

The Asian Reporter

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Winter Holiday Issue

Welcome Lily: An early gift to Portland for the winter holidays



BOISTEROUS BABY GIRL. Portlanders received a special gift this winter when 18-year-old Asian elephant Rose-Tu gave birth to her second calf, a 300-pound baby girl. In an online vote by members of the community, the name Lily was chosen for the newborn. Lily (pictured) and Rose-Tu are now receiving visitors in the indoor viewing gallery of the Oregon Zoo's Asian elephant exhibit. (Photo/Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)

By Josephine Bridges
The Asian Reporter

Portlanders received a very special gift for whichever of the winter holidays they may observe. On November 30 at 2:17am, Rose-Tu, an 18-year-old Asian elephant in the Oregon Zoo's illustrious herd, gave birth to her second calf, a 300-pound baby girl.

Oregon Zoo director Kim Smith described the newborn as "very vigorous," saying "as soon as she hit the ground — before she was even out of the amniotic sac — she was wiggling."

The new elephant was on her feet within 15 minutes of birth. By the time she was one hour old, she had already kicked a veterinarian. Smith said the baby elephant is a vocal one as well. In fact, the

first time she was heard by zoo staff, the sound was so deep and loud that everyone thought it was Shine, another female elephant at the zoo.

"She's definitely got a great set of pipes, and it looks like she's going to be a real pistol," Smith said.

"The outpouring of support for the zoo and its newest resident has been incre-

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India's student archers aim for their future

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Origami takes on new facets, new fans

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ZooLights celebrates 25th anniversary

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Japan donates \$5M for tsunami debris cleanup

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is providing \$5 million to the U.S. to help with collection and disposal of marine debris from its 2011 tsunami disaster.

The Foreign Ministry announced the

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Rare mating Amur leopards photographed in China

BEIJING (AP) — State media say a pair of mating Amur leopards was spotted in northeastern China in another indication of a comeback for an extremely rare cat once thought to be next to extinction. The International Union for Conservation of Nature concluded in 2007 that the cats were extinct in China and a handful lived in Russia. But a survey in China's Jilin province in April found eight of the big cats, thanks in part to a nature reserve created in Hunchun city in 2011. Hunchun wildlife official Lang Jianmin told China's Xinhua News agency that a field video camera captured a male and female on November 16 looking "very much like lovers." The solitary cats mate about once every three years.

Asian football body plans presidential election

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) plans to elect a president next April, ending uncertainty since the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) suspended incumbent Mohamed bin Hammam in May 2011. AFC acting president Zhang Jilong says the election congress will be organized depending on advice from its legal committee by mid-January. At the Asian body's last assembly in January 2011, bin Hammam was elected unopposed to a four-year term in Doha, Qatar. Bin Hammam then challenged Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency, but withdrew when FIFA investigated allegations that he bribed voters. The Qatari official got his life ban overturned, but is still suspended while FIFA's ethics prosecutor weighs fresh charges over alleged mismanagement of AFC finances and contracts. Zhang, who assumed bin Hammam's FIFA executive committee seat, has pledged to deliver "a new era of transparency."

Police seize 33 endangered turtles in Indonesia

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian police have confiscated 33 endangered sea turtles believed to be headed for local restaurants on the resort island of Bali. Bali police spokesman Col. Hariadi said the turtles were seized from a boat off the coast. He said crewmen who were believed to be waiting to unload them escaped as police arrived. Hariadi, who uses one name, said they included green turtles and hawksbill turtles weighing between 65 and 130 pounds. Turtle meat is a delicacy among Balinese despite threats by animal welfare groups of a tourist boycott of the island. Indonesia has banned trade and consumption of endangered turtles.

China's leaders pledge to reduce pomp and ceremony

BEIJING (AP) — China's leaders have pledged to reduce pomp, ceremony, and bureaucratic visits and meetings. State media reported that members of the 25-member Politburo agreed that officials should reduce ostentation "in order to remain close with the public." They agreed that red carpets will no longer be rolled out for officials on visits, and welcoming flowers and banners should also go. They said overseas Chinese shouldn't be bussed to airports to greet leaders when they arrive. The official Xinhua News Agency says the Politburo also agreed to cut spending and the size of leaders' entourages on official domestic and overseas visits, that fewer traffic controls should be arranged for such trips to avoid inconveniencing the public, and to ban worthless news reports on senior officials' work and activities.

Singapore charges organizers of rare strike

SINGAPORE (AP) — Four Chinese immigrant workers who organized Singapore's first strike in nearly three decades face up to a year in prison after being charged with instigating labor unrest. The men who worked as bus drivers for the island's public transport company were charged and are in jail while an investigation continues. Strikes are almost unheard of in Singapore where the ruling party has been in power since 1959 and maintains strict control over political dissent. Some 171 Chinese bus drivers went on strike in protest at being paid nearly a quarter less than Malaysian bus drivers who work for the same Singapore transport company. Singapore law requires essential service workers such as bus drivers to give 14 days of notice of a strike.

Malaysia nets 1,500 elephant tusks headed to China

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian authorities have seized 1,500 elephant tusks in a \$20 million shipment that was believed to have been headed to China. Customs official Azis Yacob says inspectors at Port Klang harbor found 24 tons of unprocessed tusks hidden in secret compartments in containers of timber. He says the shipment originated from Togo and sailed to Spain, where it was transferred to another ship before arriving in Malaysia. He said in a statement that intelligence showed the shipment was to be moved to another ship before heading to China. No arrests have been made. Malaysia has stepped up inspections for illegal ivory after wildlife groups said the country was becoming a transit hub for tusks amid robust demand in China that has decimated African elephant populations.

Suspects charged in Manila in death of American

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — The Philippine Department of Justice has announced that murder charges have been filed against four suspects in the fatal stabbing of a U.S. diplomat's husband. Prosecutor-general Claro Arellano said that the murder charges were filed before a Makati city court against four Filipino suspects in the killing of U.S. Marine George Anikow. Anikow, an Afghanistan war veteran and father of three, died of stab wounds in the neck. The four men allegedly attacked Anikow after a heated argument at the gate of an upscale residential compound. A CCTV camera captured the attack on video.



TRADITIONAL TEACHING. Students practice archery at the Gurukul Prabhat Ashram, a boarding school which is a throwback to medieval times and also produces top archers, in Meerut, 45 miles from New Delhi, India. Students are part of a systematic program that entails cutting off all worldly ties, including parents and siblings, while studying the ancient language of Sanskrit. The archers go through practice sessions much like others studying at the school — with a quiet confidence and a saintly demeanor lent by the traditional Indian dress of dhoti-kurtas (a wrap-around lower garment and a long shirt) in deep yellow. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

India's student archers aim for their future

By Rajshekhar Rao
AP Sports Writer

MEEERUT, India — Dressed in traditional robes and secluded in a tranquil rural garden, 20-year-old Somendra draws his bow in the knowledge that his archery form this year could determine the course of his life.

If he does well, he'll be offered a coveted job with a police force. If not, he might hope to become a teacher. For Somendra and dozens of youths like him at the Gurukul Prabhat Ashram boarding school — which along with archery is dedicated to the learning of sacred Hindu texts in the ancient language of Sanskrit — life holds few simple options.

Gurukul Prabhat is a throwback to medieval times, despite being just 45 miles from the teeming Indian metropolis of New Delhi. The school embraces a systematic program that insists its students cut off all worldly ties, including those with their parents and siblings.

"My parents have visited me a few times over the past 10 years, but that is about it," says Somendra, tinkering with his bow. "This is the world for us and everything outside seems alien."

The archers go through their practice sessions much like others studying at the school, with a quiet confidence and a monastic demeanor emphasized by the traditional Indian dress of *dhoti-kurtas* (a wrap-around lower garment and a long shirt) in deep yellow.

"There are only some six to 10 students who

are selected for archery each year. I came here wanting to study Sanskrit, but became one of the main archers," says Somendra, who is banned from using his full name at the institute so as to disguise his caste.

The institute, established in 1939, may be following centuries-old systems, but has embraced a progressive outlook in eliminating India's age-old caste system that decides people's social status on the basis of the families they are born to.

Irrespective of their family background, Somendra and his 84 fellow students equally share chores such as farming, tending cattle, and cooking. They also forego the other trappings of modern culture most other teenagers take for granted — television, movies, and computers. For Somendra, it's the archery practice that matters most in his life.

"I'll get a job with a police department if they select me at the national championships this year. I'm sure I'll do well, it is only the food that I need to adjust to," says Somendra, who is used to eating bland meals without the oil and spices that are otherwise intrinsic to Indian cuisine.

Getting a police job is paramount for the archers, as it allows them to continue with their sport by representing their departments in national-level competitions.

Gurukul Prabhat is headed by Swami Vivekanand, who operates the institution with the help of private donations.

Vivekanand speaks only Sanskrit, except when under a particular tree where he agrees

Continued on page 4

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Iranian Rial	12367
Japanese Yen	83.563
Laos New Kip	7996.5
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0565
Nepal Rupee	87.28
Pakistani Rupee	97.65
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Philippine Peso	41.087
Russian Ruble	30.769
Saudi Riyal	3.7504
Singapore Dollar	1.2214
South Korean Won	1074.7
Sri Lankan Rupee	128.55
Taiwan Dollar	29.059
Thai Baht	30.64
Vietnam Dong	20848



PORTLY POLICE. Indonesian police officers perform exercises during a new diet program for police in Tangerang, on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. Anyone in excess of 220 pounds must follow the weight-loss program started because of the growing number of overweight officers and the perception that they are unable to provide public protection, according to a Jakarta police spokesman. (AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana)

Fat police officers told to exercise in Indonesia

By **Niniek Karmini**
The Associated Press

TANGERANG, Indonesia — Potbellied police in Indonesia's capital have been ordered to exercise, exchanging their uniforms twice a week for sweats and sneakers as they line up for aerobics and pushups to try to drop a few pounds.

Jakarta police spokesman Col. Rikwanto says anyone in excess of 220 pounds must follow the weight-loss

program started because of the growing number of overweight officers and the perception that they are unable to provide public protection.

He says stress, sedentary lifestyles, and junk food have made the capital's police officers put on unwanted weight. Registration began recently, and anyone deemed too fat will be required to exercise at least twice a week.

No one will be punished for not losing weight, but officers are not allowed to skip exercise sessions.

Lone Chinese home destroyed; holdout farmer accepts deal

By **Gillian Wong**
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Authorities have demolished a five-story home that stood incongruously in the middle of a new main road and had become the latest symbol of resistance by Chinese homeowners against officials accused of offering unfair compensation.

Xiyangzhang village chief Chen Xuecai told The Associated Press the house was bulldozed after its owners, duck farmer Luo Baogen and his wife, agreed to accept compensation of 260,000 yuan (\$41,000). The couple had been the lone holdouts from a neighborhood that was demolished to make way for the main thoroughfare heading to a newly built railway station on the outskirts of the city of Wenling in Zhejiang province.

The razing came a week after images of the house circulated widely online in China, triggering a flurry of domestic and foreign media reports about the latest "nail house," as buildings that remain standing as their owners resist development, are called.

Luo, 67, had just completed his house at a cost of about \$95,000 when the



HOLDOUT SELLS. A house in the middle of a new road is torn down on the outskirts of Wenling city in eastern China's Zhejiang province. Authorities have demolished the five-story home that stood incongruously in the middle of the new main road and had become the latest symbol of resistance by Chinese homeowners against officials accused of offering unfair compensation. (AP Photo)

government approached him with their standard offer of \$35,000 to move out — which he refused, Chen had previously said. The offer then went up to \$41,000.

It was not immediately clear why Luo accepted the compensation in a meeting with officials when the amount of money offered remained the same.

Village chief Chen said Luo was tired of all the media attention and voluntarily consented to the deal. "Luo Baogen received dozens of people from the media every day and his house stands in the center of the road. So he decided to demolish the house," Chen said.

Authorities commonly

pressure residents to agree to make way for development with sometimes extreme measures, such as cutting off utilities or moving in to demolish when residents are out for the day. In Luo's case, however, he had told local reporters his electricity and water had still been flowing.

Real estate is one of the big drivers of China's runaway growth in recent decades. But the rapid development has run into objections from many of the hundreds of thousands of residents who have been forced out to make way for new housing, factories, and other business ventures, creating a major source of unrest.

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The Year of the Snake begins February 10, 2013.

The Asian Reporter's Lunar New Year special issue will be published on Monday, February 4, 2013. Display advertising space reservations for this issue are due Monday, January 21, 2013 at 5:00pm.

The staff at The Asian Reporter wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!



KABUKI LEGEND. Kabuki actor Kanzaburo Nakamura performs in a dance drama titled Omatsuri at the New Kabukiza theater in Osaka, Japan. Kanzaburo, who helped boost the popularity of the traditional Japanese art form, died December 5, 2012. He was 57 years old. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)

Kabuki actor Kanzaburo Nakamura dies at age 57

TOKYO (AP) — Kabuki actor Kanzaburo Nakamura, who helped boost the popularity of the traditional Japanese art form, has died. He was 57 years old.

The Shimbashi Embujo Theatre, where he performed regularly, said Kanzaburo — as he was known among the Japanese public — died of acute respiratory distress syndrome.

One of Japan's most famous contemporary kabuki actors, Kanzaburo also played roles in film, television, and stage dramas.

Japanese television stations ran tributes to Kanzaburo, who won fame for his outstanding theatrical skills, both as a *tachiyaku* male actor and an *onnagata* female impersonator.

In July, he underwent successful surgery for esophageal cancer, Kyodo News agency reported, but later caught pneumonia. His real name was Noriaki Namino.



FIRE FALLOUT. Bangladeshi firefighters battle a fire at a multi-story garment factory in the Savar neighborhood in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Major retailers have disavowed the Bangladesh garment factory where 112 workers died in a fire last month, but the survivors of the fire have not. They can't afford to. (AP Photo/Hasan Raza)

Fire victims want old jobs back

By Julhas Alam
The Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Major retailers have disavowed the Bangladesh garment factory where 112 workers died in a fire last month, but the survivors of the fire have not. They can't afford to.

Factories like the one gutted November 24 are a rare lifeline in the desperately poor country, and now many of the more than 1,200 surviving employees have no work and few prospects.

Dipa Akter was injured jumping out of a third-story window through a hole made by breaking apart an exhaust fan. But even she wants to get back to her job.

She says that without it she would either be a housemaid or jobless in her home village.

Garment work is one of the few paths in Bangladesh to secure a stable income, collect savings, and send money to family.

Chinese AIDS patients fight hospital rejections

By Gillian Wong
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese villager Wang Pinghe (ping-huh) wants the tumor in his liver removed before it becomes life-threatening. But the 28-year-old knows it will be hard to find a hospital that will perform the operation — because he has AIDS.

Hospitals in China routinely reject people with HIV for surgery out of fear of exposure to the virus or harm to their reputations. China has significantly improved care for AIDS patients, but the lingering stigma sets back those advances.

The stigma against people with HIV runs especially deep in China, from being unofficially barred from government



COMPROMISED CARE. Twenty-eight-year-old Wang Pinghe, an HIV patient, shows the bottles of medicine he has been taking during an interview in Beijing, China. Wang has a tumor in his liver and wants it surgically removed before it becomes life-threatening, but it will be hard to find a hospital that will perform the operation — because he has AIDS. In China, hospitals routinely reject people with HIV for surgery out of fear of exposure to the virus or harm to their reputations. (AP Photo/Gillian Wong)

jobs to being expelled from school. Now, as more people rail against the myriad inequalities that plague Chinese society, people with HIV are increasingly willing to assert their right to fair treatment.

World's tallest woman dies in China at age 39

By Didi Tang
The Associated Press

BEIJING — The world's tallest woman has died in eastern China at age 39.

Chinese state media said Yao Defen died November 13 at her home in China's eastern province of Anhui.

Guinness World Records in January 2010 had certified her as the world's tallest living woman at 7'7".

The local Xin'an Evening News did not give the cause of death, but said in a report that Yao suffered from gigantism, with a tumor on her pituitary gland disrupting her levels of growth hormone. A government official in her county who gave only his surname, Liu, confirmed Yao's death.

The Xin'an newspaper said Yao learned to play basketball when young, and that she was 6'7" by the age of 15.

In a Chinese-language video from three years ago, Yao expressed anguish at her unusual height. "I am very unhappy. Why am I this tall?" she said from her bed. "If I were not this tall, others would not look at me like this."

Yao Defen, right, poses for a photo in this May 12, 2006 file photo with her elder brother at a hospital affiliated with Anhui Medical University, where she was having a physical examination, in Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui province.

The world's tallest woman died last month in eastern China at age 39. (AP Photo/Xinhua, Wang Shilong, File)



India's student archers aim for their future

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to talk to The Associated Press in India's modern language Hindi.

"I want India to win gold medals, not just any medal," Vivekanand says in reference to the six silver and bronze medals India won at this year's London Olympics.

As for gold medal prospect Deepika Kumari, who left London without a medal, Vivekanand says with confidence and a careful measure of words: "She got rattled with all the attention. That is not something that would happen to one from our institute."

But are the archers at Gurukul Prabhat really that much different to those from more conventional backgrounds?

"There is a lot of difference between boys here and outside," archery coach Anuj Choudhary says. "What an archer learns in one year at some other place, he will learn in only six months here because of the serene atmosphere."

Choudhary, a national-level archer



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE. Students take out arrows embedded in a target during an archery practice session at the Gurukul Prabhat Ashram boarding school in India. Archers who perform well at the school are often offered coveted jobs with the police force. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

whose brother, Ved Kumar, graduated from this facility and went on to qualify for the Olympics, has the added task of informing students about the world outside.

"There are no newspapers here. Archers here could not even see Deepika in action during the

Olympics. It's my duty to keep them informed," says Choudhary, who has been at the school for two years.

"There have been several international level archers from here and I'm sure there can be one who wins at the world level someday."

Cashing in on Gangnam Style's YouTube fame

By Youkyung Lee and Ryan Nakashima
AP Business Writers

SEOUL, South Korea — As “Gangnam Style” gallops toward 1 billion views on YouTube, the first Asian pop artist to capture a massive global audience has gotten richer click by click. So too has his agent and his grandmother. But the money from music sales isn't flowing in from the rapper's homeland South Korea or elsewhere in Asia.

With one song, 34-year-old Park Jae-sang — better known as PSY — is set to become a millionaire from YouTube ads and iTunes downloads, underlining a shift in how money is being made in the music business. An even bigger dollop of cash will come from TV commercials.

From just those sources, PSY and his camp will rake in at least \$7.9 million this year, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of publicly available information and industry estimates. But for online music sales in South Korea, he'll earn less than \$60,000.

Here's how it works.

YouTube

“Gangnam Style,” with its catchy tune and much imitated horse-riding dance, is the most-watched video on YouTube ever.

On December 14, the viral video had clocked more than 952 million YouTube views since its July release, beating Justin Bieber's “Baby,” which had racked up more than 811 million views since February 2010. PSY's official channel on YouTube, which curates his songs and videos of his concerts, has more than 1.3 billion views.

TubeMogul, a video ad buying platform, estimates that PSY and his agent YG Entertainment have raked in about \$870,000 as their share of the revenue from ads that appear with YouTube videos. The Google Inc.-owned video service keeps approximately half.

PSY and YG Entertainment also earn money from views of videos that parody his songs.

Google detects videos that use copyrighted content. Artists can have the video removed or allow it to stay online and share ad revenue with YouTube. In the last week of September when “Gangnam Style” had around 300 million views, more than 33,000 videos were identified by the content identification system as using “Gangnam Style.”

But since YouTube can be accessed from all over the world, wouldn't Asia be responsible for a significant chunk of the \$870,000? The countries with the second- and third-highest views of the video are Thailand and South Korea.

“Ads rates vary depending on which country the video is played. Developed countries have higher ad rates and developing countries lower,” said Brian Suh, head of YouTube Partnership in Seoul.

And the country with the most views of “Gangnam Style?” The United States.

Legal downloads, CDs

“Gangnam Style” had been downloaded 2.7 million times in the U.S. as of December 5, and has been the No. 1 or No. 2 seller for most weeks since its debut, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

The song sells for \$1.29 on Apple's iTunes Store, the market leader in song downloads. Apple generally keeps about 30 percent of all sales, so the PSY camp could be due more than \$2.4 million.

How much PSY keeps and how much goes to his managers, staff, and record label is unclear. South Korean industry insiders said PSY likely gets 70 percent and YG Entertainment 30 percent for U.S. downloads.

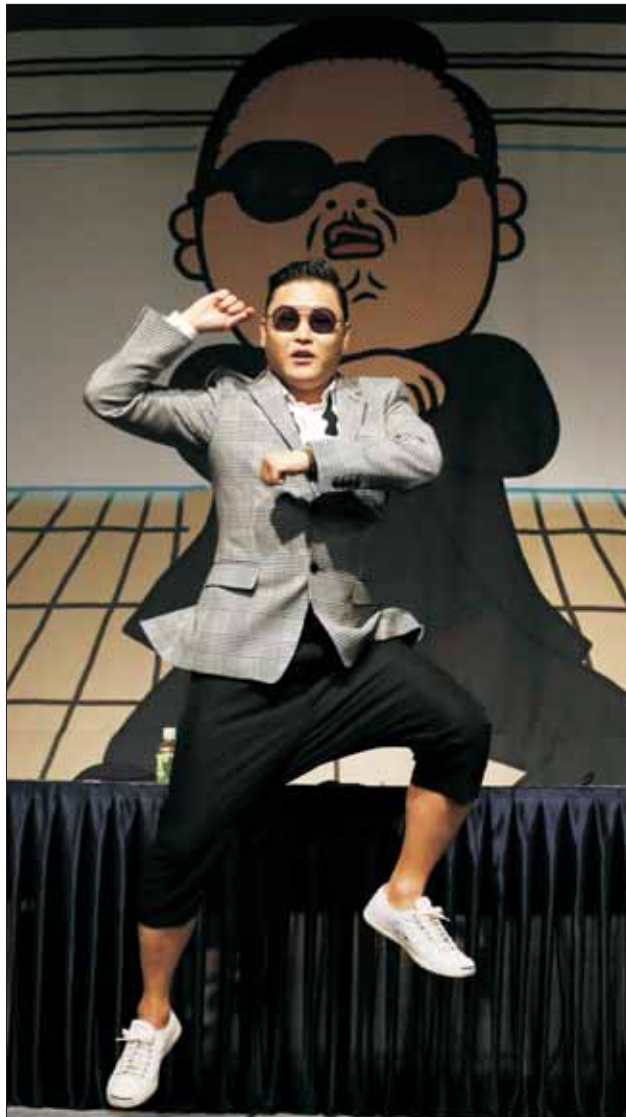
But earnings from downloads in PSY's homeland are far from an embarrassment of riches.

South Koreans pay less than \$10 a month for a subscription to a music service that allows them to download hundreds of songs or have unlimited access to a music streaming service. That makes the cost of a downloaded song about 10 cents on average. The average price for streaming a song is 0.2 cents.

PSY's cut for downloads is 14 percent. That falls to 7.5 percent for streamed songs. Yes, 7.5 percent of 0.2 cents. And that's before PSY's “Gangnam Style” co-composer takes his share. The biggest cut goes to his agent and online retailers.

According to South Korea's national Gaon Chart, “Gangnam Style” was downloaded more than 3.6 million times and streamed around 40 million times as of November. That adds up to a little more than \$61,000.

It's likely the fast-fading music CD industry generated even smaller revenue. PSY's nine percent cut from sales of 102,000 CDs in South Korea would earn him \$50,000 or more, according to an estimate by Kim Dong-hyun, a



MONEYMAKER. South Korean rapper PSY, who sings the popular “Gangnam Style” song, performs during a press conference in Seoul, South Korea. With one song, 34-year-old Park Jae-sang — better known as PSY — is set to become a millionaire from YouTube ads and iTunes downloads, underlining a shift in how money is being made in the music business. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

senior manager at Korea Music Copyright Association.

As for many other parts of Asia, illegal downloads and pirated CDs are so pervasive that only a small minority are willing to pay up for the legal versions.

TV commercials

PSY has been jetting around the world, performing on shows such as “The X-Factor Australia” and NBC's “Today Show,” but such programs usually cover travel costs and not much else, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor-in-chief of concert trade magazine *Pollstar*.

It is television commercials that are the big money spinner for the most successful of South Korea's K-pop stars. PSY has been popping up in TV commercials in South Korea for top brands such as Samsung Electronics and mobile carrier LG Uplus.

Chung Yu-seok, an analyst at Kyobo Securities, estimates PSY's commercial deals would amount to \$4.6 million this year.

The money is cool. The products not so much. PSY is now the face of a new Samsung refrigerator and a major noodle company.

The Family

A fact little known outside South Korea is that PSY's father, uncle, and grandmother own a combined 30 percent of DI Corp., a company which makes equipment that semiconductor companies use to make computer chips.

It's a stretch to plausibly explain how the success of “Gangnam Style” will boost DI's profits, but that doesn't matter to the South Korean stock market. Perhaps inspired by the pure power of pop, DI shares surged eightfold from July after PSY's hit reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and No. 1 on the U.K. singles chart.

It was time to cash in for PSY's grandmother, who sold 5,378 shares for about \$65,000.

The share price has fallen since then, but is still about double what it was before the release of “Gangnam Style.”

PSY's agent, YG Entertainment, has also done well. Its share price is up about 30 percent since mid-July. The value of CEO Yang Hyun-suk's stake has swelled to about \$200 million, making him among the richest in South Korea's entertainment industry.

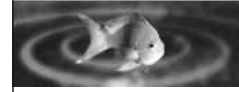
The Future

The question now hanging over PSY is whether he will replicate the blockbuster success of “Gangnam Style” or end up remembered as a one-hit wonder.

“When this slows down, what comes next for PSY?” said

Continued on page 9

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MY TURN

■ **Dmae Roberts**



Eat, eat, eat

Moms like their children to eat. That's universal, right? Especially during festivals and holidays, the mom mantra is "eat, eat, eat!" For immigrant families, that "mom-tra" can be powerful and relentless. I remember battles with my mother over the dinner table as she cajoled me to continue eating long after I was full. To refuse her would be an insult. If your parents, like my mom, experienced starvation or a war-torn family history, then having plenty of food for your children is a mandate — a sign of wealth, prosperity, and proper parenting.

When people immigrate to a new country, they may not have access to the food they're used to eating. Many also might not have an opportunity to get as much physical exercise as they once did. That's what happened to me when we changed from being a military family in a Japanese neighborhood near Tokyo to living in rural America surrounded by blackberry bushes, thistles, and a busy highway. There was no access to the physical activity we had previously, so I started gaining weight during puberty and it evolved into a lifelong weight problem.

My mom tried to find us the kind of food we were used to — rice and vegetables — but it was a struggle, especially during the winter. It was even more of a challenge when we didn't have the income that my father's military job once provided.

At one point, we were on a government food program, which consisted of canned meat, processed American cheese, and a whole bunch of grains we were not used to eating. My dad was accustomed to the bulgur wheat, rolled oats, and millet — especially with lots of sugar and butter. They were familiar foods for him back in Oklahoma. Although one would think those are healthy whole grains, my brother and I were raised in Asia and we were not used to those types of calories. When my parents found better paying jobs, a sign of wealth for us was to buy name-brand packaged food such as Frosted Flakes cereal, Doritos chips, and Hostess Twinkies.

The new diet and lack of exercise led me to weight issues I've fought throughout my life with only occasional success. The last time I was thin was about 10 years ago, before I was taking care of my mom and commuting from Portland to Eugene every few days. The lack of strenuous exercise took its toll and I gained weight. As I've gotten older, I've found it is more difficult to lose weight.

For much of my life, I've felt my size was the least Asian part of me. There's an assumption that leads

people to believe that Asians are thin and the least susceptible to obesity. That was certainly true with my mother, who was petite and always about 99 pounds. But it appears the notion that Asians are naturally resistant to weight gain is changing. A recent study in *Childhood Obesity*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., reveals some startling changes to the concept that Asians are at low risk for obesity.

The article, "Prevalence of Obesity Among Young Asian-American Children," features weight measurements of Asian-American four-year-olds, stating "26 percent were overweight or obese and 13 percent were obese."

The study had several ethnic categories: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, and Other Asian and Pacific Islander. It found that while "Chinese-American children were at lower risk of overweight or obesity (23.5 percent) than whites (36 percent), Asian-Indian American children had the lowest rates (15.6 percent) and were the most likely to be underweight. In contrast, Vietnamese-American children had the highest rate of overweight or obesity (34.7 percent)." The Other Asian and Pacific Islander category was the second highest at 29.8 percent.

From the study, it seems there is a direct correlation in education and obesity. Children of mothers with less than a high school education had the highest rates of obesity or overweight (37 percent), which is significantly higher than those with a post-bachelor's degree (21.8 percent). Income levels were also contributing factors in the study and "families at the highest income levels had a much lower risk of obesity and overweight compared to those living below 100 percent poverty."

Another report from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) found that "first-generation (foreign-born) 10- to 17-year-old Asian-American children had a higher prevalence of obesity than whites, and that second-generation children had the lowest prevalence at 6.3 percent."

It appears that low-income immigrant children are at greatest risk for obesity. But what's most shocking to me is that it's happening to four-year-old children.

This is thought-provoking news as the holiday season is upon us. It's worth taking a moment to think about what we are putting on the dinner table. I knew it would have been beneficial for my health if my mom had not encouraged me to eat

Continued on page 7

Race Card Project creates new type of conversation

By Jesse Washington
AP National Writer

She asked for just six words. Michele Norris, the National Public Radio (NPR) host, was starting a book tour for her memoir, which explored racial secrets. Sensing a change in the atmosphere after the election of the first black president, and searching for a new way to engage and listen, Norris printed 200 postcards asking people to express their thoughts on race in six words.

The first cards that trickled into her mailbox were from friends and acquaintances of Norris. Then they started coming from strangers, from people who had not heard Norris speak, from other continents. The tour stopped; the cards did not:

- “You know my race. NOT ME!”
- “Chinese or American? Does it matter.”
- “Oh, she’s just another white girl.”
- “Waiting for race not to matter.”

Such declarations brought the Race Card Project to life. “I thought I knew a lot about race,” says Norris, 51, an award-winning black journalist. “I realized how little I know through this project.”

Two years later, the cards have become almost a parallel career for Norris, best known for her work on NPR’s “All Things Considered.” She and an assistant have catalogued more than 12,000 submissions at <www.theracecardproject.com>. People now send them via Facebook and Twitter or type them directly into the website, leading to vibrant online discussions.

Many cannot resist accompanying their Race Cards with explanations, stories, and personal experiences. Norris, in turn, feels compelled to contact them, listen to their stories, and archive this new conversation about race.

The discussion is inseparable from this moment, when the page of America’s racial history is in mid-turn. Part of Norris’s inspiration came from a series of NPR interviews on race during Barack Obama’s ascent. His re-election has re-energized her multiracial community of six-word poets:

- “Black babies cost less to adopt.”
- “Never a Nazi, just a German.”
- “Money on counter, not in hand.”
- “You are dirt, so I scrubbed.”

Eric Liu, an author and educator, heard about the Race Card Project from a friend. He calls it “brilliantly powerful” due to the strict brevity: “It forces this profundity that you wouldn’t get if you let people go on for two hours.”

“It uses this format on the front end to unlock all of this expression and imagination,” Liu said, “and on the back end, once it’s out in the world, it forces people to see each other with new eyes.”

That’s what happened one Sunday when Celeste Brown, a graduate student from Florida, noticed the Race Card Project on Twitter and typed “We aren’t all ‘Strong Black Women’” into her computer.

A fire was lit. Women and men of all ethnicities gathered at keyboards from Los Angeles to Ireland. Comments flew: Isn’t Strong Black Woman a compliment? No, it’s strong like oxen — less than human. It doesn’t matter how we treat them because they will survive. Time to stop putting up walls and be vulnerable. I feel like I’m forced to be strong. It makes a woman sound like a weed, not a flower.

In an interview, Brown said her statement unconsciously distilled ideas and experiences she had previously shared only with close friends, like the tension between being independent and needing a man, or the question of how black women can build careers without being stereotyped as too aggressive.

“I wrote the first thing that came to mind,” Brown said.

For Norris, such exchanges fulfill her goal of making it easier for people to talk about race. As a professional interviewer, she often sees racial questions lead people into “the pretzel twist” — arms folded, legs crossed, shoulders hunched. But with the Race Card Project, people express things unlikely to be spoken into an NPR microphone:

- “Marry white to dilute the black.”
- “I married a black man anyway.”
- “When did your family come here?”
- “Disagree with blacks? Automatic racist. Pathetic!!!”

Norris knows about reticence from her own family. In her memoir, *The Grace of Silence*, Norris describes a secret her doting father never told her: He was shot in 1946 by a white police officer in his native Birmingham, Alabama.

Her mother hid something, too: Norris’s beloved grandmother travelled from town to town in the 1940s and ‘50s dressed as Aunt Jemima to sell pancake mix, a



CONVERSATIONAL CARDS. National Public Radio host and journalist Michelle Norris holds a “Race Card” that was sent to her by Maureen Folk of Potsdam, New York at her home in Washington where she is archiving her Race Card Project. Norris was on a book tour two years ago and started passing out postcards a dozen or so at a time, asking people to share six words that express their thoughts about race. She has received more than 12,000 cards. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

custom that many now consider a degrading mammy stereotype.

By confronting her family’s secrets, Norris has inspired others to reveal their own.

Like the businessman in Koreatown in Los Angeles who told Norris that he abhors Asian gangs, but secretly roots for them because they present an image of Asian manhood he doesn’t see anywhere else.

Or the elderly white woman who, along with her childhood friends, used to throw rocks at black sharecropper children walking by her home in Louisiana. She recalls the chill she got when one black girl was hit by a rock and turned to look her dead in the eye, a look that made her recognize her transgression. The woman asked her father what she should do. He told her, using the n-word, that she couldn’t hurt black people because “they have thicker skin.”

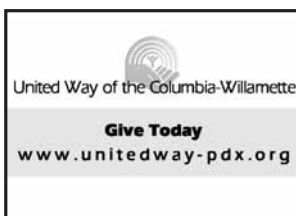
My Turn: Eat, eat, eat

Continued from page 6

everything set before me and had we, as a family, been encouraged to exercise together. It would also have been helpful to not have so much oil, fat, and processed food when I was growing up.

As a working-class immigrant child, I would have benefitted from the information contained in this study. I hope it will encourage healthier lifestyles for Asian families today. Perhaps it’s time to ponder if it’s wise to focus so much on eating as we do, not just during the holidays, but also in everyday culture.

To learn more about the article in *Childhood Obesity*, visit <www.liebertpub.com/chi>.



Or the story of Arlene Lee, who posted: “Birthday present; you are black, sorta?”

On the night before Lee’s 50th birthday, she was going through the papers of her late mother, an immigrant from Peru. Lee found her mother’s real birth certificate, plus a fake one she had used to enter the United States in 1958. On the fake document, Lee’s mother had changed her race from black to white.

“My mother raised me to be white and I am, at least by self identification I guess,” Lee wrote on the Race Card Project website.

“It breaks my heart that we never had a chance to talk about it, that she didn’t feel she could trust her only child to understand and that she didn’t feel she could ever come out of hiding,” Lee wrote.

“And now, I have a new prism through which to see things.”

So does Norris. “These six words are just the beginning of fascinating stories,” she says. “It’s the most interesting and rewarding work I’ve ever done as a journalist.”

Race Card submissions increased after the recent election. So did requests to use the project in schools or institutions, and more people than ever are including additional comments.

A book is begging to be written. Norris is talking with several institutions that are interested in permanently housing and maintaining the project. She will need assistance when she ends a leave from NPR that began last year, when her husband took a role with the Obama campaign.

So many threads lead to Obama. It’s clear, Norris says, that he opened the door for this conversation. But few people mention the president by name in their six words. He is mentioned far more in additional comments, and almost always in her follow-up interviews.

“It appears that his ascendance has made people think not just of his story and his place in history, but also their own,” she says.

And what about Norris’s own place? What are her six words?

When the project began, her words were personal, born of her experience as a black Minnesota girl with a slight speech impediment who was advised against pursuing a four-year college degree. “Fooled them all, not done yet” used to fit well.

But now, after what the nation has experienced these past few years, and the gratitude she feels toward thousands of people who shared their stories with her, Norris is reminded of a quote from the legendary dancer Alvin Ailey: “The dance comes from the people and must always be given back to the people.”

So today, her six words are: “Still more work to be done.”

Jesse Washington covers race and ethnicity for *The Associated Press*.

su | do | ku

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

TALKING STORY IN ASIAN AMERICA

■ Polo

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Origami takes on new facets, new fans

By **Melissa Kossler Dutton**
The Associated Press

Sara Goheen, a junior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), often folds placemats or straw wrappers into interesting shapes while she's waiting at a restaurant for the food to arrive.

"It's super satisfying to see a flat piece of paper turn into something — whether it's a rhino or a star," Goheen said of her passion for origami.

"Empowering," is the word used by Richard Alexander, who with partner Michael LaFosse publishes books and videos about origami and runs an origami and papermaking studio in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

"You take a simple square and with the power of what's between your ears, you can make thousands and thousands of interesting things," he said.

Origami, which began hundreds of years ago in Japan, has in recent decades attracted the attention of artists, scientists, and mathematicians, said Vanessa Gould, director of the 2010 documentary *Between the Folds*.

"So many different kinds of people are coming at it at the same time," she said. "It's thriving in so many directions."

The film uses origami to study the intersection between art and science. Some practitioners turned to the craft to explore scientific problems — from understanding protein folding to designing safer airbags. Some



CREATIVE GEOMETRY. Pictured is a Big Brown Bat designed by Michael G. LaFosse folded from a 12-inch square piece of paper. Origami designers can now develop models that require 200 to 300 steps. Fifty years ago, designers created models with 20 to 30 steps. (AP Photo/Origamido)

are applying mathematical techniques to their designs, allowing for models with increased complexity and realism.

Today, origami designers can develop models that require 200 to 300 steps. Fifty years ago, designers created models with 20 to 30 steps.

"People have really discovered properties of the paper and possibilities of the paper that were literally deemed impossible," Gould said.

Origami can be a fun way to explain geometry and other mathematical concepts, said Michael Vass of Rogers, Arkansas, who home schools his seven-year-old daughter, Hannah.

"It's all geometry," he said. "When you unfold, you see a geometric pattern."

Folding also builds creativity. Often, as you fold, you realize that other shapes can be made with similar steps, he said. "If you make a flapping crane, you can go back a couple of folds and make a basset hound or an angel fish," he said.

Vass leads a monthly workshop at the Bentonville Public Library. He and Hannah last month taught children how to make pumpkins and turkeys for Thanksgiving.

"It's fun," Hannah said. "It's not hard."

James Peake, education director for the Firelands Association for Visual Arts in

Oberlin, Ohio, appreciates origami's appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds.

"That's one of my favorite things about origami. It's such an intergenerational activity," he said. "I'm always amazed at how many kids I meet that already have origami skills."

Peake has organized several conferences at which folders at all different levels come together to create origami models.

MIT, which has an active origami community, held its second convention earlier this year, said Goheen, who is president of the OrigaMIT club. Part of origami's appeal, she said, is that there are always new models to learn.

"It's a nice release from

schoolwork. It's kind of calming," said Goheen, an ocean and mechanical engineering major who likes to fold modular spheres.

Beth Johnson of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is another enthusiast; she attended a convention in 2011 hosted by OrigamiUSA, the national organization. During the event, Johnson was recognized for her contributions to origami.

"It's an extraordinary experience. You're folding from 8:00am to midnight," she said. "I love that everybody's carrying the same passion."

Johnson started folding as a child after she received an origami book for Christmas. "I took to it right away," she said. "I enjoyed it as much for the challenge of it as for the art of it."

In recent years, she has begun designing her own origami patterns, exhibiting her pieces and teaching classes. She works with engineers from the University of Toledo in Ohio to examine how patterns in origami may be used in designing materials with improved mechanical properties, such as increased shock absorption.

"It's definitely a passion," she said. "It's something I can't ever imagine not doing."

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Asian kids get head start on golf careers

By Eileen Ng
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Under the sweltering heat, Butsakom Moonfong gripped her golf club firmly and practiced her swing, before focusing on the ball. Adjusting her position, the 10-year-old hit the ball close to the hole, getting a thumbs-up from her caddie.

Butsakom emerged as champion in her age group in the Kids Golf World Championship in Malaysia held earlier this month, much to the delight of her caddie, who is also her father. She has been playing competitive golf since she was five, and by six years old she had her eyes set on the world stage.

"I want to be a world professional player. I want to make lots of money," the softly spoken Thai girl said at a lunch break earlier in the week, escorted by her doting parents.

Golf is no longer just an adult's game in Asia. It is fast becoming child's play as many parents nurture their kids from increasingly young ages, giving them a head start on a path to a professional career.

Asia's rising status in the sport, and the inclusion of golf in the 2016 Olympics have sparked interest in the region.

Asian women are particularly dominant, sweeping all four major championships this year for the first time in Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) history. That makes it nine Asian triumphs in the past 12 majors, while the world rankings, headed by Taiwanese star Yani Tseng, are dominated by Koreans and Japanese. Sixty of the world's top 100 women golfers are from Asia.

That may soon be mirrored in the men's game too. Recently, Chinese schoolboy Guan Tianlang created golfing history by qualifying for the U.S. Masters in April at the age of just 14. Tianlang, from the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, started playing at age four and won the world junior title by 11 shots last year in San Diego.

The Kids Golf World Championship, held for the first time in Asia, attracted 402 participants between six and 18 years old. It is an offshoot of the U.S. Kids Golf Foundation, the largest and among the most prestigious event in the world for junior golfers. It also tabulates points toward world amateur ranking.



CHILD'S PLAY. Seven-year-old Kelly Low of Malaysia hits a shot during the Kids Golf World Championship at Glenmarie Golf and Country Club in Shah Alam, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Golf is no longer just an adult's game in Asia. It is fast becoming child's play as many parents nurture their kids from increasingly young ages, giving them a head start on a path to a professional career. (AP Photo/Lai Seng Sin)

emerges from military rule toward more democracy.

Yin May Tho, 17, came from a non-golfing family and fell in love with the game at age 11. She has participated in 45 tournaments since then and aims to make golf a career. She won in her age group in the Kids Golf World Championship.

"This is a gentleman's game and I can manage it myself. It's a mental game," she said, citing Yani Tseng and South Korea's Na Yeon Choi as her idols. She said she hopes to enter a golf academy in Australia next year to better her game.

She was among an entourage of a dozen Myanmar teenagers competing in the Malaysian championship.

Her coach, Chan Han, said interest has bloomed in recent years with 70 to 80 budding junior golfers in Myanmar under the country's golf association. As Myanmar opens its doors further to the world, Chan said he hopes there will be more incentives and further investments to build world standard golf courses to make the sport more accessible.

"In Asia, many people see golf as an elitist game, but the rise of Asian stars in the game is slowly changing that perception. Green fees are still cheap in Myanmar and there are many talents here in Asia," Chan said.

For Thailand's Butsakom, her parents are pushing her and doing all they can for their only child to support her dream.

They live in Mae Hong Son, a hilly province in northern Thailand where her father owns a driving range. Every month, they take a five-hour drive to the nearest golf course in Chiang Mai so Moonfong can practice her game. Her future goal is clear: Become a professional at age 16.

Her mother, a nurse, said they plan to uproot the family to Chiang Mai in the next two years so Butsakom can practice her game daily.

Will she be the next Asian rising star?

"Yes, I think so," her mother said, with a laugh.

Among those competing was six-year-old Filipino Lucas Hodreal, who is a big fan of Tiger Woods and world No. 1 Rory McIlroy. Hodreal was among the youngest participant in the Malaysian championship. He was only two years old when his father put a golf club in his hand.

"I like golf because I get soft drinks and get to play iPod in the car," the pint-sized boy said. He was disappointed with his game in Malaysia because he didn't land any double eagles.

In the Philippines, junior golf tournaments are held almost weekly, providing an avenue for young golfers to brush up their skills. In Singapore, some schools have begun to offer golf as part of the curriculum. In Malaysia, top bank Maybank recently set up a junior golf academy to nurture young talent for the Olympics and to try and dispel the notion that golf is an elitist game.

Golf is also slowly being embraced in Myanmar, as it

After stunning loss, Pacquiao faces tough choices

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — Manny Pacquiao has already achieved what most of his countrymen can only dream of: lifting himself out of wrenching poverty, securing a future for his children, and becoming a hero to Filipinos the world over.

Not content with just winning in the ring, Pacquiao also set about making his mark in politics.

But after his stunning loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas, the 34-year-old is facing some of the toughest questions of his remarkable 17-year career: Does his future lay in boxing, politics, show business, religion, or perhaps there's even a new challenge on the horizon?

"Being the king of boxing, being the highest paid athlete in boxing ... it goes with the territory," boxing analyst Ed Tolentino said. "For Pacquiao, the fame was too much to handle. There was just too many things on his plate other than boxing."

The distraction was costly for Pacquiao, who trained for two months, compared to four-and-a-half months for Marquez.

During that time the Mexican bulked up and became more muscular to withstand the blows from Pacquiao that proved so damaging in their three previous encounters.

Pacquiao grew up a survivor and fighter, overcoming poverty and cut-throat competition in a country where half of the population lives on \$2 a day and 3,000 leave for jobs overseas every day.

He left high school to work as a baker and a construction worker to earn money for his mother and siblings after his father left them. As a scrawny teenager, he was a stowaway on a ship that took him from his southern hometown of General Santos City to the capital of Manila, where he took up boxing while working as a laborer.



After finding success in local bouts, Pacquiao began his international career in the late 1990s. In the next decade, he became a household name by clinching eight world titles in eight weight categories. At home, he was declared a hero, "the people's champ" — an inspiration to the legions of the poor, and the man the rich and powerful wanted to rub shoulders with.

As the titles, honors, and money started pouring in, so did the distractions.

Politicians, minor actors, and an assortment of hangers-on formed his huge entourage.

"You only need a Ferris wheel and his training camp would have been a circus," Tolentino said.

In a nation where celebrities, money, and politics equal a winning formula, Pacquiao played his card by running for congress in 2007, but lost.

The most popular face in town, he turned to crooning his own songs. His picture endorsed countless products. He's a regular on TV, and hosts his own show. He's made a movie. Another passion is cock fighting, a traditional past time in the Philippines.

He was Pacquiao Inc.

FOURTH FIGHT. Stunned Filipinos react after Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao was knocked out by Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez during a live television broadcast in suburban Paranaque, south of Manila, the Philippines. Many Filipinos were shocked by Pacquiao's knockout defeat to Marquez. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

Showbiz "takes a lot of time, a lot of energy. You have to prepare for these shows," said boxing commentator Ronnie Nathanielsz. "(Pacquiao) loses focus because he has so many things to worry about and attend to."

Pacquiao was elected to congress from his southern Sarangani province in 2010, and has announced he will run for re-election next year. Taking a cue from his political allies, he appears to be building a political organization, with his wife, Jinkee, running for vice governor, and younger brother, Rogelio, for congress in neighboring South Cotabato province.

In the meantime, he promised to clean up his act: No more gambling, drinking, and womanizing, and took up preaching the bible. Some called it a public relations stunt for a budding politician, but Pacquiao insisted it was for real.

"To those who think that way, let us leave them be. I will pray for them. Even Jesus Christ, even after he performed miracles, no one believed him, what more for a sinner like me," he said, adding he did not want to be a pastor but share how "the Lord changed my life."

Then came the first blow: a controversial decision awarding his June fight to Timothy Bradley. Questions arose if Pacquiao was showing the wear of 17 years in the ring, and whether the distractions were catching up with him.

The loss to Marquez, whom he had beaten twice and drawn once, only made the question more urgent, although Pacquiao made no mention of a possible

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Japan donates \$5M for tsunami debris cleanup

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donation to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) last month. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda informed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of the plan during a meeting in September on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

A huge tsunami triggered a 9.0 magnitude earthquake on March 11, 2011. The earthquake off Japan's northeastern coast killed or left missing more than 18,000 people and washed millions of tons of debris into the sea.

NOAA has said it expects some of the debris to wash up on U.S. shores in the next several years. Japan's donation will help fund monitoring, removal, and processing.

About 70 percent of the tsunami debris is said to have sunk, but a few items have been confirmed as having floated across the Pacific, including a large plastic bin used to transport seafood that landed in Hawaii, a fishing dock found on the Oregon coast, buoys, and other flotsam and jetsam.

Cashing in on Gangnam Style's YouTube fame

Continued from page 5

Nielsen analytics vice president David Bakula. "Is it the evolution of a new musical style, something audiences are going to be craving en masse, or is it something that's just a passing fancy?"

Analysts say "Gangnam Style" alone will not be enough to propel PSY into the ranks of musicians such as Adele and may not even be enough to make him the top-grossing K-pop star. That will depend largely on his upcoming album, which PSY said will be released in March.

Ryan Nakashima contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

25th anniversary edition of ZooLights features more than 1.3 million colorful lights

The Oregon Zoo's 25th anniversary edition of ZooLights features more than 1.3 million colorful lights. Last winter, a record 193,000 visitors witnessed the zoo's life-size animal silhouettes, moving sculptures, forests of lighted trees, and light-bedecked train. This year's display runs through December 31.

According to Karen Kane, who was a member of the zoo's marketing team back in the late 1980s, starting ZooLights was not a unique idea, but it was a successful one.

"I unabashedly stole the idea," Kane wrote in a statement. "I went to visit my parents in Toledo, Ohio and they dragged me to the zoo, where I saw hundreds, if not thousands of families, kids on dates, grandparents with little ones, etc., out for a night at the zoo."

Thinking that what she'd experienced was a fabulous idea, she called the Ohio zoo's director the next day to find out more. She was told they had borrowed the idea from the Cincinnati Zoo.

"That was in 1987," Kane said. "The Cincy Zoo had been doing it for only a few years."

When Kane came back home to Portland, planning for the Oregon Zoo's ZooLights began. In addition to increasing attendance during the winter, which was "maybe about 250 visitors on average in the month of December," it was a fun activity for people. "The reaction of the people was so warm, so happy. They were delighted, there was a harmony there. That's just hard to describe in words."

The zoo came up with \$5,000 to get the project off the ground. They found some



lights — "mostly all clear," according to Kane, to decorate the "trees in the old plaza and the walkway down to the elephants."

In 1988, its second year, ZooLights grew. Zoo staff and volunteers made displays out of Styrofoam that had been used as packing material for a set of chairs and a kitchen table. They painted the Styrofoam to look like animals, poked holes in it, and fed the clear lights through the holes.

From then on, as they say, the rest is history, and the light displays became

more technological and computerized.

According to Russell Guinn, the person currently in charge of the zoo's lights, there were about 75 exhibits when he started in 1992. Many of them were made of wood, but most are now gone. Some that remain include the moose, possum, beaver, heron, and eagle at the Farm. Fifteen of the siamangs swinging across the walkway existed then as well.

"Today, we have over 800 silhouettes, of which over 50 are animated and over 40 are 3-D," Guinn said. "We have over 1.3

FESTIVE FOREST. The Oregon Zoo's 25th anniversary edition of ZooLights features more than 1.3 million colorful lights. A new addition this winter is a magical walk through an illuminated forest, with purple rope lighting and cool neon tube lights (pictured). The display is open through December 31. (AR Photo/Jan Landis)

million lights compared to less than 10,000 in 1992. We have tried to add 50,000 to 60,000 lights per year, sometimes more, sometimes less."

A new feature this winter is a magical walk through an illuminated forest, with purple rope lighting and cool neon tube lights lending the scene of an otherworldly glow.

In keeping with the zoo's commitment to sustainability, many of the lights displayed are now light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which use only a fraction of the power of standard holiday lights. This year's display added more than 75,000 LEDs, which bring the total to nearly 1 million LEDs.

ZooLights also features costumed animal mascots and elves that provide entertainment as well as photo opportunities for visitors. In addition, the sounds of the winter season are heard in the Elephant Plaza, with musical groups performing holiday selections. Some zoo animals are visible at night as well: primates, elephants, mountain goats, leopards, tigers, sea otters, and more.

ZooLights can be viewed Sunday through Thursday from 5:00 to 8:00pm as well as Friday and Saturday from 5:00 to 8:30pm. The display is closed December 24 and 25. To learn more, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

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What to do if one starts in yours: Never put water on a grease or oil fire. Keep a lid handy when cooking. If a fire starts in a pan, turn off the burner and carefully slide the lid over the pan to extinguish the fire. Don't run outside with the burning pot. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen. If the fire continues, leave the home and call 9-1-1.



A Message from the Oregon Life Safety Team: A Coalition of Fire Service, Community and Insurance Professionals

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Christmas Ship Parade

Through Dec 21, Willamette & Columbia Rivers (Portland). Watch two fleets of colorfully decorated ships ply the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. This year marks the 58th year of the Christmas Ship Parade. The combined fleets average 50 to 60 boats. For route schedule, viewing locations, or to make a donation, visit <www.christmasships.org>.

Winter Wonderland at PIR

Through Dec 25, 5-9pm (Sun-Thu), 5-11pm (Fri-Sat), Portland International Raceway (1940 N Victory Blvd, Portland). Enjoy the 20th annual Jubitz Winter Wonderland drive-through holiday lights extravaganza at Portland International Raceway (PIR). Illuminating the skies are Toyland, the Poinsettia Arch, Candy Cane Lane, Reindeer Road, and 250 display pieces featuring animated designs. For info, call (503) 232-3000 or visit <www.winterwonderlandportland.com>.

Keizer light display

Through Dec 26 (daily except Dec 25), 6-10pm, Gubser Neighborhood (Keizer, Ore.). Drive through a neighborhood holiday light display benefitting area food-share programs. The route is approximately 3.5 miles and can take several hours to view on busy weekend nights. Parking is available at Whiteaker Middle School (1605 Lockhaven Dr NE) or Gubser Elementary School (6610 14th Ave NE) for those who wish to walk the route. To find the display, take I-5 Exit 260B to Keizer, go one-half mile to 14th Street and follow the signs. Non-perishable food or cash donations are accepted. For info, call (503) 393-9111 or visit <www.keizerchamber.com>.

Queen Anne Victorian Mansion Holiday Lights

Through Dec 27, 6-10pm (except Dec 25), Queen Anne Victorian Mansion (1441 N McClellan St, Portland). Take a tour of the richly appointed historic Queen Anne Victorian Mansion and enjoy the spectacle of 2.5 million holiday lights, along with Christmas trees, holiday decorations, antiques, and more. For info, call (503) 283-3224 or visit <www.queenannevictorianmansion.com>.

Christmas Fantasy Trail

Through Dec 29 (Mon-Sat except Dec 24-25), 6-9pm, Wenzel Farm (19754 South Ridge Rd, Oregon City, Ore.). Walk down a holiday-lighted trail featuring a suspension bridge, tunnel, maze, crooked house, and a 40-foot castle with Christmas scenes at the Christmas Fantasy Trail in Oregon City. Refreshments are available. For info, call (503) 631-2047 or visit <www.fantasytrail.com>.

Festival of Lights at The Grotto

Through Dec 30 (except Dec 25), 5-10pm, The Grotto (NE Sandy

Bld & NE 85th Ave, Portland). Walk through the annual Christmas Festival of Lights at The Grotto, featuring nearly a million colorful holiday lights as well as music performances, a puppet show, a petting zoo, and more. The Grotto also features a *Dambana* — a Filipino shrine — designed by local artist Fernando F. Sacdalan. Visitors are asked to bring canned or dry food to benefit the SnowCap emergency food ministry. For info, call (503) 261-2400 or visit <www.thegrotto.org>. To buy tickets, call (503) 254-7371.

Light display at Maddax Woods

Through Dec 31, 4-9pm, Maddax Woods (5785 River St, West Linn, Ore.). Walk along illuminated paths and among lighted trees at the seven-acre Maddax Woods nature park. Two lighted, wheelchair-accessible pathways lead to a viewing platform along the Willamette River. The display is free and open to the public. For info, call Sally at (503) 722-2137 or e-mail <friendsofmaddaxwoods@gmail.com>. To learn more about Maddax Woods, visit <www.westlinnregion.gov/parksrec/burnside-park-maddaxwoods>.

ZooLights

Through Dec 31, 5-8pm (Sun-Thu except Dec 24-25), 5-8:30pm (Fri-Sat), Oregon Zoo (4001 SW Canyon Rd, Portland). Ring in the holiday season with the annual ZooLights display at the Oregon Zoo. The family tradition features music and more than 1.3 million lights illuminating life-size animal silhouettes, trees, buildings, walkways, and the zoo train. Popular returning displays include trumpeting elephants, swinging siamangs, a 35-foot-long Chinese dragon, leaping reindeer, tobogganing polar bears, playful penguins, and more. For info, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

Peacock Lane

Through Dec 31, 6-11pm (daily except Dec 24 & 31), 6pm-midnight (Dec 24 & 31), Peacock Lane (between SE Stark & SE Belmont St, one block east of SE 39th Ave, Portland). Experience all the holiday warmth that 110 volts of AC power can provide as Portland's famous Christmas-light display illuminates the night. The free event is presented by homeowners, who encourage visitors to view the display on foot and enjoy hot cocoa. Donations are accepted. For info, visit <www.peacocklane.net>.

Point Defiance Zoolights

Through Jan 1 (except Dec 24), 5-9pm, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium (5400 N Pearl St, Tacoma, Wash.). Walk through the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium's Zoolights holiday light display, featuring a preying eagle, ice-skating puffins, the Narrows Bridges, a flame tree, and more. In addition to the light display, visitors can ride an antique carousel, warm up with sharks in the steamy South Pacific Aquarium, partake in snacks and gift shopping, and more. For info, call (253) 591-5337 or visit <www.pdza.org>.