mountainous Guizhou province in southwestern China, is known as the country's "national liquor."

Perhaps its biggest endorsement came in 1974, when U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger banqueted with Deng Xiaoping, who would later become China's top leader.

"I think if we drink enough Moutai, we can solve anything," Kissinger said.

"Then, when I return to China, we must take steps to increase our production of it," Deng replied, according to an archived document from the U.S. State Department's Office of the Historian.

Price fluctuations of Feitian Moutai, the liquor's most famous brand, serve as a barometer for China's baijiu market. This year, its price has dropped by 36% after four consecutive years of decline, according a report by the China Alcoholic Drinks Association.

The report forecast China's baijiu production will likely fall for the eighth straight year in 2025. Baijiu consumption has dropped as people spend more cautiously, cutting back on banquets and drinking due to a weaker economy.


AP Photo/Andy Wong


AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

BAIJIU BRANDING. *A worker, top photo, pours a cup of Green Plum Liqueur, a mix of handcrafted single sorghum baijiu with plum juice, while introducing a new fruit-infused baijiu to reporters during a media organized tour at Jiangxiaobai Liquor Co.'s Jiangji Distillery in southwestern China's Chongqing. In the bottom photo, a bartender applies heat to a slice of dried pear while preparing a cocktail named "Beijing Beijing" made from the fiery Chinese baijiu spirit.*

Perennial anti-corruption campaigns by the ruling Communist Party targeting lavish official dinners have taken a harsh toll. In May, the party issued new rules banning cigarettes and alcohol during work meals.

China's drinking culture is evolving, with younger people keen to protect their health and less inclined to overindulge or be bound by rigid social conventions. Faced with far more choices, they might instead opt for whiskey, wine, or non-alcoholic alternatives.

"There is an old saying in China: 'No banquet is complete without alcohol.' It means in the past, without alcohol there is no social lubricant," 30-year-old Chi Bo said while having cocktails with friends in Beijing's chic Sanlitun area.

"People no longer want to drink alcohol or tend to drink less but they can still sit together and even discuss serious affairs," Chi said. "Most of the people don't want to drink alcohol unless they have to."

Baijiu makers are responding with creative innovations like baijiu-flavored ice cream.

Kweichou Moutai partnered with China's Luckin' Coffee last year to introduce a Moutai-flavored latte that reportedly sells 5 million cups a day across China. Bartenders also are designing cocktails using a baijiu base.

"There are so many choices right now," Boyce said. "It's just about fighting for attention in terms of choice."

Jiangxiaobai, a newer brand made in southwestern China's Chongqing, has targeted young consumers from the beginning. It offers fruit-infused baijiu with an alcohol content below 10%, packaged in smaller, more affordable bottles adorned with philosophical or sentimental phrases meant to resonate with Chinese youth such as, "Unspoken words. In my eyes, in drafts, in dreams, or downed in a drink."

"Our promotion of products com-

Continued on page 8

McDonald's Japan's Pokémon card Happy Meals promotion comes to an unhappy end

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — Fast-food chain McDonald's Japan has cancelled a Happy Meal campaign that came with coveted Pokémon cards, apologizing after resellers rushed to buy the meals and then discarded the food, leaving trash outside stores.

The meals, called Happy Sets in Japan, were meant for children. They came with a toy, such as a tiny plastic Pikachu, and a Pokémon card. They sold out in a day, according to Japanese media reports.

Mounds of wasted food were found near the stores.

"We do not believe in abandoning and discarding food. This situation goes against our longtime philosophy that we have cherished as a restaurant to 'offer a fun dining experience for children and families.' We sincerely accept that our preparations had not been adequate," the company said in a statement.

McDonald's said it was working on ways to prevent such a situation from happening again, such as limiting the number of meals each person can buy and ending online orders. It said it might deny service to customers who fail to abide by the rules.

"We vow to return to the basics of what lies behind the Happy Set, which is about helping to bring smiles to families so we can contribute to the wholesome development of the hearts and bodies of children, who are our future," the company said.

Collecting Pokémon cards is popular among adults and children in many places, with the most popular cards selling for $1,000 or more.

UNHAPPY MEAL. *People stand outside a McDonald's store in Tokyo in this March 15, 2024 file photo. Fast-food chain McDonald's Japan has cancelled a Happy Meal campaign that came with coveted Pokémon cards, apologizing after resellers rushed to buy the meals and then discarded the food, leaving trash outside stores. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae, File)*

Unusually large crowds were seen flocking to McDonald's stores when the meals with Pokémon cards went on sale. The cards were later being resold for up to tens of thousands of yen (hundreds of dollars) online.

McDonald's has been selling Happy Meals for more than 40 years. In Japan, they usually sell for 510 yen ($3.40).

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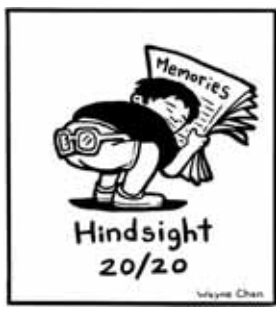
MY TURN

■ *Wayne Chan*

A different rite of passage

They call it a rite of passage. But that's not exactly it.

What many refer to as a rite of passage is a very specific time in life that just a few words immediately brings on a flood of memories. A Sweet 16 party. The first time driving a car. A first kiss. Nothing else needs to be said. It all becomes fresh in one's mind.



I'm now in my 60s. Long past a rite of passage. And yet, I'm still going through a kind of transition. It's a period of not knowing where I'm going until I get there, and it all happened while I was on vacation — whitewater rafting, as a matter of fact.

I may not show it much, but during my life I've been the type of person who wants to truly experience everything life has to offer. Life is an adventure, and to not take advantage of it is just a wasted opportunity. Every experience has the potential to become a once-in-a-lifetime memory. So I've challenged myself in a number of ways in my life. I've gone zip-lining. Hang gliding? Check. Jumped off cliffs? Check. Borrowed bikes and explored all of Beijing on our own in the 1980s despite our wholly inadequate Chinese language skills and before iPhones and GPS? Double check.

But truth be told, over the last couple years, I have become a lot more risk-averse. In the past, I've typically gone on a guys' ski trip every year, but the last two years I skipped it. Not really out of fear, but more of a "been there, done that" kind of attitude. I've never been injured skiing, but lately I started thinking, why endure all the effort and hassle of putting on all that equipment and also deal with the possibility of getting hurt?

So, it was with that same attitude I went into our recent whitewater rafting excursion.

I've gone whitewater rafting before — nearly 30 years ago. I remember jumping out of the raft, climbing up cliffs, and gleefully jumping off said cliffs into the rapids below. I can still almost feel the splash of the freezing rapids as the water hit my face and then feeling the surge of steaming water as we swam over to the natural hot springs along the edge of the river. It's been almost three decades since that trip and I still remember every aspect of it.

This time? We headed down the Squamish River, not too far from Whistler, Canada. We went down class 4 rapids in our raft with six of our best friends. Our rafting guides — a group of 20-something young people — were cracking jokes about the trip, some claiming it was their first week of being guides themselves and hoping they wouldn't lose anyone like they did yesterday. It was all in good fun.

Then, our guide said, "If anyone would like to jump out and float alongside the raft down the rapids, here's your chance." My buddies Bill and Stan, eyes wide open, jumped at the chance and plunged into the water.

Me? I sat quietly in the boat thinking, "It's going to be freezing! I've done this before! Been there, done that! I'm staying in the boat!"

After Stan and Bill climbed back into the boat, they gave each other high fives like they both scored a touchdown. They've both gone whitewater rafting before, too, but their joy and excitement from jumping in was like it was their first time as well.

A few minutes later, our guide says, "Here's another chance for you to jump in if you want to, but the water is even colder this time!" Stan and Bill get ready to abandon the boat again, while all I can think is, "It's even colder now???"

But then I paused for a moment and thought, "Thirty years from now, am I going to look back on this trip and relive the moment that I DIDN'T jump into the water? What kind of memories do you create when you don't take a chance?"

I laid down my oar and got to the edge of the raft. One of our group looked at me and said, "You're going in?!?"

That was all the encouragement I needed.

SPLASH!

I drifted alongside the raft in freezing water while my head was bobbing above the surface, until it was time to get out. I got pulled back in, and my friend said, "You looked miserable out there!"

Miserable? The water was freezing. I definitely snorted down a nose full of glacier water and it's possible I banged my head against the side of the raft. While I might have looked miserable soaking in freezing temperatures in my wet suit and booties, miserable is not the word I would use. "Exhilarated" might be a better word.

I'll let you know for sure in thirty years.

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

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

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A Broadway show asks a white actor to replace an Asian one. The backlash was swift.

By Mark Kennedy
The Associated Press

WHITEWASHED ROLE. *Darren Criss performs in* Maybe Happy Ending *on Broadway in New York. The Broadway rom-com* Maybe Happy Ending *isn't in a very happy place these days. A casting controversy threatens to dampen the show's post-Tony Award-winning glow. The strife began when producers of the South Korea-based musical chose to cast Andrew Barth Feldman as the male lead when original star Darren Criss steps away, in effect replacing an Asian actor with a white one. (Evan Zimmerman and Matthew Murphy via AP)*

NEW YORK — The Broadway rom-com *Maybe Happy Ending* isn't in a very happy place these days. A casting controversy threatens to dampen the show's post-Tony Award-winning glow.

The strife began when producers of the South Korea-based musical chose to cast Andrew Barth Feldman as the male lead when original star Darren Criss steps away, in effect replacing an Asian actor with a white one.

That prompted denunciations by the Asian American Performers Action Coalition, the Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists, and prominent Asian American artists such as Conrad Ricamora, Ruthie Ann Miles, Kay Sibal, Jose Llana, and BD Wong, who became the first Asian actor to win a Tony in 1988 for *M. Butterfly*.

The Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists has called on producers to recast the lead with an actor of Asian descent, calling the casting of Feldman an "affront to our community" and a "slap in the face."

"This was an Asian-driven show with an Asian American cast, and it was like a breath of fresh air to all of us," said Lily Tung Crystal, artistic director of the East West Players and a consortium board member. "This was the show that would bring us into the next stage of the conversation. But instead, we feel like we're going backwards."

Online comments

More than 2,400 people have signed an open letter from Wong asking the musical's creators to reconsider their casting choice. The letter has attracted the signatures of two-time Tony winner Donna Murphy, Tony winner Ali Stroker, Golden Globe winner Awkwafina, "Saturday Night Live" star Bowen Yang, actor Anthony Rapp, and director Leigh Silverman.

The reaction on social media has been rough, with many flatly telling Feldman to drop out, with one writing: "You know the role should go to an Asian person. You know it. And the longer you stay silent, the more damage you do to your reputation." Another joked Feldman would soon be seen as Mufasa in *The Lion King*. Neither Feldman nor the show responded when contacted by The Associated Press.

Dan Bacalzo, an associate professor of theater at Florida Gulf Coast University, compares it to the whitewashing controversy around Scarlett Johansson when she was cast as a cyborg in the manga-inspired *Ghost in the Shell*.

"In the end, it comes down to opportunity," he says. "With fewer leading roles possible for Asian American actors, why cast a show that has an established opportunity for them with a non-Asian actor?"

The controversy comes 36 years after the casting of a white actor as the Eurasian lead in *Miss Saigon* prompted a similar backlash, which ironically, was the subject of a revival of *Yellow Face* this past season. It's also set against a backdrop of the Trump administration's attempt to rip up initiatives for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

What's the show about?

Set in a futuristic version of Seoul, *Maybe Happy Ending* is a love story between two helper robots, Oliver and Claire, who are deemed obsolete. It began being developed in South Korea in 2014 and has been a hit there; the Broadway version is led by Criss and Helen J. Shen with a predominantly Asian cast.

Criss, who became the first Asian American actor to win the lead actor Tony in a musical in the role, will be out for nine weeks starting September 2. He announced he would return to the show November 4, but the damage was done.

The show's creators, Will Aronson and Hue Park, said in a statement that they wrote Oliver and Claire as androids created by a global company, but understood that the "makeup of our opening night cast became a meaningful and rare point of visibility."

"With *Maybe Happy Ending*, we wanted to write a show in which every role could be played by an Asian performer, but without the intention that the robot roles always would be," they said.

Critics point out that the script and direction illustrate an Asian-presenting lead actor is crucial to the plot and rue that producers leaned on the Asian American community to get it on Broadway.

"For the creators and producers to then turn around and say, 'Oh, thank you for the help and now we're going to go outside the community,'" says Tung Crystal. "It's a slap in the face in many ways."

Hye Won Kim, an assistant professor of English at Kennesaw State University, argues that the controversy is an example of the tensions and transformations that often occur when musical theater becomes transnational.

"It's multilayered. It's complicated. It's complex and you can't just say that there's a single answer to this," she says. "I really

Continued on page 14

Judges, defense lawyers, and grand jurors poke holes in cases from Trump's D.C. federal intervention

By Michael Kunzelman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A grand jury refused to indict a man who was captured on video hurling a sandwich at a federal agent. Prosecutors dropped another case after complaints that police illegally searched a man's satchel and found a gun. Judges, too, have balked at keeping several defendants in jail, citing weak evidence and dubious charging decisions.

President Donald Trump's crackdown on crime in the nation's capital has generated a torrent of charges against people caught up in a surge of street patrols. Judges, defense attorneys, and even grand jurors are already poking holes in many cases.

"I've seen things over the past 72 hours that I've never seen in federal court," U.S. District Judge Zia Faruqui said during a hearing for a man who was jailed for five days on a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge. Later, he added: "It feels like some sort of bizarre nightmare."

Civil liberties are at stake, legal figures say

Trump has framed the three-week-old operation as a campaign to eradicate rampant crime and "take our capital back." The judges and lawyers adjudicating the criminal cases say they're striving to strike a delicate balance between protecting public safety and preserving civil liberties.

Teams of federal agents and troops are patrolling the streets of Washington, D.C., helping police arrest hundreds of people. The courts are struggling to keep up with the burgeoning caseload. Some people have been held in jail for days while waiting to appear before a federal judge in district court.

Edwin Jonathan Rodriguez, a 25-year-old recent college graduate, has a permit to carry a concealed firearm in Maryland. But he spent eight days in jail after police stopped his car near The Wharf neighborhood in Washington on August 19 and said they found his registered gun, around 20 ounces of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

U.S. Magistrate Judge G. Michael Harvey wasn't buying the government's contention that Rodriguez is a dangerous drug dealer.

"The cases in which drug dealers register their guns are exceptionally rare," Harvey said as he ordered Rodriguez's release. "The government's case has got some challenges."

Police officers and unspecified "federal partners" stopped Rodriguez because he was driving a Lexus with a license plate on the back but not the front of the vehicle, prosecutors said in a court filing. Defense attorney Joseph Scrofano accused law enforcement of jumping to baseless conclusions about the contents of the car.

"We don't hold people based on assumptions," Scrofano said. "We hold people based on evidence."

Rodriguez, a budding architect who graduated from Morgan State University in December, doesn't have a criminal record. But he faces a charge that carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of five years if he's convicted.

The number of those arrested is rising

The White House says more than 1,200 people have been arrested and 135 firearms have been seized since the surge started on August 7. The city's police department says crime rates have plunged in the district, including a 60% decrease in carjackings, a 56% drop in robberies, and a 58% reduction in violent crimes as of August 27 compared to the same one-week period in 2024.

Over 30 people arrested during the crackdown have been charged in district court, where the most serious crimes are prosecuted. Approximately half of them are charged with assaulting officers, agents, or National Guard members, according to an Associated Press review of court records. The rest are charged with illegally possessing guns, drugs, or both.

The volume of cases in district court pales in comparison to the aftermath of the

Continued on page 10

FIREFIGHTING INTERFERENCE. *After lighting a fire line to burn up fuel for the Lick Creek Fire, a crew of firefighters begin to put out the flames south of Asotin, Washington, in this July 12, 2021 file photo. (Pete Caster/*Lewiston Tribune *via AP, File)*

Lawyer says Oregon firefighter arrested by Border Patrol during wildfire was on track for legal status

By Martha Bellisle
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Lawyers are demanding the release of a longtime Oregon resident arrested by Border Patrol while fighting a Washington state wildfire, saying last Friday that the firefighter was already on track for legal status after helping federal investigators solve a crime against his family.

His arrest was illegal, the lawyers said, and violated Department of Homeland Security polices that say immigration enforcement must not be conducted at locations where emergency responses are happening.

He is one of two firefighters arrested in late August while working the Bear Gulch Fire in the Olympic National Forest, which as of August 30th had burned about 14 square miles and was only 13% contained, forcing evacuations.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that it had been helping the Bureau of Land Management with a criminal investigation into two contractors working at the fire when it discovered two firefighters who they said were in the country without permanent legal status.

The firefighter, whose name has not been made public, has lived in the U.S. for 19 years after arriving with his family at age 4. He received a U-Visa certification from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon in 2017 and submitted his U-Visa application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services the following year.

The U-Visa program was established by congress to protect victims of serious crimes who assist federal investigators, and the man has been waiting since 2018 for the immigration agency to decide on his application, according to Stephen Manning, a lawyer with Innovation Law Lab, a Portland-based nonprofit that's representing the firefighter.

Another Homeland Security policy says agents can't detain people who are receiving or have applied for victim-based immigration benefits, his lawyer said. Charging the man with an immigration violation was "an illegal after-the-fact justification" given his U-Visa status.

His lawyers said Friday that they located him in the immigration detention system and were able to make contact. They were still processing information and are demanding his immediate release, they told The AP in an e-mail.

A senior DHS official said in a statement to AP on Friday that the two men apprehended were not firefighters and were not actively fighting the fire. Officials said they were providing a supporting role by cutting logs into firewood.

"The firefighting response remained uninterrupted the entire time," the statement said. "No active firefighters were even questioned, and U.S. Border Patrol's actions did not prevent or interfere with any personnel actively engaged in firefighting efforts."

When the Bureau of Land Management was asked to provide information about why its contracts with two companies were terminated and 42 firefighters were escorted away from the state's largest wildfire, it declined. It would only say it cooperates with other federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security.

"These law enforcement professionals contribute to broader federal enforcement efforts by maintaining public safety, protecting natural resources, and collaborating with the agencies, such as the Border Patrol," Department of Interior spokesperson Alyse Sharpe told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

Manning said in a letter to Oregon senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat, that the arrest violated Homeland Security policy.

Wyden was critical of the Border Patrol's operation, saying President Donald Trump's administration is more concerned about conducting raids on fire crews than protecting communities from catastrophic fires. Firefighters put their lives on the line, Wyden emphasized, such as the Oregon firefighter who recently died while battling a wildfire in southwestern Montana.

"The last thing that wildland firefighter crews need is to be worried about masked individuals trampling their due process rights," Wyden said in an e-mail to AP.

Meanwhile, wildfire officials were still trying to get control of the Bear Gulch Fire. The number of personnel working on the blaze was listed at 303 on Friday, down from 349 on Thursday.

Two firefighters battling Washington state wildfire arrested by Border Patrol

By Martha Bellisle
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Two firefighters who were part of a 44-person crew fighting a wildland blaze on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula were taken into custody by U.S. Border Patrol agents during a multiagency criminal investigation into the two contractors they worked for, according to federal authorities.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management asked the Border Patrol to help check the workers' identities when crews were working in a remote area, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Border Patrol said in a statement. Border Patrol agents claim they found two workers who were in the U.S. illegally and detained them, the agencies said.

Federal authorities did not provide information about the investigation into the contractors, and they did not immediately respond to questions seeking details about the criminal case.

BLM terminated the contracts with Table Rock Forestry Inc. and ASI Arden Solutions Inc. — both from Oregon — and escorted the 42 workers off federal land, the release said. The two arrested were taken to the Bellingham station on charges of illegal entry and reentry, authorities said.

E-mail and phone messages left in late August for the two businesses seeking comment were not immediately returned.

U.S. senator blasts detentions

Initial reports saying firefighters had been arrested by federal agents sparked outrage from U.S. senator Patty Murray. Several firefighters who witnessed the incident had told *The Seattle Times* anonymously that federal agents took two firefighters into custody.

Murray responded to the news last Thursday by saying the Trump administration has undercut wildland firefighting by "decimating the Forest Service" and their immigration policy "is fundamentally sick."

"Here in the Pacific Northwest, wildfires can, and have, burned entire towns to the ground," the Democrat said in a statement. "This new Republican policy to detain firefighters on the job is as immoral as it is dangerous."

Dennis Lawson, president of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, told The AP that firefighters work as a team, and losing a member for any reason hurts their ability to serve their communities.

U.S. officials say detentions highlight coordination

U.S. Border Patrol Blaine Sector chief patrol agent Rosario Vasquez said in the statement that the effort highlights the coordination between federal agencies to ensure the integrity of government operations.

"U.S. Border Patrol steadfastly enforces the laws of the United States and unapologetically addresses violations of immigration law wherever they are encountered," Vasquez said.

The crews were helping with the Bear Gulch Fire, which has burned about 14 square miles on the north side of Lake Cushman in the Olympic National Forest and National Park. It was 13% contained as of August 30th.

Oregon senator Ron Wyden posted on the social media site X that one of the arrested firefighters was from Oregon and denounced the arrest, saying it makes communities less safe. The man is represented by lawyers with the nonprofit Innovation Law Lab, who said he was unlawfully detained.

"We demand that they allow him to access counsel as is his right afforded by the U.S. Constitution," lawyer Rodrigo Fernandez-Ortega said in an e-mail. "We have seen entire towns burned to the ground and it is outrageous that the U.S. border patrol unlawfully detained the brave individuals who are protecting us."

Washington governor "deeply concerned"

Washington governor Bob Ferguson said he was "deeply concerned" about the news, adding that firefighters help keep communities safe. He said his team has reached out to the federal agencies to get more information and "to question why the Trump administration's cruel immigration policies now extend to individuals fighting forest fires."

Jennifer Risdal, a spokesperson for the U.S. Forest Service's Incident Management Team overseeing the firefighting efforts, said they were aware of the Border Patrol activities at the fire site but offered no information about what happened.

"The Border Patrol operation is not interfering with firefighting activity and Bear Gulch firefighters continue to make progress on the fire," Risdal told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

During the first Trump administration, DHS issued a statement during the 2020 wildfire season saying Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement were concerned about the impact the fires could have on western states and said their highest priority was "the preservation of life and safety."

"In consideration of these circumstances, there will be no immigration enforcement initiatives associated with evacuations or sheltering related to the wildfires, except in the event of a serious public safety threat," the statement said.

Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove, whose agency oversees Washington's wildland firefighting efforts, said he was aware of the enforcement actions at the Bear Gulch Fire.

"While we don't have all of the details yet, this is all occurring at a time when the Trump administration's crude and inhumane approach to immigration enforcement has intentionally and unnecessarily stoked fear and mistrust among members of the public — including firefighters putting their lives on the line to protect our state," he said.

❑

China's fiery baijiu spirit evolves to attract younger drinkers

Continued from page 5

bines the culture and lifestyle young people advocate," Jiangxiaobai marketing director Fan Li said. "From our products to our branding, it's a process of embracing the younger generation."

Shirley Huang, out with friends on a Friday night in Sanlitun, said she had never touched baijiu at age 27, preferring cocktails. But that night, something new on the menu caught her attention: a baijiu-based cocktail.

"Baijiu is quietly making its way into our lives. We just haven't noticed," she said "It may not appear as itself, but it reemerges in new forms."

Associated Press video producers Olivia Zhang and Wayne Zhang in Beijing contributed to this report.

A walk through a Smithsonian museum reveals American genius and cruelty as Trump presses for change

By Calvin Woodward
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an afternoon's walk through ground zero of Americana — the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History — objects around every corner invite one question: What could possibly be more American than this?

There's the enormous Star-Spangled Banner in all its timeworn glory, Dorothy's ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz*, and totems of achievement throughout.

There are also testaments to pain and cruelty. What could be more American than a reckoning with the nation's sins, as illustrated by shackles representing slavery and photos of Japanese Americans confined to detention camps in World War II?

In myriad ways, the museum explores "the complexity of our past," in accord with its mission statement. President Donald Trump wants a simpler tale told. He wants this and the other Smithsonian museums to mirror American pride, power, and accomplishment without all the darkness, and he threatens to hold back money if they don't get with that program.

American genius and ugliness are on display

On social media, Trump complained that at the Smithsonian museums, which are free to visit and get most of their money from the government, "everything discussed is how horrible our Country is, how bad Slavery was, and how unaccomplished the downtrodden have been — Nothing about Success, nothing about Brightness, nothing about the Future."

In fact, the history museum reflects bountiful successes, whether on the battlefield, from the kitchens and factories of food pioneers, on the musical stage, in the movies, or on other fronts of creativity and industriousness. The American Enterprise exhibit, for one, has a wall filled with the stories of successful Americans.

On this wandering tour you can see navigational implements used by Blackbeard, the terrifying pirate, from his early 1700s raids on the Atlantic coast. You see the hat Abraham Lincoln wore to Ford's Theatre the night of his assassination, George Washington's ceremonial uniform, Warren Harding's fine red silk pajamas from the early 1900s, the first car to travel across the country, and a $100,000 bill.

You can see the original light bulbs of the American genius, Thomas Edison. A much earlier genius, the founding father Benjamin Franklin, is presented both as a gifted inventor and a slave owner who publicly came to denounce slavery yet never freed his

Continued on page 11

Library book returned after 82 years. Note says, "Grandma won't be able to pay for it anymore."

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A library book has been returned nearly 82 years after it was borrowed from the San Antonio Public Library. It came with a letter noting that "Grandma won't be able to pay for it anymore."

The book is *Your Child, His Family, and Friends* by marriage and family counsellor Frances Bruce Strain. It was checked out in July 1943 and returned this past June from a person in Oregon, the library said in a news release.

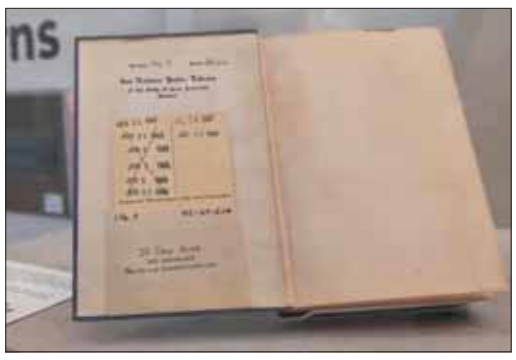
"After the recent death of my father, I inherited a few boxes of books he left behind," the person wrote in a letter that was shared by the library on Instagram and signed with the initials P.A.A.G.

The book was a guide for parents on helping their children navigate personal relationships. It was checked out when the person's father was 11 years old.

"The book must have been borrowed by my Grandmother, Maria del Socorro Aldrete Flores (Cortez)," the person wrote. "In that year, she transferred to Mexico City to work at the U.S. Embassy. She must have taken the book with her, and some 82 years later, it ended up in my possession."

The book had received write-ups in various newspapers at the time. *The Cincinnati Enquirer* described it in June 1943 as a "complete guidebook to the personal relationships of the child with his family and the outside world." *The New York Times* noted a month later that Strain was a psychologist and mother of two who was "best known for her wise, sensitive, but unsentimental presentation of sex education."

The person who returned the book wrote in the letter: "I hope there is no late fee for it because Grandma won't be able to pay for it anymore."



NO LATE FEE. *A book called* Your Child, His Family, and Friends*, by marriage and family counsellor Frances Bruce Strain, was checked out in July 1943 and returned this past June from a person in Oregon, according to a news release from the library. (AP)*

The library said in a news release that it eliminated overdue fines in 2021. The inside cover of the book was stamped with the warning that the fine for overdue books was three cents a day. Not accounting for inflation, the penalty would amount to nearly $900.

Three cents in July 1943 amounts to 56 cents in today's money, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Inflation Calculator. That would add up to more than $16,000.

The library noted that the book is in "good condition." It'll be on display in the city's central library through August. It will then be donated to the Friends of San Antonio Public Library and sold to benefit the library.

Eight decades may seem like a long time for an overdue library book, but it's nowhere near the record. Guinness World Records says the most overdue library book was returned to Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, England, in 1956.

It was borrowed in 1668, some 288 years earlier. No fine was extracted.

Robot rabbits the latest tool in Florida battle to control invasive Burmese pythons in the Everglades

By Curt Anderson and Cody Jackson
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — They look, move, and even smell like the kind of furry Everglades marsh rabbit a Burmese python would love to eat. But these bunnies are robots meant to lure the giant invasive snakes out of their hiding spots.

It's the latest effort by the South Florida Water Management District to eliminate as many pythons as possible from the Everglades, where they are decimating native species with their voracious appetites. In Everglades National Park, officials say the snakes have eliminated 95% of small mammals as well as thousands of birds.

"Removing them is fairly simple. It's detection. We're having a really hard time finding them," said Mike Kirkland, lead invasive animal biologist for the water district. "They're so well camouflaged in the field."

The water district and University of Florida researchers deployed 120 robot rabbits this summer as an experiment. Previously, there was an effort to use live rabbits as snake lures but that became too expensive and time-consuming, Kirkland said.

The robots are simple toy rabbits, but retrofitted to emit heat, a smell, and to make natural movements to appear like any other regular rabbit. "They look like a real rabbit," Kirkland said.. They are solar powered and can be switched on and off remotely. They are placed in small pens monitored by a video camera that sends out a signal when a python is nearby.

"Then I can deploy one of our many contractors to go out and remove the python," Kirkland said.

The total cost per robot rabbit is about $4,000, financed by the water district, he added.

Pythons are not native to Florida, but have become established in the swampy, subtropical Everglades by escaping from homes or by people releasing them when they become overgrown pets. A female

PYTHON PREY. *This undated photo provided by the South Florida Water Management District shows a robotic rabbit in the Florida Everglades. Officials in Florida are experimenting with ways to capture invasive Burmese pythons in the Florida Everglades using robotic rabbits. (South Florida Water Management District via AP)*

python can lay between 50 and 100 eggs at a time with a gestation period of 60 to 90 days, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

It's not easy to find definite estimates of the number of pythons in Florida. The U.S. Geological Survey recently reported a ballpark number of "tens of thousands," while other official estimates run as high as 300,000 snakes. They have few natural enemies, although there are occasional confrontations with alligators, and other predators, such as bobcats and coyotes, that will eat their eggs.

Since 2000, more than 23,000 of the snakes have been removed from the wild, the wildlife commission says. The robot rabbits are the latest attempt to tackle snakes that average between 10 and 16 feet in length when fully grown.

"Every invasive python that is removed makes a difference for Florida's environment and its native wildlife," said Ron Bergeron, a member of the water district governing board.

Pythons can be humanely killed year-

Continued on page 13

Judges, defense lawyers, and grand jurors poke holes in cases from Trump's D.C. federal intervention

Continued from page 7

January 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, which led to charges against nearly 1,600 people in the same courthouse. But the riot arrests were staggered across four years and all 50 states, easing the burden on the court.

Former federal prosecutor Michael Romano, who spent more than 17 years at the Justice Department and helped supervise Capitol riot prosecutions, said he never had a grand jury refuse to return an indictment in one of his cases. He said the Trump administration's efforts to appear tough on crime may have backfired with many D.C. residents, who serve on federal grand juries.

"Sometimes when you arrest people with scant evidence and you overcharge them, the community doesn't like it and the evidence won't support it," said Romano, who resigned from the department earlier this year. "This illustrates the danger of having a Justice Department where attorneys can't do their job and can't properly evaluate whether cases are going to be good or not."

"We will not simply go along with the flow"

At least three people have been arrested on assault charges for spitting on federal agents or troops on patrol. A viral video captured a Justice Department attorney hurling a "sub-style" sandwich at a Customs and Border Protection agent. But a grand jury refused to indict him on a felony charge — an extraordinarily rare failure for prosecutors.

"Grand juries, judges, we will not simply go along with the flow," Faruqui said.

He questioned why people have been locked up for days for relatively minor offenses that typically aren't handled in district court. Faruqui said he shared his concerns with the leadership of U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro's office and hopes they can reduce the waits for detention hearings and initial court appearances.

Pirro and Faruqui verbally sparred in late August over her office's handling of a case against a man who was arrested at a Trader Joe's supermarket last month. Police officers said they followed Torez Riley into the grocery store and found two unregistered guns inside his satchel. He was charged with being a felon in possession of firearms, but Pirro's office dropped the case a week later.

During another hearing, Faruqui said he was "absolutely flabbergasted" that Riley was jailed for a week before his case was dismissed. He said it was "without a doubt the most illegal search I have ever seen in my life."

Pirro, a former Fox News host whom Trump appointed in May to lead the nation's largest U.S. Attorney's office, responded with a statement accusing Faruqui of having "a long history of bending over backwards to release dangerous felons in possession of firearms."

Last Thursday, Harvey ordered the release of a man who was arrested on August 16 after a traffic stop by members of the U.S. Park Police and U.S. Marshals Service. The magistrate pressed a prosecutor to explain why the driver, Amarian Langston, was charged with illegally possessing a handgun that officers found beside a road after he crashed the vehicle. The prosecutor, Kyle McWaters, acknowledged that nobody saw Langston toss the weapon.

Prosecutors separately charged Langston's girlfriend in D.C. Superior Court, which hears less serious cases and is handling the bulk of the surge-related arrests. McWaters said the law allows the government to charge both with illegally possessing the same gun even though it allegedly belonged to the girlfriend.

Said McWaters: "I'm not saying it's an easy hill to climb, your honor."

An AI simulation of a Mount Fuji eruption is being used to prepare Tokyo for the worst

Continued from page 4

Representatives of both the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Japan's Cabinet Office Disaster Prevention Division said they had not received complaints from Tokyo residents about the videos.

University of Tokyo professor and risk communication expert Naoya Sekiya said the government has for years modelled scenarios for volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, but added that does not mean Fuji is about to erupt.

"There's no particular significance to the timing," Sekiya said.

Japan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters because of its climate and topography and is known for its meticulous disaster planning which spans earthquakes, typhoons, floods, mudslides, and volcanic eruptions.

The Japan Meteorological Agency last August issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory" after a powerful quake struck off the southeastern coast of the southern main island of Kyushu.

Of the world's roughly 1,500 active volcanoes, 111 are in Japan, which lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

Fuji, Japan's tallest peak, used to erupt about every 30 years, but it has been dormant since the 18th century.

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Nearly 24 years later, Sept. 11 victims' remains are newly identified

By Jennifer Peltz
The Associated Press

REMAINS RECOGNIZED. *The September 11 Memorial and Museum is seen during a Tribute of Light in this September 11, 2016 file photo. Three 9/11 victims' remains have newly been identified, according to officials, as evolving DNA technology keeps making gradual gains in the nearly quarter-century-long effort to return the remains of the dead to their loved ones. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae, File)*

NEW YORK — Three 9/11 victims' remains have newly been identified, according to officials, as evolving DNA technology keeps making gradual gains in the nearly quarter-century-long effort to return the remains of the dead to their loved ones.

New York City officials last month announced they had identified remains of Ryan D. Fitzgerald, a 26-year-old currency trader; Barbara A. Keating, a 72-year-old retired nonprofit executive; and another woman whose name authorities kept private at her family's request.

The three already were among the thousands of people long known to have died in the al-Qaida hijacked-plane attacks of September 11, 2001, and long listed among the names on the National September 11 Memorial in New York City. But these families, like many others, never previously knew of any remains of their loved ones.

In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed when the hijackers crashed jetliners into the trade center's twin towers, the Pentagon, and a field in southwest Pennsylvania on 9/11. More than 2,700 of the victims perished in the fiery collapse of the trade center's twin towers, and about 40% of those victims haven't had any remains identified.

The new identifications were made through now-improved DNA testing of minute remains found more than 20 years ago amid the trade center wreckage, the city medical examiner's office said.

"Each new identification testifies to the promise of science and sustained outreach to families despite the passage of time," chief medical examiner Dr. Jason Graham said in a statement. "We continue this work as our way of honoring the lost."

Keating's son, Paul Keating, told media outlets he was amazed and impressed by the enduring endeavor.

"It's just an amazing feat, gesture," he told the *New York Post*. He said genetic material from part of his mother's hairbrush was matched to DNA samples from relatives. A bit of his mother's ATM card was the only other trace of her ever recovered from the debris, he said.

Barbara Keating was a passenger on Boston-to-Los Angeles-bound American Airlines Flight 11 when hijackers slammed it into the World Trade Center. She was headed home to Palm Springs, California, after spending the summer on Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

Keating had spent her career in social services, including a time as executive director of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Middlesex, near Boston. In retirement, she was involved in her Roman Catholic church in Palm Springs.

The Associated Press sent messages to her family and left messages at possible numbers for Fitzgerald's relatives.

Fitzgerald, who lived in Manhattan, was working at a financial firm at the trade center, studying for a master's

Continued on page 14

A walk through a Smithsonian museum reveals American genius and cruelty as Trump presses for change

Continued from page 9

own.

Those nuances and ambiguities may not be long for this world. Still on display at the history museum are artifacts and documents of American ingenuity, subjugation, generosity, racism, grit, dishonor, verve, playfulness, corruption, heroism, and cultural appropriation.

Like most museums, the focus is not on the future.

There are many provocations

Even so, there is plenty to provoke the Republican president.

In the "Great Debate" of an American democracy exhibition, a wall is emblazoned with large words such as "Privilege" and "Slavery." The museum presents fulsome tributes to the contributions of immigrants and narratives about the racist landscape that many encountered.

Exhibits address "food justice," the exploitation of Filipinos after the United States annexed their land, and the network of oppressive Native American boarding schools from which Jim Thorpe emerged and became one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Hawai'i's last sovereign before its annexation by the U.S. in the 1890s, Queen Lili'uokalani, is quoted on a banner as asking: "Is the AMERICAN REPUBLIC of STATES to DEGENERATE and become a COLONIZER?"

A ukulele on display was made around 1890 by a sugar laborer who worked on the kingdom's American plantations before a U.S.-backed coup overthrew the monarchy. Museum visitors are told the new instrument was held up by the monarchs as a symbol of anti-colonial independence.

"Ukuleles are both a product of U.S. imperialism and a potent symbol of Native Hawaiian resistance," says the accompanying text.

At the Greek-godlike statue of George Washington, the text hints at his complexities and stops short of the total reverence that totalitarian leaders get.

Noting that "modern scholarship focuses on the fallible man rather than the marble hero," the text says Washington's image "is still used for inspiration, patriotism, and commercial gain" and that "he continues to hold a place for many as a symbolic 'father' of the country."

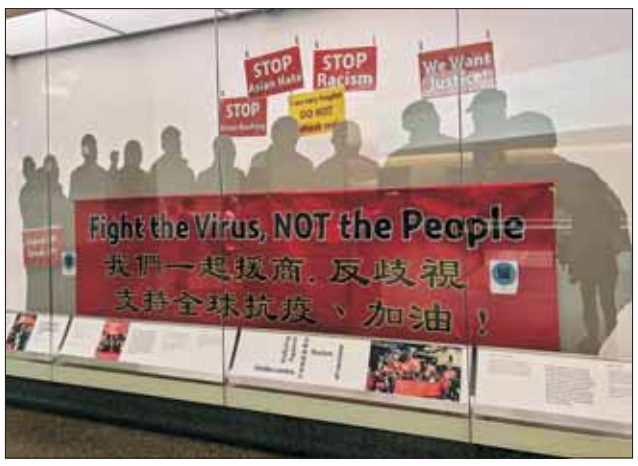
The American spirit is celebrated, too

On this visit, conservators behind a big window are seen sweeping tiny brushes on ancient wooden pieces. Their patriotic work proceeds at a snail's pace.

The team is restoring the gunboat *Philadelphia*, part of a small fleet that engaged the British navy at the Battle of Valcour Island in Lake Champlain in 1776, delaying Britain's effort to cut off the New England colonies and buying time for the Continental Army to prepare for its decisive victory at Saratoga.

The commander of the gunboats in the Valcour battle later became America's greatest traitor, Benedict Arnold. The British damaged the *Philadelphia* so badly it sank an hour after the battle, then lay underwater for 160 years. It's being restored for next year's celebrations of America's 250th year.

"The *Philadelphia* is a symbol of how citizens of a newly formed nation came together, despite overwhelming odds against their success," said Jennifer Jones, the project's director. "This boat's fragile condition is symbolic of our democracy; it requires the nation's attention and vigilance to preserve it for future generations."



GENIUS & CRUELTY. *A "Fight the Virus, Not the People" COVID-19 banner is seen at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The banner was carried by counter-protesters at an anti-Asian hate march in San Francisco in February 2020. It is the museum's most recent collection related to the pandemic. (AP Photo/River Zhang)*

It's not telling you what to think, but what to think about

Democracy's fragility is considered in a section of the museum about the limits of presidential power. That's where references to Trump's two impeachments were removed in July for updating, and were restored in August.

"On December 18, 2019, the House impeached Donald Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress," one label now states. "On January 13, 2021, Donald Trump became the first president to be impeached twice," says another. "The charge was incitement of insurrection based on his challenge of the 2020 election results and on his speech on January 6." His Senate acquittals are duly noted.

It's a just-the-facts take on a matter that has driven the country so deeply apart. The history museum doesn't offer answers for that predicament. Instead, it asks questions throughout its halls on the fundamentals of Americanism.

"How should Americans remember their Revolution and the founding of the nation?"

"What does patriotism look like?"

"How diverse should the citizenry be?"

"Do we need to share a common national story?"

Associated Press writer Lynn Berry contributed to this report.

Taiwan shuts out Nevada 7-0 to win its first Little League World Series title since 1996

By Alexandra Wenskoski and Amanda Vogt
The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — It might not have been perfect, but for Taiwan it was still pretty great.

Lin Chin-Tse retired the first 13 batters he faced and allowed just one hit in five innings as Taiwan beat Nevada 7-0 in the Little League World Series (LLWS) championship, ending a 29-year title drought for the Taiwanese.

Taiwan won its first LLWS since 1996, although its 18 titles are the most of any country beside the United States, including five straight from 1977 to 1981.

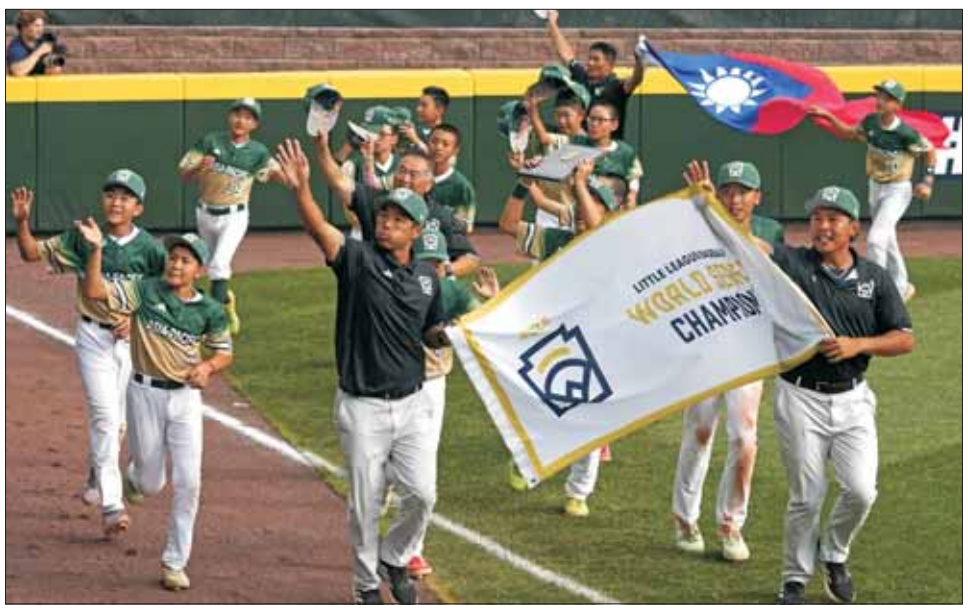
When Chen Yi-Reng caught a fly ball in left field to end the game, Taiwan's gloves went flying into the air as the team piled in front of the mound.

"We're really happy that we have a chance to recapture the championship," manager Lai Min-Nan said.

Lin, a 5'8" right hander, also smashed a three-run triple in Taiwan's five-run fifth inning. The 12-year-old from Taipei hit more than 80 mph with his fastball multiple times during the tournament; to batters it looks much faster because the plate in this level of baseball is only 46 feet away. His velocity appeared much the same in the championship game.

Lin's longest start before the championship was three innings in Taiwan's opening game against Mexico. He allowed only one hit in a subsequent victory over Venezuela.

"I am very excited," Lin said through an interpreter. "In the first inning, I was very nervous, but after that it was smooth."



BACK ON TOP. *The Little League team representing Taiwan, top photo, takes a victory lap at Lamade Stadium after defeating the squad from Las Vegas, Nevada, in the Little League World Series (LLWS) championship game held in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania on August 24, 2025. Taiwan won its first LLWS since 1996, although its 18 titles are the most of any country beside the United States, including five straight from 1977 to 1981. In the bottom photo, Taiwan team member Jian Zih-De celebrates his team's LLWS championship. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)*

Min-Nan said Taiwan's strategy throughout the LLWS was to "leverage the defense as the offense. If the other team cannot get any runs, there's no way they can win this tournament."

That plan worked pretty well. The Taiwanese gave up just three runs during their stay in Williamsport, all to Venezuela in a 7-3 victory.

Garrett Gallegos broke up the perfect game with a single into left field in the fifth inning but was caught in a double play when Grayson Miranda lined out to second. Nevada was appearing in its first championship game.

"I think you will judge this whole story, not by this one last chapter, but the whole book here," manager T.J. Fescher said. "They will be heroes upon arrival in Las Vegas."

Offensively, Taiwan capitalized on four wild pitches and a passed ball. Jian Zih-De worked a walk leading off the bottom of the second and later scored when he beat the throw home after one of the wild pitches.

Chen Shi-Rong scored Taiwan's second run in the bottom of the third when he ran home on a Nevada throwing error to first base.

After his triple in the fifth made it 5-0, Lin got caught in a rundown between third and home on Tsai Yu-Ge's ground ball, but he was bailed out on a throwing error that went deep into left field. Lin scored and so did Tsai.

The last international team to win the tournament was Japan in 2017.

Managers miffed at offshore sports betting on Little League World Series

By Amanda Vogt
The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Last month, as usual, sports bettors could get action on MLB games from U.S.-based gambling sites. Meanwhile, at least a couple of offshore bookmakers were offering odds on games at the Little League World Series (LLWS).

Team managers, and Little League itself, are not pleased.

"I'm not a fan," said South Carolina's manager Dave Bogan, noting he goes to Las Vegas twice a year. "It's just not appropriate, it feels dirty, quite honestly."

In news conferences throughout the Little League World Series, U.S. team managers have voiced their displeasure with gambling on their games — players at the tournament top out at 12 years old. Little League International also released a statement last month denouncing sports betting on youth competition.

"Little League is a trusted place where children are learning the fundamentals of the games and all the important life lessons that come with having fun, celebrating teamwork, and playing with integrity," the statement said. "No one should be exploiting the success and failures of children playing the game they love for their own personal gain."

BetOnline and Bovada were among the offshore sites offering daily odds on LLWS matchups. They are both based outside the United States and are both illegal to use in the U.S. and not subject to its laws. BetOnline is located in Panama and has offered sports betting and gambling since 1991. Bovada, a Costa Rica-based company, joined the scene in 2011.

BetOnline's brand manager, Dave Mason, said in a post on X that BetOnline is making the moneylines itself and that it "ain't easy." He posted odds on X throughout the tournament.

Jon Solomon, the community impact director of Project

Continued on page 13

sudoku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Difficulty level: Easy *#72951*

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 #15892 (Hard)

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

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

Miss you, Arnold ♥

Arnold A. Lim

December 24, 1972 -

September 11, 2001

Janice Tjen earned a milestone win for Indonesia at the U.S. Open

By Brian Mahoney
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Janice Tjen earned the first singles win by an Indonesian player in a Grand Slam tournament in 22 years, advancing to a second-round match against a U.S. Open champion who has been one of her inspirations: Emma Raducanu.

Tjen upset No. 24 seed Veronika Kudermetova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 on August 24th in 2 hours, 11 minutes. She moved on to face the 2021 U.S. Open winner, who came through the qualifying rounds before winning her title in Flushing Meadows.

That's how the 23-year-old Tjen earned her spot in the field, becoming the first player from Indonesia to play singles in a major tournament since Angelique Widjaja at the 2004 U.S. Open.

"When Emma won the tournament and had an incredible run here, I was actually in college and I was injured at the time, so I got to watch a lot of tennis," Tjen said. "Just seeing her doing it makes me, like, inspired to be able to do it as well."

Tjen played at Pepperdine, where she was the NCAA doubles runner-up in 2024.

MILESTONE MATCH. *Janice Tjen of Indonesia returns a shot to Veronika Kudermetova of Russia during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)*

After graduating this past spring with a degree in sociology, she weighed whether to try and play professionally.

"I think during my college years I'm always, like, contemplating if I should go for it; should I not. And I think at the end I decided to try it out and the coaches at Pepperdine told me I think you should give it a try, at least for two years," Tjen said. "So I trust them, and here I am."

Tjen came into the tournament 55-10 this year, playing lower-level matches. Then, in the biggest one of her career, she recovered after blowing a 3-1 lead in the second set, finishing the match with a nice backhand volley on match point and dropping to her knees near the net.

Her victory came on the same day that Alexandra Eala became the first woman representing the Philippines to win a Grand Slam match, knocking off No. 14 seed Clara Tauson 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (13-11).

"Growing up in the same region, we would run into each other a lot in the same tournaments," Eala said of Tjen. "I haven't been able to spend a lot of time with her recently. I knew she was in college. Now she's playing pro and doing super well. I'm so happy for her, and it's nice to see someone that you grew up with in the same — in the biggest stages in the world."

Tjen got another try — on a much bigger stage against the popular Raducanu in the next round, who defeated her.

Prior to the matchup, Tjen said it was going to be "a bigger crowd playing against her" and she was "just excited for the opportunity."

Managers miffed at offshore sports betting on Little League World Series

Continued from page 12

Play, an initiative of the Aspen Institute's Sports and Society program, said there are negative effects on young players whose games are the subject of betting. Such wagering, he says, is fairly common.

In 2018, Project Play surveyed Mobile County, Alabama, and found that "26% of surveyed youth said they had played in a game where adults bet money on who won or the final score," according to its State of Play report.

The report said that tackle football, basketball, and baseball were more likely to be gambled on by adults according to the children surveyed.

"This is just, you know, bets that usually sort of happen, maybe at the field, or in the gym," Solomon said in a phone interview. "Kids are already facing a lot of pressure in youth sports these days. It is a highly commercialized industry with a lot of people already making a lot of money."

When gambling is involved in the actual performance of the game, Solomon believes the pressure can be even higher. The report showed that gambling "was witnessed by both boys (33%) and girls (19%)." In professional and collegiate sports, Solomon noted instances of athletes getting harassed by gamblers — think any kicker who missed a last-second field goal.

"Now imagine the stakes for a more impressionable child, right, or teenager?" Solomon said. "It's so unhealthy and so unneeded, and I think if anyone is betting on youth sports, they should seriously seek help because you have a serious addiction most likely."

Hawai'i Little League manager Gerald Oda is adamant that gambling on these games takes away from the "beauty" of Little League.

"This is the only tournament where you're representing your local community," Oda said. "It's that innocence, that pureness that these kids show on the field."

Oda believes the memories his 12-year-old players make are more important than the games won or lost.

"It's about them experiencing this whole moment here. They're going to have memories saying that when I was 12, this is what we did," Oda said. "Gambling is here to stay, but I am thankful that Little League is very protective of what they have, and they should be. You know that pure joy and emotion whether you win or you lose, that's the greatest thing."

Solomon said youth sports is "all about the delivery of the sport" from leagues and coaches.

"Sports, if not delivered properly, can be harmful to children and betting on sports would definitely fall into that category of it being harmful," Solomon said. Pressure from parents and coaches, as well as early sports specialization, can also negatively impact youth sports.

In 2018, the Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act that made sports betting illegal across most of the U.S for over 25 years. Now, 39 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized sports betting but states don't allow wagers to be made where those competing are under 18.

In keeping with those laws, no online betting sites such as FanDuel, Draft Kings, or ESPN Bet offer lines on the LLWS and Nevada's manager TJ Fechser hopes that doesn't change.

"We're in a big crazy world now and if we ever see publicized sports books throughout the world standardizing it, we have to really look into ourselves. Is this appropriate?" Fechser said. "I'm not the decider on this, but I don't want to see it being standardized."

Amanda Vogt is a student in the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism at Penn State.

Robot rabbits the latest tool in Florida battle to control invasive Burmese pythons

Continued from page 10

round on private lands and on lands managed by the wildlife commission across the state.

Each year the commission holds a "Florida Python Challenge" that carries cash prizes for most pythons caught, the longest snake, and so forth. This year, 934 people from 30 states took part in the effort in July, capturing 294 pythons with a top prize of $10,000 to a participant who bagged 60 of the reptiles.

It's too early to determine how successful the robot rabbit project will be, but officials say initial results are a cause for optimism.

"This part of the project is in its infancy," Kirkland said.

Women's Professional Baseball League launching in 2026 offers new hope for athletes

By Alanis Thames
AP Sports Writer

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE. *Toronto Maple Leafs pitcher Ayami Sato of Japan throws against the Kitchener Panthers during an Intercounty Baseball League game in Toronto in this May 11, 2025 file photo. Hundreds of women attended tryouts for the launch next year of the Women's Professional Baseball League. Sato, 35, has led the Japan national team to six women's baseball World Cup championships and is widely considered one of the best female pitchers ever, with a nearly 80 mph fastball and a precise curveball. (Arlyn McAdorey/*The Canadian Press *via AP, File)*

WASHINGTON — Victoria Ruelas was 12 years old when she made history as the first American girl to play in the Little League World Series.

That was in 1989. And while Ruelas is proud of how far women in sports have come since her childhood, she can't help but wish there were more opportunities for them to shine. Especially in baseball, where opportunities beyond youth leagues have so often required girls to take unusual paths, most of them alongside men.

"We keep saying how much strides we're making," Ruelas said. "But they're so slow in coming. It just should be faster.

"I get excited when I see girls playing and getting to go to the Little League World Series every year. But to still be one here, one there — that's upsetting to me. There's so much more of us out there that play."

Ruelas and many other women have carved out their own spaces in baseball over the years. Now, the wait for something more unifying is on the horizon with next year's launch of the Women's Professional Baseball League (WPBL).

The league held tryouts last month in Washington, D.C. While baseball stars like former Little League phenom Mo'ne Davis and USA baseball women's national team player Kelsie Whitmore are already signed to the WPBL, the league's tryouts are open to all women.

That has made way for competitors of all ages to chase their dream of playing professionally. For many, the tryouts are one of the first times they've seen so many women's baseball players in one place.

"I never thought I'd see this, ever," said Monica Holguin, of Burbank, California. "You're told when you're younger, 'Hey, you have to transition from baseball to softball because there's no future in (baseball) for women.' And so you just do it."

The result for Holguin, 45, was turning her focus to raising her two children instead of pursuing a professional career.

"And then something like this pops up and you just say, 'Hey, let's just go do it,'" added Holguin, who tried out at third base. "You know, I really did it. I wanted to come out here, compete, and I wanted to show my kids, it doesn't matter how old you are, you can chase a dream."

Age is no deterrent for Holguin and several other WPBL hopefuls, who are trying to open doors for the next generation of girls baseball players.

Ruelas, 48, played college softball at San Jose State and was on the U.S. team that competed in the 2001 Women's World Series. She flew to Washington from Honolulu, Hawai'i, for the tryouts and said "until my body says I cannot do this anymore, I'd like to keep playing."

Micaela Minner, who owns a sports training company with her wife in Akron, Ohio, has accomplished plenty in her athletic career. She played baseball until age 15. She was a softball state champion in high school. She helped Missouri's softball team reach the 2009 Women's College World Series. And she played professional softball with the Akron Racers in Ohio.

Minner, now 40 and retired from softball, still feels a deep pull toward baseball — the sport that she said gave her a sense of belonging growing up in the small town Sanger, Texas.

"I was angry about my being a person of color in an all-white town," Minner said of her childhood. "I hated my skin color. And it wasn't anything other than I didn't fit in. I didn't want to be different."

Minner said her stepdad put her in baseball to keep "me out of trouble."

Even though she played with boys, the sport made her feel part of something bigger.

"They loved me," she said. "I fit in, and me fitting in made me love myself. And it saved me."

Minner is trying out at first base and as a left-handed pitcher for the WPBL. She said even if she doesn't make the league, her hope is that playing professional baseball becomes a tangible goal for younger girls.

"The goal needs to be doing whatever it takes to show girls that you can do this past high school," she said. "You can play this sport and even get paid to play a game that men are doing. And I think that's the goal — it has to grow. It has to be something that's fathomable for young girls right now."

A Broadway show asks a white actor to replace an Asian one. The backlash was swift.

Continued from page 7

hope that the two parties meet and talk because I know that everyone wants this musical to do well."

A season of firsts, but ...

In addition to Criss' win, theater-makers of Asian or Pacific Island descent had a smashing 2025 Tonys, with Francis Jue winning for best featured actor in a play, Nicole Scherzinger winning best lead in a musical, and Marco Paguia getting the Tony for best orchestrations. Daniel Dae Kim became the first Asian nominee in the best leading actor in a play category in the Tonys' 78-year history.

But industry-wide the numbers are less buoyant. According to the data from the Asian American Performers Action Coalition, only 3.7% of all actors on Broadway are of Asian descent, in a city where Asians make up 14.5% of the population. Asian American actors secured just 2.8% of all lead roles in musicals; white actors nabbed 52.8%.

"When the playing field is not level, then we should retain some space — some representation — within the roles that represent our own community," says Tung Crystal. "There are other Asian American actors who are as talented."

The controversy has doubly impacted Shen, an Asian American actor making her Broadway debut and who is also dating and living with Feldman, calling him "perfect" for the role. "This has been an immensely challenging moment," she said in an Instagram post. "Every perspective on this situation contains truth. This conversation must be had, and it's not the last time I'll be talking about it or amplifying other people's perspectives here," she wrote.

Grace and kindness

Telly Leung, a Broadway veteran who has criticized the casting of Feldman, responded to Shen's post by acknowledging she has been "put in a very difficult position," adding "these conversations are challenging — but necessary — and I agree with you that we need to have them with grace and kindness for each other."

Michael R. Jackson, the playwright behind the Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *A Strange Loop*, defended the musical, Feldman, and its makers in a Facebook post, decrying what he called "a bourgeois racial tribunal."

"I do know what it is like to be a lone voice of dissent against a bored and bloodthirsty social media mob," he wrote. "They are good people and artists who deserve your support. Especially against viral cry-bullying like this. Especially in times like these."

Leslie Ishii, the artistic director of Perseverance Theatre in Alaska and a consortium board member, says she has compassion for Feldman, even as she asks for him to step aside.

"That actor is being forced to be in that place knowing there's controversy, to take on an identity that is not theirs. They're being forced to be complicit with systemic racism, and then, in turn, the actors in that cast are being forced to be complicit," she says. "It's a harmful dynamic all around, on every level."

Nearly 24 years later, Sept. 11 victims' remains are newly identified

Continued from page 11

degree in business and talking about a long-term future with his girlfriend, according to obituaries published at the time.

The New York medical examiner's office has steadily added to the roster of 9/11 victims with identified remains, most recently last year. The agency has tested and retested tens of thousands of fragments as techniques advanced over the years and created new prospects for reading genetic code diminished by fire, sunlight, bacteria, and more.

"We hope the families receiving answers from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner can take solace in the city's tireless dedication to this mission," New York mayor Eric Adams said in a statement.

Milkshakes, malts, concretes, frappes, and more: A (delicious) guide to frozen drinks

By Katie Workman
The Associated Press

In the summer heat, we find ourselves drawn to that glorious section of the drinks menu that promises relief in the form of a cold, creamy, brain-freezing indulgence. But ordering a frozen drink looks different in different parts of the U.S., and in different restaurants and ice cream shops.

So, what is the difference between a milkshake, a malt, a frappe, or maybe even a concrete?

Geography, tradition, and local lingo all play a role in how frozen drinks are made and what they're called.

Let's break it down one strawful (or spoonful) at a time.

Milkshakes

Perhaps the most iconic of the bunch, the milkshake is typically a blend of ice cream and milk, blended until smooth and sippable. It's simple and sweet. The ice cream usually forms the base flavor of the drink, and then other flavorings are involved, from syrups to extracts to fresh fruit.

At the Lexington Candy Shop, a 100-year-old luncheonette with an old-fashioned soda fountain on Manhattan's Upper East Side, vanilla is the most popular milkshake — about 60% of all shakes ordered. That's according to John Philis, who co-owns the shop with Bob Karcher, and whose grandfather, Soterios Philis, opened it in 1925.

Their next most popular flavors are chocolate, coffee, and strawberry, Philis said. Lexington Candy uses homemade syrups, he says, which give the shakes "a nice wow."

Other fan favorites at the shop include the classic black and white (vanilla ice cream and chocolate syrups) and the Broadway (chocolate syrup with coffee ice cream). In the summer, there are peach shakes.

Malts

A malt is essentially a milkshake with a scoop of malted milk powder thrown in. Malted milk powder is an old-fashioned flavoring that combines malted barley, wheat flour (caution to the gluten-free crowd), and evaporated milk. It gives the drink that distinct toasted, almost nutty flavor that transports you mentally to a 1950s diner or drive-in.

DELICIOUS DRINKS. *A Coca-Cola float is displayed at the Lexington Avenue Candy Shop Luncheonette in New York. What is the difference between a milkshake, a malt, a frappe, or maybe even a concrete? Katie Workman explains. (Katie Workman via AP)*

Fun fact: Malted milk powder was originally created as a nutrition booster, mostly for babies, but it found its home behind the counter of ice cream shops and luncheonettes. It adds slightly richer, old-school vibes to shakes and other frozen drinks.

There are also plenty of frozen blended drinks made with frozen yogurt instead of ice cream; these are sometimes known as fro-yo shakes.

Frappes

"Frappe" might mean different things to different people, depending on where they're from. In New England, particularly Massachusetts, a frappe is what most of us would call a milkshake, made with milk, ice cream, and usually some other flavorings.

In Massachusetts, you will hear this drink called "frap" (rhymes with "nap"), but believe me when I say there is no consensus on the correct pronunciation of the word. Sometimes a frappe from this region might simply be flavored cold milk, no ice cream involved.

There is also a genre of frappes associated with coffee-blended drinks, popularized by chains like Starbucks. Think icy, blended lattes, often topped with whipped cream. These are pronounced "frap-pays."

Frosteds

Philis says that in New York City and other regions, a shake used to be known as a "frosted."

"When someone comes in and orders a 'frosted,' I like this person," Philis declares.

When McDonald's and other fast-food chains started calling shakes "shakes," the world followed suit, and the word "frosted" went out of fashion.

A frosted float, Philis explains, is a milkshake with an extra scoop of ice cream floating on top. Talk about gilding the lily!

Concretes

Then we have the concrete, an ultra-thick, creamy frozen dessert so dense that a spoon can stand upright in it. This is essentially frozen custard blended with mix-ins like candy, cookies, or fruit, but no milk is added. It's more of a scoopable treat than a slurpable one.

Concretes are popular where frozen custard is popular — mostly in the Midwest. Frozen custard has significantly less air in it than most ice cream, and a required 1.4% of egg yolks, which gives it its signature richness.

The concrete was invented at a frozen custard shop called Ted Drewes in St. Louis. If you buy one there, the server will hand it to you upside down, saying, "Here's your concrete," and it won't fall out.

Travis Dillon (whose wife, Christy, is founder Ted Drewes' granddaughter) gave this origin story: In the 1950s, a kid named Steve Gamir used to come in and ask the guy behind the counter for "the thickest shake you can make." Employees started leaving the milk out of Gamir's shakes, just running the custard through the machine, resulting in a shake that requires a spoon, not a straw.

Dillon says chocolate is their most popular flavor, then chocolate chip, strawberry, and Heath Bar, but adds that there are lots of other flavors to explore, including a malted chocolate concrete — the best of two frozen-drink worlds!

Floats

Ice cream floats are the fizzy cousins of shakes. A scoop

Continued on page 19

Events calendar

"Ten Thousand Things"

Currently on view, 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>.

A Tale of Portland's Historic Chinatowns"

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

"Oregon's Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience"

Currently on view, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View "Oregon's Nikkei: An American Story of Resilience," an exhibit that highlights the discrimination, resilience, and identity of the Japanese American community in Oregon. The display begins in rural Oregon and the streets of Portland's Japantown where Japanese immigrants embraced American ideals. What they built was abruptly taken away during World War II when people of Japanese descent were imprisoned in American internment camps. From early immigration through current day, the exhibit explores the Japanese-American experience and includes the rebuilding of communities and the ongoing fight for justice. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

"Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee"

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sat), 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>.

PP&R outdoor pools open through September 5

Through Sep 5, Creston Pool (4454 SE Powell Blvd, Portland), Peninsula Pool (700 N Rosa Parks Way, Portland) & Pier Pool (9341 N St. Johns Ave, Portland). Portland Parks & Recreation outdoor pools are open through September 5. For info, or to view family, open, and lap swim schedules, call (503) 823-PLAY (7529) or visit <www.portland.gov/parks/recreation/swim-schedule>.

"The Yasui Family: An American Story"

Through Sep 6, 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). View "The Yasui Family: An American Story," a display that tells the story of the Yasui family, who were among the millions of immigrants who came to the United States seeking new opportunities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. They established roots in Oregon, started families and businesses, and shaped the social and economic fabric of the communities where they lived. Following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, the U.S. government forcibly removed more than 110,000 Japanese Americans — including U.S. citizens — from their homes and imprisoned them in internment camps, often in harsh, remote areas. After the war, many members of the Yasui family returned to Oregon, although some incarcerees chose not to return home due to persistent racism in their communities. While the Yasui family endured racism and incarceration, they also shared a commitment to equal justice through engagement with the local, state, and national forces that determined — and withheld — their civil rights. Through photographs, personal journals, documents, and objects, the exhibit explores how one Japanese American family's story reflects the complexity of the American story. For info, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

"Sadako and Paper Cranes: Through Our Eyes"

Through Sep 7, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO) at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View "Sadako and Paper Cranes: Through Our Eyes," an exhibit that examines the devastation of nuclear war through the eyes of the youth that experienced the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sadako Sasaki was just 2 years old on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, where she lived with her family. Although she survived the blast and was not injured at the time, she began to develop the symptoms of leukemia 9 years later and eventually succumbed to her illness. While in the hospital, Sadako folded more than 1,000 origami paper cranes, a symbol of good luck. Sadako's classmates started a national movement to build the Children's Peace Monument as a tribute to her. The monument was dedicated in 1958 and sits at the center of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

"Ai, Rebel: The Art and Activism of Ai Weiwei"

Through Sep 7, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Art Museum (1300 First Ave, Seattle). View "Ai, Rebel: The Art and Activism of Ai Weiwei," a display that highlights the artistic strategies of Ai Weiwei's 40-year career for questioning forms of power. "Ai, Rebel" explores more than 130 works created across four decades, from the 1980s to the 2020s. The exhibit offers visitors a rare opportunity to engage with the conceptual artist's wide-ranging body of work. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

"Natural Patterns: Katazome Stencil Dyeing"

Through Sep 21, 10am-5:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View "Natural Patterns: Katazome Stencil Dyeing," an exhibit by Oregon artist Karen Illman Miller. Primarily used for elaborate patterns on kimono and yukata, katazome is a method of using exquisitely cut paper stencils and resist paste to dye fabrics. Today, katazome-created designs can be stand-alone art pieces, or are often found on noren curtains, futon covers, and furoshiki gift wraps. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

"Small Talk: All the Dirt on Growing Mini-But-Mighty Trees"

Through Nov 2, 10am-4pm (Tue-Sun), Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). View "Small Talk: All the Dirt on Growing Mini-But-Mighty Trees," an exhibit that brings the material of textbooks to life with 41 living trees. Through anime-inspired illustrations of miniature trees, emojis, and lighthearted, text-like exchanges, the display bridges the gap between textbook STEM education and real-world fun. "Small Talk" answers common, botanically-oriented questions about bonsai in the format of a chat and also includes painted murals by local artist Judy Chia Hui Hsu as well as interactive stations at which participants can explore bonsai wiring and sift through the bonsai's special soil. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

"Little Champions: Bonsai from the Evergreen State"

Through Nov 2, 10am-4pm (Tue-Sun), Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). View "Little Champions: Bonsai from the Evergreen State," an exhibit of eight bonsai specimens representing the best of Washington: the Evergreen State. The Little Champions capture the essence of Washington's majestic trees, from the iconic Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and the resilient Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), to the adaptable Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) and the once-present towering Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Each tree tells a story of survival, strength, and reaching great heights. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

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

MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE. *The first major retrospective to focus on groundbreaking 20th-century painter and printmaker Yoshida Chizuko (1924-2017), a pioneering woman modernist in Japan, opens at the Portland Art Museum on Saturday, September 27. Pictured is "Tanima no cho" ("Valley of Butterflies"), by Yoshida Chizuko (1924-2017), 1979, photoetching and color woodblock print on paper. (Image courtesy of the Portland Art Museum)*

"Inner Village: Stories of Portland Asian Woman Immigrants"

Through Dec 7, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). View "Inner Village: Stories of Portland Asian Woman Immigrants," a exhibit by Limei Lai, an installation artist who combines mixed media interactive visual art, writing, and performative movement to reflect on her life between two cultures. Lai is curious about how memories are transformed into visual forms and movements. The artist also researches Asian American history and conducts live interviews with Asian immigrant women in the community. Her works focus on women's life experiences, intergenerational communications, and cultural conflicts. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

"Echoes of the Floating World"

Through Jan 4, 10am-5pm (Wed & Fri-Sun), 10am-8pm (Thu), Tacoma Art Museum (1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, Wash.). View "Echoes of the Floating World," an exhibit that features a striking collection of 18th-, 19th-, and early 20th-century Japanese woodblock prints from the Tacoma Art Museum and elsewhere, displayed alongside works by contemporary Pacific Northwest artists. This display honors the rich legacy of ukiyo-e while exploring its cultural impact on today's artistic expressions. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 272-4258 or visit <www.tacomaartmuseum.org>.

"Roots and Resilience — Chinese American Heritage in Oregon"

Through Feb 2026, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Museum of Natural and Cultural History (1680 E 15th Ave, Eugene, Ore.). View "Roots and Resilience — Chinese American Heritage in Oregon," an exhibit that explores how Chinese immigrants helped shape Oregon history. The display traces Chinese American communities across the state, showcasing artifacts recovered from archaeological digs at sites such as the Ah Heng mining site in the Malheur National Forest and a historic shop and restaurant in Eugene. Objects on view highlight the craftsmanship and expertise of Chinese workers who played vital roles in Oregon's railroad, mining, and canning industries. For info, call (541) 346-3024 or visit <https://natural-history.uoregon.edu>.

"Finding Home: The Chinese American West"

Through Sep 5, 2027, 10am-5pm (Wed & Fri-Sun), 10am-8pm (Thu), 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>.

Some Like It Hot

Sep 2-7, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *Some Like It Hot*, a show that tells the story of two musicians who are forced to flee the Windy City after witnessing a mob hit. With gangsters hot on their heels, the two catch a cross-country train on a life-chasing, life-changing trip of a lifetime. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 12 and above, runs 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>. To learn more, visit <https://somelikeithotmusical.com>.

Volunteer Expo

Sep 4, 11am-2pm, Pioneer Courthouse Square (SW Sixth Ave between SW Morrison St & SW Yamhill St, Portland). Learn about local and regional nonprofit organizations and how to get involved with them at the Volunteer Expo. For info, or to view the many nonprofit and volunteer organizations participating, call (971) 321-3162 or visit <www.standard.com/volunteer>.

Time-Based Art Festival

Sep 4-14, several venues in Portland. Attend the 2025 Time-Based Art Festival (TBA:25), a 10-day gathering of artists and audiences from around the world featuring contemporary performances, exhibitions, music, and movement. For info, to purchase tickets, or to obtain a full schedule of events, call (503) 242-1419 or visit <www.pica.org/tba>.

Portland Taiko: Farm Festival

Sep 6, 4-7pm, Triskelee Farm (29700 SW Mountain Rd, West Linn, Ore.). Attend Portland Taiko's Farm Festival, a family-friendly event featuring an outdoor taiko concert as well as self-led farm tours. Farm tours begin at 4:00pm and the performance starts at 5:00pm. Guests may bring with them a picnic blanket, camping chairs, and snacks. Beverages, mochi donuts, produce, burgers, shave ice, and more are available for purchase. For info, call (503) 28TAIKO (288-2456), e-mail <info@portlandtaiko.org>, or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/portland-taiko-farm-festival-2025-tickets-1462327363509>.

"Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival"

Sep 7, 11am-6pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Enjoy a day of Polynesian delights at the "Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival," presented by Seattle Center Festál. The free event features Hawaiian food, live music and hula, workshops, presentations, Hawaiian crafts, a Keiki Korner, a raffle, and more. The 2025 headliner is Kamalei Kawa'a. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.seattlelivealohafestival.com>.

Clean Slate Clackamas expungement clinic

Sep 8, Oct 13 & Dec 8, 2-6pm (doors close at 5:30pm), Children Family Community Connections (104 11th St, Oregon City, Ore.). Clean Slate Clackamas is offering free legal services to people in the Clackamas County area who are seeking criminal record expungements. The clinic aims to assist community members in reducing barriers to employment, housing, and education that keep them from enjoying the benefit of full participation and a clean slate forward. Pre-eligibility screening is highly recommended, as eligibility screenings currently take up to 5 days. For

Continued on page 17

Events calendar

Continued from page 16

immigration analysis, DACA support, or other needs, please e-mail <expungement@clackamasworkforce.org>. Please remember to bring quarters for the parking meters. For info, e-mail <expungement@clackamasworkforce.org> or visit <www.clackamasworkforce.org/for-people/expungement-clinics>.

"Crossings"

Sep 9-Oct 4, 10am-5pm (Tue-Fri), noon-5pm (Sat); Sep 9, 5-7pm (reception); Sep 25, 6-7pm (artist talk, room 229); School of Art + Art History + Design at the University of Washington (UW), Jacob Lawrence Gallery (1915 Chelan Lane, Seattle). View "Crossings," an exhibit by Rob Rhee that brings together newly completed bricolage sculptures from Rhee's studio with research initiated last spring at the UW Farm. Taking inspiration from inosculated trees, which merge with their neighbors to form bodily hybrid bodies, Rhee has been working with grafting as a sculptural process for making experimental connections. For info, call (206) 543-0970 or visit <www.art.washington.edu/jacob-lawrence-gallery>.

"Japanese Poetry and the Roots of Resilience"

Sep 13, 2-3pm, Vancouver Community Library, Columbia Room (901 C St, Vancouver, Wash.). Join authors Michael Freiling and Satsuki Takinawa for "Japanese Poetry and the Roots of Resilience," an exploration of *Hyakunin Isshu* — the most famous anthology of the Heian Period — as well as from poems that were secretly transcribed in the dark world of the Portland Assembly Center, where anything written in Japanese was forbidden, but were later compiled in the 2025 Washington State Book Award finalist, *They Never Asked: Senryu Poetry from the WWII Portland Assembly Center*. The program is also available for viewing on CVTV at <www.cvtv.org>. For info, call (360) 906-5000 or visit <www.fvrl.org>.

"The Immigrant Story Live"

Sep 13, 7pm, Portland Center Stage at the Armory (128 NW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend "The Immigrant Story Live," a free event featuring four powerful stories that shine a bright light on the lived experiences of young migrants who now call Oregon home as well as music and traditional dance performances. Space is limited and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors to the auditorium open at 6:30pm. Tickets are free and may be reserved at <https://securesite.pcs.org/14740/14742>. For info, visit <www.theimmigrantstory.org>.

Portland Timbers

Sep 13 & 27, 7:30pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch the Portland Timbers take on the New York Red Bulls (September 13) and FC Dallas (September 27) in Major League Soccer action. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.portlandtimbers.com>.

Sunday Parkways: Downtown Portland

Sep 14, noon-5pm, SW Broadway & SW Park Avenue between SW Oak & SW Harrison Streets, Portland. Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, and more on car-free streets at the Downtown Portland edition of Sunday Parkways. Entertainment, vendors, organizations, activities for both adults and children, and more take place along the new 2.3-mile, one-way block party route. Stops to visit include Pettygrove Park, Lovejoy Fountain Park, the South Park Blocks, Main Street Plaza, Director Park, The Cart Blocks, and Pioneer Courthouse Square. Participants may meet downtown or catch one of seven Sunday Parkways Bike Bus Routes that are planned — the Frog Route begins in North Portland, the Snail Route leaves from Northeast, the Slug Route arrives from East Portland, Sloth from Southeast, Manatee from Sellwood, Turtle from Southwest, and Chameleon from Northwest. For info or to find out the Bike Bus schedules, call (503) 823-7599 or visit <www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways/2025>. To receive event updates, text "Downtown" to 1-888-520-0526.

The Lion King

Sep 17-28, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Experience the stunning artistry, unforgettable music, and exhilarating choreography of *The Lion King*. The Serengeti comes to life as never before in the show, when giraffes strut, birds swoop, gazelles leap, and music soars. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 6 and above, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

Portland Thorns FC

Sep 20 & Oct 4, 7pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch Portland Thorns FC take on the San Diego Wave (September 20) and Bay FC (October 4) in National Women's Soccer League play. The Thorns FC squad features Hina Sugita, Sam Hiatt, and others. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.thorns.com>.

Hindustani flute concert

Sep 26, 7pm, First Baptist Church (909 SW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend a Hindustani flute concert presented by Kalakendra. The performance features flute sisters Suchismita and Debopriya accompanied by Harshad Kanetkar on tabla. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 308-1050, e-mail <info@kalakendra.org>, or visit <www.kalakendra.org>.

Mid-Autumn Night Out

Sep 26-28, 7:30-9:30pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at Lan Su Chinese Garden. Mid-Autumn Night Out features lantern-lit evenings filled with tradition, Moon Goddess photo opportunities, a twilight lantern parade, a lantern-making activity, mooncakes, and more. The highlight of each evening is a 30-minute fire dance performed by Paradise of Samoa (8:30pm). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival lantern-making activity at Midland Library

Sep 27, noon-3pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, a beloved holiday across many parts of Asia that honors time together with family and friends, by attending a family craft session to make a beautiful LED paper lantern. All materials are provided. Children in grades 5 and below must be accompanied by an attentive teen or adult. No advance sign-up is required. Mid-Autumn lantern-making is a makerspace program that is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Tsukimi origami

Sep 27, 3-5pm, Gregory Heights Library (7921 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland). Join Yuki Martin to learn how Japanese people celebrate autumn tsukimi (moon viewing). Attendees learn how to create tsukimi-related origami, such as a moon rabbit, sanbo box, or lantern. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

"Yoshida Chizuko"

Sep 27-Jan 4, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Portland Art Museum (1219 SW Park Ave, Portland). View the first major retrospective to focus on groundbreaking 20th-century painter and printmaker Yoshida Chizuko (1924-2017), a pioneering woman modernist in Japan. The display features approximately 100 works, many of which have never previously been exhibited, encompassing early paintings and sketches, rare monotypes, woodblock prints, and zinc-plate mixed media prints, in addition to archival material and ephemera. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 226-2811 or visit <www.portlandartmuseum.org>.

"Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland"

Sep 27-Feb 8, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO) at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View "Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland," an exhibit of detailed portraits of Indigenous people in Washington state created by Frank Sakae Matsura (1873-1913). Matsura immigrated from Japan in 1903 to a newly incorporated Okanogan County along the U.S.-Canadian border. He had been formally trained in photography and established a studio in the small town of Okanogan, a cultural and geographic

CROSSINGS. *"Crossings," an exhibit by Rob Rhee, opens September 9 at the Jacob Lawrence Gallery at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle. The display brings together newly completed bricolage sculptures from Rhee's studio with research initiated last spring at the UW Farm. (Image courtesy of the Jacob Lawrence Gallery)*

"borderland" where he, as an outsider, witnessed a time of change in the region. The display, which is organized by the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and curated by Michael Holloman and Anne-Claire Mitchell, features more than 20 portraits enlarged to 33" by 46". For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival Tai Chi

Sep 28, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival practicing tai chi. Tai chi can help reduce stress, improve sleep, increase joint flexibility, prevent falls, and improve vascular health. The traditional Yang's thirty-seven forms of tai chi have been passed down through many generations. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival lantern-making activity at Holgate Library

Oct 1, 5:30-7pm, Holgate Library (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Attend a bilingual Vietnamese and English lantern-making activity at Holgate Library. Participants learn how to use the Silhouette Cameo cutting machine to create Mid-Autumn Festival paper lanterns. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. All supplies and materials are provided courtesy of The Library Foundation. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Tet Trung Thu

Oct 4, 2-4pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Attend Tet Trung Thu, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival or Harvest Moon Festival, one of Asia's oldest and much-loved holidays. Attendees are invited to hear stories of the festival, participate in craft activities, and enjoy cultural performances. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Portland Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Oct 4-5, noon-8pm, location to be announced (Portland). Attend the Portland Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, an event featuring cultural performances; food and beverages; interactive games and activities for all ages; a lantern parade; mooncakes; merchandise and accessories; and more. The venue for the 2025 festival will be announced on September 5. For info, visit <www.portlandmidautumn.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival musical collaboration

Oct 5, 3-3:45pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by watching a musical collaboration presented by pianist Sharon Gan (founder of Heart Strings Mandarin), erhu lover Dr. Jerry Lin, and multi-instrumentalist Dan Velasquez. The trio will showcase a selection of songs from Asia. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>. To learn more, visit <www.heartstringsmandarin.com/shows>.

O-tsukimi

Oct 5-7, 5-7:30pm (Sun), 5:30-8pm (Mon-Tue), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Take part in the custom of *o-tsukimi*, or moonviewing, one of the oldest and most elegant traditions in Japanese culture. Participants stroll through the lantern-lit garden, observe an evening tea ceremony, and more. For info, or to purchase tickets (advance purchase highly recommended), call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Mid-Autumn Festival movie & mooncakes

Oct 8, 5-7:45pm, Holgate Library (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, an annual traditional festival, by watching a family-friendly animated movie and eating mooncakes. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Gaman Past and Present

Oct 11-12, 7pm (Sat), 2pm (Sun), Portland State University, Lincoln Performance Hall, Room 75 (1620 SW Park Ave, Portland). Watch *Gaman Past and Present*, the fall concert of Asian-American drum ensemble Portland Taiko which also features a performance by the Minidoka Swing Band. Gaman is a Japanese word often translated as "inner strength." Japanese Americans embraced the spirit of gaman while enduring back-breaking labor, the Great Depression, and imprisonment in internment camps during World War II. With patience and dignity, they built a better future. *Gaman Past and Present* honors their legacy. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 28TAIKO (288-2456), e-mail <info@portlandtaiko.org>, or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>.

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BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

SALISHAN/HILLSIDE

4008 Salishan Boulevard, Tacoma, WA 98404

Bids Due: September 16, 2025 at 2:00pm

LMC Construction is soliciting proposals for the Salishan and Hillside affordable housing renovation located in Tacoma, Washington. The project pricing will be broken out into 4 segments, starting with segments one through three at the 322,817 square foot Salishan property, followed by the final segment at the 40,309 square foot Hillside location. Project intent is to provide essential renovations to the buildings, sites, and to improve ADA accessibility.

The building scope of work includes, but is not limited to, updates to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, structural repairs, envelope improvements, selective interior finish and ADA accessibility upgrades.

Site improvements will be comprised of selective renovations to parking lots, walkways, landscaping, fencing, and railings, as well as the replacement of the CMU block trash enclosures.

Salishan:

Description: Existing property comprises 270 townhome units, offering a mix of one-, two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom floor plans. These units are distributed across 122 buildings situated on a 17-acre site (excluding right-of-way).

Hillside Terrace:

Description: Existing property is comprised of a one-story community building and a mix of 6-, one-, two- and three-story walk-up flats and townhome-style apartment buildings, totaling 46 units with a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom floor plans.

Project Requirements:
Davis Bacon Residential Prevailing Wages for Pierce County and Washington
L&I Prevailing Wages WILL apply.
Workforce Training & Section 3 Hiring Practices.

Bid Document Link:
<https://bids.lmcconstruction.com/Salishan.Hillside>

Bid Submissions and Project Contact:
<bids.Salishan-Hillside@lmcconstruction.com>

LMC CONSTRUCTION

19200 SW Teton Avenue, Tualatin, OR 97062
P: (503) 646-0521 | F: (503) 646-6823

LMC Construction is an Equal Opportunity Employer and requests sub-bids from Disadvantaged, Minority, Women, Emerging, and Service-Disabled Veteran businesses.

CCB# 161282

#STOP ASIAN HATE

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

SABIN AVENUE PLAZA

5025 Northeast 8th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211

Bids Due: Sept. 11, 2025 at 2:00pm

LMC Construction is soliciting final bid proposals for the Sabin Avenue Plaza project, located on a 79,442-acre site at the intersection of Northeast Alberta and Northeast 8th Ave in Portland, Oregon.

This new development will feature a five-story multi-family building, providing a total of 78 affordable housing units, including a mix of studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments.

Bid Document Link:
<https://bids.lmcconstruction.com/SABINBid>

Bid Submissions and Project Contact:
<bids.SabinAvenuePlaza@lmcconstruction.com>

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD ON WASHINGTON COUNTY'S

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2024

Washington County, the City of Hillsboro, and the City of Beaverton have prepared their 2024 CAPER reports as required by federal regulations. The report details project accomplishments as well as expenditures throughout the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. The purpose of the report is to measure to what extent the jurisdictions are meeting priority needs, goals and strategies as outlined in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The 2024 CAPER report is available for review and comment and can be downloaded from the County's website at:

<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/commdev/annual-performance-report>

The report is due to HUD on September 27, 2025. A 15-day public comment period on the report begins on Wednesday, August 27th and runs through Thursday, September 11. A public hearing on September 11 will be held to receive comments on the CAPER. The hearing will also be an opportunity to accept public comment on housing and community development needs in the County. The public hearing will be held in a virtual format and information regarding connection to the meeting will be available on the Office of Community Development website. The public hearing starts at 7:00pm.

Comments on the CAPER may be directed to:
Shannon Wilson, Program Manager
Washington County Office of Community Development
328 W. Main Street, Suite 100, Hillsboro, OR 97123
Phone: (503) 846-8814 ◆ Fax: (503) 846-2882
or by e-mail:
<shannon_wilson@washingtoncountyor.gov>

Please notify the Office of Community Development at least 72 hours before a meeting or hearing if special accommodations (equipment or interpreting service) are needed. If you have a disability or are hearing impaired and need assistance, please notify us by calling (503) 846-8814 or TTY relay dial 711 or 1-800-735-1232.

Para solicitar acomodaciones, traducciones, quejas o una información adicional, contáctenos llamando al (503) 846-8814 o para voz en retransmisión de TTY, marque 711 o 1-800-735-1232.

Read The AR online at <www.asianreporter.com>!

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

RFQ 51-25: WATER STATION 3 FACILITIES REPLACEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vancouver, Washington, will receive sealed responses up to the hour of **3:00pm, Pacific Local Time, September 17, 2025**, for the following:

The City of Vancouver is seeking statements of qualifications from qualified firms to provide consulting services to develop construction bidding plans and specifications for the construction of new sources, elevated water storage, Per-an Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) treatment system and disinfection upgrades at Water Station 3 and provide engineering support services during construction. It is anticipated that the project under this agreement will be federally and state funded and as such all rules, regulations, statutes and policies whatsoever required by the funding source must be followed.

The City of Vancouver in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities. (Section 4 of Chapter 56, Laws of 1975, 1st Ex. Sess., State of Washington).

RFQ documents may be obtained from the City of Vancouver Procurement Services website at:

<https://cityofvancouver.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

These are available for viewing, downloading and printing on your own equipment, free of charge.

INVITATION TO BID

METRO

PLUMBING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES

ITB 4487

Metro is seeking bids for Plumbing Maintenance and Repair Services. Bids are due on September 25, 2025 at 2:00pm and will be publicly opened and read at that time online in a Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032580471?pwd=ZFVzi7bilQJmgSRIGL4OuuJFKrbTIO.1>

Meeting ID: 840 3258 0471
Passcode: 348545

A Bid Writing Workshop for COBID certified firms to be held on September 9, 2025 from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Please see the ITB on Bid Locker for details. Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from Bid Locker, <http://bidlocker.us>.

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>.

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

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

October 6 issue: Friday, October 3, 2:00pm

November 3 issue: Friday, October 31, 2:00pm

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

THE ASIAN REPORTER CAN BE PICKED UP ON THE FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH AT MANY LOCATIONS, INCLUDING:

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 on our site: <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 FOR SALE
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.

FOR SALE

Home Entertainment

HOME ENTERTAINMENT INSTALLATION
Need stereo & HDTV set-up for the perfect home theater surround sound? We can do it! Great prices, expert service! Please contact Digital Connections at (971) 853-2576.

FREE

Packing material

PACKING MATERIAL
FREE used-once packing material. 6" plastic bubble pockets available. Please leave a voice message at (503) 283-4440, ext. #, or e-mail <news@asianreporter.com>.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

BETHANY MEADOWS,
an affordable apartment community in Washington County, is currently accepting applications for the waitlist. This beautiful community is located off Highway 26 near Bethany & Cornell and offers spacious 1 & 2 bedroom units affordable to individuals and families earning 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Amenities include washer/dryer in units, pool/spa, fitness center, onsite management, ample parking, and optional garage spaces.

Water/sewer/garbage included. Property is located near shopping, restaurants, and parks. Section 8 vouchers are welcome.

Income restrictions apply. Equal Housing Opportunity.

For more information, please call (503) 533-1000, e-mail <bethanymeadows@bridgehousing.com> or you can visit our website at <www.bethanymeadowsapartments.com>.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

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: September 30, 2025. *Discount applies to new subscribers only.*

2025 ADVERTISING RATES & ORDER FORM:

Phone: (503) 283-4440 * Fax: (503) 283-4445 * E-mail: ads@asianreporter.com

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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:
☐ $70 per issue (1 month) ☐ $190 for 3 consecutive issues (3 months) ☐ $330 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:

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Asian Reporter Classifieds, 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220
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Milkshakes, malts, concretes, frappes, and more: A (delicious) guide to frozen drinks

Continued from page 15

of ice cream (usually vanilla) is plopped into a glass of soda (usually root beer or cola, occasionally orange soda or a lemon-lime like Sprite) to create a frothy, sweet, bubbly concoction. Floats can be nostalgic for some folks.

Lexington Candy remains old-fashioned with their floats, making the sodas to order with syrup, stirring by hand, then adding the ice cream. In some areas of the country, you might hear a root-beer float referred to as a "brown cow."

Ice cream sodas

Like floats, ice cream sodas are not made in a blender — but the difference lies in the fizzy base. Philis says his are made by combining the syrup of your choice with seltzer. Then add a scoop of ice cream. He says usually the syrup and the ice cream are the same flavor, but people also like to mix and match.

Smoothies

Finally a word about smoothies, the supposedly more health-conscious frozen treat. Smoothies are traditionally made with fruit, yogurt, juice, and sometimes ice. Sometimes, the fruit is frozen before it is blended into the drink. Smoothies are designed to feel virtuous, but they can still pack plenty of sugar, calories, and richness, depending on the ingredients. For instance, if you see a peanut butter-chocolate-banana smoothie, you may realize quickly that this is more about flavor than health.

So the only question is: Is there enough time left in the summer to try the whole lexicon of frozen creamy drinks? Believe in yourself. I believe in you.

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

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

LIBERTY VILLAGE

588 East Newport Avenue
Hermiston, OR 97838

Bids Due: September 9, 2025, at 2:00pm

LMC Construction is accepting proposals for the Liberty Village affordable housing project located in Hermiston, Oregon.

This new 15,614 square foot, type VB wood-framed multifamily development will be comprised of a single two-story walkup, with a total of 17 one-bedroom units.

Site amenities are to include indoor and outdoor community kitchens, a shared laundry facility, covered trash enclosure with adjoining secured bike parking, and a future community garden.

Project Requirements:
Davis Bacon Residential Prevailing Wages, Workforce Training & Section 3 Hiring Practices.

Bid Document Link:
<https://bids.lmcconstruction.com/LIBERTY_VILLAGE>

Bid Submissions and Project Contact:
<bids.LibertyVillage@lmcconstruction.com>

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P: (503) 646-0521 | F: (503) 646-6823

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Surfing the web?

Check out jobs, news, past stories, lists of community groups, and more on our site: <www.asianreporter.com>

Beijing's World Humanoid Robot Games show that human touch is still needed

By Mahesh Kumar
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Humanoid robots raced and punched their way through three days of a multi-sport competition at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing.

But they also toppled, crashed, and collapsed, requiring human help and leading to questions about how far, after all, the robots can go on their own.

The games featured more than 500 humanoids on 280 teams from 16 countries, including the United States, Germany, and Japan, that competed in sports such as soccer, running, and boxing at the 12,000-seat National Speed Skating Oval, built for the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The event came as China has stepped up efforts to develop humanoid robots powered by artificial intelligence.

Robots were often seen close to their operators, whether they were controlled remotely, held, lifted, sorted, or separated. Batteries needed replacing and limbs tuned.

Although the robots showed off some impressive moves, some tripped and human intervention was never far from the field. One had to be carried out by two people, like an injured athlete, in a display of the limitations the machines are still facing.

Their effect on the audience, however, was not unlike that of real athletes. Cheers erupted when a robot landed a punch, scored a goal, or won a game, showing that viewers were genuinely invested in the machines' endeavors.

AI-powered robots are expected to be increasingly used in industrial settings.

During the opening ceremony of the games, humanoid robots danced hip-hop, performed martial arts, and played keyboard, guitar, and drums. The robots also demonstrated soccer and boxing among other sports, with some cheering and backflipping as if at a real sports event.

HUMANS REQUIRED. *A human performer, left photo, leaps above robots dressed like terracotta warriors during the opening ceremony of the World Humanoid Robot Games held in Beijing, China. Humanoid robots raced and punched their way through three days of a multi-sport competition at the World Humanoid Robot Games, but they also toppled, crashed, and collapsed, requiring human help, right photo, and leading to questions about how far, after all, the robots can go on their own. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)*

In addition, the robots modelled fashionable hats and clothes alongside human models. In a mishap, a robot model fell and had to be carried off the stage by two human beings.

Scientists discover an ancient whale with a Pokémon face and a predator bite

By Charlotte Graham-McLay
The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Long before whales were majestic, gentle giants, some of their prehistoric ancestors were tiny, weird, and feral. A chance discovery of a 25 million year old fossil on an Australian beach has allowed paleontologists to identify a rare, entirely new species that could unlock mysteries of whale evolution.

Researchers have officially named *Janjucetus dullardi*, a cartoonish creature with bulging eyes the size of tennis balls, in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. Unlike today's whales, the juvenile specimen was small enough to fit in a single bed.

Boasting fiendish teeth and a shark-like snout, however, this oddball of the ocean was nasty, mean, and built to hunt.

"It was, let's say, deceptively cute," said Erich Fitzgerald, senior curator of vertebrate paleontology at Museums Victoria Research Institute, and one of the paper's authors.

"It might have looked for all the world like some weird kind of mash-up between a whale, a seal, and a Pokémon, but they were very much their own thing."

Extinct species was an odd branch on the whale family tree

The rare discovery of the partial skull, including ear bones and teeth, was made in 2019 on a fossil-rich stretch of coast along Australia's Victoria state. Jan Juc Beach, a cradle for some of the weirdest whales in history, is becoming a hotspot for understanding early whale evolution, Fitzgerald said.

Few family trees seem stranger than that of *Janjucetus dullardi*, only the fourth species ever identified from a group known as mammalodontids, early whales that lived only during the Oligocene Epoch, about 34 million to 23 million years ago. That marked the point about halfway through the known history of whales.

The tiny predators, thought to have grown to 10 feet in length, were an early branch on the line that led to today's great baleen whales, such as humpbacks, blues, and minkes. But the toothy ancestors with powerful jaws would have looked radically different to any modern species.

"They may have had tiny little nubbins of legs just projecting as stumps from the wall of the body," said Fitzgerald.

That mystery will remain tantalizingly unsolved unless a specimen is uncovered with more of its skeleton intact, which would be something of a miracle. Even the partial skull that allowed the initial identification last month was an astonishing discovery.

For an amateur paleontologist, a life-long obsession paid off

Janjucetus dullardi was named by researchers after an amateur fossil hunter who doesn't mind its looks in the slightest.

"It's literally been the greatest 24 hours of my life," said Ross Dullard, who discovered the skull while fossil hunting at Jan Juc Beach. After the confirmation of the new species, the school principal walked like a rock star onto campus with "high fives coming left, right, and center," he said.

His friends and family are probably just relieved it's over.

"That's all they've heard from me for about the last six years," he said.

Dullard was on a regular low-tide hunt at Jan Juc the day he spotted something black protruding from a cliff. Poking it dislodged a tooth.

He knew enough to recognize it was unlikely to belong to a dog or a seal.

"I thought, geez, we've got something special here," he said. Dullard sent photos to Museums Victoria, where Fitzgerald saw them and immediately suspected a new species.

Ancient whale finds are rare but significant

Confirming the find was another matter. This was the first mammalodontid to be identified in Australia since 2006 and only the third on record in the country.

Fossils of sufficient quality, with enough of the right details preserved to confirm uniqueness, aren't common.

"Cetaceans represent a fairly miniscule population of all life," Fitzgerald said. Millions of years of erosion, scavengers, and ocean currents take their toll on whale skeletons too.

"It's only the chosen few, the vast minority of all whales that have ever lived and died in the oceans over millions of years, that actually get preserved as fossils," he added.

Finds such as *Janjucetus dullardi* can unlock insights into how prehistoric whales ate, moved, behaved — and evolved. Researchers said the discoveries also helped to understand how ancient cetacean species adapted to warmer oceans, as they study how today's marine life might respond to climate change.

Meanwhile, Dullard planned to host a fossil party, featuring cetacean-themed games and whale-shaped treats in jello, to celebrate his nightmare Muppet find, finally confirmed.

"That's taken my concentration for six years," he said. "I've had sleepless nights. I've dreamt about this whale."