

The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 36 Number 4 □ April 6, 2026 □ www.asianreporter.com

Punch the orphan macaque is outgrowing his orangutan plushie and making friends



CREATING COMMUNITY. Punch, a Japanese macaque born on July 26, 2025, plays in the monkeys' playground at the Ichikawa city zoo in Tokyo's eastward neighboring city. Punch became very popular after images of him and his orangutan plushie showed up online. The zoo had to set rules to make visitors be quiet and to limit viewing to 10 minutes to reduce stress for the more than 50 other monkeys. See story on page 5. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)



ATE-OH-ATE
Hawaiian Restaurant


2454 E Burnside St (Portland)
5200 SE Woodstock Blvd (Portland)
4570 SW Watson Ave (Beaverton)

*Straight Broke
Da Mouth
Since 2010!*

View the Menu and Order at
ate-oh-ate.com

**NEW SEASONS
MARKET**

**BUILDING BETTER
SOIL TOGETHER**
For a healthier planet



WWW.NEWSEASONSMARKET.COM

**82nd Ave of
Roses Parade**

April 25, 2026 - 9:30 AM

THEME: HISTORY OF EAST PORTLAND

SE 82nd Avenue
From Holgate Blvd to Division St.

For more information, please visit our website
82RosesHeartPortland.com



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

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

SPiLt ink Gallery & Gifts



Visit our shop in downtown Saint Helens!
289 S. 1st Street, Saint Helens, OR 97051

www.spiltinkgallery.com (503) 410-5029



Man arrested after climbing into Moo Deng's enclosure

BANGKOK (AP) — A man has been arrested after he was caught climbing into the enclosure of Moo Deng, the adorable pygmy hippo who became a social media sensation, zoo officials said. The Thai man allegedly entered the enclosure while a keeper was away and no other visitors were around, the Khao Kheow Open Zoo's director, Narongwit Chodchoy, told The Associated Press. Security footage widely shared online shows a man wearing a black beanie, sunglasses, a green tank top, and brown shorts approaching Moo Deng and her mother Jona while holding a tablet, apparently recording or taking photos. The man remained inside the enclosure for a minute or two before staff noticed him, Narongwit said, adding that he did not attempt to flee while the zoo called for police. Moo Deng soared to stardom shortly after she was born in 2024, largely thanks to a keeper who shared adorable pictures and videos of the baby hippo on social media. Since then, she has drawn large crowds from Thailand and abroad who want to witness her charm in person and shoot photos and videos of her cute moments for themselves. Police have initially charged the man with trespassing, but the investigation is still ongoing and Narongwit said the zoo intends to pursue all available legal action. Police did not identify the suspect. The man has been released on bail, Narongwit said. He said Moo Deng and Jona were safe as the man did not try to touch them. In a statement posted on the zoo's official Facebook page, it said both animals appeared slightly startled by the encounter and would be monitored closely by a veterinarian. The zoo also urged visitors to "strictly follow all rules and instructions from staff for the safety of both themselves and the wildlife." The Khao Kheow Open Zoo, which is about 60 miles southeast of Bangkok, sits on almost 2,000 acres of land and is home to more than 2,000 animals.

Cambodia advances online scam center law

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodian lawmakers unanimously adopted a new law targeting online scam operations with up to life in prison, following a government pledge to shut them down by the end of April. All 112 members of parliament present voted to approve the legislation, which marks Cambodia's first legal framework specifically aimed at a lucrative, illicit industry that has transformed the country into a global hub for cybercrime. The scam operations typically involve bogus investment schemes and feigned romances that collectively extort tens of billions of dollars from victims around the world every year. Justice Minister Keut Rith noted that thousands of people, especially from other Asian nations, are lured with fraudulent job offers and forced to work in scam centers in conditions of near-slavery. Keut Rith told lawmakers that these crimes threaten public security and significantly damage Cambodia's global reputation. The legislation awaits review by the senate and final approval by King Norodom Sihamoni. Directing what's described as a technology fraud site would carry five to 10 years in prison and fines reaching \$250,000. For cases involving human trafficking, illegal confinement, or violence, the prison term is 10 to 20 years. If a worker dies, as is often associated with failed escape attempts, offenders face 15 to 30 years or even life imprisonment. Senior Minister Chhay Sinarith, who leads the Commission for Combating Online Scams, recently announced that authorities have targeted 250 suspected locations since July, successfully shutting down 200. He said the enforcement efforts resulted in 79 legal cases against nearly 700 ringleaders and associates. Over the same period, the government has repatriated nearly 10,000 scam center workers from 23 countries. Experts are skeptical. Jacob Sims, a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Asia Center, pointed out in response to Chhay Sinarith's remarks that past crackdowns often failed because they left financial and protection networks intact, allowing criminal operations to quickly start again.

Japan, Indonesia to boost energy security cooperation

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and resource-rich Indonesia have agreed to deepen economic ties and cooperation in energy security as the two Asian countries face growing uncertainty over oil and gas supplies prompted by the war in the Middle East. "In the wake of the Iran situation, the importance of resources and energy security is being recognized globally," said Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in a joint news conference after holding talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Tokyo. The details of the agreement are yet to be made public. The two countries signed a deal this month to boost economic collaboration on critical minerals and nuclear energy, Takaichi said. Under the memorandum signed on March 15, the two sides will cooperate in building a new nuclear power plant, possibly in Indonesia's West Kalimantan, using Japanese expertise, with potential funding by development banks, according to a document released by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. Prabowo also said his country invited Japanese cooperation in processing critical minerals such as rare earth elements, as well as in renewables and nuclear power. Japan, despite the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, is now promoting nuclear energy and seeking to expand cooperation with Southeast Asian nations as part of its zero-carbon emissions initiative. Indonesia is looking to nuclear power to meet surging energy demands. Indonesia last year announced plans to build two small modular reactors on a southern Indonesian island by 2034. Officials there say Canada and Russia have issued formal cooperation proposals. Takaichi and Prabowo also agreed to deepen cooperation to help stabilize supply chains, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Resource-scarce Japan is among the world's top importers of LNG.



EXPENSIVE ENERGY. An elderly couple carries a gas cylinder to their home after collecting it from a depot in New Delhi on March 19, 2026. Countries in Asia are scrambling to conserve energy and protect consumers as the war on Iran and attacks on gas fields and oil refineries disrupt critical supplies, rattling markets and driving up prices. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

Asia scrambles to conserve energy as Iran war disrupts oil & gas supplies

By Sheikh Saaliq and Anton L. Delgado
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Countries in Asia are scrambling to conserve energy and protect consumers as the war on Iran and attacks on gas fields and oil refineries disrupt critical supplies, rattling markets and driving up prices.

The crisis is hitting Asia hardest because of its heavy reliance on imported energy, much of which is shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, a key choke point now under strain. Only about 90 vessels — mostly Indian-, Pakistani-, and Chinese-flagged — have made it through the strait since the beginning of Israeli and U.S. attacks on Iran, and Iran's strikes against Israel and Gulf Arab neighbors, on February 28.

"The countries that are exposed to that supply disruption are not so much in Europe, or in the Americas, they're actually really in the Asia region," said Michael Williamson of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Asia should prepare for "cascading impacts into all economic activities," according to Ramnath Iyer of the U.S.-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Japan

Japan is among the countries most exposed to disruptions in the strait, relying on the route for about 93% of its oil imports. Fuel prices are already climbing. A liter of regular gasoline was selling for about 175 yen (\$1.09) in mid-March, up from around 144 yen (\$0.91) a month prior.

To cushion the impact, Japan released 15 days of private-sector oil stockpiles, followed

by a month's worth of supplies from the national reserves. Japanese ministries said the country had roughly 250 days of reserves as of the end of last year.

But public concern is mounting. Analysts warn of a repeat of the oil shock of the 1970s — also the result of upheaval in the Mideast — when surging prices triggered shortages and long lines. Calls are also growing to accelerate renewable energy use, as Japan lags behind other industrialized nations in wind and solar power.

South Korea

South Korea imports about 70% of its oil and 20% of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Middle East. Rising oil prices have created queues at cheaper gas stations, while delivery workers, truckers, and greenhouse farmers grapple with expenses. However, disruptions remain limited, and officials say reserves could last about seven months.

The government is taking additional steps to shore up energy supplies by lifting a national cap on coal-fired power generation, planning to boost nuclear output, and considering a resumption of Russian crude oil and naphtha imports, a key input for plastics manufacturing.

China

Despite China's heavy reliance on shipments through the strait — the largest by volume globally — China is relatively well insulated. Ample strategic reserves of oil and gas, along with a growing share of renewables that now account for about 30% of its power mix, have helped China cushion the immediate impact.

Chinese consumers, however, are facing

Continued on page 4

Beautiful Flower Baskets available for sale in May



Rex Hill Farm & Garden
4900 Portland Road, Newberg, Oregon
(971) 832-9154

Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 4/03

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Bangladesh Taka | 122.88 |
| Cambodian Riel | 3997.8 |
| China Renminbi | 6.8782 |
| Fijian Dollar | 2.25 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 7.8367 |
| Indian Rupee | 93.209 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 16973 |
| Japanese Yen | 159.63 |
| Laos New Kip | 21964 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 4.034 |
| Nepal Rupee | 148.64 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.7373 |
| Pakistani Rupee | 278.84 |
| Papua N.G. Kina | 4.3 |
| Philippine Peso | 60.616 |
| Russian Ruble | 80.127 |
| Saudi Riyal | 3.75 |
| Singapore Dollar | 1.2872 |
| South Korean Won | 1518.8 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 315.33 |
| Taiwan Dollar | 31.951 |
| Thai Baht | 32.644 |
| Vietnam Dong | 26340 |

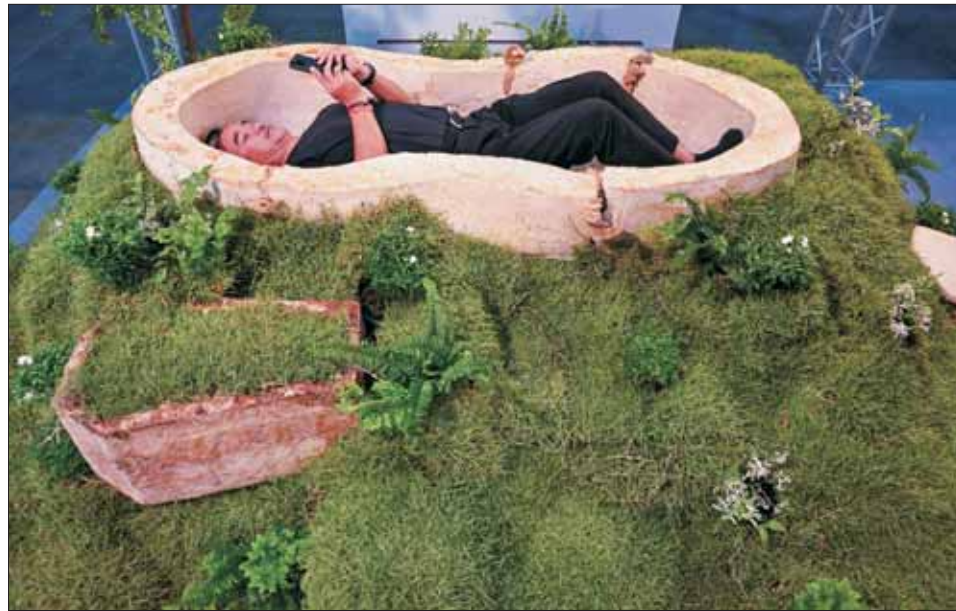
Thailand's "Death Fest" invites visitors to embrace mortality

By Jintamas Saksornchai
The Associated Press

NONTHABURI, Thailand — Thailand's "Death Fest" invites people to confront mortality while also offering practical services and spiritual advice for the inevitable.

The unusual fair, now in its second year, has broached the subject that's uncomfortable for many. It's also one of the central teachings of Buddhism, which shapes much of Thailand's culture, about life's unavoidable sufferings: birth, old age, sickness, and death.

Sanguan Ngamvinijaroon attended the three-day event with her mother in Nonthaburi province near Bangkok. She said death used to be a difficult subject for her family, but having spent more than 20 years caring for ill family members, including her husband who had a stroke and relatives with cancer, she has



witnessed several deaths firsthand and now feels more at ease talking about it.

She said she liked the fair because "it's

not just about dying well. It's also about the present moment and taking good care of our lives while we're still here."

The event brought together experts and organizations involved in healthcare, financial planning, palliative care, funeral services, and memorial innovations. Activities and talks focused not only on preparing for death but also on maintaining quality of life until the final days.

"Death involves everybody. It's not just about you," said Zcongklod Bangyikhan, editor-in-chief of *The Cloud* magazine and one of the event's lead organizers. "Instead of wondering what dying will be like, maybe we should think about how to make things easier for the people who remain after we're gone."

One popular exhibit is called "Test Die." Visitors can lie inside coffins of different sizes and styles while looking at themselves in a mirror suspended above. The experience is designed to prompt reflection rather than fear.

EMBRACING MORTALITY. A visitor lies inside a coffin made of mycelium, the rootlike fibers of fungi, at "Death Fest" in Nonthaburi, Thailand. "Death Fest," now in its second year, invites people to confront mortality while also offering practical services and spiritual advice for the inevitable. (AP Photo/Kittinun Rodsupan)

Office worker Phinutda Seehad said it felt calming.

"I don't think I'm scared of death," she said. "I also don't want to die, but when the time comes, I don't think it will be that frightening."

One company displayed a biodegradable coffin made from mycelium — the rootlike fibers of fungi — which helps naturally with decomposition.

Founder Jirawan Kumsao said the design reflects a more environmentally friendly approach to burial. Although she brought a human-sized coffin to the event, her company mainly produces coffins for pets.

"It gives people comfort to know they've cared for their pets until the very end," she said. "It looks like a spacecraft, a capsule, for sending them to another world."

Noppasaward Panyajaray, founder of the online memorial platform Sharesouls, has seen a similar emotional bond. Her service allows users to store photos and share stories about loved ones, creating a digital space where friends and family can leave messages and pay their respects.

She said her original idea was for the platform to preserve memories of family members. But she was surprised to find that many users were creating memorial pages for their pets.

"Many people sent me a message to say thank you, because nowadays we don't really have any space to store stories or memories about their pets," she said. "Every pet is meaningful to their owners as much as a family member."



ARMY HANGOUT. Walls are decorated with pictures of K-pop band BTS at Yoojung Sikdang, a restaurant in Seoul where BTS members frequently ate during their trainee days, in Seoul, South Korea. The Seoul café and restaurant where BTS members spent time learning how to sing, dance, and perform are drawing visitors from around the globe during the band's huge comeback. (AP Photo/Juwon Park)

BTS fans stream to Seoul café, restaurant that once served as bases for the K-pop superstars

By Juwon Park
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A Seoul café and restaurant that once served as bases for BTS members when they were mere K-pop trainees are drawing visitors from around the globe during the band's huge comeback.

A recent Friday stream of visitors to Café Hyuga, once a dormitory where band members stayed, included Evelyn Florntino, who flew from the Philippines where she was visiting family after failing to get tickets to the group's tour dates in the United States. Instead, she attended the Seoul concert a day after the release of their fifth studio album, *ARIRANG*.

"Unfortunately (I) was not lucky to get a ticket," the Hawai'i resident told *The Associated Press*. "So now I'm here in Korea to at least watch the free concert they're doing."

Florntino, who had researched the café on Google, called it "humbling" to see the modest building wedged in a narrow alley of low-rise buildings in Gangnam — a wealthy district better known for its luxury high-rises and upscale boutiques.

Alejandra Valencia had travelled even farther, from Colombia, drawn by a deep personal connection. She credits the band with pulling her through a period of depression. "They saved me," Valencia said. "And the time flies, and now I am an ARMY," she said, referring to the group's fan base.

A short walk away, at the restaurant

Yoojung Sikdang, owner Jang Young Kun greeted visitors in a purple BTS hoodie — a gift from an Australian fan. The restaurant is in the building that housed BTS members' old dance practice room.

"BTS was with us here in this building for about three to four years," said Jang, 78. "The basement was their practice room — they trained down there and really shared their everyday lives with us."

K-pop trainees are young hopefuls recruited by entertainment agencies and put through years of intensive singing, dancing, and performance training before they debut publicly — a system that shaped global K-pop bands like BTS, which debuted in 2013, and Blackpink, among others.

Jang recalled the members eating at his restaurant daily between practices. He also remembered the morning RM and Suga came upstairs to share some news.

"Namjoon (RM) told me the group had settled on a name — Bangtan Sonyeondan," Jang said. "I told them, 'You're going to blow up with that name. It's Korean, it's unique.'"

"The BTS boys were incredibly polite," Jang added. "They had such bright, warm personalities — if they saw you 10 times a day, they'd bow a full 90 degrees every single time. They were always greeting people, always cheerful, and they worked incredibly hard. They'd practice through the night, then come out and wash up in our bathroom, even dyeing their hair in there."

Continued on page 8



MOST OF OUR ENERGY IS SPENT HELPING YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOURS.

EnergyTrust
of Oregon

We offer resources and cash incentives to reduce your energy costs and generate clean power. Learn more at energytrust.org.

MORE POWER TO YOU.

Mongolia's third prime minister in a year faces political infighting and external crises

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP) — Mongolia has named its third prime minister in nine months as the ruling party tries to overcome internal power struggles at a time of mounting economic pressures and political infighting at home.

The hope is that Uchral Nyam-Osor can manage the divisions in the Mongolian People's Party that toppled his two predecessors and brought him to power. He called for unity after parliament confirmed his appointment.

"As others unite to confront crises, we cannot afford political infighting that weakens our economy," he told lawmakers.

Who is the new prime minister?

Uchral was elected as leader of the Mongolian People's Party and speaker of the parliament last November. Before entering politics, he was a popular hip-hop artist known as "Timon."

The 39-year-old lawmaker has positioned himself as a reform-minded leader focused on modernizing the country's regulatory environment. He wants to end a Soviet-era system that gives officials the power to issue permits, creating fertile ground for corruption. Mongolia transitioned to democracy in 1990 after decades of Communist rule.

Uchral is a former minister of digital development and communications who promoted transparency reforms and digital governance initiatives. He has played a role in efforts to attract foreign



investment to the resource-rich country, including a uranium-related agreement with France's Orano Group in early 2025.

How was he chosen?

The Mongolian parliament has been paralyzed following a boycott last month by the opposition Democratic Party and infighting in the ruling party. Together, that meant not enough members were showing up for the legislature to hold votes.

The previous prime minister, Zandanshatar Gombojav, who submitted his resignation to resolve the crisis, had come under pressure because one of his senior ministers faced corruption

allegations.

Uchral was seen as a compromise between factions in the Mongolian People's Party loyal to the president and the supporters of another former prime minister, Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai.

A total of 107 of the parliament's 126 lawmakers voted, with 88 supporting Uchral — or 82% — clearing the way for him to take office.

Zandanshatar, who is close to the president, had replaced Oyun-Erdene, last June. All three prime ministers are from the Mongolian People's Party.

What are Mongolia's challenges?

Uchral warned that Mongolia is enter-

TOUGH JOB. Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman and the head of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev, right, and Chairman of the Mongolian People's Party and Chairman of the State Great Khural Uchral Nyam-Osor pose for a photo during their meeting at the Gorki state residence outside Moscow. Mongolia has named its third prime minister in nine months as the ruling party tries to overcome internal power struggles at a time of mounting economic pressures and political infighting at home. (Ekaterina Shtukina, Sputnik Pool Photo via AP, File)

ing a period of three overlapping crises: rising global fuel prices, volatile commodity markets, and deepening domestic political divisions.

He highlighted the country's heavy reliance on coal and copper exports, warning that price swings could erode government revenue and strain public finances. The government is also demanding a greater share of the financial benefits in talks with mining giant Rio Tinto over the Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine.

Mongolia, a landlocked country that depends entirely on imported fuel, is vulnerable to supply disruptions and price hikes. The government has asked Russia to keep fuel prices stable, and Moscow has indicated it would respond favorably in the near term, Zandanshatar said at a ceremony to transfer power to Uchral.

Uchral's appointment comes amid renewed concern among foreign investors over Mongolia's political instability, frequent policy changes, and reputation for corruption and regulatory unpredictability.

Asia scrambles to conserve energy as Iran war disrupts oil & gas supplies

Continued from page 2

higher travel and fuel costs. Airlines are raising fares on international routes to offset surging fuel prices, with some budget carriers doubling ticket prices on popular routes, according to local media.

Vietnam

In the export-driven industrial sector of Vietnam, higher fuel and freight costs are lifting production expenses. State media reported steel, textiles, and footwear manufacturers are facing rising prices, while retailers say suppliers are seeking price increases or even pausing deliveries.

Rising diesel prices are also pushing up transportation and agriculture costs. Tourism and passenger travel are coming under strain. Authorities warned of possible jet fuel shortages in April, urging airlines to review flight schedules and prepare for potential cuts.

The government says it is using price controls to curb sharp increases in fuel costs and keep the market stable.

Thailand

Energy supply disruptions have also hit Thailand, where more than half of electricity is generated by LNG, around 40% of which is imported from the Middle East.

Thailand's emergency energy plan suspended petroleum exports, ramped up coal output and hydropower generation, and directed government offices to conserve energy.

As Thailand turns to the spot market to bid for costly LNG cargoes, experts warn energy prices will rise as the national

subsidy budget is depleted.

Indonesia

Indonesia has so far managed to hold back raising energy prices, but that relief was expected to only last until after Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

As the war rages on, analysts expect that Indonesia will soon face a difficult choice: continue costly subsidies that shield consumers from higher prices, or scale them back to stay within national budget limits — a move that risks stoking inflation.

The Philippines

The Philippines has rolled out cash assistance of 5,000 pesos (\$83) to about 139,000 tricycle taxi drivers in Manila to help offset surging fuel costs. The program is set to expand nationwide to include other public transport drivers, while fuel subsidies will also be extended to fishermen and farmers.

Government offices also shifted to a four-day work week to cut energy consumption, and proposals are under review to bring down biofuel prices.

Pakistan

To offset the energy crunch, Pakistan ordered schools to shut for two weeks and cut free fuel allocations for government vehicles by 50% for two months.

Officials say alternative oil supply routes are being explored, including imports from Saudi Arabia. Energy shipments are also arriving through the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

To save energy, the Pakistan Day

parade was cancelled. The anniversary was instead marked with a simple flag-hoisting ceremony.

India

India has stepped up domestic production of cooking gas and prioritized distribution to households. Industry groups say the move has tightened supplies for commercial users such as hotels and restaurants.

Nearly half of India's crude oil imports and LNG pass through the strait. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remains a primary cooking fuel for millions of households, making stable supplies critical for both daily life and broader economic activity.

Two Indian-flagged LPG carrying vessels have crossed the strait since the conflict began, relieving some pressure.

A giant steel pipe's mysterious overnight growth spurt baffles a Japanese city

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A giant, underground pipe rose more than 32 feet out of a construction site in a busy area of the Japanese city of Osaka, nearly reaching an elevated road overnight, unseen by any witnesses.

The steel pipe's unexpected growth spurt was reported to police by a pedestrian who saw broken pieces of asphalt falling from the cylinder, baffling people passing by and causing traffic congestion.

One office worker who passed by the site told NHK public television that he could not understand how it happened. Another man who works nearby said he first wondered if a new road support might have been built overnight.

The pipe, with a diameter of 11.5 feet, towered as high as 42 feet at one point, according to the Osaka construction

Nepal

Nepal's sole distributor of petroleum products, the state-run Nepal Oil Corporation, began rationing cooking gas by filling gas cylinders only by half its capacity — to about 7.1 kilograms (15 pounds) — to stretch supplies to more households.

Gasoline prices were also raised by about 10% and authorities urged households to switch to induction cookers to curb gas use.

Delgado reported from Bangkok, Thailand.

Associated Press writers Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo, Japan, Huizhong Wu in Bangkok, Thailand, Aniruddha Ghosal in Hanoi, Vietnam, Jim Gomez in Manila, the Philippines, Munir Ahmed in Islamabad, Pakistan, Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Shihuan Chen in Beijing, China, and Binaj Gurubacharya in Kathmandu, Nepal, contributed to this report.

department.

The pipe's unexpected elevation from the ground occurred at a sewer construction site where workers had been connecting an existing sewer line with a channel designed to hold excess rainwater to prevent flooding.

The pipe was being used as a retaining structure to keep the surrounding soil from collapsing during the operation, officials said. A short time earlier, workers had drained water from the pipe, which may have caused the empty apparatus to float, they said.

The pipe was lowered back to just several feet above the ground after firefighters cut a hole on the side and injected water to push it back into the ground.

City officials said they plan to cut the last 5.2 feet of the pipe that remain visible, an operation that would cause a road closure for several days.

ALBERTA SIMMONS PLAZA

6611 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. • PORTLAND, OR 97211
503-240-4198

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING • FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS & OLDER

- ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS WITH FULL KITCHENS
- LIBRARY & PLANNED ACTIVITIES
- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TO SHOPPING, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND MEDICAL OFFICES
- RENT INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES EXCEPT TELEPHONE, CABLE, & INTERNET
- LAUNDRY FACILITY, BUILDING ELEVATOR
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

ALBERTASIMMONSPLAZA.COM



Go paperless!

Read The Asian Reporter — exactly as it's printed here — online!

Visit <www.asianreporter.com> and click the "Online Paper (PDF)" link to view our last two issues.

Punch the orphan macaque is outgrowing his orangutan plushie and making friends

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

ICHIKAWA, Japan — Punch the baby orphan macaque is outgrowing the orangutan plushie that comforted him through early rejection from his mother and other monkeys.

Images of Punch dragging around the toy bigger than him drew attention to the residents of a zoo near Tokyo. When other monkeys shooed the baby away, Punch rushed back to the toy orangutan, hugging it for comfort.

But he's been using the toy less. On a recent day, Punch was seen climbing on the back of another monkey, sitting with adults, and sometimes getting groomed or hugged.

"It was good to see him grow, and I'm reassured," said Sanae Izumi, a 61-year-old Punch fan from Osaka who came to the zoo because she was worried about the baby monkey. "He is adorable!"

Punch was abandoned by his mother after his birth, presumably because of exhaustion. Zookeepers nursed him and



ACHIEVING ACCEPTANCE. Punch, a Japanese macaque born on July 26, 2025, rides on the back of another primate in the monkeys' playground at the Ichikawa city zoo in Tokyo's eastward neighboring city. Punch the baby orphan macaque is outgrowing the orangutan plushie that comforted him through early rejection from his mother and other monkeys. Images of Punch dragging around the toy bigger than him drew attention to the residents of the zoo near Tokyo. When other monkeys shooed the baby away, Punch rushed back to the toy orangutan, hugging it for comfort. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

Punch was so popular after images of him and his toy showed up online that the zoo had to set rules to make visitors be quiet and to limit viewing to 10 minutes to reduce stress for the more than 50 other monkeys.

Punch eschewing the toy most of the time now is a good thing.

"When he grows out of the plush toy, that encourages his independence, and that's what we are hoping for," zoo director Shigekazu Mizushina said.

Punch still sleeps with his toy every night, but Mizushina said the next thing keepers want to see is Punch bunched up with other monkeys to sleep.

gave him the toy to train him to cling, an ability newborn macaques need to survive. "Helping Punch learn the rules of monkey society and being accepted as a member is our most important task," said Kosuke Kano, a 24-year-old zookeeper.

Drone video from inside a Fukushima reactor shows a hole in pressure vessel, likely fuel debris

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A video taken by tiny drones sent into one of three damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant showed a gaping hole in the thick-walled steel container of the core, with lumps of likely melted fuel debris hanging from it, in a first sighting of a pressure vessel bottom since the meltdown 15 years ago.

The rare footage was taken by micro-drones — measuring 4.7" by 5.1" and weighing only 3.3 ounces each — deployed for a two-week mission to collect visual, radiation, and other data from inside the Unit 3 reactor.

The March 11, 2011 massive quake and tsunami destroyed cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, causing meltdowns at reactors No. 1, 2, and 3.

The three reactors contain at least 880 tons of melted fuel debris with radiation levels still dangerously high. Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Holdings, which manages the plant, successfully took tiny melted fuel samples from the Unit 2 reactor last year, but internal details remain little known.

TEPCO plans more remote-controlled probes and sampling to analyze melted fuel and to develop robots for future fuel debris removal that experts say could take decades more.

Sending drones as close as possible to the pressure vessel's bottom was an important goal of the latest probe, according to plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings.

During multiple flight missions in the probe that began March 5, remote-controlled micro-drones, one at a time, carefully flew around debris, broken equipment, and other obstacles to take footage inside the primary containment chamber, including around the bottom of the pressure vessel.

The footage showed tubes with ruptures and other damaged structures that used to be inside the pressure vessel, which originally was enclosed. It also showed brown and gray objects hanging like giant icicles.

TEPCO spokesperson Masaki Kuwajima said officials confirmed there was a hole at the bottom of the vessel and that those hanging objects, lumps, and deposits are believed to be melted fuel debris.

The drones also collected radiation measurements and data to produce a detailed three-dimensional map of the inside of the Unit 3 reactor, Kuwajima said. "We have obtained valuable data that can be used for our future internal investigations and to develop a melted fuel debris removal strategy."

The latest drone mission came nearly a decade after an earlier underwater robot probe provided a less clear picture of the inside of the Unit 3 reactor.

India has begun its long-delayed population census. Here's why it matters.

By Sheikh Saaliq
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India has begun the world's largest national population count, which could reshape welfare programs and political representation across the country.

The previous census in 2011 recorded a population of 1.21 billion. It's now estimated to be more than 1.4 billion, making India the most populous nation.

The new census had been planned for 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical challenges.

Here's how India's census works and why it is significant:

Counting more than 1.4 billion people

The first phase of the count started April 1 and will roll out around the country through September. The workers will spend about a month in each area collecting information on homes and available facilities and will document housing stock and living conditions.

The exercise will blend in-person surveys with a digital option where residents can submit information through a multilingual smartphone application that integrates satellite-based mapping.

The second phase to be conducted from September to next April 1 will record more detailed information, like people's social and economic characteristics, including religion and caste.

More than 3 million government workers are expected to be deployed over the course of the year. In 2011, nearly 2.7 million enumerators surveyed more than 240 million households nationwide.

A politically sensitive caste count

The second phase of the census will attempt a broader accounting of caste beyond historically marginalized groups.

Caste is an ancient system of social hierarchy in India and is influential in defining social standing and deciding who gets access to resources, education, and economic

opportunity. There are hundreds of caste groups based on occupation and economic status across India, particularly among Hindus, but the country has limited or outdated data on how many people belong to them.

The last attempt to gather detailed caste information through a census dates to 1931, during British colonial rule. Since independent India's first census in 1951, it counted only Dalits and Adivasis, members of marginalized groups known as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who qualify for certain government benefits.

Successive governments have resisted conducting a full caste count, arguing it could heighten social tensions and trigger unrest.

Population data matters for India's politics

Population data collected through the census underpins the distribution of government welfare programs and a wide range of public policies.

It could also prompt a redrawing of India's political map, as seats in the lower house of parliament and state legislatures may be increased to reflect population growth. A 2023 law reserves one-third of legislative seats for women, so any expansion would raise the number of seats set aside for female representatives.



We're here for you.

Bills stacking up?
Contact us to find out if you qualify for financial assistance.

¿Se acumulan las facturas?
Contáctenos para saber si calificas para una ayuda económica.

Các hóa đơn chồng chất?
Liên hệ với chúng tôi để tìm hiểu xem quý vị có đủ điều kiện nhận hỗ trợ tài chính hay không.

Накапливаются счета?
Образуйтесь к нам чтобы узнать, имеете ли вы право на финансовую помощь.

堆积了很多未付的帐单吗?
请联系我们, 查看您是否符合获得财务援助的资格。

503-823-7770 | pwbcustomerservice@portlandoregon.gov
portland.gov/water/financialassistance

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

The Asian Reporter

Volume 36 Number 4
 April 6, 2026
 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 2026. 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
News Department e-mail: news@asianreporter.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (U.S. rates only)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Individual subscription (sent bulk rate): | <input type="checkbox"/> One year: \$19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$36 |
| Individual subscription (sent first class mail): | <input type="checkbox"/> One year: \$32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$62 |
| Office subscription (5 copies to one address): | <input type="checkbox"/> One year: \$95 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$185 |
| Institutional subscription (15 copies to one address): | <input type="checkbox"/> One year: \$275 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two years: \$540 |

NEW SUBSCRIBER / ADDRESS CORRECTION INFORMATION FORM:

Subscriber's name: _____
 Company name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

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**



Two lawyers, a doctor, and a businessman walk into a bar ...

Well, it wasn't a bar. It was actually a Korean fried chicken place, but that doesn't sound as good as a set up for a joke, does it?

But it's actually funny. Hmm ... maybe I should start again.

So, Chris, Tom (both lawyers), Stan (a doctor), and myself (a businessman) finished playing tennis and decided to get a bite to eat. Our group plays tennis every week, and our routine is basically the same: play tennis, hurl tennis-related insults at each other, laugh about it, then get something to eat.

On most occasions, we get fish tacos. Why fish tacos? Because one of the taco shops nearby sells one dollar fish tacos all night long. The tacos are fine, but that's not why we get them. The emphasis is on the dollar-per-taco thing.

We are all doing reasonably well in our careers. We make good livings. We drive reasonably nice cars. We live in nice neighborhoods. We can afford some of the finer things in life. We could even splurge on (dare I say it), regular priced tacos. We could even budget for tacos that cost 200% more than what we usually pay (that's \$2 for those who are counting).

But we don't. Give me my dollar fish tacos. What's the saying? "You can take the man out of Frugalton, but you can't take the Frugalton out of the man." Or something like that.

And yet, this night was different. For months, we have been talking about having a change of pace. There's a Korean fried chicken place right across the street from the taco shop, but we've never gone

because they are usually closed before we arrive. This night, we finished early. And here's the kicker. As much as we love one dollar fish tacos, the Korean fried chicken place had something just as enticing — one dollar chicken wings! A whole chicken wing for a dollar? Sign me up!

Between the four of us, we ordered more than 50 wings! And with five different sauces available, it was a virtual wing-o-rama! At the end of the night, after each of us ripped into the wings with our fingers, the four of us held up our greasy soy/garlic-stained hands as if we were surgeons overlooking a carnage of chicken bones. It was delightful.

I dare say that there is a difference between men and women. Take Costco, for example. We all know about the free samples they hand out in the frozen section. For women, I assume they will try one of the samples to determine whether that chicken nugget is something they'd take home to provide nourishment for their family. For men, the whole concept of going to Costco to bring back food is a secondary priority. Our first priority is to determine how many of those chicken nuggets we can eat in person at the cart before they decide to notify security.

After all, what's even more enticing than a one-dollar fish taco or chicken wing? We're talking about free chicken nuggets here, people.

Next time, I'd like to share my experiences testing the limits of an all-you-can-eat buffet.

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.



The seafood industry bets Americans will finally eat more fish if it looks more like meat

By J.M. Hirsch
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The future of fish is looking a lot like ... salami? And meatballs. And fried chicken. And breakfast sausage. And, of course, spare ribs and burgers. This is America, after all.

Welcome to the era of surreptitious seafood, an industry gamble that overcoming Americans' relative disinterest in the meat of the sea is all a matter of making fish look and taste less like, well, fish.

"Our Taiwanese magic is making tuna taste like fried chicken," said Jack Chi, a spokesman for Tuna Fresh, a Taiwan-based company that sells tuna as fried "nuggets" and breaded chicken-tender-like strips. "We wanted to be able to engage in the U.S. market, and we found that fried foods are the way."

Chi's company was one of hundreds showcasing their products at the recent Seafood Expo North America in Boston. And among the sea of smoked salmon, scallops, and all manner of crustaceans, one trend stood out: The seafood being pitched to the American market is looking less and less like seafood.

"It's been a big trend for the last couple of years," said Justin Rogers, a sales manager with SK Food Brands in Los Angeles. Among his company's recent offerings: shrimp burgers, both slider-size and Whopper-worthy. "It makes it more palatable to people who aren't big seafood fans. Especially with things like these sliders, it gives them an entry point."

The fish-skeptical American palate

Americans have a notoriously limited appetite for seafood, consuming just about 19 pounds a year — a number that has budged only a bit in a century — most of it as shrimp and salmon. The global average is 45 pounds, while some European countries clock in closer to 90 pounds. Iceland leads everyone with around 200 pounds per year.

Disguising seafood to appeal to Americans isn't entirely new. After all, frozen fish sticks and the McDonald's



Filet-O-Fish hardly scream catch of the day. But many of the newer products are an entirely different species. Or rather, are trying to be.

"It looks like a Slim Jim by design," Harbor Bell Seafoods spokeswoman Holly Phillips said of the Seattle company's salmon snack strips, available in smoked, lemon-pepper, mango, and — curiously — original. "It doesn't smell fishy. It doesn't taste fishy."

If an "original" salmon snack stick doesn't taste fishy, what DOES it taste like? After a couple chewy bites, let's go with Slim Jim adjacent and move on.

Let fish be fish?

Not everyone thinks covert crustaceans are a good thing.

"Eat fish that looks like fish!" says Niaz Dorry, coordinating director of the North American Marine Alliance, an advocacy group for sustainable seafood practices. "The likelihood that that fish came from a community-based, scale-appropriate entity is much higher if that fish still looks like what it was when it was swimming in the water. Factory scale and fake are the two F-words I tell everybody to avoid."

The pivot to stealthy seafood comes at a critical time for the industry. The only real

growth in sales has come from the sushi counter (looking at you, Gen Z) and price hikes (not exactly helping the cause). The \$24 billion market otherwise has been flat for years, with just 10% of shoppers accounting for nearly half of sales (seafood, apparently, is an all-in sort of thing).

Taking a lesson from sushi

Part of sushi's appeal is its blend of convenience and novelty, said Steve Markenson, vice president of research and insights for consumer marketing firm FMI. Some of the newer products may offer similar appeal, but he's not convinced it will be enough.

"The non-seafood folks — which is about 40% of the population — I don't know that this is really going to be appealing to them," he said. "They're not looking to necessarily add seafood into their diet."

Seafood lovers aren't a sure bet, either. That 10% of dedicated seafood shoppers want it for what it is, not cleverly disguised. "They love what they love about it," Markenson said. "They might want it seasoned up a little, but they want that full-blown salmon."

Oddly, the most likely audience may well be the one typically most averse to seafood — the very young, said Joshua

SURREPTITIOUS SEAFOOD. Fried calamari snacks are displayed at the Seafood Expo North America in Boston on March 17, 2026. The future of fish is looking a lot like ... salami? And meatballs. And fried chicken. And breakfast sausage. And, of course, spareribs and burgers. This is America, after all. Welcome to the era of surreptitious seafood, an industry gamble that overcoming Americans' relative disinterest in the meat of the sea is all a matter of making fish look and taste less like, well, fish. (J. M. Hirsch via AP)

Bickert, a seafood market reporter and analyst for Expansa. "If you package it like hot dogs and hamburgers and chicken tenders, you maybe change that mindset at a younger age."

For Mike Simon, owner of Hialeah, Florida-based Surfsnax, it's a matter of making the foreign feel familiar. "We want to put it in a format that people are used to eating," he said as he sliced off a round of his company's salmon salami. "But it's not hiding that it's salmon."

Not so sure about that. After being cured, shaped, and served like a traditional salami, his product hardly looked seaworthy. But it was tasty.

Meaty spareribs, only made of fish

The most audacious offering was fish spareribs from the Amazon. Brazilian tambaqui is a beefy freshwater fish that just happens to have a physique perfect for slicing into meaty, pork-like ribs. Frio-center Pescados spokesman Danillo Souza Alves was quick to point out that tambaqui sports a far higher meat-to-bone ratio on its ribs than pork. And truthfully, they do taste pretty meaty.

"It's a finger food. You can easily eat it in stadiums for football, baseball, and hockey," he said.

Well, let's not go crazy.

Americans do love a chip, however. And all manner of seafood are being turned into crackers, chips, and crunchy sticks. Ina Park, a spokeswoman for the expo's Korean pavilion, was eager to introduce Balance Grow's Fried Calamari Snack, which looked like slightly malformed Utz Potato Stix. Park had other ideas.

"They taste like Cheetos," she said.

J.M. Hirsch is a food and travel journalist, and the former food editor for The Associated Press.

Citing First Amendment, federal judge blocks Trump order to end funding for NPR and PBS

By Michael Kunzelman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing the First Amendment, a federal judge agreed to permanently block the Trump administration from implementing a presidential directive to end federal funding for National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), two media entities that the White House has said are counterproductive to American priorities.

The operational impact of U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss' decision was not immediately clear — both because it will likely be appealed and because too much damage to the public-broadcasting system has already been done, both by the president and congress.

Moss ruled that President Donald Trump's executive order to cease funding for NPR and PBS is unlawful and unenforceable. The judge said the First Amendment right to free speech "does not tolerate viewpoint discrimination and retaliation of this type."

"It is difficult to conceive of clearer evidence that a government action is targeted at viewpoints that the President does not like and seeks to squelch," wrote Moss.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said Moss' decision is "a ridiculous ruling by an activist judge attempting to undermine the law."

"NPR and PBS have no right to receive taxpayer funds, and congress already voted to defund them. The Trump Administration looks forward to ultimate victory on the issue," Jackson said in a statement.

PBS, with programming ranging from "Sesame Street" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" to Ken Burns' documentaries, has been operating for more than half a century. NPR has news programming from "All Things Considered" and cultural shows like the "Tiny Desk" concerts. For decades, the fates of both systems have been part of a philosophical debate over whether government

should help fund their operations.

Punishment for "past speech" cited in decision

The judge noted that Trump's executive order simply directs that all federal agencies "cut off any and all funding" to NPR, which is based in Washington, and PBS, based in Arlington, Virginia.

"The Federal Defendants fail to cite a single case in which a court has ever upheld a statute or executive action that bars a particular person or entity from participating in any federally funded activity based on that person or entity's past speech," the judge wrote.

Last year, Trump, a Republican, said at a news conference he would "love to" defund NPR and PBS because he believes they're biased in favor of Democrats.

"The message is clear: NPR and PBS need not apply for any federal benefit because the President disapproves of their 'left wing' coverage of the news," Moss wrote.

NPR accused the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) of violating its First Amendment free speech rights when it moved to cut off its access to grant money appropriated by congress. NPR also claims Trump wants to punish it for the content of its journalism.

"Public media exists to serve the public interest — that of Americans — not that of any political agenda or elected official," said Katherine Maher, NPR's president and CEO. She called the decision a decisive affirmation of the rights of a free and independent press.

PBS chief Paula Kerger said she was thrilled with the decision. The executive order, she said, is "textbook" unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination and retaliation. "At PBS, we will continue to do what we've always done: serve our mission to educate and inspire all Americans as the nation's most trusted media institution."

Last August, CPB announced it would take steps toward closing itself down after being defunded by congress.

A victory, though incremental, for press freedom

Plaintiffs' attorney Theodore Boutros said the ruling is "a victory for the First Amendment and for freedom of the press."

"As the court expressly recognized, the First Amendment draws a line, which the government may not cross, at efforts to use government power — including the power of the purse — 'to punish or suppress disfavored expression' by others," Boutros said in a statement. "The Executive Order crossed that line."

The judge agreed with government attorneys that some

Continued on page 8

STUNNING PHOTOGRAPHY
WEDDINGS
SENIORS
BABIES
PREGNANCY
PORTRAITS
FUNERALS
LANDIS.PHOTOS@GMAIL.COM
JANLANDISPHOTOGRAPHY.COM
503•317•3759

Fairway HOME
MORTGAGE
NMLS# 2289

Tu Phan
Branch Manager, NMLS #7916
(503) 780-6872
tu.phan@fairwaymc.com
www.LoansNow.com

Copyright © 2025 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. NMLS#2289. All rights reserved. This is not an offer to enter into an agreement. Not all customers will qualify. Information, rates and programs are subject to change without notice. All products are subject to credit and property approval. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Fairway is not affiliated with any government agencies. Equal Housing Opportunity. AZ License #BK-0904162. Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act, License No. 41DBO-78367. Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Financing Law, NMLS #2289. Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Residential Mortgage Lending Act License.

That purple Hawai'i vacation lei likely came from Thailand, and some lawmakers want to change that

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Dear Tourist: The flowers in that bright-purple lei you received on your Hawai'i vacation almost certainly weren't grown in the Aloha State.

The vast majority of those odorless orchids are imported from Thailand, where it is cheaper to grow and string them into the garlands synonymous with Hawaiian culture.

Some Hawai'i lawmakers think the state should be doing more to help the producers of lei made with locally grown, fragrant flowers. Ideas include labelling requirements that would identify Hawai'i-made garlands and a prohibition on state agencies buying imported lei, though some lei-sellers worry that such rules would make the garlands too expensive.

"You don't come to Hawai'i and not at least have a flower or a lei," said Kuhio Lewis, CEO of the Hawaiian Council, a nonprofit that promotes Native Hawaiian culture and business. "For us to now be importing is not good. It's actually embarrassing."

Lei are synonymous with Hawai'i

The custom of giving and wearing lei made of flowers, leaves, seeds, or shells has always been associated with Hawaiian people, for whom the garlands represent love or the spirit of "aloha." They were used not just for ceremonies but worn in everyday life by everyone from chiefs to children, according to a 2002 paper published by the University of Hawai'i.

Today, people in Hawai'i give and receive lei for all kinds of celebrations, including birthdays and promotions. High school, college, and even elementary school graduates receive lei piled to the tops of their heads, their faces slowly vanishing behind a rising wall of flowers. Each year on the opening day of the legislature, lawmakers meet a similar fate. Pregnant women are



ICONIC LEI. Sam Say, left, owner of M.P. Lei Shop, strings flowers to make a lei at his shop in Chinatown in Honolulu. The vast majority of the odorless orchids that tourists receive during their Hawai'i vacations are imported from Thailand, where it is cheaper to grow and string them into the garlands synonymous with Hawaiian culture. Some Hawai'i lawmakers think the state should be doing more to help the producers of lei made with locally grown, fragrant flowers. Pictured in the right photo is Cindy Lau, owner of Cindy's Lei Shoppe, posing for a portrait while threading flowers onto string in Chinatown in Honolulu. (AP Photos/Mengshin Lin)

given open-ended strands, rather than a closed necklace, because of a tradition that says the latter represents the umbilical cord wrapping around their baby's neck.

"We always are looking for ways that we can honor people through our Indigenous cultures, which is giving lei," said state Rep. Darius Kila, who is Native Hawaiian.

Because lei-giving is so ingrained in Hawai'i, lawmakers are constantly buying them and doling them out — at groundbreaking, to honor constituents or volunteers, or for staffers' birthdays, for example.

An effort to regulate lei

Kila this year sponsored a bill, requested by the Hawaiian Council, that would have required a certain percentage of lei purchased by state officials to include flowers grown in-state. It also sought lei labels telling customers where the flowers were grown.

That measure failed, but a related bill in the senate remains alive. It would create a work group to study whether local flower-growers and lei-makers can meet the rising demand for the garlands, and make recommendations for protecting the local industry.

"The growing commercialization of lei and lei materials has led to increased use of imported plant materials and manufactured components that are marketed using Hawaiian language, imagery, and place names," the senate bill states. That "may mislead consumers and undermine local growers, lei makers, and cultural practitioners."

There is a hierarchy to the flowers

As Hawai'i's population and tourism boomed in the 20th century, lei-makers turned to nonnative ornamental plants such as carnations and jasmine to meet soaring demand, and those are still some of the most popular.

Kila, a Democrat from west Oahu, said he has a strict rule for himself and his staff: "I really try not for us to give out orchid lei, specifically the purple Thailand orchid lei."

While shopping for lei recently in Honolulu's Chinatown, home to a concentration of lei stands and flower shops, Kila sought out puakenikeni — also known as the "10-cent flower," supposedly dating to the days when lei cost a dime — as well as ginger and tuberose. The blooms, which are not native, emit various degrees of jasmine-like sweetness.

BTS fans stream to Seoul locations that once served as bases for the K-pop superstars

Continued from page 3

For fans Diana Meza and Claudia Leal, who travelled together from Monterrey, Mexico, the draw was straightforward.

"Their songs aren't shallow — they all have an important meaning," said Leal, who has been a fan of the band for about five years. "We started liking them ... first because they're super good-looking," she said. "And then, because we loved everything."

The comeback concert streamed last month live on Netflix after a four-year break for the K-pop supergroup. It was expected to draw tens of thousands of fans to Gwanghwamun Square, one of South Korea's most famous landmarks.

All seven members of the band recently completed mandatory military service.

See related story on page 15.

"People want pikake" — a type of jasmine, said Francis Wong, owner of longtime Chinatown fixture Jenny's Lei and Flowers. "That's the top flower in Hawai'i."

Wong usually sources the aromatic white flowers from a farm in Nanakuli, near Kila's hometown. But there are seasonal shortages in winter, he said.

Wong and his wife, Pickoun Wong, who strings flowers together in the back of the store, have been renting the business for 18 years. They sell Thailand orchids to give customers a cheaper option, especially when local flowers are limited.

Locals always prefer local flowers, said Monty Pereira, general manager of Watanabe Floral. But imported flowers help stretch limited local supplies, he said. One popular lei blends Hawai'i-grown tuberose with imported carnations.

The Thailand-grown orchids also meet a demand for lei outside of Hawai'i, often from former residents who have moved to other states, he said.

Concerns about cost

Watanabe Floral is Hawai'i's biggest florist. It sells some 250,000 lei per year, accounting for about a quarter of its business, Pereira said.

He submitted testimony opposing Kila's bill on purchasing parameters for state agencies, saying it could unintentionally reduce overall lei usage rather than strengthen the industry.

Restricting imported flowers could drive up the costs of lei, he said in an interview.

"If like 30 lei stands and florists are fighting for the same lei, that's when lei is going to start to be \$100, \$150, \$200," he said. Last Mother's Day, a three-strand pikake lei was going for \$150.

And with the Trump administration's tariffs, the Thailand orchid can now cost about as much as some local flowers, he said.

Pereira, who is Native Hawaiian, worries that people are increasingly turning to lei made with candy or ribbons rather than flowers, a style especially common at graduations.

"The bigger threat is making it so expensive that the people of Hawai'i cannot afford to enjoy something that's culturally significant to us," he said.

Citing First Amendment, federal judge blocks Trump order to end NPR, PBS funding

Continued from page 7

of the news outlets' legal claims are moot, partly because the CPB no longer exists.

"But that does not end the matter because the Executive Order sweeps beyond the CPB," Moss added. "It also directs that all federal agencies refrain from funding NPR and PBS — regardless of the nature of the program or the merits of their applications or requests for funding."

NPR and three public radio stations sued administration officials last May. While Trump was named as a defendant, the case did not include congress — and the legislative body has played a large role in the public-broadcasting saga in the past year.

Trump's executive order immediately cut millions of dollars in funding from the Education Department to PBS for its children's programming, forcing the system to lay off one-third of the PBS Kids staff. The Trump order didn't impact congress' vote to eliminate the overall federal appropriations for PBS and NPR, which forced the closure of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the entity that funnelled that money to the TV and radio networks.

AP Media Writer David Bauder and AP writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING

CHAUCER COURT



1019 SW 10TH AVE
PORTLAND 97205

- STUDIO, ONE BEDROOM, AND MOBILITY IMPAIRED APARTMENTS
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE
- NO BUY-IN OR APPLICATION FEES
- AFFORDABLE RENT - 30% OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME
- IDEAL URBAN LOCATION NEAR RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND MEDICAL FACILITIES



503-224-3559 • WWW.CHAUCERCOURT.COM

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Difficulty level: Medium

#65771

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 #96243 (Easy)

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

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

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

Fact Focus: Only some driver's licenses usable for voter registration under the SAVE Act

By Melissa Goldin
The Associated Press

Misleading claims about the impact on voter registration by the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, continue to spread on social media, with elected officials on both sides of the aisle putting their own spin on it.

Senator Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat from Illinois, wrote in an X post: "Under the SAVE Act, you cannot use your driver's license to register to vote. Republicans want you to buy a passport instead. If you can afford one. This is a modern-day poll tax." Senator Mike Lee, a Republican from Utah, replied in his own X post, which included Duckworth's, "this is a lie" and cited a section of the legislation that requires states to establish their own processes for voter registration applicants who cannot provide the required proof of U.S. citizenship.

But the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

Here's a closer look at the facts.

CLAIM: People would not be allowed to use their driver's license when registering to vote under the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act.

THE FACTS: This is missing context. Driver's licenses that include verification of citizenship, such as an Enhanced Drivers License (EDL), could be used for voter registration in a limited number of states if the SAVE Act passes. It has passed the house and is now in the senate. However, those without such a license or who live in states or territories that don't issue them would need to provide additional documentation.

"Most driver's licenses, the purpose of it is to license you to drive," said Pamela Smith, president and CEO of Verified Voting, a nonpartisan organization. "It's not designed to prove your citizenship. And so the requirement to prove your citizenship is sort of separate and beyond."

Judge orders White House ballroom construction to halt in a ruling that leaves Trump seething

By Michael Kunzelman and Will Weissert
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to suspend construction of a \$400 million ballroom it demolished the East Wing of the White House to make space for, barring work from proceeding without congressional approval.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon in Washington granted a preservationist group's request for a preliminary injunction that temporarily halts President Donald Trump's White House ballroom project. He concluded that the National Trust for Historic Preservation is likely to succeed on the merits of its claims because "no statute comes close to giving the President the authority he claims to have."

"The President of the United States is the steward of the White House for future generations of First Families. He is not, however, the owner!" wrote Leon, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President George W. Bush.

The White House quickly filed a notice to appeal while Trump fumed at the ruling. "We built many things at the White House over the years. They don't get congressional approval," he told reporters in the Oval Office a short time later.

The ruling was the first major rebuke of Trump's sweeping efforts to overhaul the White House. But it wasn't immediately clear what it would mean for a sprawling project in which crews have long since torn down the East Wing, radically transforming the look and feel of the historic grounds.

The judge's decision came two days before the National Capital Planning Commission, the agency that signs off on construction on federal property in the Washington region, approved the addition. Stephen Staudigl, a spokesperson for the commission, said the judge's ruling did not affect the schedule.

Carol Quillen, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which filed the lawsuit prompting Leon's ruling, said, "We are pleased with Judge Leon's ruling today to order a halt to any further ballroom construction until the administration complies with the law and obtains express authorization to go forward."

"This is a win for the American people on a project that forever impacts one of the most beloved and iconic places in our nation," Quillen said in a statement. The group had sued in hopes of obtaining an order pausing the ballroom project until it undergoes multiple independent reviews and receives congressional approval.

The judge acknowledged the complication of stopping work in progress



The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act requires that when registering to vote in federal elections, people provide "documentary proof of United States citizenship." This can include REAL ID-compliant identification that confirms citizenship, a valid U.S. passport, or a form of government-issued photo identification that states the applicant's place of birth. Military IDs and other government-issued photo IDs that do not state place of birth or otherwise confirm citizenship would need to be presented with additional documentation.

People who are legal U.S. residents but not citizens also can obtain a REAL ID. According to the Department of Homeland Security, only five states — Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington — issue enhanced driver's licenses, which are REAL ID-compliant and prove citizenship as well as identity. Other states, such as Montana, South Dakota, Florida, and Iowa, have passed or are considering legislation that requires licenses to include citizenship markers.

"For the vast majority of Americans, a REAL ID would

VOTING HURDLES. Constituents in Illinois cast their votes in a primary election in Chicago on March 17, 2026. Misleading claims about the impact on voter registration by the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act continue to spread on social media. According to the Department of Homeland Security, only five states — Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington — issue enhanced driver's licenses, which are REAL ID-compliant and prove citizenship as well as identity. Only in these five states would a REAL ID driver license be valid to show in order to vote. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

not be sufficient to register to vote under the SAVE Act," said Eliza Sweren-Becker, deputy director of the voting rights and elections program at the Brennan Center for Justice. "That's because most REAL IDs do not have any affirmative indication of U.S. citizenship, which is a part of what the bill would require if a REAL ID were to be used for registration."

Republicans, including President Donald Trump, have argued that the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act is needed to eliminate instances of noncitizen voting, which is already illegal in federal elections and can lead to felony charges and deportation. Cases where it occurs are rare. Opponents stress that the bill's proof of citizenship requirements would create an undue burden for many voters due to obstacles such as the costs associated with obtaining a passport and processing times for government documents, including birth or marriage certificates. A recent survey found that more than 9% of voting-age Americans — 21.3 million people — cannot readily access documents proving they are citizens.

Neither Duckworth nor Lee responded to a request for comment.

The SAVE America Act was passed by the house in April 2025 and is currently being debated by the senate. Efforts to end a Homeland Security shutdown that caused severe travel disruptions stalled when Trump linked any deal to his push to pass the act.



Leon suspended enforcement of his order for 14 days, acknowledging that the case "raises novel and weighty issues, that halting an ongoing construction project may raise logistical issues." He also recognized that the administration would appeal his decision.

The judge ruled that any construction work that's necessary to ensure the safety and security of the White House is exempt from the scope of the injunction. Leon said he reviewed material that the government privately submitted to him before concluding that halting construction wouldn't jeopardize national security.

Trump noted that the ruling will allow work on underground bunkers and other security measures around the White House grounds to continue — even though those will be paid for by taxpayers, not the private donors and by Trump himself whom the president has promised will cover the cost of the ballroom.

The Republican president brought handwritten notes into the Oval Office that referenced that part of the ruling, saying, "It talks about we're allowed to continue building."

He then offered an exhaustive list of what's being done to enhance security while the ballroom is built.

"The roof is droneproof. We have secure air-handling systems. You know, bad things happen in the air if you have bad people," the president said. "We have bio-defense all over. We have secure telecommunications and communications all over. We have bomb shelters that we're building. We have a hospital and very major medical facilities that we're building."

He added, "Think of that for the safety of the president," and said the ruling means "on that, we're OK."

Trump launched the project quickly, catching the public off-guard

The White House announced the ballroom project over the summer. By late October, Trump had demolished the East Wing for a 90,000-square-foot ballroom he said would fit 999 people.

Trump proceeded with the project before seeking input from the National Capital Planning Commission and

BALLROOM PAUSED. Debris is seen at a largely demolished part of the East Wing of the White House on October 23, 2025 in Washington, D.C. A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to suspend construction of a \$400 million ballroom it demolished the East Wing of the White House to make space for, barring work from proceeding without congressional approval. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

another oversight entity, the Commission of Fine Arts. Trump has stocked both commissions with allies. The trust sued in December.

On February 26, Leon rejected the preservationist group's initial bid to temporarily halt the ballroom's construction. He said the privately funded group had based its challenge on a "ragtag group" of legal theories and would have a better chance of success if it amended the lawsuit, which it did.

The administration had said above-ground construction on the ballroom would begin this month.

"We are two weeks away," plaintiffs' attorney Thaddeus Heuer said during a March 17 hearing. "The imminence is

Continued on page 12

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



Sita Symonette
Licensed Acupuncturist
seasymonettea@gmail.com

www.blackpearlacupuncture.com

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

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING

FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS & OLDER

JASON LEE MANOR

1551 CENTER STREET NE • SALEM, OREGON 97301

503-339-7876

- ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS WITH FULL SIZED KITCHENS AND LIVING AREAS

- AFFORDABLE RENT WITH FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

- PLANNED ACTIVITIES, LAUNDRY FACILITY, ELEVATOR, MEETING ROOM, AND LIBRARY

- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TO SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS, PHARMACY, AND MEDICAL OFFICES



WWW.JASONLEEMANOR.ORG

Here's how to recycle those old laptops, iPhones & earbuds

By Alexa St. John and Kiki Sideris
The Associated Press

Many consumers are guilty of filling drawers or closets with old laptops, cellphones, fitness trackers, and other electronic devices once they are no longer needed. It's hard to know where to recycle those items, or it seems costly and inconvenient.

The world generates millions of tons of electronic waste — also called e-waste — each year. According to the United Nations' most recent estimate, people worldwide produced 137 billion pounds (62 million metric tons) of e-waste in 2022, and only about 22% of it was properly recycled. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that less than a quarter of e-waste is recycled in the U.S. each year.

Keeping e-waste out of landfills is important because the devices contain materials that can harm the environment. Electronics can also contain precious metals and rare earths that are hard to source, making recycling valuable to businesses.

"The way that we're creating and using and disposing of these devices has generated this completely unsustainable waste stream," said Rick Neitzel, an environmental health sciences professor at the University of Michigan. "And there's no signs of that abating at all. In fact, the trend continues to accelerate."

Experts say that if more consumers recycle their e-waste, it could even drive down the cost of some electronics. Here are some tips.

Why recycling e-waste is challenging — but important

While all recycling comes with challenges, it is often more confusing to recycle e-waste than a plastic bottle or cardboard box. Common containers can be recycled curbside or in public bins, but it often takes some research to figure out where to take an electronic device.

"Cardboard comes in many shapes and sizes, but at the end of the day, it's still cardboard," Neitzel said.

Electronics, on the other hand, can range from a small earbud to a large refrigerator, each with different materials inside, he said. Recyclers need to be able to extract each component and material efficiently. That is a complex, energy-intensive, and expensive process.

But the efforts are worth it. Components such as steel, aluminum, copper, gold, silver, plastics, and even glass, can be recovered and reused, said John Shegerian, founder of Electronic Recyclers International.

Keeping harmful materials out of landfills is another incentive.

"These electronics — which could and have historically



ended up in our landfills or in other inappropriate places — can leak all the stuff that's contained there within: mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, arsenic. All these things are horrible if they get into our environmental ecosystem," Shegerian said.

Experts say recovering precious metals from devices also helps the environment by lowering the need to mine more of those resources.

Preparing your device for recycling

Some consumers may be hesitant to recycle devices because of the personal data stored on them. Experts say that in order to protect your data, start with a factory reset — not just deleting files.

Resets restore the device to its original settings and thoroughly remove data. It's important to follow the manufacturer's guidance, as each device has different steps. Wiping an Android phone, for example, requires different steps than wiping an iPhone. The Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency provides guidance on data protection, including where to look for manufacturer instructions.

Even factory resets may leave traces of data, so some recyclers will go as far as shredding a device's hard drive — and verify it's been destroyed. What's left goes through the recycling process.

Some devices can be refurbished and reused

If an item is newer and still in working condition, manufacturers may refurbish and resell it. Some charities and recyclers can also refresh devices so they can be given to those in need.

Look for major electronics and computer manufacturers that allow for their old equipment to be shipped back as part of buy-back offerings, or dropped off at a partnering site. Apple, for example, offers a credit toward a future purchase if your trade-in is current enough. Otherwise,

EARTH MONTH. Used charging cables and power adapters are piled up at a shop in Nhat Tao market, the largest informal recycling market in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The world generates millions of tons of electronic waste — also called e-waste — each year. According to the United Nations' most recent estimate, people worldwide produced 137 billion pounds of e-waste in 2022, and only about 22% of it was properly recycled. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

they provide free recycling for older models.

Salvation Army and Goodwill Industries have donation programs that accept some used electronics, but it is important to check with your store to find out exactly what they need. Consumers should avoid inundating places with items that can't be sold or disposed of properly.

For devices at the end of their life

Even if a device can't be refurbished, manufacturers are still a good first place to check, experts say.

"The manufacturers are where we want this stuff to end up because they know their products, they know best and most efficiently how to recycle them," Neitzel said.

Retailers such as Best Buy and Staples accept devices big and small for recycling. Best Buy will also haul away televisions and larger appliances for a fee when new models are purchased, then work with electronics recyclers.

While local governments typically don't accept electronics in curbside recycling, many have drop-off locations that can be researched on their websites.

"Typically, if you're dropping them off at a government-run electronic waste collection station, you can be confident in that," Neitzel said.

Recycle Nation allows consumers to look specific items up and find locations in their zip code that will take those items.

Other mail-in options include Amazon and Waste Management. Consumers can order boxes to their home, fill them up with their items, and ship it back.

Some programs charge small fees. Some return sites, for example, charge a few-dollar processing fee — such as \$5 per monitor, or a set cost per the weight of returns or by the carload if you drop off in person.

And even when a device can't be refurbished, recycling is important for the domestic supply chain of minerals and rare earths, said Terence Musho, an associate professor of engineering at West Virginia University.

He said improving the mineral recovery process and boosting recycling rates can also help consumers in another way: "It can also potentially bring down the price of your future electronics."

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

You can give old batteries a new life by safely recycling them

Battery recycling processes could use some fine-tuning, but it's still a simple and responsible way to get rid of them.

Recycling old batteries "keeps you safe, keeps the waste industry safe, keeps the first responders safe, and responsibly sees that battery reach a proper end of life," said Michael Hoffman, president of the National Waste and Recycling Association.

Small batteries can have a big environmental impact

Batteries keep things running in our homes, powering everything from alarm clocks and TV remotes to gaming controllers. Millions are bought and used every year in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

They leave their stamp on the environment at nearly every stage of their life span.

Many of the materials used to make batteries — elements like lithium and nickel — are mined. Over half the world's cobalt reserves are in Congo.

Once mined, those materials are shipped around to be refined, fashioned into a battery, and packaged for sale. All the ships, trucks, and planes moving them add to batteries' carbon footprint. Making the batteries can release carbon emissions and pollution into the air and atmosphere, too.

Though household batteries are far smaller than the big ones that power EVs and electric bicycles, there are a lot more of them and it's worth figuring out how to get rid of them.

"One person's single battery is not necessarily a lot," said environmental scientist Jennifer Sun with Harvard University. "But everyone uses many batteries."

Recycle batteries at a registered drop-off site

To begin, wrangle your old batteries and figure out what

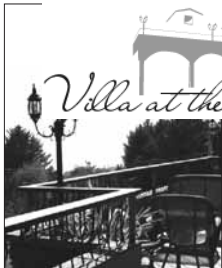
Continued on page 14

By Adithi Ramakrishnan
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When household batteries die, it's hard to know what to do with them. So they get shoved into a junk drawer or sheepishly thrown into the trash.

But dead batteries aren't quite finished. They can leak heavy metals like cadmium and nickel into soil and water once they reach the landfill. Some of them can also overheat and cause fires in garbage trucks and recycling centers.

The good news is, safely disposing of your batteries takes just a few steps. They'll get shipped to recycling centers that break down their contents to make new things.



The Villa at the Beach is a 5,000 sq. ft. luxury home-away-from-home and corporate retreat venue in Lincoln City featuring 9 bedrooms & 9 bathrooms.

- ◆ Hardwood floors, two electric fireplaces, sauna
- ◆ Main floor family room offers a 140-degree window view of the ocean
- ◆ Second floor dining room and conference space is ideal for larger gatherings & accommodates up to 25 guests
- ◆ Great for family reunions, birthdays, corporate retreats, holiday gatherings, weekend getaways, church events & more
- ◆ The beach is a short 5-minute walk from the front door

- ◆ Billiards table, ping pong, flat-screen LCD TVs, games, & much more.
- ◆ Sleeps up to 16 guests comfortably
- ◆ Outdoor dining area & barbeque
- ◆ Spacious deck

To view more amenities this property has to offer or to learn more, please reach out to:

www.VRBO.com/367962 • VillaAtTheBeach@gmail.com • www.facebook.com/VillaAtTheBeach

KIRKLAND ANNEX APARTMENTS

RETIREMENT LIVING



7810 SE FOSTER ROAD • PORTLAND

503-774-8885

- STUDIO & ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS
- CLOSE TO SHOPPING, TRANSIT, & RESTAURANTS
- SMALL, WELCOMING COMMUNITY
- AFFORDABLE RENT NO BUY-INS OR APPLICATION FEES
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE



THE UNION MANORS . ORG

Multi-team owner Michele Kang looks to raise the bar for women's soccer on multiple fronts

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Soccer Writer

Michele Kang knows the question is coming before it is even asked. No, she never imagined she'd own one women's soccer team, let alone three. But Kang knows a good investment when she sees it.

"I really fell in love with the game and the potential. I saw the potential where it was and where it could be," she said. "I am just grateful for this opportunity to be a catalyst and sort of a match that could light a fire."

Kang owns the Washington Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), the London City Lionesses in England's Women's Super League, and OL Lyonnes in the French Premier League. All three are accomplished teams, with the Lionesses promoted last year from the Women's Championship, the Spirit raising the NWSL championship trophy in 2021, and Lyon winning a record eight Women's Champions League titles and 18 league titles.

Multi-club owners are not unusual on the men's side of the game: There's City Group, which owns Manchester City in the English Premier League and a number of other teams, and Austria's Red Bull, which owns several teams including RB Leipzig in the German Bundesliga.

But on the women's side, it's more of a rarity, and it is certainly unusual to own three teams in three top-tier leagues. Kang also took over as president of Olympique Lyonnais on the men's side last year.

"My model is, because of where women's soccer is in terms of its development relative to men's, my multi-club model is



very different than the men's multi-club. My model is really respecting each club's legacy," she said. "So it is to really give them what they need, the basic and the important things, and see how far they go."

Kang's influence extends beyond team ownership: She's a globe-trotting pied piper for women's soccer. She upped the ante for big-name player signings by luring Swedish international Kosovare Asllani to London City before the team was promoted, and more recently helped to make sure U.S. star Trinity Rodman re-signed with the Spirit. She's also a philanthropist who has funded projects with U.S. Soccer that include dedicated research on female athletes to develop best training practices and prevent injuries.

Kang enters the sports world

Kang, who was born in South Korea, founded medical technology company

Cognosante, which she sold in 2024. *Forbes* has estimated her worth at \$1.2 billion.

She joined the soccer world when she bought a minority stake in the Spirit in late 2020, then acquired the team outright in 2022. She acquired Lyon and London City the next year, and in 2024 put all three teams under the umbrella of her Kynisca Sports International, a women-led global sports organization.

"I'm obviously excited that we were a part of her origin story," NWSL commissioner Jessica Berman said. "Obviously, her first major investment was through the Washington Spirit, and I think it's fair to say she fell in love with women's soccer through the NWSL, and now she's spreading that love all around the world."

Kang's influence was highlighted

SUPER SOCCER SUPPORTER. American businesswoman Michele Kang arrives at the Europa League soccer league phase draw in Monaco in this August 29, 2025 file photo. Multi-team owner Kang owns the Washington Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League, the London City Lionesses in England's Women's Super League, and OL Lyonnes in the French Premier League. (AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani, File)

recently when the Spirit reached a contract agreement with Rodman.

"I am incredibly grateful, and I'm very glad it's over that she's staying with a positive outcome," Kang said. "This is one of the most important contracts ever, not just for the Spirit, but for the league as well. So I was very involved and in terms from strategy to every turn, every little challenge we had."

Rodman, who has been with the Spirit since 2021, became a free agent at the end of last season. The team was eager to re-sign her, but the league's salary cap was hindering the process.

One agreement between the two sides was scuttled by the league before the creation of a "High Impact Player" rule that allows teams to go \$1 million over the cap to sign players who meet certain criteria.

Using the rule, the Spirit were able to eventually re-sign Rodman, though the rule is now the subject of a grievance by the players' union.

"She believes in women's sports so much, especially soccer," Rodman said. "Just how much she's committed to us and having an owner that commits that much, you kind of are forced to like work 10 times harder, so having that support has been amazing."

Continued on page 12

Taiwan Olympic boxing champ involved in gender debate wins first bout at Asian titles

ULANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP) — Lin Yu-ting comfortably won her first international bout since the 2024 Paris Olympics at the Asian championships late in March after World Boxing said she passed a gene test.

Taiwan's first Olympic boxing champion beat Thananya Somnuek of Thailand 5-0 in the round of 16 in the 60-kilogram division. That earned Lin a quarterfinal against division favorite Ayaka Taguchi of Japan.

The 30-year-old Lin wasn't cleared to compete at the Asian titles with less than two weeks before the bout.

World Boxing took over as the sport's Olympic-level governing body last year, and it implemented a sex eligibility policy last August requiring all fighters to take a one-time genetic test designed to identify the presence of a Y chromosome.

Two-time world champion Lin qualified for the Asian championships in December

by defeating compatriot Wu Shih-yi, a 60kg bronze medallist at the Paris Olympics.

But World Boxing didn't confirm Lin's eligibility until March 19, and the statement referred to her competing in only World Boxing competitions.

It is not clear whether Lin will have to undergo further gene testing if she wants to compete again at the Olympics. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently announced new rules banning transgender athletes and a mandatory gene test once in an athlete's career.

Lin and Imane Khelif of Algeria won gold medals in Paris amid international scrutiny and misconceptions over both boxers' sex.

While both met the eligibility rules followed at the time by the IOC, which ran the Paris tournament, the two fighters' success sparked a politically charged debate over those standards.

Learn the signs of stroke
ohsu.edu/befast

B E F A S T

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | |
| BALANCE Did they suddenly lose balance or coordination? | EYES Do they have sudden blurred or double vision, or loss of vision in one or both eyes? | FACE Ask them to smile. Does one side of the face droop? | ARM Ask them to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward? | SPEECH Ask them to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred? Can they repeat the sentence correctly? | TIME If they show any of these symptoms, time is important. Call 911 |

OHSUHealth

Young Sooryavanshi hits 15-ball fifty as Rajasthan thumps Chennai by eight wickets in IPL

GUWAHATI, India (AP) — Young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed a 15-ball half-century as the Rajasthan Royals thrashed Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

On a pitch which was under covers for most of the last two days due to wet weather, Chennai was put in and crumbled to 127 all out in 19.4 overs. All six Rajasthan bowlers shared the wickets.

The 15-year-old Sooryavanshi was dropped on the first ball he faced then powered the chase with 52 off 17 balls — raising the third fastest fifty in the IPL — as Rajasthan cruised to 128-2 in only 12.1 overs.

Five-time champion Chennai has undergone a youth movement in order to make a long-term rebound from finishing in last place last year. But it made an inauspicious start thanks to the youngest player in the league.

Sooryavanshi's miscued pull shot against Matt Henry in the first over was dropped by debutant Kartik Sharma, a tough two-handed catch over his shoulders while running backward from midwicket. Sharma failed to chase the ball and it dribbled over the boundary, the first of Sooryavanshi's four boundaries plus five sixes.

Sooryavanshi gave Rajasthan a blazing start of 74-0 in the powerplay. He



SENSATIONAL SOORYAVANSHI. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi of the Rajasthan Royals plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and the Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati, India. Young sensation Sooryavanshi smashed a 15-ball half-century as the Rajasthan Royals thrashed Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets. (AP Photo/Anupam Nath)

decision to bowl first in favorable conditions was vindicated when Chennai slumped to 38-4 against the express pace of Jofra Archer (2-19) and Nandre Burger (2-26).

Former Rajasthan skipper Sanju Samson (6) had a forgetful first game for his new franchise Chennai when Burger flattened his off stump with a 140 kph delivery.

Samson was hired to fix the top order batting issues for Chennai but captain Ruturaj Gaikwad also made only 6 when he exposed his stumps against Archer's pace and was clean bowled.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2-18), playing for Rajasthan after 17 seasons with Chennai, struck twice in his first over to reduce Chennai further to 57-6.

With Mahendra Singh Dhoni not available for the first two weeks due to a calf injury, Chennai was in danger of opening its campaign with less than 100 runs. But Jamie Overton top-scored with 43 off 36 balls before he was run out in the last over.

lobbered wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad for successive sixes and raised his half-century off just 15 balls before he holed out to Sarfaraz Khan at sweeper cover in the seventh over.

Fellow opener Yashasvi Jaiswal had a front row seat to Sooryavanshi's artistry. He was dropped on 26 before finishing 38

not out off 36 balls.

"The plan was to decide the game in the powerplay as we'd restricted them to a low score," Sooryavanshi said. "After every ball Jaiswal doesn't tell me to take a single. He tells me that the ball's going off the bat nicely and to keep going."

New Rajasthan skipper Riyan Parag's

Multi-team owner Michele Kang looks to raise the bar for women's soccer on multiple fronts

Continued from page 11

More than just an owner

Kang is also dedicated to the science and technology behind women's sports, recognizing the need for innovation in areas like training, performance, and recovery. Relying on the practices used by men's soccer is untenable, she said, because "women are not small men."

In 2024, she pledged \$30 million to U.S. Soccer, the single-largest investment for women's programs in the federation's history. More recently, her Kynisca Innovation Hub was merged with the federation's Soccer Forward Program to further research and innovation in women's sports. The Kang Women's Institute was announced in December.

"(We're) really kind of flipping this on its head and essentially saying, 'OK, how we always used to do things for women and girls soccer? Actually, that was a transfer from the men's game.' What does this look like if we're just starting with a completely blank sheet of paper of what's best for a female player," said Lex Chalot, head of the Soccer Forward Foundation.

Kang's vision is practical: Athletes and their performance are at the core of her business.

"One of the problems with women's football is that there are a lot of anecdotal little projects here and there, but nothing is done at scale. And unless you can do these types of things at scale, it's just a thousand flowers bloom and they all die and nothing happens," Kang said. "So I wanted to make sure that this is done properly at scale once."

There's no reason why multiple organizations need to do this. We can combine."

Kang's philosophy aligns with U.S. national team coach Emma Hayes, who said she's never met anyone quite like Kang.

"It's easy to look at the dollars that are being put in by her, but actually, if you meet her and you get to know her, she's so passionate about women's football globally, and she's so determined to play a significant part," Hayes said, "not just in shaping the next direction for the women's game and leading the way with that investment, but her commitment to research, to education, to developing the insights that go back to the equity piece that is going to have a bigger impact on the broader game."

Judge orders White House ballroom construction to halt in a ruling that leaves Trump seething

Continued from page 9

now imminent."

During the hearing, Leon sounded skeptical of what he referred to as the government's "shifting theories and shifting dynamics" for its arguments in the case.

"I don't think it's a new theory," Justice Department attorney Jacob Roth told the judge.

Leon expressed frustration at Roth's attempts to equate the massive ballroom project with relatively modest construction work at the White House under previous administrations.

"This is an iconic symbol of this nation," the judge said.

The administration argued that other presidents didn't need congressional approval for previous White House renovation projects, large and small.

"Many of those projects were highly controversial in their time yet have since become accepted — even beloved — parts of the White House," government attorneys wrote.

The project is another attempt by Trump to remake Washington

Leon in his ruling rejected the administration's claim that congress gave the president virtually unilateral authority to construct anything on federal land in Washington, regardless of the funding source.

AFFORDABLE RETIREMENT LIVING

FOR SENIORS 62 YEARS & OLDER

WESTMORELAND'S UNION MANOR

6404 SE 23rd Ave
Portland, OR 97202
503-233-5671

MARSHALL UNION MANOR

2020 NW Northrup St
Portland, OR 97209
503-225-0677

KIRKLAND UNION MANORS

3530 SE 84th Ave
Portland, OR 97266
503-777-8101

KIRKLAND UNION PLAZA

1414 Kauffman Ave
Vancouver, WA 98660
360-694-4314

- STUDIO & ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS
- AFFORDABLE RENTS
- NO APPLICATION FEES
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE
- GARDEN AREAS & PLANNED ACTIVITIES
- EASY ACCESS TO BUS LINES
- CLOSE TO SHOPPING



WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG



Happy Earth Month



Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

KPop Demon Hunters wins Oscar for best animated film

By James Pollard
The Associated Press

KPop *Demon Hunters* won the Academy Award for best animated feature film, capping a culturally defining run that has placed the musical-action movie atop both box-office and music charts.

Netflix's big blockbuster follows HUNTR/X, a Korean girl group that battles otherworldly demons, a rival boy band, and their lead singer's own shame. Its choppy animation style, which combines 2D anime aesthetics with 3D CGI stylizations, underscores the high-octane action.

The soundtrack, led by the Grammy-winning hit "Golden," landed eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100. Alongside all the demon-slaying and choreography is a creative tale of self-acceptance that blends Korean mythology and K-pop idol culture.

In her acceptance speech, director Maggie Kang apologized to "those of you who look like me" that it took so long for them to be represented on the screen.

"This is for Korea and Koreans everywhere," she said.



BEST ANIMATED FILM. Channing Tatum, left, presents the award for best animated feature film to Maggie Kang for *KPop Demon Hunters* during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

The film's victory came as little surprise to those following awards season. The other nominees — *Arco*, *Elio*, *Little Amélie* or *the Character of Rain*, and *Zootopia 2* — had racked up few prizes at the shows leading up to the Oscars. *KPop Demon Hunters* won big at many of the precursors, including the Producers Guild Awards and the Golden Globes.

The recognition continues voters' celebration of original animated stories that don't adapt existing intellectual property. Recent winners include Hayao Miyazaki's *The Boy and the Heron* and the Latvian film *Flow*.

Kang has said she wanted to fully immerse viewers in its Korean setting rather than explain certain elements for western audiences. By "throwing people into the deep end of a culture," she previously told The AP, it is easier to break down barriers. "If you don't shine a light on it, it just becomes more easily accepted," she said.

The win further demonstrates the global influence of South Korean pop culture. The film's fantastical world, where the only force standing between evil spirits and humanity is one snack-loving vocal trio, inspired many children's Halloween costumes in the United States. The HUNTR/X singers — Ejae, Audrey Nuna, and Rei Ami — gained hundreds of

thousands of Instagram followers, performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and appeared alongside Bad Bunny on the "Saturday Night Live" season premiere.

Arden Cho, who provided the speaking voice for Rumi, was named one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2025.

Eurovision Song Contest is expanding with an Asian edition later this year

By Jintamas Saksornchai
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — The music spectacle Eurovision is holding its first Asian edition in Bangkok later this year.

The Eurovision Song Contest Asia 2026 has confirmed artists from at least 10 countries across Asia competing: Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. More are

expected to join before the finale in November.

"As we mark the 70th anniversary of the Eurovision Song Contest, it feels especially meaningful to open this next chapter with Asia, a region rich in culture, creativity, and talent," Martin Green, the director of the contest, said in the announcement.

Bangkok is the perfect city to host the contest because it "has always been a place where cultures come together, where music fills the air, and where celebration is

part of everyday life," said Chuwit Sirivajjakul, a representative of the Thailand Tourism Authority.

The main gala, run by the European Broadcasting Union, draws more than 100 million viewers every year.

This year's main competition with 35 competing countries is scheduled to be held in Vienna in May. Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain are boycotting due to discord over Israel's participation.

The contest strives to put pop music

before politics but has repeatedly been embroiled in world events. Russia was expelled in 2022 after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

It also has been roiled by the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, stirring protests outside the venues and forcing organizers to clamp down on political flag-waving.

There is the possibility that similar tensions could emerge in Asia. Thailand and Cambodia engaged in deadly border clashes twice last year.



Connect with nature.

Whether it's a family bike ride, a volunteer planting, or a guided wildflower tour – Metro parks offer plenty of reasons to get out and explore this spring.

oregonmetro.gov/parks



- Parks and nature
- Arts and events
- Garbage and recycling
- Housing and supportive services
- Land and transportation
- Oregon Zoo



“Golden” from *KPop Demon Hunters* wins Oscar for best original song

By Maria Sherman
AP Music Writer

They're going up, up, up; it's their moment. EJAE, Mark Sonnenblick, Joong Gyu Kwak, Yu Han Lee, Hee Dong Nam, Jeong Hoon Seon, and Teddy Park — the team behind the global smash “Golden” from *KPop Demon Hunters* — took home the original song award at the Oscars in mid-March.

It is a first-time win and nomination for all seven members behind the hit. It is also the first K-pop song to win in the category.

KPop Demon Hunters is an animated, musical film about a fictional K-pop girl group tasked with saving the world by defeating demons. Netflix has said it is the platform's most watched film of all time and has amassed hundreds of millions of hours viewed worldwide. It also produced the highest charting soundtrack of 2025 with eight of its songs landing on the Billboard Hot 100.

“Thank you so much to the Academy,” EJAE started her speech, holding back tears. “This award is not about success, it's



about resilience.”

“Golden” beat Diane Warren for “Dear Me” from *Diane Warren: Relentless*; Raphael Saadiq and Ludwig Göransson for “I Lied to You” from *Sinners*; Nicholas Pike for “Sweet Dreams of Joy” from *Viva*

Verdi!; and Nick Cave and Bryce Dessner for “Train Dreams” from *Train Dreams*.

When nominations were announced in January, EJAE told The Associated Press that she was totally shocked by the recognition. “It just doesn't feel real even

GOLDEN SONG. Rei Ami, EJAE, and Audrey Nuna (left to right) perform “Golden” from *KPop Demon Hunters* during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The team behind the global smash “Golden” took home the original song award at the Oscars. It was a first-time win and nomination for all seven members behind the hit. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

right now. I'm just still trying to digest the situation. It's just definitely a dream come true. And that's why, you know, we write — to have a song that everyone can sing, and not just sing, but make them feel good, because the lyrics (are) very uplifting, and challenge them to sing those high notes,” she said. “For me, also, it's the fact that there are Korean lyrics in it. It is just kind of really crazy to see everyone from all different countries and races singing it. So, I'm just forever grateful to be a part of this incredible film that I wish I grew up watching, too.”

Before receiving the Oscar for original song, Rei Ami, EJAE, and Audrey Nuna performed “Golden” at the awards ceremony, which was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Recycling various small batteries is becoming easier

PORTLAND — Battery recycling has become easier these days because curbside battery collection is now part of customers' regular garbage and recycling service. Recycling batteries for many is now almost as simple as filling up a one-quart clear ziplock bag with batteries and setting them on top of all the glass in curbside glass recycling bins.

Batteries — especially lithium-ion ones found in rechargeable devices — can catch fire if they are crushed, punctured, or exposed to heat. When tossed in the garbage or regular recycling bin, they pose a serious risk to garbage truck drivers, recycling workers, and the environment. In fact, the Metro Central and Metro South transfer stations in Oregon reported that there were 58 battery-related fires in 2025, with hundreds more occurring at waste facilities throughout the state.

In the first year of Portland's curbside battery recycling program, 20 tons of batteries were recycled. In June last year, the city reported that Portlanders safely taped, bagged, and set out more than 20 tons of batteries in their glass recycling bins.

According to the city, 20 tons is similar to the weight of 4 adult elephants or 100 grand pianos.

The City of Portland says it is grateful, as that's “20 tons of batteries not sitting in landfills,” or worse, sparking fires in garbage and recycling trucks or facilities, or exposing people to toxic chemicals. The recycled batteries also help in recovering valuable materials that

Continued on page 19

You can give old batteries a new life by safely recycling them

Continued from page 10

kind they are. Batteries “come in all shapes and sizes, but what's inside differs,” said materials scientist Matthew Bergschneider of the University of Texas at Dallas.

Alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries are generally single-use and come in AA, AAA, and more. These can be safely thrown in the household trash in most places, but the EPA still recommends recycling them so that their materials can be made into something new.

Lithium-ion batteries — commonly found in things like power tools and cordless vacuums — are a risk to cause fires and leak toxic gasses in garbage trucks and landfills. A lot of rechargeable batteries are lithium-ion, but more single-use batteries are being made this way too.

Be sure to look up battery disposal laws for your area: Places like New York, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. have special rules about throwing away household or rechargeable batteries.

Once you've corralled your batteries, tape their ends or put them

in plastic bags to avoid the possibility of sparking. Then, take them to a drop-off location. How easy or hard this is depends on where you live.

Many hardware and office supplies stores accept old batteries. Look into city and state drop-off programs or search by ZIP code using The Battery Network, a nonprofit geared toward safe battery recycling.

Have a location in your home to collect the batteries over time and then “at some point, hopefully among all the other things that we all have in our lives, you can find a convenient drop-off location,” said Todd Ellis of The Battery Network.

If your batteries look swollen, cracked, or are leaking, don't drop them off. You'll need to get in touch with your local hazardous waste removal agency to figure out how to turn them in.

Recycled batteries can have a second life

Once batteries are dropped off at a collection site, they're sorted by type and taken to a recycling facility where they're broken down into their essential components — like cobalt, nickel, or aluminum. Some bits can be

used to make new batteries or other things. Nickel, for example, can be used to make stainless steel products and alkaline batteries can be turned into sunscreen.

Safely recycling a battery doesn't cancel out the environmental cost of making it. But it does give the battery's components their best chance at becoming something new.

“You continue to recycle and you don't have to go back to the Earth to mine,” said public health expert Oladele Ogunseitan, who studies electronic waste at the University of California, Irvine.

Good battery habits are also good for us. It protects against old or damaged batteries leaking toxic compounds into our cabinets and junk drawers.

“I think it's one of the simplest and most controllable actions that we can take to reduce our impact,” said Sun, the Harvard scientist.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for content.

Took the wrong medicine?

Medicine mix-ups can make you worry.



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



OREGON
POISON
CENTER



Carbon Monoxide:

**YOU CAN'T SEE OR SMELL IT.
BUT YOU CAN STOP IT.**



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



BTS' long-awaited comeback album *ARIRANG* is an exciting experiment

By Maria Sherman
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — The game-changing K-pop boy band BTS has returned after a nearly four-year musical hiatus. *ARIRANG*, the 14-track, fifth studio album from the septet — RM, Jin, Jimin, V, Suga, Jung Kook, and j-hope — is here. And it is appropriately massive.

ARIRANG — titled after a popular, traditional Korean folk song that touches on themes of longing, separation, and love — is a stadium-sized album that serves as both a reintroduction to the band and as a keen reminder of their place atop popular culture conversation. That's evident from the jump: The first half pulls largely from trap and hip-hop, an energetic reminder of their early rap records. It's an ode to where they came from and where they're going — as immediately demonstrated in the opener "Body to Body," which works in a melody from the traditional "Arirang."

After the fiery block comes the short interlude "No. 29," a reverberating bell toll captured from the Divine Bell of King Seongdeok — South Korea's largest extant bell, designated National Treasure No. 29 in 1962 — before a pop detour of various genre experiments.

The tagline for BTS' comeback album is "born in Korea, playing for the world." It couldn't be more fitting: Here, the septet utilize their familiar strengths and further their inventive spirit, bringing their country to a global audience eager to hear from them again.

To call it highly anticipated would be a gross understatement. *ARIRANG* is the band's first original full-length release since all seven members completed South Korea's mandatory military service. Not that it has been all quiet at team BTS: The band tiered their enlistments, giving ample time for its members to focus on solo projects while the group was on a break.

The time apart must've bolstered their hunger for composition and experimentation: According to a press release, leader RM is credited on every track save for the interlude. The others contributed, too: Suga and j-hope on a number of songs, including "Body to Body," "Merry Go Round," and "Normal"; Jimin with "They Don't Know 'Bout Us" and "Into the Sun." V was also involved in the latter as well as "2.0." Jung Kook was involved in four tracks, including "Hooligan."

There are a number of familiar names on the credits: Mike WiLL Made-It, Ryan Tedder, Tame Impala's Kevin Parker, and Diplo are among the listed producers,



and their presence is known. The latter brings Jersey club to the energetic "FYA"; there's a real joy in its boisterous lyrics: "Club go crazy like Britney, baby / Hit me with it one more time." Parker's dreamy, psych-pop production is

heard on "Merry Go Round"; BTS' performance amplifies the producer's signatures. "Normal" has echoes of Taylor Swift with a low-key hook; it leads to the distorted trip-hop and Pixies' wistfulness of "Like Animals."

BTS RETURNS. The game-changing K-pop boy band BTS has returned after a nearly four-year musical hiatus. *ARIRANG*, the 14-track, fifth studio album (pictured) from the septet — RM, Jin, Jimin, V, Suga, Jung Kook, and j-hope — is here. (Image courtesy of Big Hit Music)

Then, a brief pivot back to the first half's trap-pop. There's the 808 bass of "They Don't Know 'Bout Us," a partner to the earlier track "2.0," before pivoting again and again: to the synth-y "One More Night," the R&B harmonies of "Please," and the acoustic, early morning closer "Into the Sun," that climbs to a resonant, rock 'n' roll coda. Zig, they zag.

With *ARIRANG*, BTS had big shoes to fill: their own. The group's last album, 2020's *Be*, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and featured some of their best-known hits, "Dynamite" and "Life Goes On." Here, on *ARIRANG*, there is no "Butter," no English-language bubblegum pop. Instead, there is a band atop the music world, returning to their throne on their own terms: with bilingual bangers and avant-garde ambitions.

*Wondering when
our next issue
is published?*

Sign up for e-alerts at
<news@asianreporter.com>!

*An online version
of this issue
is available at*

<www.asianreporter.com>.

OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

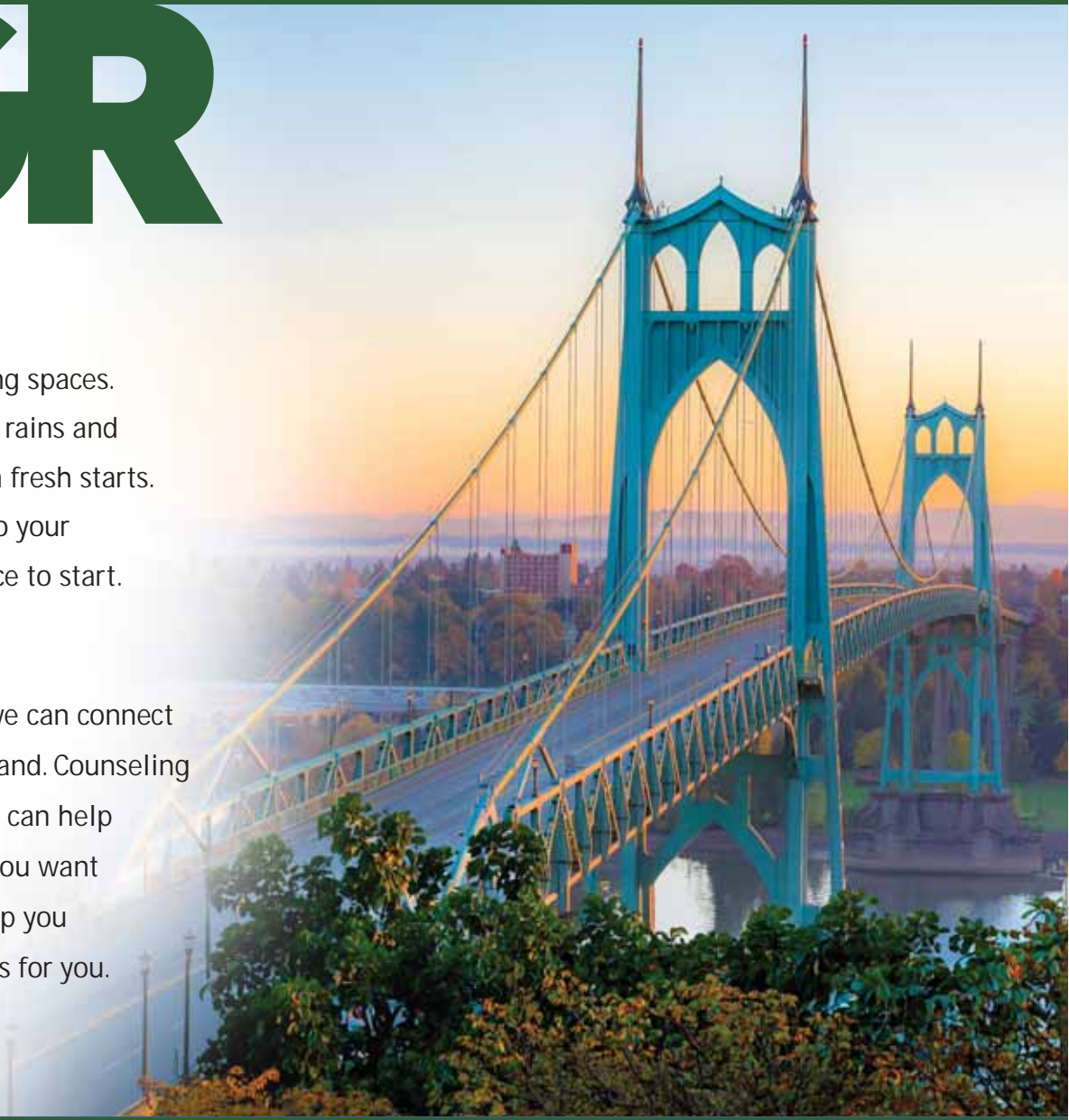
OPGR

Spring Refresh

Spring cleaning isn't only for our homes and living spaces. When the winter chill starts giving way to spring rains and new growth, it can inspire us to consider our own fresh starts. If you've been thinking about making a change to your gambling, talking to someone can be a great place to start.

OPGR Can Help

At Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR), we can connect you to free, professional counselors who understand. Counseling doesn't have to be a last resort; it's self-care that can help you, wherever you are on your journey. Whether you want to cut back or stop gambling altogether, we'll help you explore your options and create a plan that works for you.



Explore your options at OPGR.org

Events calendar

“New Years All Year Round”

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

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>.

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

Currently on view, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Be Water, My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee,” an interactive exhibit that invites viewers to step into the mind, body, and spirit of Bruce Lee to see how his unquenchable pursuit of knowledge informed his philosophy and life. The display follows Bruce’s path, beginning with his revelations on water, through the wealth of knowledge found in his 2,800-book personal library, to his philosophy of self-understanding and self-expression. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“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>.

“Lay Your Burden Down”

Through Apr 13, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View “Lay Your Burden Down,” an installation created by artist Carina del Rosario, recipient of the 2025 Constance W. Rice Fellowship. The original piece, which was commissioned by the museum, is on view at SAAM through April 13, 2026. The installation is a communal act of care — a community-based project that invited people to share their burdens, convened sewing circles to tend and bolster those burdens, and then turned the embroidered pieces into pillows that are on display on a luxurious hammock. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

“Anila Quayyum Agha: Geometry of Light”

Through Apr 19, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 E Prospect St, in Volunteer Park, Seattle). View “Anila Quayyum Agha: Geometry of Light,” a display that invites viewers to become part of the art. Agha, a Pakistani American artist, animates spaces with her large-scale sculptural installations. Suspended from the ceiling, the steel cubes are laser-cut with intricate designs that project geometric shadows onto the visitor. She draws on both the light and dark of her own life, using South Asian art practices to convey the gender discrimination she faced growing up as a young girl in Pakistan. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 654-3210 or visit <www.seattleartmuseum.org>.

The Magnolia Festival

Through Apr 26 (daily), 10am-6:30pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend The Magnolia Festival at Lan Su and learn about the magnolia’s symbolism in Chinese art and literature. Guests are invited to wander through the floral installations, participate in the Magnolia Coloring Corner, attend magnolia cultivation talks (April 11 & 18, 2-3pm), try magnolia oolong, and more. For info, to obtain a complete schedule of activities, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Satpreet Kahlon

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

“Minidoka on Our Minds”

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

“Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints”

Through June 15, 10am-5:30pm (Wed-Mon), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). View “Enduring Impressions: Contemporary Woodblock Prints,” an exhibit featuring the art of mokuhanaga, a Japanese style of woodblock printmaking that uses wood, water-based pigments, and paper made from plant fibers. The display reveals how the centuries-old tradition is experiencing a contemporary revival as artists around the world use the quiet power and unique characteristics of woodblock printmaking to create captivating works of art. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Umico Niwa

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



THE MAGNOLIA FESTIVAL. The Magnolia Festival is taking place at Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland through Sunday, April 26. Pictured is a magnolia in bloom at Lan Su in March of 2026. (Photo/Rebecca Belaus, courtesy of Lan Su)

<info@ily2online.com> or visit <www.ily2online.com>.

Charlene Liu: “Scallion”

Through July 2026, 10am-7pm (Thu), 10am-5pm (Fri-Sun), Henry Art Gallery (15th Ave NE & NE 41st St, Seattle). View “Scallion,” an inaugural mural presentation by Charlene Liu located in the Sculpture Court at the Henry Art Gallery. The work builds on her ongoing engagement with food as a means to locate culture and heritage amidst diaspora. Rendered in a fluid, multi-layered, visual language, the landscape offers a portal to reflect on how culinary traditions build belonging in place and playfully celebrates the importance of shared food experiences. For info, call (206) 543-2280 or visit <www.henryart.org>.

“The Yasui Family: An American Story”

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

“From Highway 101: Images of Oregon’s Most Iconic Highway”

Through Sep 20, 10am-5pm (Mon-Sat), noon-5pm (Sun), Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). View “From Highway 101: Images of Oregon’s Most Iconic Highway,” an exhibit highlighting how Oregon’s Highway 101 is more than a road. The stretch connecting California to Washington runs through breathtaking vistas of the Pacific Ocean, where rocky shorelines neighbor green forests, and vibrant communities are connected by the major thoroughfare — from Astoria to Brookings. The museum is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 101 being designated a federal highway. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

“Finding Home: The Chinese American West”

Through Sep 5, 2027, 10am-5pm (Wed & Fri-Sun), 10am-8pm (Thu), Tacoma Art Museum (1701 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, Wash.). View “Finding Home: The Chinese American West,” an exhibit by artists Monyee Chau, Zhi Lin, and Mian Situ about the history of racism and violence against the Chinese in America — specifically Tacoma’s exclusionary past — in addition to the artists’ views of Chinese immigrants finding a sense of home and hope and persevering despite hardship. The display explores the spiritual, the mythical, and the laborious path of these seekers of the American dream in a counter-narrative to the conventional picture of America’s history. The featured artworks were created in the 21st century, though they imagine the time of 1785 (when the first Chinese immigrants arrived) to 1912 (the end of the American frontier period). For info, or to purchase tickets, call (253) 272-4258 or visit <www.tacomartmuseum.org>.

Portland Japanese Garden cultural activities

Apr 8, 10 & 12, 1:15-2:15pm, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Attend afternoon cultural activities and performances held at the Portland Japanese Garden. Scheduled events include a tea ceremony (April 8), an Ikebana demonstration (April 10), a performance by Oregon Koto-Kai (April 12), and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

Apr 10-12, 11am-5pm, Seattle Center (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Celebrate the beauty of spring at the free Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival presented by Seattle Center Festál. Participants discover the cultural roots, contemporary influences, and traditions of Japan with dance, taiko drumming, exhibits, martial arts, origami, displays, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.cherryblossomfest.org> or <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Continued on page 17



RETIREMENT LIVING

- STUDIO & ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS
- FEDERAL RENT SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE
- NO BUY-IN OR APPLICATION FEES
- AFFORDABLE RENT INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES (EXCEPT TELEPHONE & CABLE TELEVISION)
- IDEAL URBAN LOCATION NEAR SHOPPING, BUS LINES, RESTAURANTS, ESTHER SHORT PARK & MUCH MORE!

SMITH TOWER
515 WASHINGTON STREET
VANCOUVER, WA 98660
360-695-3474

WWW.SMITHTOWERAPTS.COM



HAPPY
EARTH
MONTH



Have a safe & prosperous
Year of the Horse!

February 17, 2026 to February 5, 2027

Our Lunar New Year special edition was published on February 2, 2026. To download a copy, visit us online at <www.asianreporter.com>.

Events calendar

Continued from page 16

“Steep & Paint”

Apr 10 & 24, May 15 & 22, June 12 & 26, July 17 & 31, Aug 14 & 28, and Sep 11 & 25, 2-5pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Attend the “Steep & Paint” series at Lan Su. In partnership with Oregon Botanical Artists (OBA), the immersive afternoon experience invites guests to slow down, look closely, and connect with plants through tea, conversation, and hands-on art-making. Each session weaves together horticulture, tea culture, and botanical art. All materials are included. For info, or to purchase tickets (required), call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Philip Mahoney

Apr 11, 7pm, Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (12625 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Attend “A Decade in Motion,” a concert by Filipino American singer, recording artist, and multi-instrumentalist Philip Mahoney, who is fondly dubbed the “Filipino Kenny G” for his soulful saxophone performances. Joining Mahoney onstage is special guest Jay R, a Filipino American singer-songwriter hailed as the “Philippine King of R&B.” For info, or to purchase tickets, call (971) 501-7722 or visit <www.thereser.org>.

Japanese American Remembrance Trail Tour

Apr 11 & 18, 11:30am-1pm, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). Learn about the history of Seattle’s Japantown — Nihonmachi — at a Japanese American Remembrance Trail Tour. The approximately one-mile walking tour introduces participants to Nihonmachi in the early 1900s — stretching from 4th Avenue South to 23rd Avenue South — which was a bustling enclave of family homes and independently owned shops, grocery stores, and entertainment venues. In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor came Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which forcibly imprisoned all persons of Japanese ancestry into incarceration camps during World War II. Nihonmachi never fully recovered. The tour takes visitors through Nihonmachi past and present. General admission to the museum is included with a tour ticket purchase. For info, or to book a tour, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

Shinobue flute, Tsugaru shamisen & piano performance

Apr 17, 1:15-2:15pm, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Attend a shinobue flute, Tsugaru shamisen, and piano performance by Yumi Torimaru and Nozomi Imade of Maido Mind at the Portland Japanese Garden. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Hindustani vocal concert

Apr 17, 7pm, First Baptist Church (909 SW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend a Hindustani vocal concert presented by Kalakendra. The performance features Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande on vocals accompanied by Sanjay Deshpande on tabla and Siddhesh Bicholkar on harmonium. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 308-1050 or visit <www.kalakendra.org>.

Portland Japanese Garden Storytime

Apr 18, 10:30-11am, Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Attend a community storytime celebrating Japanese culture and the power of nature to spark curiosity and wonder. The storytime theme for April focuses in the traditional Japanese art form of bonsai. The event features a selection of stories aimed at children between three and eight years old, but all ages are welcome. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Northwest Jewelry & Metal Showcase

Apr 24-26, 10am-7pm (Fri), 10am-6pm (Sat), 10am-4pm (Sun), Oregon Convention Center, Exhibit Hall D (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland). Admire and buy earrings, brooches, rings, necklaces, and other pieces of jewelry, metalwork, and sculpture at the free Northwest Jewelry & Metal Showcase, presented by the Creative Metal Arts Guild (CMAG). Hundreds of artisans show their creations at the event. For info, call (503) 235-7575 or visit <www.cmagshow.com>.

82nd Avenue of Roses Parade

Apr 25, 9:30-11:30am, SE 82nd Ave & SE Cora St (Portland) to the corner of SE 82nd Ave & SE Clinton St (Portland). Watch or take part in the 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade. The parade, this year with the theme “History of East Portland,” begins north of Eastport Plaza and features marching bands, community groups, school bands, and more. In celebration of the parade’s 20th year, attendees are invited to enjoy an expanded 3-day event (April 24 to 26). Funtastic Carnival & Rides and EPCC Food Cart Bingo kicks off the fun on Friday, April 24. Saturday highlights the parade, a classic car show, the carnival and rides, and the Jade District and 82nd Avenue Spring Cleanup. On Sunday, parade contest displays are featured in addition to the Montavilla Farmers Market. For info, to volunteer, or to inquire about becoming a sponsor, call (503) 313-1665, e-mail <82rosescec@gmail.com> or <82rosesparadevolunteer@gmail.com>, or visit <www.82rosescec.com> or <www.82RosesHeartPortland.com>.

New Year in the Park

Apr 25, 10am-5pm, Glenhaven Park (NE 82nd Ave & NE Siskiyou St, Portland). Attend New Year in the Park, a celebration of the Cambodia, Lao, Thai, and Burmese New Year. The free family-friendly event features traditional music, cultural dance, Asian cuisine, sports, and more. To volunteer or to inquire about becoming a vendor or sponsor, e-mail <nyp.pdx.info@gmail.com>. For info, visit <www.newyearinthepark.com> or <www.facebook.com/newyearinthepark>.

Carnatic Violin Concert

Apr 25, 7pm, First Congregational Church (1126 SW Park Ave, Portland). Attend a Carnatic Violin Concert presented by Kalakendra. The performance features Ganesh-Kumaresh on Carnatic violin, Patri Satish Kumar on mridangam and Trichy Krishnaswamy on ghatam. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 308-1050 or visit <www.kalakendra.org>.

Kulinary Festival

Apr 26, 10am-5pm, Filipino American Association of Portland & Vicinity, Inc. (8917 SE Stark St, Portland). Attend the Kulinarya Festival in celebration of Filipino Food Month and the launch of the Filipino American Association of Portland & Vicinity, Inc.’s (FAAPVI) Immersion Program. The free event begins with hands-on Kulinarya cooking classes from 10:00am to noon (registration required). Following the classes, the festival continues from noon to 5:00pm with live music, booths, and Filipino food vendors offering regional favorites as well as modern takes on classic recipes. For info, e-mail <FAAPVI@faapvi.onmicrosoft.com> or visit <www.filamporland.org/events>. To register for the cooking class, visit <https://forms.gle/WkpBPQ2ohYWUijhA6>.

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

News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

May 4, 2026 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, April 29 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, April 30 at 1:00pm

June 1, 2026 edition:

Space reservations due: Wednesday, May 27 at 1:00pm
Artwork due: Thursday, May 28 at 1:00pm

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

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



DECADE IN MOTION. “A Decade in Motion,” a concert by Filipino American singer, recording artist, and multi-instrumentalist Philip Mahoney, takes place at 7:00pm on April 11 at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton, Oregon. (Image courtesy of the artist)

Deadline to register to vote in Oregon

Apr 28 (last day to register to vote in Oregon). Oregon residents must register to vote by Tuesday, April 28 in order to participate in the May 19 election. To be eligible to register, a potential voter must be a resident of Oregon, a citizen of the United States, and at least 16 years of age. To learn how to register, visit <www.oregonvotes.org> or go to your county elections office.

Portland Thorns FC

Apr 29, 7pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch Portland Thorns FC take on the San Diego Wave in the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). The match is also televised on CBS Sports Network. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.thorns.com>.

Phantom of the Opera

Apr 29-May 10, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *Phantom of the Opera*, a musical that tells the tale of a disfigured musical genius known only as “The Phantom,” who haunts the depths of the Paris Opera House. Mesmerized by the talents and beauty of a young soprano, Christine, The Phantom lures her as his protégé and falls fiercely in love with her. Andrew Lloyd Webber’s romantic, haunting, and soaring score includes “The Music of the Night,” “All I Ask of You,” “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again,” “Masquerade,” and more. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 8 and above, runs 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission. The show contains theatrical haze, fog, prop guns, blank firing, and open flame. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration in Seattle

May 2, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Attend an Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration presented by Seattle Center Festál. The festival features food, music, vendors, performances, and more. Seattle Center Festál is a year-round series of 26 free cultural festivals produced in partnership with community organizations. For info, or to obtain event hours, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.apdcwa.org> or <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Voices of Change 2026

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

“A Glimpse of China”

May 9, 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. For info, or to obtain event hours, call (206) 684-7200 or visit <www.seattlecenter.com>.

Oregon Tradeswomen’s Career Fair

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

Sunday Parkways: Southwest Portland

May 17, 11am-4pm, Southwest Portland. Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, and more without motor traffic during a Sunday Parkways event. Entertainment, live music, activities for both adults and children, and more take place in the parks and along the 2-mile multi-modal route. For info, call (503) 823-7599 or visit <www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways/2026>.

Winter Season

10am–2pm on Sundays
@ SE Stark & 76th

November–December 21:
Every Sunday

January 4–April:
Every other Sunday

MONTAVILLA
Farmers Market

Year-Round | montavillamarket.org

\$20 EBT Match

Sign up for text reminders

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

<<https://www.tigard-or.gov>>

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**METRO PARKS AND
NATURE DEPARTMENT
REAL PROPERTY
APPRAISAL SERVICES**

RFP 4562

The Parks and Nature Department of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting sealed bids for Real Property Appraisal Services.

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

Sealed proposals are due no later than 2:00pm, April 21, 2026, at BidLocker:

<https://bidlocker.us/details/5794_Rfp_4562_Real_Property_Appraisal_Services>

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

Metro acquires various interests, including fee simple title, fee simple subject to life estates or leasebacks, trail easements, conservation easements, and a variety of other property rights, such as timber and development rights. Land acquired includes land zoned for forest, farm, industrial, commercial, open space, or residential use, including urban and rural reserves. Metro's acquisitions require estimates of the fair market value of the property or the property interest to be acquired. Metro seeks qualified firms to provide appraisals and appraisal related consulting services on an on-call, as needed basis.

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS

Bidding documents/RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at:

<https://bidlocker.us/details/5794_Rfp_4562_Real_Property_Appraisal_Services>.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned, emerging small businesses and service disabled veteran owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <www.oregonmetro.gov>.

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

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

May 4 issue: Friday, May 1, 1:00pm

June 1 issue: Friday, May 29, 1:00pm

July 6 issue: Thursday, July 2, 1:00pm

For more information,
contact us at (503) 283-4440.

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

**2026-13-ITB-CAP-
SPECIAL INSPECTION AND
TESTING SERVICES FOR
HIGHWAY 99 BRT**

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (d.b.a. C-TRAN) has issued an Invitation to Bid for the Special Inspection and Testing Services for Highway 99 BRT. The referenced ITB may be found at

<<https://c-tran.public-portal.us.workdayspend.com>>

Interested bidders will be required to register to submit their bid via Workday Strategic Sourcing. Bids will be due Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION
TRAINING PROGRAM**

Worksystems is seeking competitive proposals from community service providers for the delivery of Community Construction Training Program (CCTP) services in the Portland Metro area. The RFP is posted on the Worksystems website at:

<www.worksystems.org/news>

Proposals are due no later than noon on April 27, 2026. Worksystems is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request. To place a free relay call in Oregon, dial 711.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**METRO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
& RECORDS MANAGEMENT
WEBSITE HOSTING**

RFP 4580

The Information Technology & Records Management Department of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting sealed bids for Website Hosting.

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

Sealed proposals are due no later than 2:00pm, April 30, 2026, at BidLocker:

<https://bidlocker.us/details/5856_Rfp_4580_Website_Hosting>

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

Metro is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide managed hosting service for Drupal with a true enterprise-level datacenter backend and a guaranteed 99.95% or better uptime. Also included must be rollback and failover plans as described in the Service Level Agreement (SLA).

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTS

Bidding documents/RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at:

<https://bidlocker.us/details/5856_Rfp_4580_Website_Hosting>

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned, emerging small businesses and service disabled veteran owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <www.oregonmetro.gov>.

Want to place a classified advertisement?

Send your ad request to our Advertising Dept.!

Phone: (503) 283-4440 • Fax: (503) 283-4445

E-mail: <ads@asianreporter.com>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD AND HEARING ON**

DRAFT 2026 ACTION PLAN

Washington County, City of Beaverton
and City of Hillsboro

The Consolidated Plan is a strategic planning document resulting from 18 months of planning and public participation, which sets local strategies and priorities for allocating the federal funding over the five-year timeframe. It acts as a combined plan and application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal funds available to counties and cities under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula programs. Washington County, the City of Beaverton, and the City of Hillsboro each receive an annual CDBG entitlement grant. In addition, Washington County annually receives HOME and ESG program funds on behalf of the entire county. Action Plans are annual components of the Consolidated Plan that specifically describe how Washington County and the Cities of Beaverton and Hillsboro will invest federal resources over a one-year period for activities serving low- and moderate-income persons, the homeless, and persons with special needs.

The Draft 2026 Action Plan is available for public review and comment from Wednesday, March 11 through Thursday April 9, 2026. Copies can be found during regular business hours at the City of Beaverton's Community Development Division located on the 4th floor at "The Beaverton Round" at 12725 SW Millikan Way in Beaverton, or the City of Hillsboro City Manager's Office at 150 E Main Street in Hillsboro. Copies of the draft plan documents can also be obtained from Washington County Office of Community Development, located at 328 W Main, Suite 100, in Hillsboro or by calling (503) 846-8814. In addition, you may download a version of the plan via the County's website:

<<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/commdev/annual-action-plan>>

A public hearing will be held on the draft plans in a virtual format and information regarding connection to the meeting will be available on the Office of Community Development website:

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - 7:00pm

<<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/commdev/annual-action-plan>>

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

You may comment on the 2026 Action Plan the public hearing, or by writing to

**Shannon Wilson, Program Manager
Washington County Office
of Community Development**

328 W. Main Street, MS7, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Phone: (503) 846-8814 • Fax: (503) 846-2882

or e-mail: <cdbg@washingtoncountyor.gov>

**YOU DON'T WANT
THEM RESPONDING
TO YOUR TEXT.**



STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG



COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

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

Lily Market
11001 NE Halsey St.
Portland

Lao Vieng Market
1032 N Killingsworth
St., Portland

**Hong Phat
Supermarket**
11655 SW Pacific
Hwy., Tigard

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

FOR SALE

Farm-raised livestock

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

GRASS-FED BEEF FOR SALE

Cattle raised in Yamhill County at our family farm in Newberg, Oregon. Beef is available in 1/4, 1/2, or whole cow & processed by our butcher in Portland. For pricing & details, please call (503) 980-5900.

FOR SALE

Home Entertainment

HOME ENTERTAINMENT INSTALLATION

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

FREE

Packing material

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

REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

BETHANY MEADOWS,
an affordable apartment community in Washington County, is currently accepting applications for the waitlist. This beautiful community is located off Highway 26 near Bethany & Cornell and offers spacious 1 & 2 bedroom units affordable to individuals and families earning 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Amenities include washer/dryer in units, pool/spa, fitness center, onsite management, ample parking, and optional garage spaces. Water/sewer/garbage included. Property is located near shopping, restaurants, and parks. Section 8 vouchers are welcome. Income restrictions apply. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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



REAL ESTATE

For Sale/For Lease

Recycling various small batteries is becoming easier

Continued from page 14

can be turned into new products.

In the Portland metropolitan area, people who live in a house, duplex, triplex, or fourplex can set out batteries on top of their curbside glass recycling. Those who live in larger apartment complexes or have workplace batteries to recycle should find battery recycling drop-off locations or mail-in options. The Metro Recycling Information Center is available to provide options Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm by calling (503) 234-3000. Information is also available on the Metro website, <www.oregonmetro.gov/FindARecycler>.

Batteries labelled "alkaline" can go right into a one-quart ziplock bag. Batteries that do not say alkaline will need one more step to help keep them from potentially catching fire — a little clear tape on both ends. Scotch tape applied to the positive and negative ends helps accomplish this, then the batteries can be placed into a one-quart plastic bag.

In the City of Portland, types that are can by recycled curbside include: AAA, AA, C, D, button-cell & coin, 6V, and 9V batteries; rechargeable and single-use batteries; batteries labelled Alkaline; batteries labelled Lithium, Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion), Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), and Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn); small batteries that can be easily removed (old cellphones, cameras, etc.); and small tool batteries that fit in a sealed one-quart bag.

Batteries that need to be taken to drop-off facilities for safe recycling or disposal include: batteries that do not fit into a one-quart bag; vape pen & e-cigarette batteries; items with embedded or built-in batteries; cellphone, laptop, and tablet batteries; batteries from wireless headphones, Bluetooth speakers, fitness watches/bands, electric toothbrushes, reading lights, etc.; and anything that makes noise, lights up, heats up, or moves, and does not plug into a wall.

The city advises, for your and everyone's safety, please do not attempt to remove batteries that are not easily removed.

Many garbage and recycling collection services are now recycling batteries. To learn more, please visit your city or county website.

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: May 31, 2026. *Discount applies to new subscribers only.*

2026 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:

\$90 per issue (1 month) \$240 for 3 consecutive issues (3 months) \$420 for 6 consecutive issues (6 months)

Northwest Job Market/Bids & Public Notices section

\$25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

Community Classified Page

Boxed Ad

\$25.00 per column inch; Text/Fax deadline: Friday prior to the next issue by 2:00pm

Line Ad (up to 35 words):

\$24 per issue \$51 for 3 consecutive issues \$90 for 6 consecutive issues

Name Listing (4 lines maximum ~ about 10 words):

\$14 per issue \$30 for 3 consecutive issues \$51 for 6 consecutive issues

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

The Asian Reporter

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Ad copy (attach a separate sheet if necessary): _____

Mail, Fax, or Deliver with payment to:

Asian Reporter Classifieds, 922 N Killingsworth Street, Suite 2D, Portland, OR 97217-2220

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

For Visa or Mastercard payment only:

Name (as it appears on the card): _____

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

Zip Code & Address of Cardholder: _____

Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____



Celebrate Earth Day Everyday!



Finally!

A prescription with side effects you want.

Blueberries and red beans, just a few of the many foods rich in antioxidants, are powerful remedies in the fight against cancer. Research shows that fruits, vegetables, and other low-fat vegetarian foods may help prevent cancer and even improve survival rates. A healthy plant-based diet can lower your cholesterol, increase your energy, and help with weight loss and diabetes. Fill this prescription at your local market and don't forget—you have unlimited refills!

For a free nutrition booklet with cancer fighting recipes, call toll-free 1-866-906-WELL or visit www.CancerProject.org

Japan wins the Women's Asian Cup, beating Australia 1-0

SYDNEY (AP) — Maika Hamano took a pass from the left with her back to goal, turned, and launched a powerful strike from outside the area in a moment of individual brilliance that secured Japan a third Women's Asian Cup final with a 1-0 win over Australia.

The 21-year-old Hamano, on loan at Tottenham from Chelsea, scored in the 17th minute to almost silence the crowd of 74,397 at Sydney's Stadium Australia.

The Australians applied all the pressure in the last 10 minutes pressing for an equalizer but were continually denied by Japan's defense, including Alanna Kennedy's close-range header with two minutes left in regulation.

Japan had beaten Australia in finals to win back-to-back Women's Asian Cups in 2014 and 2018 and has now won the title three times in the last four continental championships.

"I just want to enjoy it today because it's only the third time that Japan actually managed to win this tournament," Japan coach Nils Nielsen said. "(We) really deserve it, I mean we won six games — it's OK we take the trophy.

"The girls fought with everything they had, so did the Matildas, and they made themselves proud as well."

The Australians, who reached the semifinals of the Women's World Cup on home soil in 2023, had 54% of possession, had 14 shots on goal compared to nine for Japan, and considerably more passes, crosses, and touches in the opposition box.

But as captain Sam Kerr said, "They beat us just off one moment. For most of the game, we had the better chances and definitely in the second half, most of the possession. So it was just one moment. Unfortunately, that's what football is decided on.

"The last few games, we've had the moments and made the most of them. Tonight, they had an amazing goal."

Japan, the top-ranked team in Asia, tallied 29 goals and conceded just one in six games in a dominant performance in Australia.

The Matildas haven't won the continental championship since 2010, when Kerr — then 16 — scored in the decider.

Crowd records

The crowd of almost 75,000 for the final was a record for the Women's Asian Cup along with the total crowd of 355,528 across the tournament that started on March 1.

Six teams from the Asian Cup — Japan, Australia, China, South Korea, the Philippines, and North Korea — have qualified for next year's Women's World Cup in Brazil.

Iran's involvement

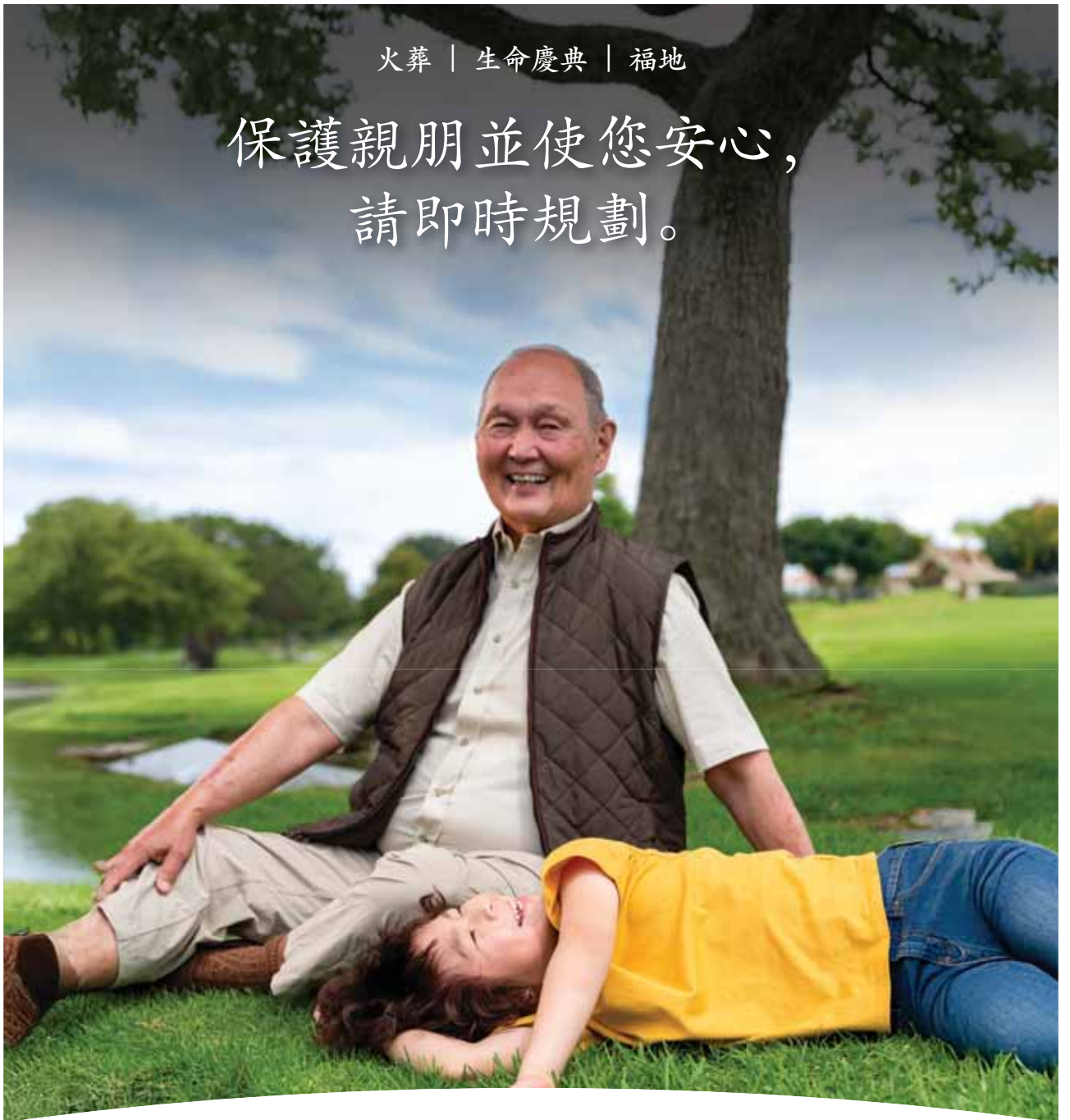
The 12-team tournament gained global attention due to the involvement of an Iranian squad affected by the Middle East war.

The Iranian team arrived in Australia before the February 28 attacks by the United States and Israel triggered the Iran war, and their participation held the international focus.

Seven members of the Iran delegation initially were granted asylum by the Australian government, though all but two have since returned home.



ASIAN CUP WINNERS. Maika Hamano of Japan, center in the left photo, celebrates after scoring the first goal during the Women's Asian Cup soccer final between Japan and Australia in Sydney. Hamano took a pass from the left with her back to goal, turned, and launched a powerful strike from outside the area in a moment of individual brilliance that secured Japan a third Women's Asian Cup. In the right photo, Japanese players pose after defeating Australia at the Women's Asian Cup soccer final in Sydney on March 21, 2026. (AP Photos/Mark Baker)



火葬 | 生命慶典 | 福地

保護親朋並使您安心，
請即時規劃。

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org




PEP22-08-03-002

#STOP ASIAN HATE

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® | Dignity[®] MEMORIAL

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

免費規劃指南 DignityMemorial.com