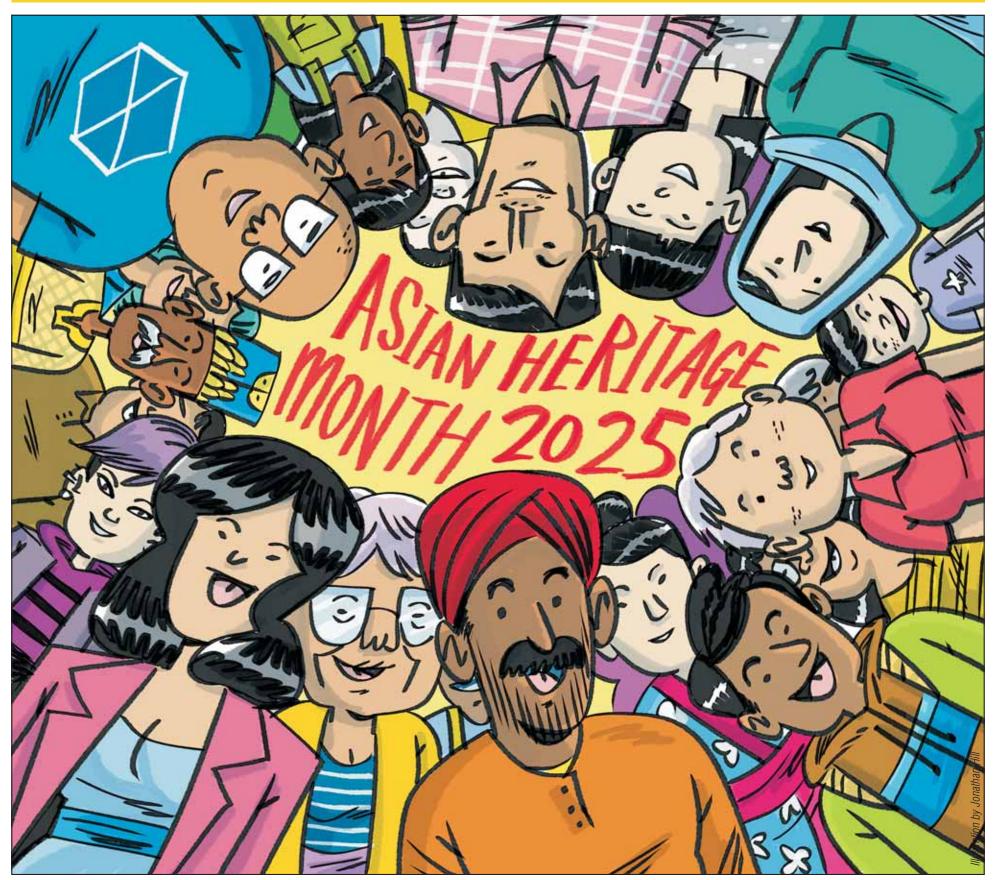
# The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News ☐ Volume 35 Number 5 ☐ May 5, 2025 ☐ www.asianreporter.com

## **Asian Heritage Month Special Issue**



CULTURE & HISTORY. During the month of May, we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander heritage. The idea of celebrating the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. began in the mid-1970s. Many credit the observance's origin to Jeanie Jew, a co-founder of the Congressional Asian-Pacific staff Caucus. In 1977, the Chinese American shared a moving story with New York Republican representative Frank Horton about how her grandfather had helped build the transcontinental railroad in the 1800s and then was killed amid anti-Asian unrest. Jew believed Asians should appreciate their heritage and "Americans must know about the contributions and histories of the Asian-Pacific American experience," Horton said in 1992, according to congressional archives. This year's heritage month special section begins on page 8.



The Asian Reporter 922 N. Killingsworth St. Portland, OR 97217 USA

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

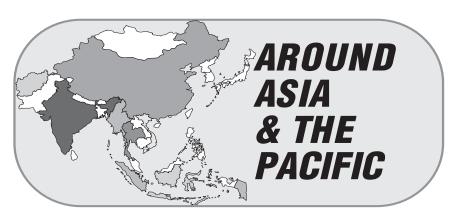


## **Beautiful Flower Baskets For Sale**





Rex Hill Farm & Garden • (971) 832-9154 4900 Portland Road, Newberg, Oregon 12" Hanging Baskets: \$25 • 14" Planter Pots: \$35



#### Man airlifted from Mount Fuji rescued a second time

TOKYO — A climber airlifted with altitude sickness from near the peak of Japan's Mount Fuji in late April returned to the slope and was rescued for a second time just four days later, according to authorities. Officials urged people to be aware of the harsh conditions at the country's tallest peak during its off-season. The climber was identified only as a 27-year-old Chinese student living in Japan. He made an emergency call on April 22 and was airlifted off the mountain after developing symptoms of altitude sickness, police said, adding that his climbing irons also were damaged. He returned days later to the mountain's Fujinomiya trail about 10,000 feet above sea level to look for his cellphone and other belongings left behind, Shizuoka prefectural police said. Another climber found him there unable to move after he apparently developed altitude sickness for a second time, police said. The mountain's hiking trails are officially open only from July to early September, but there is no penalty for hiking off-season. There also is no charge or penalty when a climber needs to be rescued, but the Chinese student's case prompted an uproar on social media and generated calls for him to be charged, at least for his second rescue. The Shizuoka police urged all climbers to use caution, noting that the mountain has low temperatures and is covered in snow even in spring. The 12,388-foot-high mountain was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 2013. A symbol of Japan, the mountain called "Fujisan" used to be a place of pilgrimage and is increasingly popular among hikers today. To control overcrowding and risks from rushed overnight climbing through rocky slopes to see the sunrise, local authorities last year introduced an entry fee and cap on the number of entrants on the most popular trail and will introduce similar rules on other main trails this year.

#### Asian scam operations are spreading across the world

BANGKOK (AP) — Transnational organized crime groups in East and Southeast Asia are spreading their lucrative scam operations across the globe in response to increased crackdowns by authorities, according to a recent U.N. report. For several years, scam compounds have proliferated in Southeast Asia, especially in border areas of Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, as well as in the Philippines, shifting operations from site to site to stay a step ahead of the police. More recently, scam centers that have bilked victims out of billions of dollars through false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches, and illegal gambling schemes are now being reported operating as far afield as Africa and Latin America. Asian crime syndicates have been expanding operations deeper into remote areas with lax law enforcement that are vulnerable to the influx, according to the report issued by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, or UNODC. The report is titled "Inflection Point: Global Implications of Scam Centers, Underground Banking, and Illicit Online Marketplaces in Southeast Asia." UNODC estimates that hundreds of industrial-scale scam centers generate just under \$40 billion in annual profits. New online markets, money laundering networks, stolen data products, malware, artificial intelligence, and deepfake technologies are laying the ground for the rise of crime as a service, the

#### World's largest deforestation project fells more forests

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia plans to clear forests about the size of Belgium to produce sugarcane-derived bioethanol, rice, and other food crops, potentially displacing Indigenous groups who rely on the land to survive. Local communities say they're already experiencing harm from the government-backed project, which environmental watchdogs say is the largest current planned deforestation operation in the world. A vast tropical archipelago stretching across the equator, Indonesia is home to the world's third-largest rainforest, home to many endangered species of wildlife and plants, including orangutans, elephants, and giant forest flowers. Some live nowhere else. Indonesia has been building food estates, massive plantations designed to improve the country's food security for decades, with varying level of success. The concept was revived by former President Joko Widodo during his 2014-2024 administration. The current president, Prabowo Subianto, has expanded such projects to include crops to produce bioethanol, a renewable fuel made from plants like sugar cane or corn, in pursuit of Indonesia's ambition to improve its energy mix and develop more renewable sources.

#### Pakistan begins second anti-polio vaccination campaign

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has started a second nationwide vaccination campaign aimed at protecting 45 million children from polio, officials said. According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan remain the only two countries where the potentially fatal, paralyzing virus hasn't been stopped. Since January, Pakistan has reported only six polio cases. Last year, the South Asian country witnessed a surge in polio cases, which jumped to 74, though it reported only one polio case in 2021. Pakistan's health minister, Mustafa Kamal, has urged parents to cooperate with the medical staff, who visit door-to-door to vaccinate children. Health workers are often attacked by militants who falsely claim that vaccination efforts are part of a western plot to sterilize Muslim children. It was reported that police killed a militant when he opened fire on officers assigned to protect health workers on the polio drive in Azam Warsak, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to local police chief Alamgir Mahsud. He said all the officers were unharmed. Since the 1990s, more than 200 polio workers and the police assigned to protect them have been killed in attacks.



**FUTURISTIC FACTORY.** Lego characters in Vietnamese traditional costumes are displayed at a Lego factory in Binh Duong, Vietnam. Lego has opened a \$1 billion factory in Vietnam that it says will make toys without adding planetwarming gas to the atmosphere by relying entirely on clean energy. (AP Photo/Hau Dinh)

# Lego opens a toy factory in Vietnam designed to run entirely on clean energy

By Aniruddha Ghosal

The Associated Press

BINH DUONG, Vietnam — Lego opened a \$1 billion factory in Vietnam in April that it says will make toys without adding planet-warming gas to the atmosphere by relying entirely on clean energy.

The factory in the industrial area of Binh Duong, close to Ho Chi Minh City, is the first in Vietnam that aims to run entirely on clean energy. Lego says it will do that by early 2026.

It's the Danish company's sixth worldwide and its second in Asia. It will use high-tech equipment to produce colorful Lego bricks for Southeast Asia's growing markets.

"We just want to make sure that the planet that the children inherit when they grow up needs to be a planet that is still there. That is functional," Lego CEO Niels Christiansen told The Associated Press.

The factory is an important factor in Lego's quest to stop adding greenhouse gasses by 2050. It has a shorter-term target of reducing emissions by 37% by 2032. The privately held group makes its bricks out of oil-based plastic and says it has invested more than \$1.2 billion in a search for more sustainable alternatives. But those efforts have not always been appearable.

Fast-industrializing Vietnam also aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, so it needs more of its factories to use clean energy. The country hopes the plant's 12,400 solar panels and energy storage system will help set a precedent for more sustainable manufacturing.

Locating the Lego factories in regions they

supply has also helped insulate them from the tariffs ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, Christiansen said. "Right now, I am probably more observant of what does this mean to growth in the world? Do we see consumer sentiment changing in parts of the world or not, and what would that potentially mean?" he said.

The blocks are made from differently colored plastic grains that are melted at high temperatures and then fed into metal molds. The highly automated factory uses robots for making the bricks to a tenth of a hair's width precision and then packaging them. It eventually will employ thousands of mostly skilled workers to operate these machines. Some of them have already begun work after being trained at Lego's factory in eastern China.

Manufacturing makes up a fifth of Vietnam's GDP and consumes half the energy it uses. There are plans to phase out its coal power plants by 2040.

The Lego factory, which spans 62 soccer fields, sets the "blueprint" for making large, power-guzzling factories sustainable while remaining profitable, said Mimi Vu, a founder of the consultancy Raise Partners in Ho Chi Minh City. "Sometimes it takes a big company, like Lego, to take those risks. To show that we can do it ... And we can be profitable," she said.

The factory will benefit from a new 2024 rule known as a direct power purchase agreement or DPPA, which allows big foreign companies to buy clean energy directly from solar and wind power producers and to meet their clean energy requirements.

The factory will be linked to an adjacent Continued on page 3



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

News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

#### June 2, 2025 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, May 28 at 1:00pm Artwork due: Thursday, May 29 at 1:00pm

#### July 7, 2025 edition:

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

## Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 5/02

Bangladesh Taka · · · · 121.68 Cambodian Riel · · · · 4013.5 China Renminbi · · · · 7.2716 Fijian Dollar · · · · · 2.252 Hong Kong Dollar · · · 7.7502 Indian Rupee · · · · · 84.668 Indonesian Rupiah · · · 16467 Iranian Rial · · · · · 42107 Japanese Yen · · · · 144.97 Laos New Kip · · · · · 21661 Malaysian Ringgit · · · 4.2615 Nepal Rupee · · · · · · 135.1 Pakistani Rupee · · · · 281.13 Papua N.G. Kina · · · 4.082 Philippine Peso · · · · 55.638 Russian Ruble · · · · · 82.79 Saudi Riyal · · · · · · 3.7503 Singapore Dollar · · · · 1.2997 South Korean Won · · · 1399.9 Sri Lankan Rupee · · · 299.51 Taiwan Dollar · · · · · 30.72 Thai Baht · · · · · · · 33.1 Vietnam Dong · · · · · 26005

### 14-year-old smashes a record-breaking T20 century in cricket's IPL

JAIPUR, India (AP) — The 14-year-old batter, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, hit a breathtaking century in the Indian Premier League (IPL), and made it one of the greatest innings in men's Twenty20 cricket history.

Just nine days after becoming the youngest player to debut in the IPL, Suryavanshi blew away observers again with a century in just his third match and, to boot, the second fastest in the tournament's 18 years.

He got there in just 35 deliveries by pulling Gujarat Titans star spinner Rashid Khan for a six over midwicket, and sending the Rajasthan Royals' packed home crowd in Jaipur to their feet yet again.

Of the 100 runs, an incredible 94 came off boundaries. He hit 11 sixes and seven fours.

"It feels really good," Suryavanshi said. "It is like a dream to score a century in the IPL. What I've been practicing for the last three, four months, the result is showing."

He was out three balls later for 101, missing a yorker.



But his 166-run opening stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal, who scored 70 not out off 40 balls, propelled Rajasthan to a remarkable rundown of Gujarat's imposing total of 209-4 with 25 balls to spare.

SENSATIONAL SURYAVANSHI. Fourteen-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi of the Rajasthan Royals bats during an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket match between the Royals and the Gujarat Titans at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, India. Suryavanshi hit a breathtaking century in the IPL, and made it one of the greatest innings in men's Twenty20 cricket history. (AP Photo/Surjeet Yadav)

Rajasthan made 212-2, winning for only the third time in 10 games to stay in playoff contention.

Cricket is the most popular sport in India by a considerable margin, and the lucrative IPL has offered a showcase for talent emerging from the population of 1.4 billion to mix it with the sport's top international stars.

Fervent fans are always on the lookout for the "next" superstar player like Sachin Tendulkar, who transformed from precocious teenage talent into an iconic figure and the leading international scorer in the sport.

The great Tendulkar was impressed with Suryavanshi, who was described by TV commentators during his Continued on page 5





**CLEAN ENERGY.** Lego characters, top photo, are seen in Vietnamese traditional lion dance costumes on display at the Lego factory in Binh Duong, Vietnam. In the bottom photo, a worker operates packing machines at the Binh Duong Lego factory. (AP Photos/Hau Dinh)

#### Lego opens toy factory in Vietnam it plans to run entirely on clean energy

Continued from page 2

energy center where electricity can be stored in large batteries.

"So even if the sun is only shining during the day, we store the energy and can use it all over. That will cover by far the majority of the consumption of the factory," added Christiansen,

The remaining 10% to 20% of the factory's energy needs will be met through agreements with other clean energy

"Lego and Vietnam, we are having the same aspirations. We both want to be green, to play our part in the climate. And I think this with the solar and battery and DPPA, it is showcasing that it can be done," Jesper Hassellund Mikkelsen, senior vice president Asia Operations at the LEGO Group told The AP.

The company will also open a distribution center in Vietnam's southern Dong Nai province to help serve markets in Australia and other Asian countries where it sees an opportunity for growth.

The five buildings in the factory meet high energy efficiency standards. Lego also has planted 50,000 trees—twice the number of the trees it cut to clear land for the factory. It's the first Lego factory to replace single-use plastic bags with paper bags for packaging.

Lego's founder, Ole Kirk Kristiansen, started the company as a wooden toy maker before patenting the iconic plastic bricks in 1958. It is still seeking a way to make its plastic bricks more environmentally friendly.

Christiansen said Lego bricks last decades and could be reused, though the ultimate ambition is to make them out of more renewable materials. He said that a third of the materials used in Lego bricks made last year were from renewable and recycled sources. But that's more expensive than plastic made out of fossil fuels.

"It's not inexpensive at this point in time, but we believe if we ... lean into that, we help create a supply chain for the type of plastic materials that are not based on fossil fuel," he said.

The Associated Press' climate and environmental coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. AP is solely responsible for content.

CREMATIONS | LIFE CELEBRATIONS | CEMETERIES

## For their protection and your peace of mind, plan now.



### Finley-Sunset Hills

MORTUARY & SUNSET HILLS MEMORIAL PARK
503-292-6654

#### Lincoln

MEMORIAL PARK & FUNERAL HOME 503-771-1117

#### Skyline

MEMORIAL GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME 503-292-6611

Every Detail Remembered®



6801 SW Sunset Hwy., Portland, OR 97225 | 11801 SE Mt Scott Blvd., Portland, OR 97086 4101 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97229

FREE Planning Guide: DignityMemorial.com



**COLLAPSE QUESTIONS.** Rescuers work at the site of a high-rise building in Bangkok, Thailand, that collapsed after an earthquake. Authorities are probing Xin Ke Yuan Steel and another Chinese contractor involved in the construction to find out why the building crumbled following a quake centered in Myanmar, more than 800 miles away. It was the only building that completely collapsed that day. (AP Photo/Wason Wanichakorn, File)

#### Thai-Chinese company denies flouting safety measures in probe of skyscraper collapse following quake

By Jintamas Saksornchai

The Associated Press

ANGKOK - A Thai-Chinese company has denied allegations its steel rods did not pass safety standard tests after nationwide criticism prompted an investigation into the collapse of a high-rise building under construction after an earthquake in Bangkok.

Authorities are probing Xin Ke Yuan Steel and another Chinese contractor involved in the construction to find out why the building crumbled following a quake centered in Myanmar, more than 800 miles away. It was the only building that completely collapsed that day.

The 7.7 magnitude quake on March 28 killed more than 3,700 in Myanmar, while in Thailand, 47 were killed, mostly at the collapse site.

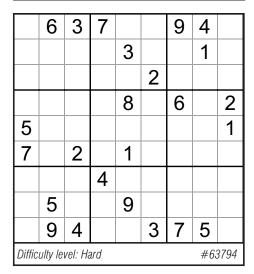
The collapse sparked questions about the enforcement of construction safety and the state-run Chinese contractor, China Railway No. 10 Engineering Group, leading to the arrest of its Chinese executive in Thailand, identified as Zhang, on suspicion of operating the business through the use of nominees.

Foreigners can operate a business in Thailand, but it must be a joint venture with a Thai partner, and they cannot own more than 49% to protect local competitiveness.

Three Thai shareholders of the company are also wanted on suspicion of being the nominees, said officials of the Department of Special Investigation, Thailand's equivalent of the FBI. They also said they were looking into the quality of the construction material and whether Continued on page 5

## su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom



**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 #81394 (Medium)

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

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

#### Earthquake recovery blunts Myanmar's celebrations as Southeast Asia holds water festivals

By Grant Peck The Associated Press

ANGKOK Several Southeast Asian countries kicked off their annual water festival holiday in April, but in the wake of the devastating earthquake, some areas of Myanmar were missing out on the fun.

The holiday is an occasion for merrymaking during what is usually the hottest time of the year. In Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, millions normally take part in a mix of raucous play with uninhibited splashing of water on friends and strangers alike, and sober ceremonies to show respect to one's

Temperatures this time of year can creep above 40° Celsius (104° Fahrenheit). Many who have moved to cities for work return to their native villages and towns to reunite with their families. The celebration is normally spread over several days, culminating on the actual New Year's

In Myanmar, the holiday is called Thingyan. But this year, the country is struggling to recover from the 7.7 magnitude earthquake on March 28 that devastated its central heartland, killing more than 3,600 people and levelling structures from new condos to ancient pagodas.

Central Myanmar was shaken again on Sunday, April 13, by a 5.5 magnitude earthquake in one of the biggest aftershocks since the March 28 temblor.

Even before the quake, Myanmar was reeling from a repressive military that seized power in 2021 and is carrying out a brutal war on the pro-democracy forces trying to unseat it. In 2020, the pandemic also quashed celebrations.

Still, the holiday offered a brief respite from the grim struggles of daily life in one of the region's poorer countries, and this is the first year Myanmar could celebrate Thingyan's on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, an honor attained last December.

A few days after the quake, the military government announced that this year's festival would be observed peacefully in pursuit of traditional culture and would not include joyous singing and dancing, due to a



SUBDUED CELEBRATION. Children take part in the first day of the annual water festival, also known as Thingyan, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, on April 13, 2025. Several Southeast Asian countries kicked off their annual water festival holiday in April, but in the wake of the recent devastating earthquake, some areas of Myanmar missed out on the fun. (AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo)

nationwide grieving period.

People were free to celebrate privately and quietly, and items related to the festival, including water guns, were being sold in malls and stores. However, there was no government-organized

entertainment. In Yangon, the country's largest city, major festival pavilions and decorations that were already being built in front of the City Hall were dismantled.

People's Square, a major celebration spot in Yangon did not host the festival this year, but a traditional charity feast was held without music and dance, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported.

In Yangon, the downtown area near City Hall was quiet, in sharp contrast to many past occasions.

The only visible signs of the holiday were the sights of children playing with water in the streets of residential neighborhoods, mostly elderly people going to Buddhist monasteries and pagodas for traditional prayers.

In the capital of Naypyitaw, state-media reported that a quiet celebration of  $_{
m the}$ holiday's recognition by UNESCO would include events such as applying Thanaka, a yellowish-white paste made from ground tree bark as a traditional natural cosmetic, gently washing the heads and cutting the nails of elderly people as a gesture of respect, and donating food.

Neighboring Thailand, where the

holiday is called Songkran, was expected to celebrate with revelry as usual. It sees a mass exodus of the workforce in the capital of Bangkok return to their upcountry home towns, often extending what is officially a three-day holiday into an entire working week.

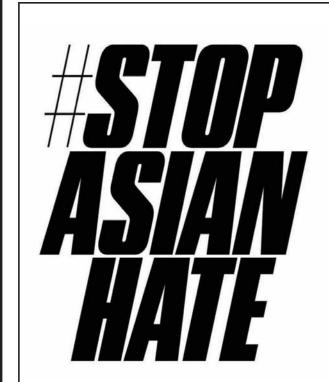
Foreign tourists join locals in almost orgiastic water fights, especially in Bangkok's Khao San Road backpackers district. Water pistols are merely small arms. It is not unusual to see huge buckets of water dumped on any convenient target. Moving vehicles serve as both platforms and targets for attacks.

The holiday is historically pegged to a seasonal movement of the sun, critical to largely agrarian societies. The water hijinks originated in olden days as a ceremony to welcome the rainy season. A traditional ritual still practiced by many involves cleansing images of the Buddha and washing the hands and feet of elders.

There is a darker side to the goings-on, as well. Thailand already has one of the world's highest rates of traffic fatalities, which spike during Songkran with so many on the move and often inebriated.

Cambodia, where the holiday is called Choul Chnam Thmey, and Laos, where it is Pi Mai Lao, have similar celebrations, generally smaller in scale and less raucous than those in Thailand.

> Associated Press writer Sopheng Cheang in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, contributed to this report





GRASS-FED & GRASS-FINISHED BEEF

Farm-raised in Newberg, Oregon

Beef available as:

 $\square$  Quarter cow  $\square$  Half cow  $\square$  Whole cow

Beef is processed by a Portland butcher. Pickup available in May at N.E. Sandy Blvd. location.

#### An Asian elephant calf was born at the Zurich Zoo and its name will start with the letter Z

ZURICH (AP) — A 19-vear-old Asian elephant at the Zurich Zoo gave birth in April to a male calf whose name, starting with the letter Z, will soon be announced.

A light-sensitive monitoring camera picked up the birth before dawn and the baby's earliest, wobbly steps inside the zoo's Kaeng Krachan Elephant Park. It's now home to six of the pachyderms: four females including mother Farha; bull elephant and father Thai; and the new

Zoo director Severin Dressen said staff were happy but "still cautious" about the birth.

"The first weeks of a calf's life are always the most delicate - even if the calf currently appears healthy and fit," he said in a statement.

The Asian elephant, or *Elephas* maximus, is a critically endangered species with about 50,000 estimated in the

wild, and their numbers are declining, the zoo said. The zoo breeds the elephants as part of conservation efforts under the

European Endangered Species Program, Dressen said. Zoo staffers made sure to keep Farha —

youth. She first gained fame in her teens as a singer in the 1960s before moving on to movies. She amassed more than 200 credits in film and television that included many classics of Philippine cinema, and

Without God), 1984's Bulaklak sa City Jail (Flowers of the City Jail), and 1995's The

that letter.

period, zoo officials said.

several days.

 $Flor\ Contemplation\ Story.$ She swept best actress awards in the country for her performance in 1990's Andrea, Paano ba ang Maging Isang Ina? (Andrea, What is It Like to be a Mother?) and won best actress at the Asian Film Awards for her portrayal of a midwife in 2012's Thy Womb.

ENDANGERED ELEPHANT. An elephant

calf stands with its mother, Farha, the day after it was

born, on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, at the Zurich

Zoo in Zurich, Switzerland. A light-sensitive monitoring

camera picked up the birth before dawn as well as the

baby's earliest, wobbly steps inside the zoo's Kaeng

Krachan Elephant Park. The park is now home to six

already a mother of three — away from

another female named Panang, who has

had little previous experience with young animals, and the separation continued for

Such births are relatively rare in zoos

compared to those of other species because

of the elephant's nearly two-year gestation

A zoo spokesman said the name of the

new calf was announced after a staff

meeting, but 2025 is a "Z" year so the

moniker would automatically start with

of the pachyderms: four females including mother

Farha; bull elephant and father Thai; and the new

calf. (Michael Buholzer/Keystone via AP)

Aunor was still acting as recently as last

#### Nora Aunor, an actor among the Philippines' biggest stars, dies at 71 generations with her unmatched talent,

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — Nora Aunor, who became one of the biggest stars of Philippine cinema during a career that spanned seven decades, has died.

Aunor died April 30th, according to social media posts from her children. She was 71. No further details on the cause or place of her death were immediately given.

Filipina actor Lotlot de León said on Instagram that her mother "touched

grace, and passion for the craft. Her voice, presence, and artistry shaped a legacy that will never fade."

De León said funeral plans and other details will be shared later.

Aunor, born Nora Cabaltera Villamayor to an impoverished family in eastern Camarines Sur province, sold water in a train station in her hometown in her

won dozens of acting awards. Memorable roles included 1976's Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos (Three Years

Continued on page 12

#### Thai-Chinese company denies flouting safety measures in probe of skyscraper collapse following quake

Continued from page 4

the company illegally fixed its bidding.

The company posted a video online last year advertising the building, meant to be a new office of the State Audit Office, with plenty of drone footage and boasting about the quality of the design, construction, and management of the project.

In mid-April, a Thai engineer filed a police complaint saying that his name and signature were forged as a project controller in one of the construction plans. He denied any involvement in the project.

Xin Ke Yuan Steel, also partly owned by Chinese nationals, came under scrutiny over the quality of the steel rods they provided for the buildings. Its operating license is currently suspended following a fatal fire accident in December at its factory in Rayong province.

Industry minister Akanat Promphan said two types of steel rods found at the collapse site did not pass safety standards and that Xin Ke Yuan supplied both. He raided the company's factory on April 11 for evidence, saying that samples of the steel products confiscated by authorities following its December suspension have already failed two tests.

The company's legal team has disputed the test results in a press conference, stressing that all of their products had passed safety tests and that they were being treated unfairly by authorities. They, however, declined to comment when asked specifically about the test results of the company's steel rods found at the collapse site.

Additionally, the Revenue Department

has filed a complaint accusing Xin Ke Yuan of issuing more than 7,000 false tax invoices. The company's lawyers deny any wrongdoing.

#### 14-year-old smashes a record-breaking T20 century in cricket's IPL

Continued from page 3

dramatic innings as an amazing "14-year-old boy."

Suryavanshi rose to fame when he was drafted at age 13 last November. In a splashy debut, he whacked the first ball he faced for six at the same venue.

He showed brutal power-hitting against a battery of seasoned international bowlers including Khan, Mohammed Siraj, Ishant Sharma, and Washington Sundar.

The teenager smacked Sharma for three sixes and two fours in one over and clubbed spinner Sundar for two sixes and a four to raise the 2025 IPL's fastest half-century off 17 balls.

Suryavanshi raced to 94 when he belted Afghanistan fast bowler Karim Janat for three sixes and three fours, and raised the hundred against the great Khan.

"It was incredible," Rajasthan captain Riyan Parag said of Suryavanshi. "We've spent two months with him (and) we have seen what he can do, but to see him do this against the world-class bowlers ... (I) can't express in words."

Suryavanshi was patted on the back by his partner Jaiswal as he celebrated, removed his helmet, and raised his bat to acknowledge the applause of the home crowd. He also saluted his teammates in the dugout with his bat.

Only West Indies great Chris Gayle has hit an IPL hundred in fewer balls, 30, and that was 12 years ago.

Fast bowler Prasidh Krishna finally bowled out Suryavanshi, who walked off to another standing ovation and to hugs from

Left-handers Suryavanshi and Jaiswal raised Rajasthan's highest stand for any wicket in the IPL, and the teenager eclipsed Sanju Samson's record of 10 sixes in an IPL innings for an Indian batter.

"Batting with him (Jaiswal) gives me confidence because he keeps very positive, (and it) becomes easy to bat with him," Suryavanshi said. He added he doesn't notice the crowds much to "just focus on

#### Gill and Buttler shine for Gujarat

Gujarat captain Shubman Gill made an aggressive 84 off 50 balls while his opening partner Sai Sudharsan scored 39 to overtake Virat Kohli as the leading scorer of the season with 456 runs in nine

The pair added 93 runs for the first wicket off 62 balls before Sudharsan holed out at long-on in the 11th over.

Gill looked well set for a century but missed Maheesh Theekshana's low full toss and was caught at long-off.

Jos Buttler cut loose in the death overs with a 26-ball unbeaten 50.

## FEEL LIKE THE CITY OF PORTLAND TREATED YOU UNFAIRLY?

The Portland Ombudsman is here to help.

Learn more at:

https://www.portland.gov/auditor/ombudsman/

#### Carbon Monoxide: YOU CAN'T SEE OR SMELL IT. BUT YOU CAN STOP IT.



Never leave a motor vehicle running in a garage or enclosed area.

Questions about carbon monoxide? Call Poison Help:

1-800-222-1222





#### The Asian Reporter

Volume 35 Number 5 May 5, 2025 ISSN: 1094-9453

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

Please send all correspondence to: The Asian Reporter 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217 Phone: (503) 283-4440, Fax: (503) 283-4445

News Department e-mail: news@asianreporter.com Advertising Department e-mail: ads@asianreporter.com Website: www.asianreporter.com

Please send reader feedback, Asian-related press releases, and community interest ideas/stories to the addresses listed above.

Please include a contact phone number.

Advertising information available upon request.

Publisher Jaime Lim
Contributing Editors
Ronault L.S. Catalani (Polo), Jeff Wenger
Correspondents

Ian Blazina, Josephine Bridges, Pamela Ellgen, Maileen Hamto, Edward J. Han, A.P. Kryza, Marie Lo, Simeon Mamaril, Julie Stegeman, Toni Tabora-Roberts, Allison Voigts Illustrator Jonathan Hill News Service Associated Press/Newsfinder

Copyright 2025. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors and not necessarily those of this publication.

#### Member

Associated Press/Newsfinder
Asian American Journalists Association
Better Business Bureau
Pacific Northwest Minority Publishers (PNMP)
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon

#### Correspondence:

The Asian Reporter welcomes reader response and participation.

Please send all correspondence to:

Mail: 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D

Portland, OR 97217-2220

Phone: (503) 283-4440 \*\* Fax: (503) 283-4445

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (U.S.	rates only)

News Department e-mail: news@asianreporter.com

Individual subscription (sent bulk rate):

☐ One year: \$16 ☐ Two years: \$26

Individual subscription (sent first class mail):

☐ One year: \$24 ☐ Two years: \$44

Office subscription (5 copies to one address):

 $\hfill\Box$  One year: \$65  $\hfill$  Two years: \$110

Institutional subscription (25 copies to one address):

☐ One year: \$200 ☐ Two years: \$350

#### NEW SUBSCRIBER / ADDRESS CORRECTION INFORMATION FORM:

Subscriber's name:

Company name:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone:

Fax: E-mail:

L-maii:

Mail with payment **or** Fax with credit card information to:
The Asian Reporter, Attn: Subscription Dept.,
922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220
Phone: (503) 283-4440 \* Fax: (503) 283-4445

For VISA or Mastercard payment only:

Name (as it appears on the card):

Type of card (circle): VISA Mastercard

Card number: Security code:

Expiration date: Address of card:

The last four issues of *The Asian Reporter* are available for pick up free at our office 24 hours a day at 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, Oregon.

#### Back issues of *The Asian Reporter*

may be ordered by mail at the following rates: First copy: \$3.00 Additional copies ordered at the same time: \$1.50 each Send orders to: Asian Reporter Back Issues, 922 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217-2220

The Asian Reporter welcomes reader response and participation. If you have a comment on a story we have printed, or have an Asian-related personal or community focus idea, please contact us. Please include a contact name, address, and phone number on all correspondence. Thank you.



#### MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan

## An earth-shattering revelation



id you feel it?
I'm guessing that is a question many in the San Diego area heard a bunch last month. If you were there, you definitely felt it.

I'm talking about the 5.2 magnitude earthquake we experienced on April 14. I felt it. The thing is, I'm

not sure I had the proper response to it.

I've lived in Southern California my entire life. I've felt earthquakes big and small. But I don't think I've ever felt "THE BIG ONE."

Anyone who has lived here long enough knows what THE BIG ONE is. We hear about it all the time. I certainly have. I'm talking about the

constant reminders from scientists that Southern California is due for a really significant earthquake because of our proximity to the San Andreas Fault.

Don't get me wrong. I believe the scientists. We're in an earthquake zone and it's just a matter of time. I appreciate the heads up on all of this.

But I've lived here my whole life.

As a people, many Asians are used to experiencing earthquakes throughout Asia. It's pretty routine in Taiwan, Japan, and China. How my family chose the one area in the U.S. that also has earthquakes seems a bit ironic.

How am I supposed to live my life knowing that THE BIG ONE could happen at any moment? How long can we wait on pins and needles? Add in the wildfire threats we face every year and it's a wonder we can get anything done.

The answer is, we can't live that way. You prepare the best you can, and just go with the flow. Or in this case, "take a break from the quake."

That's just how I roll. But I've been around long enough that maybe I shouldn't be quite as calm as I tend to be when an earthquake occurs.

Years ago, I walked into the house after a long day at work and out of pure exhaustion, plopped onto an easy chair. Right at that moment, the house started shaking back and forth and I heard a big rumble throughout the building. What was my response? Run for cover? No.

I got up and flopped back down onto the recliner to see if I could do it again.

On another occasion, I was driving and stopped at a light when suddenly the car started rocking side to side. For several seconds, the lightposts swayed back and forth. I looked in the back seat to be sure the kids were okay. My first thought after that was

to turn down the music and wonder how loud the music had been and whether it caused the quake.

Apparently, I still haven't changed my tune.

During several weeks last month, I had an issue getting online to access a bank account. I just hadn't been able to fix the problem despite calling the bank numerous times, getting put on hold, and them apologizing to me repeatedly and asking me to be patient. It's been a very frustrating experience.

Then, I received a call and the representative told me they fixed the problem, apologized again, and asked if they could go through everything with me to be sure the issue was solved on my end.

Right at that moment, the earthquake hit.

My lovely wife Maya ran to my desk and said, "Get up! Get under the table! We're having an earthquake!!!"

My response?

"I'll be right there! I just need to make sure they've got my login and password right!"

I may be doomed.

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

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

Wayne's

Earthquake Kit



## Bowen Yang leads a heartfelt dramedy about found families in *The Wedding Banquet*

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

wo gay couples decide to embark on one fake straight marriage to get what they need in Andrew Ahn's modern update of *The Wedding Banquet*.

Min (Han Gi-Chan), a young artist from an extremely wealthy Korean family, wants to stay in the U.S. longer to be with his boyfriend Chris (Bowen Yang) and delay his family obligations. Angela (Kelly Marie Tran), and Lee (Lily Gladstone) need money for another IVF attempt after their second round failed.

In 1993, when Ang Lee released *The Wedding Banquet*, same-sex marriage was not legal in the U.S. In a modern-day remake set in and around Seattle, they would need another obstacle preventing Min from marrying his way into a green card. Here, Chris is the holdup. He refuses Min, not wanting to be the thing that gets in the way of his inheritance, but also perhaps because he carries some deep feelings of inadequacy.

So, Min proposes that he marry Angela instead as a short-term fix. He'll give them money for IVF, and he can hang around and try to work things out with Chris. These couples also happen to share a backyard — Lee owns a home and rents the one room ADU to Chris and Min.

There is a version of this setup that would lend itself to some wacky hijinks as they clumsily embark on this poorly thought-out plan. If you've seen the trailer, you've probably seen one of the main ones: A panicked "de-gay" the house montage when they discover that Min's grandmother Ja-Young (Oscar-winner



Youn Yuh-jung of *Minari*), is 45 minutes away from an unannounced visit. Perhaps it's to Ahn and co-writer James Schamus's credit that these are kept to a minimum. Part of this is due to the fact that Ja-Young is no fool — she knows her grandson and has everyone in full confessional mode in under 15 minutes. This was a wise choice.

And yet, I still wanted it to be more fun, or, rather, I wanted the characters to be having more fun together. There's a throughline about found families, but I'm not totally convinced that these people are great for each other. Chris and Angela, who we're told have been unhealthily co-dependent since college, seem to be the dead weight in both relationships as a result of their own traumas and general youthful messiness.

Angela even has the gall to propose to Lee that they should use Min's money to travel the world instead. This is done in a drunken haze that will result in more bad decisions, but it seems like a rather important conversation to revisit, especially for Lee who has been open about her desire to have a child and who is worried she doesn't have much time left to do so.

There is so much crying, so much anguish, so many issues left unexamined that it's hard not to find yourself rooting for everyone (especially Lee and Min) to just cut their losses and find new people. It can be a little tiresome at times watching them agonize over problems that seem surmountable.

The biggest relief comes in the form of the older characters including Ja-Young and Joan Chen as May, Angela's mother. May is introduced accepting an award from a local LGBTQ+ group for her advocacy work, while Angela seethes in the audience. Her mother, who we later find out didn't speak to her for a time after

MODERNIZED MOVIE. Pictured are (L-R) Bowen Yang, Han Gi-chan, Andrew Ahn, Lily Gladstone, and Kelly Marie Tran at the premiere of The Wedding Banquet at AMC The Grove 14 in Los Angeles. Andrew Ahn's modern update of The Wedding Banquet opened in April. (Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)

she came out, has devoted her life to advocacy on behalf of her gay daughter now, which Angela suspects is done for the spotlight, not the cause.

But Chen, and the script, imbue the scenario with unexpected nuance and wisdom. Likewise, Ja-Young doesn't fall into any expected cliché trappings of an older Korean woman reconciling with her gay grandson. She's thoughtful and personal about it, wondering if she made the right decisions about Min's upbringing years ago. May, too, is trying to atone for her past mistakes, however clunkily. Both women just seem to want the kids to be happy—and their scenes together, though brief, are some of the best in the film.

Yang might be a little out of his depths in some of the more emotional scenes — especially difficult since Tran is a world-class crier. Gladstone also seems woefully underutilized, but perhaps that's just part of her particular magic even in a solid supporting role.

But you can also excuse a lot in a film that was clearly made with its heart in the right place and a deep love for all its characters, even in their messiest, most unsympathetic moments.

The Wedding Banquet, a Bleecker Street release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language, some sexual material, and nudity." Running time: 103 minutes.

#### As communist troops streamed into Saigon, a few remaining reporters kept photos & stories flowing

By David Rising and Valerie Komor

The Associated Press

ANGKOK — They'd watched overnight as the bombardments grew closer, and observed through binoculars as the last U.S. Marines piled into a helicopter on the roof of the embassy to be whisked away from Saigon.

So when the reporters who had stayed behind heard the telltale squeak of the rubber sandals worn by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in the stairs outside The Associated Press office, they weren't surprised, and braced themselves for possible detention or arrest.

But when the two young soldiers who entered showed no signs of malice, the journalists just kept reporting.

Offering the men a Coke and day-old cake, Peter Arnett, George Esper, and Matt Franjola started asking about their march into Saigon. As the men pointed out their route on a bureau map, photographer Sarah Errington emerged from the darkroom and snapped what would become an iconic picture, published around the world.

Fifty years later, Arnett recalled the message he fed into the teletype transmitter to AP headquarters in New York after the improbable scene had played out.

"In my 13 years of covering the Vietnam War, I never dreamed it would end as it did today," he remembers writing.

The message never made it: after a day of carrying alerts and stories on the fall of Saigon and the end of a 20-year war that saw more than 58,000 Americans killed and many times that number of Vietnamese, the wire had been cut.

The fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 was the end of an era for The AP in Vietnam that began when it opened its first office there in 1950. Arnett left in May, and then Franjola was expelled, followed by Esper and a bureau that wouldn't be



reestablished until 1993.

The AP received five Pulitzer Prizes for its reporting of the war, including back-to-back-to-back wins by bureau chief Malcolm Browne in 1964, photo chief Horst Faas in 1965, and Arnett in 1966.

Four AP photographers were killed covering the war, and at least 16 other AP journalists were injured, some multiple times

By 1975, the number of American forces in Vietnam had been drawn down to a handful, following the 1973 Paris Peace Accords in which U.S. President Richard Nixon agreed to a withdrawal, leaving the South Vietnamese to fend for themselves.

The AP's bureau had shrunk as well, and as the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and its allied Viet Cong guerrilla force in the south pushed toward Saigon, most staff members were evacuated.

Arnett, Esper, and Franjola volunteered to stay behind, anxious to see through to the end what they had committed so many years of their lives to covering.

"I saw it from the beginning, I wanted to see the end," Esper said.

On April 30, 1975, Arnett watched through binoculars as a small group of U.S. Marines that had accidentally been left behind clambered aboard a Sea Knight helicopter from the roof of the embassy — the last American evacuees.

He called it in to Esper in the office, and the story was in newsrooms around the world before the helicopter had cleared the coast.

At 10:24am, Arnett was writing a story about the looting of the U.S. Embassy when Esper heard on Saigon Radio that South Vietnam had surrendered and immediately filed an alert.

Out on the streets, Franjola, who died in 2015, was nearly sideswiped by a Jeep packed with men brandishing Russian rifles and wearing the black Viet Cong garb. Arnett then saw a convoy of Russian trucks loaded with North Vietnamese

UNEXPECTED OUTCOME. The last three staffers in The Associated Press' Saigon bureau, reporters Matt Franjola, left, Peter Arnett, rear, and George Esper, second from right, are joined by two North Vietnamese soldiers and a member of the Viet Cong on the day the government of South Vietnam surrendered, April 30, 1975. One of the soldiers is showing Esper the route of his final advance into the city. (AP Photo/Sarah Errington)

soldiers driving down the main street and scrambled back into the office.

"George,' I shout, 'Saigon has fallen. Call New York," Arnett said. "I check my watch. It's 11:43am."

It was about 2:30pm when the two NVA soldiers burst in, accompanied by Ky Nhan, a freelance photographer who worked for The AP, who announced himself as a longtime member of the Viet Cong.

"I have guaranteed the safety of The AP office," Arnett recalled the photographer saying. "You have no reason to be concerned."

As Arnett, Esper, and Franjola pored over the map with the two NVA soldiers, they chatted through an interpreter about the attack on Saigon, which had been renamed Ho Chi Minh City as soon as it fell.

The young men showed the reporters photos of their families and girlfriends, telling them how much they missed them and wanted to get home.

"I was thinking in my own mind these are North Vietnamese, there are South Vietnamese, Americans — we're all the same," Esper said.

"People have girlfriends, they miss them, they have the same fears, the same loneliness, and in my head I'm tallying up the casualties, you know nearly 60,000 Americans dead, a million North Vietnamese fighters dead, 224,000 South Vietnamese military killed, and two million civilians killed. And that's the way the war ended for me."

Komor, the retired director of AP Corporate Archives, reported from New York.

## Celebrating Asian Heritage

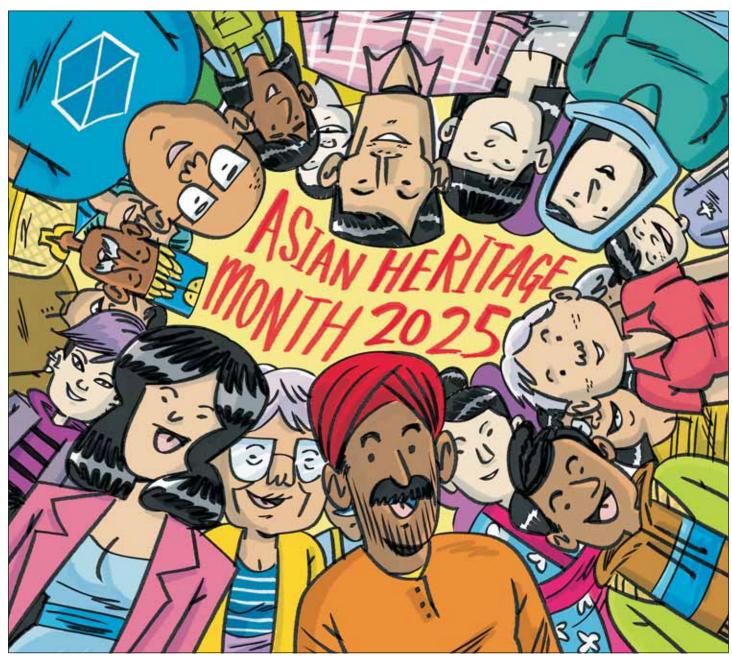
The Asian Reporter celebrates Asian Heritage Month with this special edition. In this issue, we mark heritage month looking at the beginning of the recognition of Asian heritage nearly 50 years ago. What started as just one week in May in the mid-1970s has evolved over the decades into a monthlong tribute of events in cities big and small. And the nature of the celebrations have evolved; it's no longer just about showcasing festive fare like food and fashion, but also addressing hard subjects such as grief and social justice.

The edition next highlights the Independent Lens premiere of a 60-minute documentary by filmmaker Michael Jacobs called *Who is Michael Jang?* The film tells the story behind 50-year-old photographs that had remained mostly hidden to the world. The once-obscure artist brought the images into the public eye by pasting reproductions of his vintage prints around San Francisco.

The section continues with An Asian American A to Z: A Children's Guide to Our History, a book about Asian people, movements, culture, historical information, and more written by Cathy Linh Che and Kyle Lucia Wu and featuring illustrations by Kavita Ramchandran.

Also presented is *The World of Nancy Kwan*, a memoir by the pioneering Hollywood star about breaking barriers, celebrating achievements, overcoming disappointments, surviving tragedies, and, back in the day, calling an Asian actor getting to play an Asian role a victory because most roles were given to white actors.

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





# Metro wants to hear from you.

Get updates on the project to build a memorial at the historic Chinese section of Lone Fir Cemetery at this free information session. Share ideas with an artist working on the project.

#### Thursday, May 15

5:30 to 7 p.m.
Oregon Chinese Consolidated
Benevolent Association
315 NW Davis St., Portland

Learn more: oregonmetro.gov/lonefirgarden





## Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month has only grown in 5 decades

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

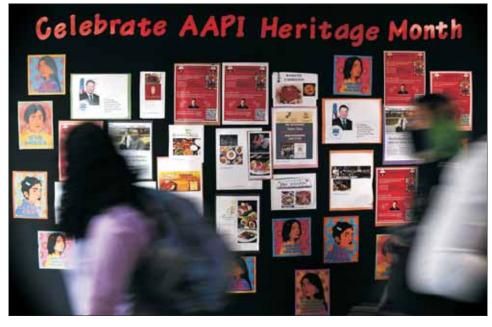
t has been almost 50 years since the U.S. government established that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their accomplishments should be recognized annually across the nation.

What started as just one week in May has evolved over the decades into a monthlong tribute of events in cities big and small. The nature of celebrations also evolved. Asian American and Pacific Islander or Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is not just about showcasing festive fare like food and fashion, but hard subjects like grief and social justice. The rise of anti-Asian hate during the pandemic only heightened that effort.

"I think the visibility and the level that the increased participation of organizations in Asian Pacific Heritage Month activities is also an indication of the increasing voice of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in civic life more generally," said Karen Umemoto, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "And also an indication of the spaces that we've come to collectively enter to be able to create those."

Heritage Month celebrations are not relegated just to ethnic enclaves or culturally-specific venues. Across the U.S., events are planned at public libraries, parks, and museums either highlighting a specific Asian culture or a myriad of them.

This year, the occasion is happening as President Donald Trump has curtailed diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in federal government. The president's anti-DEI executive orders appear to have prompted the removal of Defense Department website content



honoring Japanese American service members (it was later restored). In February, during Black History Month, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy announced that his department would no longer participate in "identity-based observances."

The White House did, however, host a well-attended Black History Month celebration that Trump attended alongside golf legend Tiger Woods. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about plans for an AAPI Heritage Month celebration.

#### How did AAPI Heritage Month start?

Many credit the observance's origin to Jeanie Jew, a co-founder of the Congressional Asian-Pacific staff Caucus. In 1977, the Chinese American shared a moving story with New York Republican representative Frank Horton about how her grandfather had helped build the transcontinental railroad in the 1800s and

then was killed amid anti-Asian unrest.

Jew believed Asians should appreciate their heritage and "Americans must know about the contributions and histories of the Asian-Pacific American experience," Horton said in 1992, according to congressional archives. At that time, Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month had already been instituted. Yet, Asian Americans were considered the fastest growing racial group.

Horton and California Democratic representative Norm Mineta proposed President Jimmy Carter issue a proclamation that the first week of May be "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." Hawai'i senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, both Democrats, brought up a similar bill in the senate. Carter signed a

Students walk past a display for Asian Heritage Month at Farmington High School in Farmington, Connecticut, in this May 10, 2021 file photo. What started as just one week in May has evolved over the decades into a monthlong tribute of events in cities big and small. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill, File)

joint resolution establishing the celebration in 1978.

#### Why is it in the month of May?

May was chosen because of two significant events. The first Japanese immigrants to the U.S. arrived on May 7, 1843. Then on May 19, 1869, the final spike for the transcontinental railroad track, in which Chinese laborers played a crucial role, was embedded.

Umemoto recalls hearing talk of Asian Pacific Heritage Week as a college student. But it wasn't something that was mainstream.

"I think it was more of a kind of cultural celebration in the early days," she said. "And so a lot of student groups, I remember as doing programming around the different histories, cultural traditions, and issues in the community."

In May 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded the designation to the entire month. In 2009, President Barack Obama changed the name to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. President Joe Biden's administration referred to it as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

In his first term, Trump issued proclamations in celebration of the month. "This month, we recognize the more than Continued on page 12

#### **Department of Consumer & Business Services**



## Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers What we do:

The Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers is the state office that serves as an independent advocate for workers by helping them understand their rights, protections, and responsibilities related to safety in the workplace and the workers' compensation system. Our services are free.

Ombuds for Oregon Workers
Call: (503) 378-3351 or 800-927-1271 (toll-free)
E-mail: oow.questions@dcbs.oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/DCBS/OOW
We provide free interpretation services in any language.

#### dcbs.oregon.gov



針灸 拔罐 艾灸



中藥調理 中式推拿

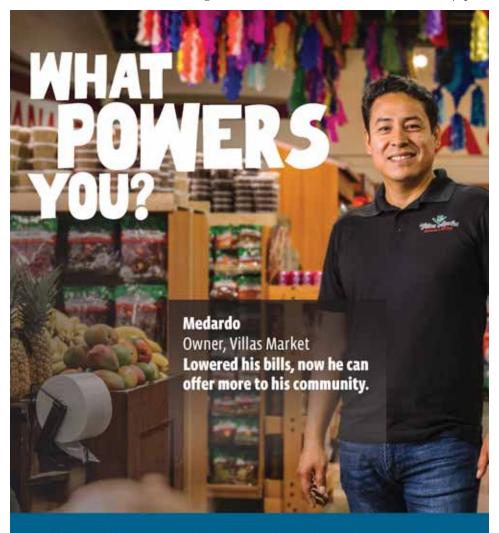
Acupuncture Herbal Medicine Moxibustion Bodywork Cupping And More

我們有中文看診服務

OHP Welcome! 本診所接受奧勒岡醫療計畫保險

1836 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. #109 Portland, OR 97212

(503) 383-9555 zocalowellness.com



Offering energy savings and solutions that power your life.

Find cash incentives and resources at energytrust.org



#### Who is Michael Jang? reveals a hidden body of photographs

Who is Michael Jang?
Monday, May 19
11:00pm to midnight
Oregon Public Broadcasting

On Monday, May 19, Oregon Public Broadcasting is airing a new episode of Independent Lens called *Who is Michael Jang?* The 60-minute documentary by filmmaker Michael Jacobs introduces viewers to the story behind 50-year-old photographs that had remained mostly hidden to the world.

San Francisco-based artist Michael Jang sat on the trove of photographs for five decades. The images, taken when he was in his 20s, were underground snapshots that captured communities and subcultures. The pictures infiltrated and observed the area and its people, yet received little notice.

Jang spent his career working as a commercial



**VINTAGE PHOTOS.** Elusive and once-obscure artist Michael Jang (seen standing in the left photo) shows his art along the streets of San Francisco. Who is Michael Jang? — a new episode of Independent Lens — premieres on Monday, May 19. (Photos/Brent Willson)

photographer. In 2021, however, at the age of 70, he attempted to get his works — vintage prints taken on the streets of San Francisco during a pivotal time — seen

ساماه استناماهاس

The elusive, once-obscure artist brought the photographs into the public eye by pasting reproductions of the vintage prints around San Francisco, including Chinatown where images of his Chinese American family took on a more subversive meaning, especially amid the rise in 2021 of anti-Asian hate and violence in the city.

The film captures Jang's exploits as his experimental street art morphs into a meta-exploration of his personal history and identity. In the process, *Who is Michael Jang?* bears witness to Jang becoming reacquainted with his younger self through the decades-old images resonating with vital, new meaning today.

"Michael Jang's art is clever and mischievous," said Independent Lens executive producer Lois Vossen. "In a time when the high-art photography world had no place for anything funny, Jang stayed true to himself and captured the quirky and often humorous aspects of everyday life. His visual storytelling is really funny and — like this documentary — both informative and entertaining."

After decades in obscurity, the film shows how Jang uses graffiti tactics to share his previously unknown body of fine art photography with unsuspecting audiences.

Who is Michael Jang? premieres on Monday, May 19 at 11:00pm on Oregon Public Broadcasting. The film is also streaming on the PBS app. To learn more, visit <www.opb.org>.

# Join the City of Hillsboro: Where Opportunity Meets Community



At the City of Hillsboro, we believe in the power of diversity, innovation, and inclusion. As one of Oregon's fastest-growing cities, we are committed to fostering a welcoming environment where everyone can thrive. Whether you're seeking a career in public service, technology, engineering, community engagement, or beyond, Hillsboro offers a wide range of opportunities to grow and make a difference.

We recognize the rich traditions and contributions of our Asian and Pacific Islander communities and are dedicated to creating a workplace where all employees feel valued and connected. One way we support this is through our Employee Affinity Groups (EAGs) — employee-led networks that promote diversity, inclusion, and a stronger sense of belonging. Currently, the City of Hillsboro is home to eight Employee Affinity Groups (EAGs), with dedicated tools, resources, and strong organizational support in place to encourage the development of additional groups. These efforts aim to further cultivate a culture of belonging, inclusivity, and connection among employees across all departments.

Over the past year, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) EAG has fostered connection, cultural celebration, and service among City staff. From hosting cultural events and sharing delicious recipes to creating a space for dialogue, learning, and community service, their group has been dedicated to uplifting AANHPI voices and building a strong, supportive community, "I believe belonging grows when people feel invited to share who they are and know they matter. By creating spaces where we celebrate our cultures, learn from one another, and build community, we're helping shape a workplace where everyone feels they belong." Michaela Canete, City Manager Program Coordinator and AANHPI member.

With competitive salaries, excellent benefits, professional development opportunities, and a culture of collaboration, Hillsboro is a place where your career can thrive. As we honor Asian Heritage Month, we invite you to be a part of a team that values your skills, experiences, and cultural identity.

Join our Team! Scan the QR code to explore career opportunities with the City of Hillsboro.





#### **Welcome Home!**

## **Knights of Pythias Active Retirement Center**

3409 Main Street Vancouver, WA 98663
Phone: (360) 696-4375
Website: www.koprc.com
Options for seniors 62 +
and under 62 with disability



Subsidized and affordable Private Pay Rates
Call or e-mail for more information:
(360) 696-4375 or lori@koprc.com
We offer options for a lunch meal,
housekeeping and laundry.
Centrally located in uptown Vancouver, WA







### An Asian American A to Z explores history, culture & more

An Asian American A to Z: A Children's Guide to Our History By Cathy Linh Che & Kyle Lucia Wu Illustrations by Kavita Ramchandran Haymarket Books, 2023 Hardcover, 40 pages, \$18.95

By Jody Lim

The Asian Reporter

n Asian American A to Z: A Children's Guide to Our History, written by Cathy Linh Che and Kyle Lucia Wu and featuring illustrations by Kavita Ramchandran, explores Asian American history. Its target audience is children, but it's a book that people of all ages could learn from. It's full of people, movements, culture, historical information, and more. It may also make you think. And act.

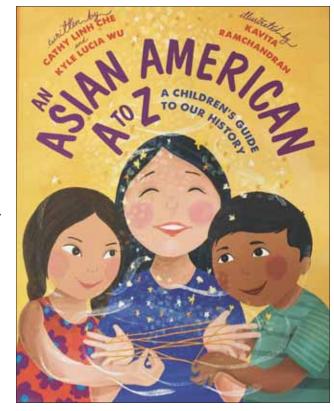
Starting on the first page with "A is for Asian American," *An Asian American A to Z* establishes the inclusivity of all Asian cultures: "... a name for us all, collective and true." Under B — beginning — readers are asked, "In 1776, the US was formed. Did you know Asians arrived years before?"

C — civil rights — follows with powerful words: "For equal treatment and protection from laws — many marched and struggled for the cause. Asian Americans everywhere owe much of our fight to the brave ones who first stood up for civil rights."

Under F — first — accompanied by colorful drawings of Bruno Mars, Sunisa Lee, and Padma Lakshmi, we read, "So many have been bold enough to walk a new line." The authors follow up with, "What new lines would you like to chart? You can walk a new path, one lit by your heart."

Under M — movies — with images of actress Anna May Wong, filmmaker Mira Nair, and comedian Hasan Minhai, we're asked, "Are there any parts that you want to play? Your name could be up there in lights one day."

The hard work of Asian Americans is mentioned as well. "R is for railroad," the Transcontinental Railroad, which was built by Chinese workers. "Without those men, we couldn't take those trains, but history books left out all their names! Next time you ride a train, think of what

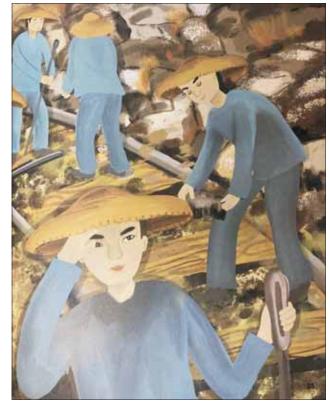


they've done. We reclaim history by remembering each one."

Inspiring and important messages are also found throughout the book: Under H — hotel — "Heroes don't give up if they don't win right away"; under I — intersectionality — we read about "honoring all parts of someone, respecting who they are, however they come."

Under J — Japanese American — the authors pose good questions accompanied by images of a World War II incarceration camp: "120,000 were placed in incarceration camps in a blink. Most were of US citizens, which makes you think: What does it mean to be a citizen here? Don't we all deserve to be free without fear?"

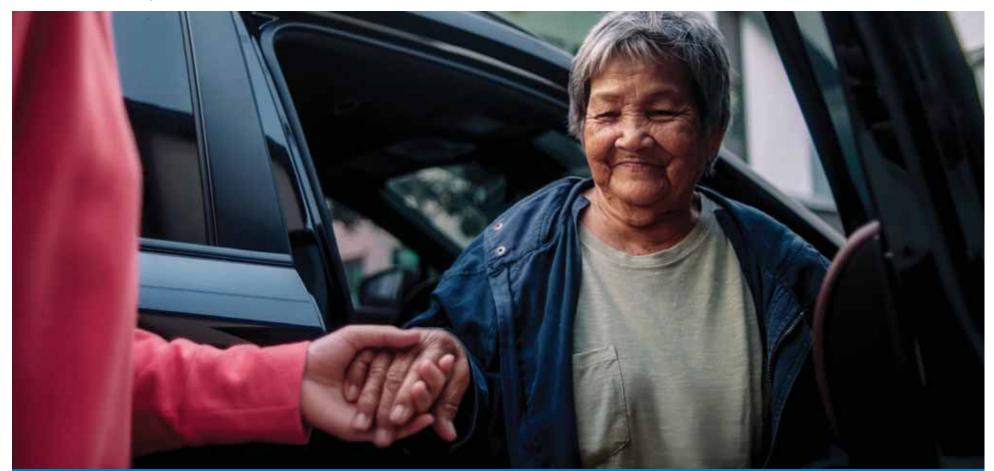
Annoying questions people are often asked are mentioned as well. To this the authors say: "Q is for questions, which you may be asked, about where you're



from, or your parents, or past. But you don't have to answer! It's fine not to say! You belong, and you never need to explain."

I, of course, read An Asian American A to Z to my nephew, now a first-grader, who enjoyed all of the drawings and absorbed the information presented with each letter of the alphabet. He was unable to narrow down which was his favorite illustration (he liked all of them), but asked many questions. At the end of the book, we found a glossary that provided further information about the topics, concepts, and people we read about in the book.

Authors Cathy Linh Che and Kyle Lucia Wu have created an educational and inspirational book. Purchase your own copy or check out *An Asian American A to Z* from a library to learn more about Asian American history and possibly also be inspired to "walk a new line."



## Work that matters with benefits that you want.

Home care careers come with good benefits:

- Flexible hours
- Choose who you work with
- Overtime and paid time off
- Health care and retirement savings options
- Free trainings to grow your skills and increase pay





**Learn more and apply at OregonHomeCareJobs.com** 

#### Heritage Month calendar

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

#### 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>.

#### "Emerging Radiance"

Currently on view, 10am-6pm (Mon, Thu & Fri), 11am-8pm (Tue & Wed), 11am-6pm (Sat-Sun), Bellevue Library (1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, Wash.). View "Emerging Radiance," an augmented-reality, interactive artwork that honors the stories of Japanese American farmers who lived in Bellevue between 1920 and World War II. The installation is presented by the City of Bellevue in partnership with the King County Library System. For info, call (425) 450-1765 or visit <a href="https://kcls.bibliocommons.com">https://kcls.bibliocommons.com</a>.

#### "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>.



**UNIT SOUZOU.** Unit Souzou is presenting "Constant State of Otherness" on May 9 at the Walters Cultural Arts Center in Hillsboro, Oregon. The event features taiko, Japanese folk dance, song, and personal story. (Photo courtesy of Unit Souzou)

#### "Boundless: Stories of Asian Art"

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

#### "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>.

#### "What's Worth the Fight: The History of the Slants"

Through May 11, 11am-3pm (Thu-Sun), Portland Chinatown Museum (127 NW Third Ave, Portland). View "What's Worth the Fight: The History of the Slants," the Portland Chinatown Museum's first music history exhibition. One of the first Asian American dance rock bands, The Slants are best known for their '80s-driven synth-pop (affectionately dubbed by fans as "Chinatown Dance Rock") and their landmark Supreme Court case over the rights to their name. The display explores the band's rich history and musical contributions, their Portland Chinatown roots, and the legacy of their continued activism and creative resilience. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-0008 or visit <www.portlandchinatownmuseum.org>.

#### "Celebrate Our Stories" at Lan Su

Through May 31, 10am-6:30pm (daily), Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend "Celebrate Our Stories" at Lan Su Chinese Garden during Asian Heritage Month. Festivities include Cultural Immersion Saturdays, which highlight different cultures, and Family Fun Sundays, featuring interactive games, crafts, and art for all ages. Another feature during the month is "Threading Together," an exhibit of traditional clothing and attire; the participating countries for 2025 are the Philippines, the Pacific Islands, Vietnam, China, India, Japan, Korea, and Cambodia. Other programming in May includes a Mother's Day special event on Sunday, May 11, as well as Comedy Nights held in partnership with Kickstand Comedy Continued on page 13

#### Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month has only grown in 5 decades

Continued from page 9

20 million Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who make irreplaceable contributions to our Nation's economy, security, and culture," read a proclamation the Trump White House issued in May 2020.

"Together, we will continue to live out the promise of our founding and build a better future for all Americans," Trump's proclamation said.

### How has the Heritage Month grown in significance?

Asian American and Pacific Islander advocacy groups have long used the month as a platform to bring resources to underserved communities and educate the public. But, the one-two punch of COVID-19 and assaults on Asian people in the U.S. really gave some a new appreciation for the Heritage Month's purpose.

Pre-pandemic, Amber Reed of Montclair, New Jersey, didn't really think about Asian Heritage Month. A Korean American adoptee who grew up one of few Asian children in rural Michigan, she said she didn't feel a strong connection to her Asian ancestry. That changed after the March 2021 Atlanta spa shootings that left eight dead, including six Asian women.

"Certainly it jolted me out of thinking that my family could be safe and that we could just sort of muddle through without sort of reckoning with some of the very vicious currents of racism in our culture," Reed said. "And I take no pride in having needed that moment to wake me up."

In response to the shootings, Reed and around 50 others She is survived by their started the nonprofit AAPI New Jersey — originally AAPI Kiko, and Kenneth de León.

Montclair. They will be hosting a Lantern Festival for Justice and Unity for a fifth year. The Chinese custom of lighting lanterns honors victims of hate or injustice.

"I think one thing Asian cultures do so well is provide these rituals, including for collective grief," said Reed, who still finds it surreal that the group continues to grow.

#### What events mark the Heritage Month?

The variety of subjects and cultures feted during Heritage Month has flourished.

## Nora Aunor, an actor among the Philippines' biggest stars, dies at 71

Continued from page 5

year, starring in the film Mananambal ( $The\ Healer$ ) and appearing on the TV series "Lilet Matias, Attorney-at-Law."

Aunor was named a National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts—the country's biggest honor for actors—in 2022. In 2014, then-President Benigno Aquino III had denied her the honor because of a previous drug arrest in the U.S., provoking broad outcry.

Aunor's lawyer said the 2005 arrest at the Los Angeles airport came because of a pipe found in a bag she did not pack, noting she was travelling with four assistants at the time. The charges were dropped in 2007 after she completed a diversion program, her lawyer said in 2014.

Aunor was married to actor Christopher de León from 1975 until 1996.

She is survived by their children Lotlet, Ian, Matet, Kiko, and Kenneth de León.

There are events happening this month that include more narrow topics, such as Asian Comedy Fest in New York City. And in Wisconsin, the state will celebrate May 14 as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day, which was signed into law in 2021. Thousands of Hmong-Lao soldiers fought alongside U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. Many Hmong and Lao families resettled in Wisconsin.

These Heritage Month celebrations are helping to erode the notion that the whole population is a monolith, Umemoto said.

"I think it's important for people to visibly see from a wide range of groups that fall under the category Asian American and Pacific Islanders. There are over 70 different ethnic and national groups and over 100 languages spoken within those communities," Umemoto said. "And they're very different."

Terry Tang is a Phoenix-based member of AP's Race and Ethnicity team.

## Star Wars fans wave lightsabers as an upcoming film gets announced in Japan

Continued from page 20

was full of *Star Wars*-themed merchandise including t-shirts, toys, books, manga comics, AC chargers, cellphone covers, autographs, posters, and more.

The Lego booth featured a man wearing the ominous black mask and cloak of Darth Vader, made out of Legos. The deep-breathing villain also appeared as traditional Japanese lacquerware decorating earphones in a limited edition of 10, each selling for 990,000 yen (\$7,000). Darth Vader t-shirts were more affordable at 8,000 yen (\$56).

"It makes me so happy to think everyone here loves Star Wars," said Yoshiki Takahashi, 26, who was holding a remote-controlled R2-D2 miniature robot.

"I love the directing, the sound of the gun, and the lightsaber, but above all the story, with great fight scenes and, of course, human drama," he added.

Another Japanese man, who said he goes only by Hiro, was dressed as the  $Star\ Wars$  character Mandalorian, in a detailed costume he made himself, complete with a plastic sword and armor.

Also present were  $Star\ Wars$  fans from around the world, including a robed Raul Herrera, a computer science teacher from Chile, who was there with friends.

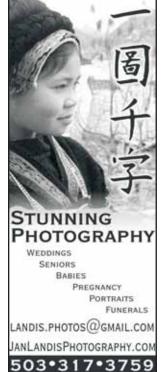
"All of them," said Herrera, when asked which *Star Wars* films he'd seen. "The sense of commitment of the characters, I really like it."

With offshoot stories spanning generations and literally the cosmos, *Star Wars* is one of the highest-grossing franchises of all time since its 1977 debut, starring Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker.

It may be natural that *Star Wars* appeals to Japanese: Its story about a samurai-like hero who befriends various characters along his journey echoes the nation's fables, as well as legendary Akira Kurosawa films.







#### Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 12

on May 23 and 30. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit < www.lansugarden.org/celebrate-our-stories>.

#### "Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen"

Through June 9, 10am-5:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View "Earthen Elegance: The Ceramic Art of Bizen," an exhibition that celebrates contemporary ceramic art and vessels that preserve a time-honored collaboration of earth, fire, and the artist's hand. Bizen is a ceramic center that has continued its unique form of pottery for more than 900 years. Notable for rustic, textured, and unglazed forms, the ceramics included in the display reveal the depths of the Bizen pottery tradition. The town of Bizen hosts nearly 300 active kilns with artists continuing to use local materials and an ancient wood-firing process. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

#### "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. In addition to the exhibit panels, JAMO has invited local professional and student artists — Erin Shigaki, Lynn Yarne, Marie Johnston, Maya McDarragh, and six students from Grant High School — to create works in response to Sadako's story. The companion display brings together multiple generations of artists to contribute to ongoing discussions about peace and nuclear disarmament. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

#### "Natural Patterns: Katazome Stencil Dyeing"

Through Sep 15, 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,



**AMERICAN MASTERS.** Tyrus Wong, a show by American Masters that tells the story of the renowned painter, airs May 27 on Oregon Public Broadcasting. Until his death at the age of 106, Wong was America's oldest living Chinese American artist and one of the last remaining artists from the golden age of Disney animation. (Photo courtesy of Oregon Public Broadcasting)

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>.

#### "Ai Weiwei: Water Lilies"

Through Mar 15, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View "Ai Weiwei: Water Lilies," a nearly 50-foot-long piece created with 650,000 LEGO blocks, which is being shown for the first time in the U.S. "Water Lilies," the artist's largest and most ambitious LEGO work to date, is a reinterpretation of Claude Monet's iconic triptych from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3100 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

#### Asian Americans: "A Question of Loyalty"

May 8, 9pm & May 10, 9pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch "A Question of Loyalty," an episode of the five-part *Asian Americans* series. The show explores the impact of Asian Americans on the country's past, present, and future as an American-born generation straddles their country of birth and the homelands of their parents. Loyalties are tested during World War II when families are imprisoned in detention camps and brothers find themselves on opposite sides of the battle lines. To verify showtimes, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Voices of Change 2025

May 9, 5:30-8pm, Hoku Events (1125 SE Madison St,

Portland). Attend Voices of Change, the annual fundraiser of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. The 2025 theme, "Building Bright Futures," reflects the organization's unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for all. The evening features performances by the Stella Luna Dance Group and Takohachi, speakers, and dinner crafted by local restaurants. For info, or to register (required), call (971) 340-4861 or visit <www.apano.org>.

THE ASIAN REPORTER ■ Page 13

#### Unit Souzou

May 9, 7:30-9-30pm, Walters Cultural Arts Center (527 E Main St, Hillsboro, Ore.). Join Unit Souzou as it presents "Constant State of Otherness." The event features taiko, Japanese folk dance, song, and personal story. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 615-3485 or visit <a href="https://cityofhillsboro.ticketspice.com/unit-souzou">https://cityofhillsboro.ticketspice.com/unit-souzou</a>.

#### BonsaiFEST!

May 10-11, 10am-4pm, Pacific Bonsai Museum (2515 S 336th St, Federal Way, Wash.). Immerse yourself in the beauty and serenity of bonsai culture at the free, family-friendly BonsaiFEST! The gathering features hundreds of living works of art, four bonsai exhibitions, bonsai-making demonstrations, guided tours, games, food trucks, shopping, and more. Docent-led tours begin at noon and 1:00pm (no prior sign-up is required). In addition, live bonsai-making demonstrations are held between 10:00am and 4:00pm on both days. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 353-7345 or visit <www.pacificbonsaimuseum.org>.

#### "Flavors of the Marianas"

May 11, 6pm (doors), 6:30pm (dinner), Fressen Artisan Bakery (7075 NE Glisan St, Portland). Attend "Flavors of the Marianas," a special pop-up dinner with live acoustic island music held in celebration of Asian Heritage Month and Mother's Day. The event, which features authentic Chamorro dishes by renowned chefs Peter Dueñas and Ed Sablån, also serves as a fundraising event for the Marianas Festival scheduled for August 22 through 24. For info, call (503) 317-8735, e-mail <marie.sablan@marianasfestival.com>, or visit <www.marianasfestival.com>. To purchase tickets, visit <br/>
bit.ly/MF25-FlavorsOfTheMarianas>.

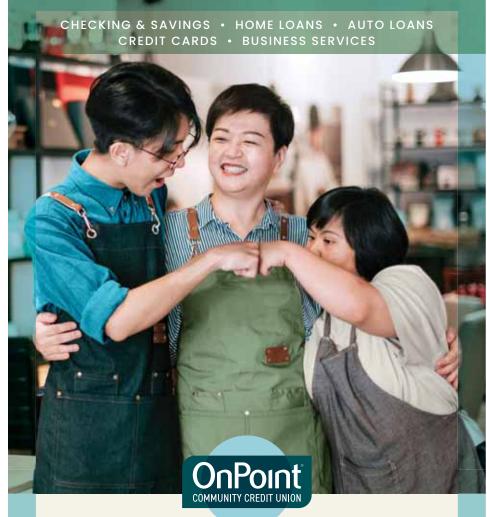
#### And So It Begins

May 12, 11pm-midnight, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). Watch And So It Begins, an episode of Independent Lens that follows the turbulent 2022 presidential race in the Philippines, which was covered by independent journalist Maria Ressa. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Asian Americans: "Good Americans"

May 15, 5pm & 9pm; May 17, 8pm; Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Part of the five-part series Asian Americans, "Good Americans" addresses the Cold War years, when Asian Americans are simultaneously heralded as a model Continued on page 15





## We take pride in this community. After all, we live here too.

For over 90 years, OnPoint has been a part of the Pacific Northwest. In that time, we have empowered people from all walks of life to achieve their financial goals. Drop by one of our 57 branches. We'd love to introduce you to the financial tools and resources that can help you, your family and your community thrive.

Visit onpointcu.com/locations

Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Opportunity.

## Nancy Kwan tells the behind-the-scenes story of playing a Hollywood stereotype

Asian Heritage Issue

By Yuri Kageyama

The Associated Press

emure, submissive, and erotic, Suzie Wong is that bigger-than-life stereotype that caricature Asian women grew up with in the U.S.

We may have also secretly hoped to play that geishalike image to win our way out of our oppression. But over the years, some of us grew to resent it, fight it, and reject it, hoping to claim our true identity and dignity as a person

In *The World of Nancy Kwan*, a memoir by the pioneering Hollywood star, we hear from the real-life woman who played Suzie Wong.

We learn an Asian actor getting to play an Asian role was a victory back in those days, as the roles were taken by white actors wearing strange slant-eyed makeup.

Kwan was born in Hong Kong in 1939. Her father was Chinese, an architect with a love for movies. Her mother was English, a model and actor, although she left when Kwan was young, and she was raised by a stepmother. It was hard because being Eurasian was an anomaly, she

"I've broken barriers, celebrated achievements, overcome disappointments, and survived tragedies, all part of my remarkable journey from Hong Kong to Hollywood and beyond. This is my story," she writes in the prologue.

Her book is speckled with the big names of that era — Pat Boone, Katharine Hepburn, Dick Van Dyke. Some passages read like a gossip column, such as her accounts of her friendship with Bruce Lee.

But she also depicts the racial barriers of that period. All women, especially in Hollywood, were trying to be beautiful and desirable. In fact, being dubbed "the Asian

beautiful and desirable. In fact, being dubbed "the Asian Bardot," referring to Brigitte Bardot, was a genuine compliment.

She talks about how Jack Soo, a Japanese American who portrays a nightclub owner in *Flower Drum Song*, was incarcerated with other Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.

Kwan believes her story is about hard work and advancement despite racism, not succumbing to it.

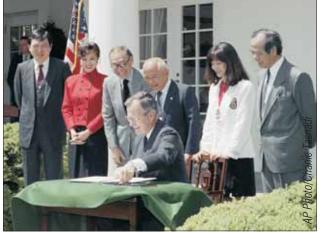
After all, Asian actors' roles used to be limited to "Fu Manchu villains, hypersexualized Dragon Ladies, and comic buffoons" and "shopkeepers, maids, and houseboys," according to Kwan.

And so getting featured on the cover of  $\emph{LIFE}$  magazine,

Happy Mother's Day!







wearing a body-hugging cheongsam, counted as a victory.

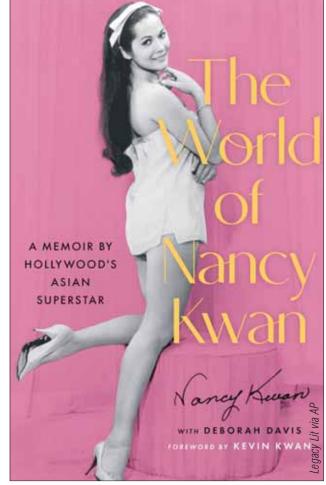
Another big win is when Ross Hunter, a hot producer

Another big win is when Ross Hunter, a hot producer, rushes over to her at a Hollywood party and casts her in  $Flower\ Drum\ Song.$ 

The musical film shattered stereotypes, she says, by focusing on fashionably dressed, wealthy Asians. Regardless of race, people cherish family, suffer heartbreak, laugh, sing, dance, and dream of happiness, she writes.

Kwan calls the work "joyous entertainment with the

Wondering when our next issue is published?
Sign up for e-alerts at
<news@asianreporter.com>!



HONG KONG TO HOLLYWOOD. Nancy Kwan, top left photo, poses on the set of the 1960 film The World of Suzie Wong, in which she plays the lead role, in this October 31, 1960 file photo. In The World of Nancy Kwan, right photo, a memoir by the pioneering Hollywood star, we hear from the real-life woman who played Suzie Wong. In the bottom left photo, President Bush prepares to sign a proclamation declaring May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month during ceremonies on Monday, May 7, 1990, in Washington, D.C. Nancy Kwan, second from right, attended the event.

universal message that whatever our race, we're all alike."

Even those who may find that message lacking in addressing the meaning of diversity and Asian American pride will acknowledge there is a lot to learn from Kwan's history.

She is simply trying to land roles, hopefully good ones that showcase her talent in works by respected directors.

Miyoshi Umeki, her friend and another prominent Asian actor of that period, did not like having to speak pidgin in her roles, but did it because that was her job as a professional.

That kind of pain is the legacy being explored in Kwan's life.

Being an Asian in America is what she calls "our shared humanity," in which "East can meet west and possibly make the world a little better."





No power? Keep generators more than 20 feet away from the home to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

Questions about carbon monoxide? Call Poison Help:

1-800-222-1222







Poison centers can help. **1-800-222-1222** 



OREGON POISON CENTER



#### Heritage Month calendar

Continued from page 13

minority and targeted as a perpetual foreigner. Bold ambition also emerges, as Asian Americans aspire for the first time to national political office and a coming culture-quake simmers beneath the surface. To verify showtimes, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Lone Fir Cemetery update

May 15, 5:30-7pm, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (317 NW Davis St, Portland). Metro is providing an update on the project to build a memorial at the historic Chinese section of Lone Fir Cemetery in southeast Portland at a free information session. Participants are also able to share ideas with an artist working on the project. For info, call (503) 797-1700 or visit <www.oregonmetro.gov/lonefirgarden>.

#### "Loimata, the Sweetest Tears"

May 15, 6pm & 10pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch "Loimata, the Sweetest Tears," an episode of Pacific Heartbeat that follows the Siope family as they return to their Samoan homeland to confront intergenerational trauma head on. To verify showtimes, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### "South by South Korea"

May 15, 11pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch "South by South Korea," an episode of Reel South that shows how two films have bridged the American South and the Korean Peninsula. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### "A Glimpse of China"

May 17, 11am-5pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend "A Glimpse of China: Seattle Chinese Culture & Arts Festival" presented by Seattle Center Festál and the Washington Chinese Arts & Culture Committee (WCACC). The event illuminates the colorful and ancient palette of Chinese culture with dance, painting, calligraphy, workshops, food vendors, and more. A few of the scheduled performers include the Jin Ting Dance School, the Chinese Dance Academy, the Chinese Wushu & Taichi Academy, the Seattle Cheongsam Association, and others. For info, call (206) 684-7200 or visit <www.seattlecenter.com>.

#### Dreams of Glory: The World of Women's Sumo

May 17, 6:30pm & 10:30pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch *Dreams of Glory: The World of Women's Sumo*, a 28-minute documentary that follows three female sumo wrestlers as they compete at the highest level at the Women's Sumo World Championships in Tokyo. The film tracks each athlete's individual journey, from strength and technique training to their final competitive fights. It also explores the untold stories behind the growing prominence of women in the traditionally male-dominated world of sumo. To verify showtimes, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Meet the Patels

May 17, 9pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch *Meet the Patels*, an episode of Independent Lens that follows a 30-year-old single man from a Hindu family who enters into the semi-arranged marriage system in America. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Who is Michael Jang?

May 19, 11pm-midnight, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). Watch *Who is Michael Jang?*, an episode of Independent Lens that tells the story behind 50-year-old photographs that had remained mostly hidden to the world. Jang brought the images into the public eye by pasting reproductions of the vintage prints around San Francisco. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>. See related story on page 10.



ASIAN AMERICANS. The storefront of a Chinatown meat and vegetable market is seen in San Francisco, California, in 1895. Asian Americans, the five-part series that traces the epic story of Asian Americans, is airing in May on Oregon Public Broadcasting World. (Photo courtesy of the University of Washington, Special Collections)

#### Asian Americans: "Generation Rising"

May 22, 5pm & 9pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). Watch "Generation Rising," the fourth episode of the five-part Asian Americans series. The show highlights a time of war and social tumult, when a young generation fighting for equality in the fields, on campuses, and in the culture, claim a new identity — Asian Americans. In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, new immigrants and refugees expand the population and the definition of "Asian America." To verify showtimes, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### "Celebrate 2025 — IRCO Gala"

May 22, 5:30pm (reception), 6:30-8:30pm (program), The Redd (831 SE Salmon St, Portland). Attend "Celebrate 2025 — IRCO Gala," an event highlighting the many decades of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) empowering refugee and immigrant communities in Portland and beyond. The event features cultural performances, speakers, dinner, and a live auction. Contributions raised during the celebration directly benefit families and clients of IRCO. To reserve a space, call (503) 234-1541 or visit < www.irco.org>.

#### "I Am An American Live: Stories of Exclusion and Belonging"

May 24, 6:30pm (doors), 7-9:30pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Join The Immigrant Story for "I Am An American Live." The free event, titled "Stories of Exclusion and Belonging," features four storytellers from Vietnam, Nepal, Malaysia, and Afghanistan sharing their experiences of what it means to belong in America — even while at times being excluded — and what has inspired them to become agents of change. The evening also includes a vocal performance by Shivani Joshi. The event is part of programming by the Oregon Rises Above Hate coalition, with the aim of drawing attention to the historic xenophobia experienced by the AANHPI community in Oregon and across the U.S. For info, or to reserve tickets (highly suggested), call (971) 501-7722

or visit <www.thereser.org>.

#### Tyrus Wong

May 27, 9pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). Watch Tyrus Wong, a show by American Masters that tells the story of the renowned painter. Until his death at the age of 106, Wong was America's oldest living Chinese American artist and one of the last remaining artists from the golden age of Disney animation. The quiet beauty of his eastern-influenced paintings had a pioneering impact on American art and popular culture. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Oregon Art Beat: "Creative Rhythm"

May 29, 8pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). Watch "Creative Rhythm," an episode of Oregon Art Beat highlighting Andy Akiho, a five-time Grammy nominee and Pulitzer Prize finalist known for innovative symphonies. Akiho's compositions are not just musical performances, they are immersive experiences that push the boundaries of classical music. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit <www.opb.org>.

#### Lizard Boy 2: The Most Perfect Summer Ever

May 31, 2pm, Maggie Mae's Bookshop (50 NW 1st St, Gresham, Ore.). Join Jonathan Hill as he presents *Lizard Boy 2: The Most Perfect Summer Ever*. Book two of the acclaimed graphic series explores intolerance through a relatable — and empowering — cast of middle-grade cryptids, immigrants, and outsiders. For info, call (503) 489-5471. To learn more, visit <www.oneofthejohns.com>.

#### Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March

May 31, 9pm, Oregon Public Broadcasting World (OPB World). In March 2021, a 21-year-old man murdered eight people, including six women of Asian descent, at three spas in Atlanta, Georgia — a horrific attack in a year of widespread anti-Asian violence. Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March pays tribute to the lives lost, examines the rise of anti-Asian racism, and documents a growing movement to fight back and stop the hate. The one-hour documentary takes a deep dive into this critical moment of racial reckoning while exploring the need for better hate crime legislation, demanding accountability from law enforcement, and chronicling a community as they break their silence to rise up against hate. Ultimately, the film asks the crucial question of what's next for Asian Americans — in the courts, in the voting booth, and in the streets. To verify showtime, call (503) 293-1982 or visit < www.opb.org>.

#### Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival

May 31-June 1, 11am-7pm (Sat), noon-6pm (Sun), Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend the Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival, a celebration of Filipino culture, history, and heritage presented by Seattle Center Festál. The free event observes Philippine independence from colonial rule and the strength of Filipino identity and imagination through art exhibits, performances, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <a href="https://www.seattlecenter.com">www.festalpagdiriwang.com</a>.

#### "Music + Mingle"

June 5, 6-9pm, The Laurelhurst Club (3721 SE Ankeny St, Portland). Attend "Music + Mingle," a fundraising event for Portland Taiko featuring dinner, taiko performances, special guests, paddle raise, silent auction, mystery leis, and more. For info, call (503) 28TAIKO (288-2456), e-mail <info@portlandtaiko.org>, or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>. To purchase tickets, visit <www.portlandtaiko.org/laurelhurst-club-2025>.

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





## Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are still targets of hatred 5 years after pandemic surge

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

p until 2020, Anna Wong had gone her entire adulthood in Los Angeles without ever facing blatantly racist abuse for being Asian. After COVID-19 hit, she was accosted twice in six months.

The first time, she was browsing an aisle in Bed Bath & Beyond when a white, 30-something woman suddenly yelled: "Six feet away from me, you Chinese witch!" A shaken Wong left the store, the woman still yelling after her. The second time, Wong was walking her dog when a passenger in a car — a young Hispanic man — screamed at her, "Thanks for ruining the world," followed by an ethnic slur.

"The first, second year of the pandemic, I do distinctly remember thinking ... I was very nervous to go out," said Wong, who did not report the incidents to police. "Am I going to draw attention to the fact that I'm Asian?"

It seemed unfathomable she was facing such anti-Asian vitriol nearly a century after her aunt, pioneering movie star Anna May Wong, dealt with constant racial discrimination.

It was five years ago that pandemic-fuelled abuse of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) became so frequent — reports spiked 35% from March 2020 to the end of 2021 — that a reporting center was formed. Stop AAPI Hate legitimized fears of a concurrent pandemic of xenophobia. The group's data prompted national legislative action, including the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, and galvanized advocacy among young people within the Asian American community.

#### New concerns five years on

Five years later, Stop AAPI Hate is receiving fewer incident reports yearly but they're still happening by the hundreds and are likely an undercount. Now, those still fighting anti-Asian hate are worried it will only intensify in a political climate of immigration crackdowns, English-only mandates, and bans on DEI initiatives.

During President Donald Trump's first term, many partially blamed him for framing COVID-19 with racist language. Trump said his remarks were "not racist at all." Now, there is concern not just about hate but erasure of Asian American and Pacific Islander history and culture. For example, in April, the Pentagon mistakenly took down web pages honoring Japanese American servicemen.

"What's the opposite of diversity? It's segregation or re-segregation," Manjusha Kulkarni, Stop AAPI Hate co-founder, said, referring to Trump's policies so far. "They want to put us — people of color, women, LGBTQ —



sort of back in our 'place,' which means not with access to jobs or housing or ability to celebrate our holidays."

#### The genesis of Stop AAPI Hate

Kulkarni, executive director of the AAPI Equity Alliance, Cynthia Choi of Chinese for Affirmative Action, and San Francisco State University professor Russell Jeung came together in 2020 after a Los Angeles teen of Asian descent was assaulted at school. They solicited accounts of hate acts from victims, even those not legally hate crimes. They received a barrage.

"We said, 'Well, the first thing we need to know and understand is how big of a problem is this," Kulkarni said, adding that she will be eternally grateful that people responded. "That helped us to know what was going on."

Besides federal hate crimes legislation, Stop AAPI Hate's data led to the passing of three California bills. These included expanding civil rights protection in public spaces and studying hate-driven harassment on public transit. They've also attempted social media campaigns like "Spread AAPI Love," the opposite of their moniker.

Even though the pandemic has abated, their data shows racism prevails. From March 2020 to the end of 2023, Stop AAPI Hate collected more than 12,000 reports though they believe it's likely an undercount. Over 700 occurred in 2023. Figures for 2024 will be released soon.

Also in 2023, an AAPI Data and Associated Press-NORC poll found a third of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders say they have experienced an act of abuse based on their race or ethnicity in the last year.

An FBI analysis from that year found out of 7,049 reported hate crime offenses motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry, 6.6% involved anti-Asian bias. Kash Patel, the first person of color and Asian American to be agency

experiences at the Willapa Bay (2022) and Vashon (2023) artist residencies. Tide pools, teeming with marine animals, sparked a fascination with the balance between organic and geometric. Inspired by the ways that marine creatures' forms, while delicate, have evolved to be resilient despite ever-changing conditions, the exhibit embodies Sekiguchi's response to current political and environmental challenges. For info, call (206) 839-0377 or visit <www.artxchange.org>.

#### "Jurassic World by Brickman"

Through Sep 1, 9:30am-5:30pm (Tue-Fri & Sun), 9:30am-7pm (Sat), Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). View "Jurassic World by Brickman," an exhibit featuring more than 50 large-scale dinosaurs, props, scenes, and activities made from over 6 million LEGO® bricks. Activities related to the display include island building, LEGO® paleontology and discovery through mystery mosaics, creating new dinosaurs, learning to track a dinosaur by creating species footprints, and building escape vehicles to get away from a Tyrannosaurus Rex. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.omsi.edu>.

#### "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>.

#### Chris Grace: As Scarlett Johansson

May 11-June 22, Portland Center Stage at the Armory (128 NW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend *Chris Grace: As Scarlett Johansson*, a show in which Asian American actor and comedian Chris Grace explores the bounds of an artist's identity with the help of an ever-growing pile of wigs. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 445-3700 or visit <www.pcs.org>. When ordering tickets (excluding area 4), use code REPORTER.

#### Free basic bike maintenance workshops

May 16 & 31; May 16, 3-5pm, North Portland Library (512 N

RACISM REMAINS. It was five years ago that pandemic-fuelled abuse of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders became so frequent—reports spiked 35% from March 2020 to the end of 2021 — that a reporting center was formed. Stop AAPI Hate legitimized fears of a concurrent pandemic of xenophobia. The group's data prompted national legislative action, including the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, and galvanized advocacy among young people within the Asian American community. Pictured is William Diep, who was 16 in 2020, in Las Vegas. Disturbed by attacks he heard about in New York City, Diep started a campaign called "Virus: Racism." (AP Photo/Ty O'Neil)

director, talked about being subjected to racism during his confirmation hearing.

#### Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders activated

There was a groundswell of Asian American activism after 2020, according to Stop AAPI Hate. Their 2023 report found nearly 3 in 4 Asian American and Pacific Islander adults participated in activities to reduce or resist racism.

William Diep, who was 16 in 2020, was disturbed by attacks he heard about in New York City. So he started a campaign, "Virus: Racism." He virtually gathered testimonies from young people about anti-Asian encounters. The project deeply affected him.

"I learned to stick up for people," said Diep, now a senior at Columbia University.

He wonders how advocates can navigate the current political climate and if government resources such as translations or race-based census research will be eliminated.

"I'm scared that there's no one to protect Asian Americans," Diep said. "I think Asian Americans protect each other, but I question the infrastructure that exists to protect our rights and our heritage."

Stop AAPI Hate does rely on some federal funding. Ideally, neither the government nor any other outside force will be able to dictate or hamper the organization's work

"We hope not. I mean, we're fighting as hard as we can," Kulkarni said.

Now, the coalition's focus has expanded to include educating people about issues like birthright citizenship, cultural school curriculum, and immigrants' rights. Some Asian legal U.S. residents say they are being targeted for deportation.

"I hope and strongly believe that our communities are stronger, that we're more equipped to handle the challenges of today, which are even more significant than they were in 2020," Kulkarni said. "We were built for this and our values remain the same."

Killingsworth St, Portland); May 31, 1-3pm, Hillsdale Library (1525 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland). Attend free basic bike maintenance workshops during Bike Month. The workshops teach basic bike maintenance and cover the major systems on a bike, some simple adjustments, and flat repair. Participants are encouraged to bring their bicycle and any specific questions. (Bringing a bike is not required for attendance.) For info, call (503) 823-7083, e-mail <michael.espinoza@portlandoregon.gov>, or visit <www.portland.gov>.

#### Oregon Tradeswomen's Career Fair

May 17, 9am-3pm, NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center (16021 NE Airport Way, Portland). Attend the 30th annual Oregon Tradeswomen's Career Fair, a free, interactive, trades-related career event. To learn more, call (503) 335-8200 or visit <a href="https://www.oregontradeswomen.org/fair">www.oregontradeswomen.org/fair</a>.

#### Sunday Parkways: Southwest Portland

May 18, 11am-4pm, Gabriel Park (SW 45th Ave & Vermont St, Portland), Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland), Spring Garden Park (3332 SW Spring Garden St, Portland), and Multnomah Village. Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, and more around southwest Portland without motor traffic during a Sunday Parkways event. Entertainment, live music, bike education and repair, activities for both adults and children, and more take place in the parks and along a 2-mile multi-modal route as well as a separate 3.6-mile walking route. Both options are two-way routes with no start or finish. For info, call (503) 823-7599 or visit <www.portland.gov/sunday-parways>. To receive event updates, text "Southwest" to 1-888-520-0526.

#### The Book of Mormon

May 27-June 1, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *The Book of Mormon*, an award-winning musical comedy that follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway around the world to spread the Good Word. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. The performance contains explicit language. (Children under age 4 are not permitted in the theater.) For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>. To learn more, visit <www.TheBookOfMormonTour.com>.

#### Events calendar

#### "Rivers, Roses, and Rip City: The Remarkable History of Portland"

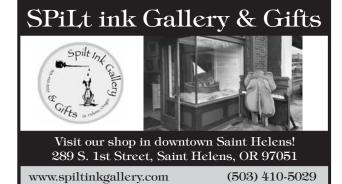
Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). View "Rivers, Roses, and Rip City: The Remarkable History of Portland," an interactive installation that allows visitors to learn about the city's distinctive landscape, the communities that contribute to the vibrant and dynamic identity of Portland, and the history of activism that has transformed its spaces. The display includes 500 objects, images, and archival materials from the museum and research library collections. For info, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

#### Multnomah Arts Center group exhibits

Through May 10, 9am-9:30pm (Mon-Thu), 9am-5pm (Fri-Sat), Multnomah Arts Center, Front & Center Galleries (7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland). View two group exhibits featuring more than 50 regional LGBTQIA2S+ artists. "Shift Work: Queer Artists in Tectonic Times" is featured in the Center Gallery and "Holding Our Own: Works by LGBTQIA2S+ Ceramic Artists & Potters" takes place in the Front Gallery. For info, call (503) 823-ARTS (2787) or visit <www.multnomahartscenter.org>.

#### June Sekiguchi

Through May 24 (Tue-Sat), 11am-5:30pm, ArtXchange (512 First Ave S, Seattle). View "The Geometry of Resilience," a display by Tacoma-based sculptor and installation artist June Sekiguchi. The new body of work was shaped by Sekiguchi's



Additional event listings are included in our Asian Heritage Month special section.

## Trump tariffs worry U.S. shoppers who buy groceries at Asian supermarkets

By Terry Tang and Karena Phan

The Associated Press

OS ANGELES — Loyal customers of Asian supermarkets and other grocery stores that specialize in selling imported food heaved a collective sigh of dismay when President Donald Trump announced extra-high U.S. tariffs on goods from dozens of countries.

What would happen to prices at 99 Ranch Market and H Mart?, wondered Asian Americans and immigrants who shop at the two American chains for preferred brands like Japan's Kewpie mayonnaise and China's Pearl River light soy sauce.

"We're all going to be crying in H Mart," a TikTok user commiserated, referencing the title of a bestselling memoir by Korean American musician Michelle Zauner as other posters shared videos of their "pretariff hauls" from Asian supermarkets.

The steeper tariff rates Trump set for imports from nations he accused of unfair trade practices took effect in early April along with a 10% baseline tax on products from the rest of the world. Less than 14 hours later, the president paused the individually set tariffs for every country except China for 90 days.

Several countries in Asia had some of the largest "reciprocal" levies, including South Korea (25%), Vietnam (47%), and Cambodia (49%). After China approved counter-tariffs and said it would fight a U.S. trade war "to the end," Trump raised the rate on Chinese goods to 104% and then to 125%.

#### Shopping for a taste of home

At a 99 Ranch Market less than a mile from the UCLA campus, one of the California-based chain's 58 stores, regular shopper Artis Chitchamnueng said he won't be able to go anywhere else to find the foods he likes if prices skyrocket.

"I think (Trump's) just like playing a lot of like mind games of just trying to like take control of the market and stuff like that," Chitchamnueng, a part-time worker and entrepreneur, said. Many customers have said on social media they don't know if they will be able to continue doing their routine grocery shopping at 99 Ranch Market.

Even if mainstream grocers stock some of the same items, a lot of imported items are less expensive at the specialty supermarkets. An 18-ounce bottle of Lee Kum Kee Panda oyster sauce, for example, retails for \$3.99 at 99 Ranch. The websites for Safeway and Walmart list the same bottle for \$4.79 and \$10.45, respectively.

The stores stocking a wide range of noo-



dles, dried vegetables, herbs, and skin care products from China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam can be a source of comfort for immigrants and foreign students craving the tastes of home.

Tony He, an international student at UCLA, said Trump's tariff policies confused him but he would continue shopping at 99 Ranch to get his groceries if prices increase. "As long as I need Asian food, I usually come here," He said.

#### American tastes grow beyond the "ethnic food" aisle

Shopping for culturally specific foods, drinks, and condiments in the U.S. has come a long way from the once-meager offerings found in the "ethnic food" aisles of American supermarkets. International supermarkets and small grocery stores across the country generated \$55.8 billion in revenue last year, according to market research firm IBISWorld.

The sector has recorded an annual growth rate of roughly 3% since 2019, and an IBISWorld forecast predicted revenue for grocery stores with international brands would go up to over \$64 billion by 2029

Analysts attribute the increase in demand to the growth of Asian and Hispanic immigrant populations, as well as to the tastes of younger consumers who enjoy experiencing new flavors. Mass market stores and brands increasingly have stocked or created Americanized versions of Asian products to ride the trend.

The specialty rice used for sushi that mainstream supermarkets sell also is usually imported from South Korea, China, or Japan, noted Nancy Qian, a professor of economics at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She thinks tariffs may lead consumers to find alternatives for their

favorite brands

"When my parents first came to America in the '80s from China, they couldn't really get the same type of rice as they did in China, so they switched to a different type of rice," Qian said. "I think families and restaurants and people, they'll do what it takes to make ends meet. And they'll substitute foods. They'll buy new foods."

#### South Asian grocery stores prepare for higher costs

Independent shops that are integral to smaller Asian American communities also braced for a hit. The owner of Not Just Spices, a tiny South Asian grocery in Providence, Rhode Island, said he was concerned about rising costs for staple products such as basmati rice from India and Pakistan, or the smaller-grained Kalijira rice from his native Bangladesh.

The import duties that kicked in before Trump announced the 90-day delay include a tariff of 37% on goods from Bangladesh, 26% on neighboring India's products, 29% on items from Pakistan, and a whopping 44% on imports from the island country of Sri Lanka, known for its cinnamon and other spices.

Mohammed Islam, who has run Not Just Spices since 1998, trusts his customers won't blame him if the tariffs affect supplies and he has to raise prices.

"People don't complain because it's already in the news," Islam said. "It's not like I'm the one who is raising the price."

#### A loyal customer base

Customers at Hispanic supermarkets also may be shopping more carefully. Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose a 25% tariff on most imports from Maxico

In Phoenix, roommates Andrew Colvin and Mario Aviles typically patronize Los Altos Ranch Market, where they say the TRUMP TARIFFS. Chef and food stylist Miki Fujiwara shops for China's Pearl River soy sauce at 99 Ranch Market, an Asian grocery store in Los Angeles. Loyal customers of Asian supermarkets and other grocery stores that specialize in selling imported food heaved a collective sigh of dismay when President Donald Trump announced extra-high U.S. tariffs on goods from dozens of countries. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

bulk of the produce and snacks they buy are from Mexico. The sprawling supermarket, which includes a deli and a bakery, is one of the 115 stores the Heritage Grocers Group operates in six states.

"We expect pretty much everything to go up," said Colvin, who was stocking up on Parrot canned coconut water, his favorite drink, in case the price goes up. "I probably eat 14 avocados a week. There'll be a lot less of that."

Aviles doesn't want to shop elsewhere. If tariffs result in serious sticker shock, he is prepared to restrict himself instead.

"No more avocados, no more mangoes, no more orange," Aviles said.

#### Buy now, save later?

Some experts say it wouldn't hurt to stock up on non-perishables within limits and individual household budgets. But shoppers need to avoid the "panic buying" that accompanied the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could create shortages and cause additional price increases, Qian said.

While it's not yet clear how much of the tariffs will get passed onto U.S. consumers, researchers say any price increases would disproportionately affect low-income households.

"These are regressive taxes. And for the elementary reason that affluent people do not spend 100% of their incomes and disadvantaged people do," said Steven Durlauf, director of the University of Chicago's Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility.

Northwestern University's Qian said the cumulative economic impacts of Trump administration tariffs may hold one possible silver lining if they bring people back to the cultural enclaves of major cities.

"If you think about the old Chinatowns, or the old, like, Little Italys of America," she said. "The reason that those places became really important for their communities was because that was the only place where you can get the thing you wanted."

Tang reported from Phoenix. Associated Press video producer Akira Kumamoto in Los Angeles, California, contributed to this report. Associated Press writer Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

#### ICE is reversing the termination of legal status for international students around the U.S.

By Janie Har and Kate Brumback The Associated Press

AN FRANCISCO — The U.S. government is reversing the termination of legal status for international students around the country after many filed court challenges against the Trump administration crackdown, federal officials said in late April.

The records in a federal student database maintained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had been terminated in recent weeks. Judges across the U.S. had already issued orders temporarily restoring students' records in dozens of lawsuits challenging the terminations.

More than 1,200 students nationwide suddenly lost their legal status or had visas revoked, leaving them at risk for deportation. Many said they had only minor infractions on their record or did not know why they were targeted. Some left the country while others had gone into hiding or stopped going to class.

#### Government says it will restore student status

Word of the policy pivot came April 25, 2025, from lawyers representing the government in several of the lawsuits.

A lawyer for the plaintiff in one of the lawsuits, Brian Green, provided The Associated Press with a copy of a statement a government lawyer e-mailed to him on the restoration of legal status for people whose records were recently terminated.

It says: "ICE is developing a policy that will provide a framework for SEVIS record terminations. Until such a policy is issued, the SEVIS records for plaintiff(s) in this case (and other similarly situated plaintiffs) will remain Active or shall be re-activated if not currently active and ICE will not modify the record solely based on the NCIC finding that resulted in the recent SEVIS record termination."

SEVIS is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information Systems database that tracks international students' compliance with their visa status. NCIC is the National Crime Information Center, a database of criminal justice information maintained by the FBI.

Tricia McLaughlin, an assistant Homeland Security secretary, said ICE had not reversed course on any visa revocations but did "restore SEVIS access for people who had not had their visa revoked."

Several colleges on April 25 said they noticed legal status already had been restored for some of their students, but uncertainty remained.

"It is still unclear whether ICE will restore status to everyone it has targeted and whether the State Department will help students whose visas were wrongly revoked," said Greg Chen of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

#### Legal fights may not be over

Green, who is involved in lawsuits on behalf of several dozen students, said his cases only sought restoration of the student status and that he would withdraw them as a result of the ICE statement.

But lawyers in the Oakland case are

seeking a nationwide order from the court prohibiting the government from arresting or incarcerating students, transferring them to places outside their district, or preventing them from continuing work or studies

Pam Johann, a government lawyer, said it was premature to consider anything like that given that ICE was in the process of reactivating records and developing a policy. "We should take a pause while ICE is implementing this change that plaintiffs are seeking right now, on its own," she said.

But U.S. District Judge Jeffrey S. White asked her to humor the court.

"It seems like with this administration there's a new world order every single day," he said. "It's like whack-a-mole."

He ordered the government to clarify the new policy.

#### Visa revocations and student status terminations caused confusion Secretary of State Marco Rubio said his

Continued on page 19

#### **NORTHWEST JOB MARKET**



Join our Team -We're Hiring



< www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/jobs>



You Belong with Team Tigard Join our Team – We're Hiring <a href="https://www.tigard-or.gov">https://www.tigard-or.gov</a>



#### MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST 5

Clark College is currently accepting applications for a Maintenance Specialist 5. Salary range is \$6,539 - \$7,589 monthly. For complete position description, closing date, requirements, and to apply, access our website at <www.clark.edu/jobs>. Clark College Human Resources, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663, (360) 992-2105. AA/EO employer.

#### **BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **AVISO PÚBLICO**

#### AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDA DE SALEM

El aviso de audiencia pública de 45 días comienza el 23 de mayo de 2024, momento en el cual se presentará el borrador del Plan de la Agencia de Vivienda Pública (PHA) (plan quinquenal y anual) y sus anexos, incluido el Plan del Fondo de Capital y el Suplemento al Plan de Mudanza al Trabajo (MTW) estarán disponibles para revisión y abierto a comentarios. La Junta de Comisionados de la Autoridad de Vivienda tendrá una Audiencia Pública para escuchar y discutir los comentarios públicos sobre el Plan Propuesto de la PHA para los años fiscales 2025-2029 y el Plan Anual para 2024-2025 el lunes 8 de julio de 2024 a las 6:00pm. Las reuniones son híbridas (en persona y virtuales) en las City of Salem Council Chambers (Cámaras del Consejo de la Ciudad de Salem), 555 Liberty St. SE, Room 220, Salem, OR 97301. Puede encontrar más información en <a href="https://salem.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://salem.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>. Para proporcionar comentarios en la audiencia de forma remota, regístrese previamente entre las 8am y las día de la reunión < www.cityofsalem.net/government/city-council-mayor/about-city-council/comment-and-participate-in-a-city-council-meeting>.

Habrá copias de los planes propuestos disponibles para su revisión en línea en <www.salemhousingor.com/plans-and-policies> o en Salem Housing Authority, 360 Church St SE, Salem, OR durante los horarios comercial normal.

Se invita a los residentes, funcionarios del gobierno local y otras partes interesadas a comentar sobre las propuestas mejoras físicas y de gestión que afectan las propiedades de vivienda pública de la Autoridad de Vivienda, así como las actualizaciones del Plan PHA y el Suplemento MTW.

Los comentarios escritos sobre los planes pueden enviarse por correo a la atención de Salem Housing Authority, ATTN: PHA Plan, 360 Church ST SE, Salem OR 97301 o por correo electrónico a <compliance@salemhousingor.com>. Todos los comentarios escritos recibidos se proporcionarán al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. (HUD) con la presentación de estos documentos y los comentarios escritos recibidos. Los comentarios escritos recibidos antes de las 4:30pm del miércoles 3 de julio de 2024 se presentarán a la Junta de Comisionados de la Autoridad de Vivienda durante la audiencia pública del 8 de julio de 2024.

Llame a la Autoridad de Vivienda de Salem al (503) 588-6368 si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este aviso, incluidas las adaptaciones necesarias para participar en el proceso de comentarios públicos.

Oportunidad Igual de Vivienda

#### **BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **INVITATION TO BID**

## HAPPY VALLEY COMMUNITY REC CENTER

**Design-Assist MEP RFP** 

Bids Due: 2:00pm PST May 15, 2025

Proposals will be received by the Construction Manager/General Contractor, Pence Contractors, by the time and date listed above. Documents are currently at 100% Schematic Design stage with an anticipated construction start of Spring 2026. Design Assist requirements are described in posted the Project Documents.

RFP includes the following scopes:

#### Plumbing Mechanical Electrical

Obtain Project Documents by e-mailing Owen Blakesley, <owenb@pence.net>. Bids received after this time and date will not be considered.

This project is a PREVAILING WAGE project in accordance with ORS Chapter 279C. All bidders must be registered with the Oregon Construction Contractors Board and have secured a public works bond in accordance with rules set forth by governing authorities at time of bid.



5400 Meadows Road, Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 P: (503) 252-3802

Pence Contractors is an equal opportunity employer and request proposals from all qualified firms including disadvantaged, minority, women, disabled veterans, and emerging small business enterprises.

CCB#239463

#### **SUB-BIDS REQUESTED**

## TWO SISTERS RENOVATION PROJECT

Sierra West 356 SE 12th Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97123

Willow Park 8224 22nd Ave. Forest Grove, OR 97116

Bids Due: May 20, 2024, at 2:00pm

The **Sierra West Apartments** include the renovation of 56 apartment units located in 7 two-story wood-framed buildings and a separate community building. The apartments consisted

of two-bedroom and three-bedroom units.

The Willow Park Apartment project involves the renovation of 46 apartment units located in 8 two-story wood-framed buildings and an attached laundry room. The apartments consisted of two-bedroom flat and townhome units.

Project will consist of exterior and interior improvements, along with Mechanical and Electrical upgrades.

#### **Preselected Trades:**

Fire Sprinkler, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical have been awarded through previous bidding efforts; additional submissions will not be entertained.

#### **Bid Document Link:**

<a href="https://bids.lmcconstruction.com/TwoSisters">https://bids.lmcconstruction.com/TwoSisters</a>

**Bid Submissions and Project Contact**: <bids.twosisters@Imcconstruction.com>



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

#### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION**

## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON WEST LOOP ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Phase 1 – FDR 12 Eugene, OR 97403

Trade Package #2:

- Concrete
- Misc. Metals
- Waterproofing
- Asphalt Paving & Striping

Invitation to Bid (ITB) Due: 5/16/2025 at 2:00pm

The general description of work for this invitation to bid can be found in Building Connected.

Please submit questions via e-mail by 5/09/2025 to the following people:

SPD Project Manager: Chad Boyd <cboyd@andersen-const.com>

Project Manager: Vante Johnson <vjohnson@andersen-const.com>

Submit ITB through Building Connected by Friday 5/16/2025 at 2:00pm



2797 Chad Drive Eugene, OR 97408

We are an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourage the participation of emerging small business, women-owned, disadvantaged, disabled veterans and minority enterprises.

CCB # 218297

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### SALEM HOUSING AUTHORITY

45-day Notice of Public Hearing on July 14, 2025, at which time the draft Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan and attachments, the 5-Year Capital Fund Plan, and the Moving to Work (MTW) Supplement, will be available to review and open for comments. The Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing to hear and discuss public comments on the Proposed PHA Plan Annual Plan for 2024-2025 on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:00pm. Meetings are hybrid (in person and virtual) at the City of Salem Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, OR 97301. More information can be found <a href="https://salem.legistar.com/Calen-decom/Calendar.aspx>. To provide comments at the hearing remotely, pre-register between 8am - 4pm the day of the <www.cityofsalem.net/governat ment/city-council-mayor/about-city-council/comment-and-participate-in-a-city-council-meeting>.

Copies of the proposed plans will be available for review online at <www.salemhousingor.com/plans-and-policies> or at Salem Housing Authority, 360 Church St SE, Salem OR during normal business hours.

Residents, local government officials, and other interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed physical and management improvements affecting the Housing Authority's public housing properties as well as updates to the PHA Plan and MTW Supplement.

Written comments on the plans may be mailed to the attention of Salem Housing Authority, ATTN: PHA Plan, 360 Church ST SE, Salem OR 97301 or e-mailed to <compliance@salemhousingor.com>. All written comments received will be provided to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the submission of these documents, and written comments received

Written comments received before 4:30pm on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, will be presented to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners during the Public Hearing on July 14, 2025.

Please call Salem Housing Authority at (503) 588-6368 with any questions about this notice, including any accommodations needed in order to participate in the public comment process.

Equal Housing Opportunity

The Asian Reporter's classified advertising sections may be viewed online at: <a href="https://www.asianreporter.com/nwjobmarket.htm">www.asianreporter.com/nwjobmarket.htm</a> <a href="https://www.asianreporter.com/notices.htm">www.asianreporter.com/notices.htm</a>

#### CLASSIFIEDS COMMUNITY

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

Uwajimaya

10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Beaverton

#### Nam Phuong

6834 NE Sandy Blvd. Portland

#### **H** Mart

13600 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard

**REAL ESTATE** 

For Sale/For Lease

#### **Lily Market**

11001 NE Halsey St. Portland

**REAL ESTATE** 

For Sale/For Lease

#### Lao Vieng Market

1032 N Killingsworth

#### **Hong Phat Supermarket**

#### **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 1/4, 1/2, or whole cow & processed by our butcher in Portland. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

Type of card (circle):

Card Number:

Zip Code & Address of Cardholder:

#### **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>.

**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>.



#### 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: June 5, 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

☐ 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):

□ \$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).

		35 words (Line Ad). hitted in writing; no phone	ads accepted.	11	ie Asian Reporter		
Main classification:		Run date(s)	):	Total ad cost:			
Ad type (circle one):	Display ad	Business Card	Box ad	Line ad	Name listing ad		
Name:							
Address:		City/S	tate/ZIP:				
Phone:	F	ax:	E-1	E-mail:			
Ad copy (attach a sepa	arate sheet if nece	essary):					
				· ·			
		Mail, Fax, or Deli	ver with pa	yment to:			
Asia	an Reporter Class	sifieds, 922 N Killingsw	orth Street, Su	ite 2D, Portlan			
	Fax:	(503) 283-4445 * E-m For Visa or Maste		•	n>		
Name (as it appears a	n the cord).	FUI VISA UI IVIASIE	acaiu payiilei	iit Oiliy.			
Name (as it appears or	n the card):						

Exp. Date:

Security Code:

Mastercard

St., Portland

11655 SW Pacific Hwy., Tigard

#### ICE is reversing the termination of legal status for international students around the U.S.

Continued from page 17

department was revoking visas held by people acting counter to national interests, including some who protested Israel's war in Gaza and those who face criminal charges. But many students whose status was terminated said they did not fall under those categories.

A survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs research found that even the visa revocations for students who participated in pro-Palestinian protests are more unpopular than popular. About half of U.S. adults oppose this policy, and only 3 in 10 are in support. Among college educated adults, 6 in 10 strongly oppose, compared with 4 in 10 who aren't college

In lawsuits, students argued they were denied due process. Many were told that their status was terminated as a result of a criminal records check or that their visa

International students and their schools were caught off guard by the terminations of the students' records. Many of the terminations were discovered when school officials were doing routine checks of the international student database.

Charles Kuck, who filed a case in Atlanta on behalf of 133 students across the country said ICE's reversal can't undo the distress and hardship they have faced in recent weeks.

"I've got kids who lost their jobs, who might not get them back," he said. "I've got kids who lost school opportunities who might not get them back. We've got kids who missed finals, missed graduation. How do you get any of that stuff

Jodie Ferise, a higher education attorney in Indiana, said some students at schools her law firm works with already left the country after receiving instructions to self-deport.

"This unprecedented treatment of student status had caused tremendous fear among international students," Ferise said. "Some of them were too frightened to wait and hope for the administration to change course."

Before the government's reversal, Ferise said the situation could hurt international student enrollment.

"The world is watching, and we will lose students, not just by the technical revocation of their status, but by the message we're sending that we don't want them anyway and that it isn't safe to even try to go to school here," she said.

At least 1,220 students at 187 colleges, universities, and university systems have had their visas revoked, their legal status terminated, or both, since late March, according to an Associated Press review of university statements, correspondence with school officials, and court records. The AP has been working to confirm reports of hundreds more students who are caught up in the crackdown.

Brumback reported from Atlanta. Christopher L. Keller in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Makiya Seminera in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Annie Ma, Rebecca Santana, and Linley Sanders in Washington contributed reporting.



#### Have a safe & prosperous Year of the Snake!

January 29, 2025 to February 16, 2026

Our Lunar New Year special edition was published on January 6, 2025. To download a copy, visit us online at <www.asianreporter.com>.



ANTICIPATED FILM. A Star Wars supporter poses for a photo during a fan convention called the Star Wars Celebration Japan in Chiba, near Tokyo. At the event, Lucasfilm announced that the next installation in the franchise — Star Wars: Starfighter — will hit theaters in May 2027. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

#### Star Wars fans wave lightsabers as an upcoming film gets announced in Japan

By Yuri Kageyama The Associated Press

◀ HIBA, Japan — The Force was with many Japanese, as well as visitors from abroad, at a Star Wars event in mid-April where Lucasfilm announced that the next installation in the franchise will hit theaters in May 2027 starring Ryan Gosling.

Appearing on stage before a lightsaber-waving crowd at Makuhari Messe center outside Tokyo, Gosling showed a photo of his childhood bedsheets, plastered with illustrations from the space epic created by George Lucas.

"I guess I was dreaming about Star Wars even before I saw the film," Gosling said.

Shawn Levy, who will direct the movie, told the crowd that Star Wars: Starfighter will not be a prequel or a sequel, but a new standalone adventure with new characters set several years after "Episode Nine." Filming starts later this year, he

Levy, who also directed the 2006 film The Pink Panther and the recent Netflix series "Stranger Things," said little else, noting: "I can't say much about it because I understand the rules."

Only the title was shown on a giant screen, although that was enough for the crowd to burst into cheers.

The event, called Star Wars Celebration, Continued on page 12

#### No sweat: Humanoid robots run a Chinese half-marathon alongside flesh-and-blood competitors

BEIJING (AP) — In one small step for robot-kind thousands of them, really — humanoid robots ran alongside actual humans in a half-marathon in the Chinese capital.

The bipedal robots of various makes and sizes navigated the 13.1-mile course supported by teams of human navigators, operators, and engineers, in what event organizers say was a first. As a precaution, a divider separated the parallel courses used by the robots and people.

While flesh-and-blood participants followed conventional rules, the 20 teams fielding machines in Humanoid Robot Half-Marathon competed under tailored guidelines, which included battery swap pit stops.

The Sky Project Ultra robot, also known as Tien Kung Ultra, from the Tien Team. claimed Kung among victory the nonhumans, crossing the

Wondering when our next issue  $is\ published?$ Sign up for e-alerts at: inews@asian reporter.com>



ROBOT RACERS. A robot takes part in what was billed as the world's first robot half marathon during the Humanoid Robot Half-Marathon held in Beijing on April 19, 2025. Bipedal robots of various makes and sizes navigated the 13.1-mile course supported by teams of human navigators, operators, and engineers. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

finish line in 2 hours, 40 minutes, and 42 seconds.

for best endurance, best gait design, and most Awards were also given innovative form.

#### Black Pearl Acupuncture

**Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine** are great for:

- Acute/Chronic Pain (i.e. neck, back, sciatica & shoulder)
- Treating & Preventing the flu and colds - Stress Relief
- Headaches/Migraines

www.blackpearlacupuncture.com



Sita Symonette Licensed Acupuncturist

Call to schedule an appointment: (503) 308-9363 505 N.W. Ninth Ave., Portland, OR 97209

#### **OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE**

#### Take a Break

If you've been thinking about your gambling, you might be wondering how much is too much. You might be considering the time and money you've spent or evaluating the way gambling makes you feel. Maybe a loved one has even brought it up once or twice. But where do you start when you're ready to make a change?

#### Help Your Way

If you're considering cutting back on gambling — for now or forever — there's help. Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR) has a free quiz, tools, and an app to help you take charge. Visit OPGR.org and learn how a few small steps can make a big impact.

