

The Asian Reporter

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The living care for ancestors & wandering spirits at the Hungry Ghost Festival



GUARDIAN GOD OF GHOSTS. Ethnic Chinese devotees throw paper offerings into a fire during the Hungry Ghost Festival in Bukit Mertajam, Malaysia, on August 29, 2026. August is the time of year when the living make room for the dead. Malaysia's Hungry Ghost Festival is held during the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which this year began in mid-August. For 15 days, devotees prayed and made offerings before a towering paper-and-bamboo effigy of Da Shi Ye. The celebration culminated in the ceremonial burning of the effigy, symbolically sending the deity back to the spirit world. See story on page 2. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)



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Rescuers find no trace of 22 missing ship crew

NEW DELHI (AP) — Rescuers searching for 22 missing sailors found no trace of their Panama-flagged cargo ship after the vessel sank in the Bay of Bengal, according to the Indian Coast Guard. Search aircraft and ships scoured the area where the cargo ship *MV Ocean Winner* reportedly sunk about 276 miles from the Paradip coast of India’s eastern Odisha state. The joint search by the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy was complicated by the area’s exceptionally deep waters and found only an oil slick and two life rafts near the vessel’s last known position, officials said. The lack of wreckage has hampered efforts to determine the cause of the sinking and where to focus search operations, authorities said. The vessel transporting iron ore to China was carrying 24 crew members, including 20 Chinese nationals, three Myanmar nationals, and one Bangladeshi, according to the coast guard. Two Chinese crew members were rescued following a distress call from the ship, the coast guard said.

Fijian rugby player dies after suspected heatstroke

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Fijian rugby player Saimoni Vunilagi died of suspected heatstroke after a training session in Japan. He was 26 years old. His death was announced by his team, Kyushu Electric Power Kyuden Voltex — known as Kyushu KV. The Japanese second-division club said Vunilagi died after falling ill and being hospitalized. “After team practice on Monday ... Saimoni displayed symptoms consistent with severe heatstroke,” the team said in a statement. “He was transported to a medical facility for treatment, but despite the best efforts of the medical team, he sadly passed away. Kyushu KV is based in Fukuoka, a city in southwestern Japan. Temperatures there reportedly reached around 95° Fahrenheit. “The players, staff, and all team associates are devastated by this sudden news,” the team said. Back rower Vunilagi joined Kyushu KV in July, having previously played in the Japanese top flight with Tokyo Sungoliath. “Although Saimoni had only recently joined Kyushu KV, his generous spirit and powerful style of play had raised high hopes for his contributions in the upcoming season,” Kyushu KV added. “We humbly pray for the repose of his soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.” The club supplied no other details surrounding the death. News reports said he was from Fiji.

Police raid Starbucks SK HQ over ad campaign

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean police raided the headquarters of Starbucks’ local operation as part of an investigation into a controversial marketing campaign that was perceived as defaming 1980s pro-democracy movements. Investigators searched the Starbucks headquarters in southern Seoul, according to police. Police gave no further details, but South Korean media reported investigators also were sent to the residences of Starbucks executives. The coffee chain triggered a public uproar when it attempted to promote a series of stainless-steel tumblers it called “SS Tank” by declaring May 18 to be “Tank Day.” The date marks the anniversary of a 1980 pro-democracy uprising in the southern city of Gwangju that was brutally oppressed by South Korea’s then military-backed rulers. The campaign also used the slogan “Thwack it on the table!” which many read as a reference to a notorious 1987 police statement that attempted to cover up the torture death of student activist Park Jong-chol. Authorities had falsely said Park died after investigators “hit the desk with a thwack.” The public outrage prompted Shinsegae Group, which owns a 67.5% stake in Starbucks Korea, to cancel the campaign within hours. It also fired the chief executive of Starbucks Korea. Shinsegae chairman Chung Yong-jin later issued a televised apology. Starbucks Korea closed all of its stores nationwide early on June 22 for mandatory history and social sensitivity training. The police investigation was launched following complaints from relatives of the victims of the Gwangju crackdown, which official records say left about 200 people dead. South Korea achieved a genuine democracy in 1987 when then authoritarian President Chun Doo-hwan, who led the Gwangju crackdown, was forced to accept a constitutional revision introducing direct presidential elections in the face of massive pro-democracy demonstrations.

SK police seek indictment of K-pop mogul behind BTS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean police are pushing for an indictment of music tycoon Bang Si-Hyuk, the chairperson of the agency behind K-pop supergroup BTS, over alleged investor fraud. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency referred Bang to the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors’ Office, asking him to be indicted on a charge of violating the capital markets act, according to the police agency and the prosecutor’s office. Police have been investigating Bang, the billionaire founder and chairperson of Hybe, over allegations that he misled investors in 2019 by indicating that Hybe had no immediate plans to go public, prompting them to sell their shares to a private equity fund shortly before the company proceeded with an initial public offering. Police earlier said that the fund may have paid Bang somewhere around 200 billion won (\$147 million) in a side deal that promised him 30% of post-IPO stock sale profits. South Korean media reported that police referred four other people, including Hybe executives and private equity fund officials, to prosecutors as well, asking for their indictment. Hybe officials have said Bang denies any wrongdoing. News of Bang’s legal troubles flared after BTS returned and launched a much-awaited world tour earlier this year after a nearly four-year musical hiatus due to the band members’ mandatory military service in South Korea.



HONORING ANCESTORS. Participants carry a figure representing a Chinese deity during the Hungry Ghost Festival in Bukit Mertajam, Malaysia. The Da Shi Ye effigy (seen on page one) is traditionally made about two inches taller each year. In 2026, it reached about 29 feet. Ng Chi Wong, 69, has spent more than four decades crafting the figures. He said completing the towering effigy takes about a month and a half, with a team of seven or eight people working on it. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

The living care for ancestors
and wandering spirits at
Malaysia’s Hungry Ghost Festival

By Vincent Thian & María Teresa Hernández
The Associated Press

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Malaysia — August is the time of year when the living make room for the dead. Malaysia’s Hungry Ghost Festival is held during the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which this year began in mid-August.

“It is centered around the worship of Da Shi Ye, also known as the Guardian God of Ghosts, and has become one of the major traditional Chinese religious celebrations in Bukit Mertajam,” said Lee Kim Fong, general affairs coordinator for the event.

The city is in Malaysia’s northern state of Penang, about 200 miles north of Kuala Lumpur.

“It dates back to 1888, when there was a serious plague in Bukit Mertajam,” Lee said. “After that, our ancestors began worshipping Da Shi Ye.”

For 15 days, devotees prayed and made offerings before a towering paper-and-bamboo effigy of Da Shi Ye. The celebration culminated in the ceremonial burning of the effigy, symbolically sending the deity back to the spirit world.

Lee estimated that more than 10,000 people attended the burning ceremony this year, with crowds sometimes reaching 20,000.

“The main purpose is to look after wandering spirits, especially spirits who have no one to worship or make offerings to them,”

Lee said. “Some may have died in accidents or may have no family members to pray for them.”

Similar celebrations are held in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. Devotees travel to Bukit Mertajam from across Malaysia as well as Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand.

A towering effigy stands at
the center of the celebration

The Da Shi Ye effigy in Bukit Mertajam is traditionally made about two inches taller each year. In 2026, it reached about 29 feet.

Ng Chi Wong, 69, has spent more than four decades crafting the figures. He said completing the towering effigy takes about a month and a half, with a team of seven or eight people working on it.

“We have the measurements and a general idea of the structure, but there are no formal drawings,” Ng said. “Most of the design and construction details are already in our minds.”

The artisans begin with the head, the part that requires the most work, before building the main frame and shaping the body. The outer layers are then added and painted.

Ng said that the process has undergone some small improvements over time. Yet the craft requires more than technical skill.

“You also need to understand the tradition and the beliefs behind it,” he said.

The festival honors spirits
with no one to remember them

Lim Han Cong, a University of Malaya master’s graduate in Chinese studies,

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Sri Lankan Rupee	327.96
Taiwan Dollar	31.54
Thai Baht	32.932
Vietnam Dong	26043

HK's independent bookstores, a refuge for Chinese readers, are under threat

By Kanis Leung
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Chinese university student Fleming Cheng found the political books he had only glimpsed online in a Hong Kong bookstore last year.

Before visiting Greenfield Book Store, Cheng had only managed to see the books' covers online after bypassing Beijing's internet censorship using a VPN. At the store, he picked up a title offering a critical account of China. He stood there devouring dozens of pages from another, about a pro-reform Chinese leader who fell from power for sympathizing with the protesters during the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement in 1989.

Cheng said he saw perspectives diverging from the mainland's official narrative.

"A space of freedom," he said.

Hong Kong's independent bookstores, many of them tucked away from busy streets inside buildings, have long offered a refuge and a window to a freer world for some mainland Chinese readers seeking ideas suppressed at home.

But these spaces now are under threat following a wave of bookseller arrests over alleged sedition under a 2024 national security law. Critics say their plight reflected the city's broader crackdown on dissent that began after Beijing imposed a separate 2020 security law. Authorities say the two laws are vital to stability.

Greenfield was one of four bookstores targeted by police in just four months. Although bail was granted, the 50-year-old shop in July announced it would close at the end of its lease. Another bookstore, Have A Nice Stay, set up by former journalists, had announced plans to shut down, citing "elusive red lines" and financial challenges, even before its booksellers were arrested on the same day as Greenfield's.

"If the Hong Kong government desperately tries to bring every aspect of the city into close alignment with the mainland, or even to the point where the two become indistinguishable, that would be a tremendous loss for us mainlanders too," Cheng said.

Booksellers under pressure

Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to China in 1997, was once known for its freedoms of publication and expression.

But in 2015, bookseller Lam Wing-kee and four others affiliated with Causeway Bay Books disappeared. The store was known for selling politically sensitive titles. Lam later told reporters he was held by Chinese authorities, providing explosive details that contradicted official Chinese accounts. Gossipy books about Chinese politics soon dwindled on Hong Kong's shelves.

After the 2020 security law, leading activists were arrested and civil society groups disbanded. Titles about the Tiananmen crackdown and works by pro-democracy politicians were pulled from public libraries. At the city's annual book fair, some smaller book businesses were barred from exhibiting, and a pro-Beijing newspaper labelled an independent book fair a form of "soft resistance."

Despite the pressure and increased official inspections, many pressed on, with some continuing to organize activities alongside selling books.

But the arrests hit Book Punch in March, Hunter Bookstore in June, and Greenfield and Have A Nice Stay



BOOKSTORES TARGETED. A passerby, top photo, looks at a heart-shaped display in the front window of Hunter Bookstore in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's independent bookstores, many of them tucked away from busy streets inside buildings, have long offered a refuge and a window to a freer world for some mainland Chinese readers seeking ideas suppressed at home. But these spaces now are under threat following a wave of bookseller arrests over alleged sedition under a 2024 national security law. In the bottom photo, a book lover from mainland China browses through books inside Hunter Bookstore in Hong Kong. (AP Photos/May James)

in July. The authorities accused the booksellers of selling seditious publications, according to government statements and media reports.

Cautious booksellers say they struggle to interpret the rules

Authorities say statements with "seditious intention" to incite hatred against or the overthrow of the governments of China and Hong Kong are prohibited. But they have not specified the books they consider as "seditious," leaving observers to find clues in news reports quoting anonymous sources.

Secretary for Security Chris Tang said the law is clear about what constitutes seditious intent and reiterated there would be no banned book list. He said booksellers should ensure the titles they sell do not harm national security, just as those selling food need to ensure the food won't cause a stomach ache or be poisonous.

A bookseller, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government retribution, said they struggled to judge what was seditious. Still, they became more cautious about whether to sell certain books on China's modern politics. Their landlord was also reviewing whether to continue to rent the space to them after being harassed.

In an e-mailed reply, the government condemned any "smearing" and false remarks regarding the work in safeguarding national security. It said the security laws

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SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS. Filmmaker and drone pilot Manish Maharjan operates a drone at the entrance of a tunnel at the Rasuwagadhi hydropower project in Rasuwa district, Nepal. Maharjan has helped rescue teams in Nepal find people missing after last month’s catastrophic floods, sometimes using speakers mounted on the devices to call out to or play music for those stranded on hillsides. (Manish Maharjan via AP)

Drones helped find people after Nepal floods but the search inside hydropower tunnels is a challenge

By Shristi Kafle and Aijaz Hussain
The Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Drone pilot Manish Maharjan has helped rescue teams in Nepal find people missing after last month’s catastrophic floods, sometimes using speakers mounted on the devices to call out to or play music for those stranded on hillsides.

But the search for hundreds of workers believed to be trapped in power plant tunnels — which is now a major focus of rescue operations — presents an entirely different challenge, he said, as two workers were rescued before presstime.

“We found tunnels were filled with mud like toothpaste in a tube,” Maharjan said. “There was no hollow or empty space inside.”

Maharjan, who is also a filmmaker, joined the Nepal Army’s rescue efforts a day after the August 26 flash floods, which have killed more than 1,300 people and left thousands missing in Nepal and Tibet.

“We used microphone speakers to call out to them. In some places, we even played songs and then waited for a response,” Maharjan said. “That worked in a few cases and helped us locate people.”

The torrent of water unleashed after a glacial collapse caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure, including roads, buildings, bridges, and hydropower plants — in the latest sign of the growing risks across the rapidly

warming Himalayas. About 900 workers are still missing from 12 hydropower projects buried under mud and debris. About 500 of them are believed to be trapped inside power plant tunnels.

Some workers in the tunnels managed to call for help when the disaster struck, according to Mohan Kumar Dangi, president of the Independent Power Producers’ Association. But it was unclear whether rescuers have had any contact with the trapped workers since the initial calls for help.

As time slips away, rescuers are finding it increasingly difficult to locate missing people.

Maharjan, who has been operating thermal drones in the tunnels, said the searches were challenging because of their difficult access and the absence of any empty space.

“I can only fly drones in tunnels that are long and straight,” he said. “Once there are bends, turns, or zigzags, it becomes much harder to operate and search effectively.”

At the Rasuwagadhi hydropower project last Monday, Maharjan managed to send a drone to search deep inside and all the way to the end of the tunnel but found no sign of any life.

“We checked repeatedly but it was filled with mud and debris,” he said. “Looking at it, I could only imagine the force of the flood.”

Hussain reported from New Delhi.

The living care for ancestors and wandering spirits at Malaysia’s Hungry Ghost Festival

Continued from page 2

described the Hungry Ghost Festival as a counterpart to another traditional Chinese observance: Qingming, or Tomb-Sweeping Day, when families honor their ancestors at their graves.

While Qingming focuses primarily on one’s own ancestors, the Hungry Ghost Festival extends offerings to wandering spirits and the unclaimed dead. “This tradition reflects a synthesis of Buddhist, Taoist, and Chinese folk religious beliefs,” Lim said.

In Taoist ceremonies during the festival, priests recite sacred scriptures and perform rites to help the deceased find peace and salvation. Such practices are intended to provide comfort, nourishment, and liberation to those who have no descendants to care for them.

“At its core, the Ghost Festival expresses the belief that the living and the dead remain connected through enduring moral and emotional bonds,” Lim said. “The living, therefore, have a responsibility to honor, support, and help the deceased attain peace.”

An old tradition finds new roles in Malaysia

Offerings and rituals like those held in Bukit Mertajam eventually took on a broader community role. Starting in the 1970s, Malaysian Chinese celebrations incorporated charitable activities such as auctions of blessed offerings and fundraising campaigns for schools.

“As a result, the Ghost Festival in Malaysia has evolved beyond a festival devoted solely to honoring the dead,” Lim said. “It has also become an important platform for strengthening community solidarity.”

That broader role is also evident in Bukit Mertajam. Money raised through fundraising efforts helps the organizing committee provide assistance to people with medical needs and support Chinese-language education.

Alongside that community work, organizers are looking for new ways to broaden access to the tradition. Participation is no longer limited to those who can make it to Bukit Mertajam.

“We introduced online worship for

Nepal flood survivors fear loss of culture and community

By Niranjana Shrestha & Victoria Milko
The Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — In the days since Tsering Gelbu Lama’s wife was swept away by devastating floods along the Nepal-Tibet border, he hasn’t managed to tell his 4-year-old daughter that her mother is dead.

Lama wiped away tears as he sat on the floor of a Buddhist monastery turned makeshift shelter for hundreds of others evacuated from remote villages to the capital, Kathmandu.

“I don’t know how I will pass on our culture to her,” he said as he coaxed a spoonful of rice into her mouth.

For Lama and a rising number of others displaced by the floods, the losses go beyond homes and belongings. Communities whose culture and practices, often tied to ancestral land, are eroding as young people leave for the city now worry if their sacred traditions can be preserved.

“We’ve become homeless not only because we’ve lost our land — we’ve become homeless with our culture and tradition,” said Tsering Sherpa, 36, from Rasuwa, as he sat on the monastery steps.

Nepal is home to more than 120 ethnic groups, with many preserving distinct languages, rituals, and festivals that have been passed down for generations.

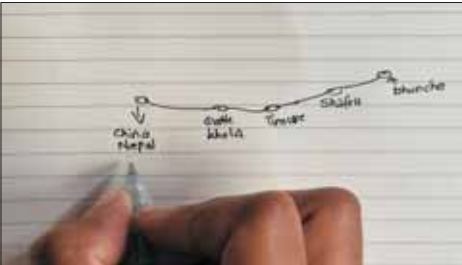
Rasuwa, a district in the Himalayas along the Nepal-Tibet border, is known for its distinct Buddhist culture and Indigenous communities. The Tamang Heritage Trail has become a popular trekking route for tourists looking to see Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Flood survivors now living in the monastery described their villages’ forests as thick with trees and filled with bears, deer, and butterflies. Others showed pictures of steep, green hills along a river.

Survivors at the monastery also shared photos and videos of what life in their villages was like before the floods: Women chopping juniper together to make incense, making new decorations for a monastery being built, men and women wearing colorful traditional clothing, and dancing during festivals.

“Now all of it is finished,” said Tenzin Dolma Ghale, a 20-year-old from Rasuwa.

Survivors described to The Associated Press how they fled the surging river water by climbing to the top of hills, seeking refuge in monasteries they had built just a year earlier, after the older ones were



CULTURAL CATASTROPHE. Survivor Tsering Gelbu Lama, top photo, sits with his daughter at a monastery in Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 31, 2026. Survivors described to The Associated Press how they fled the surging river water in Nepal by climbing to the top of hills, seeking refuge in monasteries they had built just a year earlier, after the older ones were destroyed by a 2015 earthquake. In the bottom photo, survivor Tenzin Dolma Ghale, 20, draws the border area that was hard hit by flash floods. (AP Photos/Niranjana Shrestha)

destroyed by a 2015 earthquake.

Many said they didn’t have time to take anything from their homes and are now left with only the clothes they wore when being evacuated by helicopter. Others spoke of losing important heirlooms that are usually passed down from generation to generation.

The loss came amid concerns that community traditions were already in decline as young people moved to cities for better education and employment, said Alina Lama, 26, a shelter volunteer from Rasuwa.

She said they wanted to be “a little bit modern,” she said. “There are many little details about our culture that I don’t know, because I never got to spend time with my family.”

Several flood survivors sheltering in the monastery said that children who have become orphans during the floods are a particular concern.

“We don’t know who will teach them,” Alina Lama said.

Save the Children estimated that thousands of children need humanitarian assistance. No information is available on how many children have been orphaned during the floods.

With local monasteries destroyed and monks with highly localized knowledge gone, Sherpa expressed that important Buddhist autumn festivals would be an example of further loss of cultural practices.

“We used to celebrate these festivals in our monasteries. Right now we don’t even have a monastery,” he said. “Culture and tradition are passed generation to generation by practice. If I can’t follow the tradition now, how can I pass it on to the next generation?”

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



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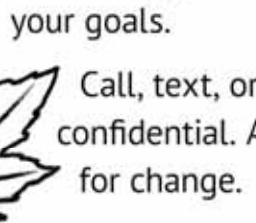
NEW SEASON, NEW GOALS

For some, the return of football season means more opportunities to place a bet. From college rivalries to professional matchups, gambling can feel like part of game day.

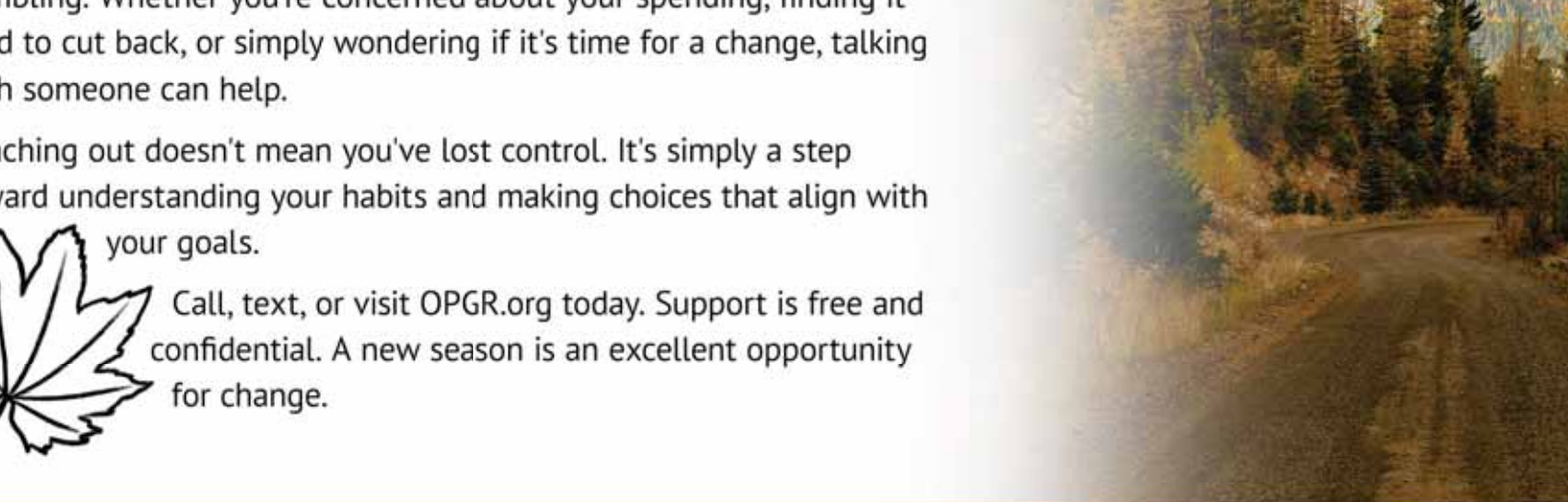
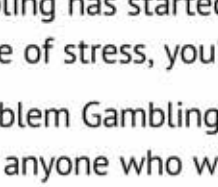
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Call, text, or visit OPGR.org today. Support is free and confidential. A new season is an excellent opportunity for change.



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

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Federal judge extends block on Trump executive order seeking to limit mail voting in the midterms

By Nicholas Riccardi & Lindsay Whitehurst
The Associated Press

A federal judge last week extended her prohibition against the U.S. Postal Service implementing President Donald Trump’s executive order seeking to limit mail voting during the midterms, putting another major obstacle in the way of the administration as the first states begin sending out mail ballots.

The preliminary injunction from U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani replaces a temporary order she granted blocking the Postal Service’s plan.

The Trump administration had already asked the Supreme Court to lift Talwani’s temporary order and informed her they would appeal her latest decision to the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals.

The administration is running out of time to make big changes in voting procedures, though. North Carolina began sending out its first mail ballots in early September and more states will swiftly follow.

The legal battle could have major ramifications for this year’s elections, when control of congress is at stake. Nearly one-third of voters in the U.S. cast mail ballots and election officials contend there isn’t enough time to revise their systems to comply with the new Postal Service directives.

Talwani, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, pointed to the tight timeline in her ruling.

“Plaintiff States are required under state law to mail millions of ballots to voters on a prescribed timeframe. As detailed below, they are unable to pivot this late in the election cycle, nearly guaranteeing significant disenfranchisement for eligible voters,” she wrote.

The White House did not immediately respond to a

Why older pedestrians fare worse in car crashes

Continued from page 6

time crashes, about a third had blood alcohol levels indicating intoxication; so did about 20% of those killed during the day. Public health officials have cautioned for years that older adults are drinking more, and more often.

“It’s almost a blind spot,” Rundle said. “We talk about drunk drivers a lot” but less about inebriated pedestrians.

Nevertheless, crashes that cause injury and death are preventable, said Laura Sandt, co-director of the Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina. Federal and local government policies have evolved since the era when pedestrian fatalities “seemed just part of the business of driving,” she said.

More than 200 municipalities have adopted the Vision Zero approach, for instance, a public health focus on programs and environments that increase traffic safety for all ages. Changes that can save lives involve improved street design (pedestrian islands, crosswalks, lighting, and bumped-out curbs making street-crossers more visible), safer signal timing (giving pedestrians a head start over turning cars), and lowered speed limits.

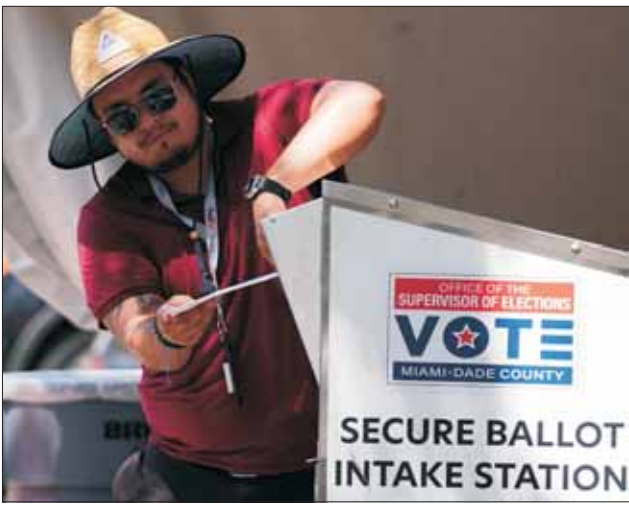
A recent study of where older pedestrians die in collisions found that the risk was substantially greater in places with a high density of walkable senior destinations, like hospitals and health facilities, pharmacies, and senior and community centers. That suggests the possibility of traffic strategies targeting such neighborhoods, analogous to child safety efforts focused on schools and their surroundings.

Traffic safety “shouldn’t rely on a pedestrian’s noticing a car coming and jumping out of the way,” said Mooney, one of the authors of the study. “Our job is to make the system safer for all ages and capacities.”

Melville, who was unable to leap out of danger, is “out and about now,” she said. “I’m not where I was, and I don’t know if I ever will be, but I can function. I’m leading a normal life.”

She still mourns her hikes in Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park and the Point Reyes National Seashore preserve, she said, but “I’m going to get there.”

KFF Health News, a nonprofit newsroom whose stories appear in news outlets nationwide, is an editorially independent part of the Kaiser Family Foundation that produces in-depth journalism about health issues.



message seeking comment.

The order allows states to voluntarily use the new Postal Service system. To date, not a single state has announced that it will do so.

Trump has long sought to limit mail voting, even though he himself often uses that method to cast his own ballot. He has falsely blamed mail balloting for his 2020 election loss, spreading baseless claims of fraud, but has so far been unable to change the longstanding voting procedure.

An initial executive order Trump issued last year to change election rules, including a requirement for people to show documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote, was halted by federal judges. They ruled that the Constitution gives states and, in some cases Congress, the power to set voting procedures, not the president.

After Trump issued his mail voting executive order in March, Democrats and voting rights groups filed several



EXECUTIVE ORDER BLOCKED. An election worker, left photo, places a vote-by-mail ballot into a secure bin at the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections Office during the Florida primary election in Doral, Florida, on August 18, 2026. A federal judge last week extended her prohibition against the U.S. Postal Service implementing President Donald Trump’s executive order seeking to limit mail voting during the midterms, putting another major obstacle in the way of the administration as the first states begin sending out mail ballots. In the right photo, election workers sort vote-by-mail ballots in Doral, Florida. (AP Photos/Lynne Sladky)

lawsuits. Two ended up before Talwani, who placed an initial hold on the order in June, prohibiting its implementation until after November.

But the Supreme Court late last month overturned that order. Its conservative majority pointedly did not say Trump’s move was legal but found the lawsuits were filed prematurely before the Postal Service issued its rule on how it would implement the order. The rule came out just before the Supreme Court released its ruling, and the plaintiffs re-filed their suits.

Top U.S. doctors offer updated flu and COVID vaccine recommendations, aiming to ease confusion

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

Leading U.S. medical groups are urging people to get updated flu and COVID-19 vaccinations this fall, banding together to issue shot guidelines — and highlight the science behind them — saying they hope to ease confusion caused by the Trump administration’s changing advice.

Flu vaccinations are beginning and COVID-19 shots are starting to arrive after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved this year’s updated versions. Winter also brings another vaccine-preventable risk called RSV. Exactly who should get one or all of these vaccines, and when?

That advice usually comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with help from its independent advisers. But despite no new scientific evidence, Trump health officials last year began pulling back on some longstanding recommendations for fall virus protection and routine children’s vaccinations. And that advisory panel, which influences state and insurance vaccine policies, is caught in a court battle. The CDC didn’t respond to questions about any new fall guidance but suggested on its website that doctors follow last year’s flu recommendations.

Doctors’ groups are filling the gap: the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America each released vaccination guidelines for their patient populations.

“There’s been a lot of confusion and chaos regarding vaccine recommendations,” said Dr. Sandra Fryhofer, of the American Medical Association.

All the groups’ recommendations plus evidence on shot safety and effectiveness are being posted on websites so “the public has clear, consistent, science-based guidance even while the federal process is in flux,” Fryhofer said.

Just about everyone should get vaccinated against flu

Just about everybody starting at age 6 months needs a flu vaccination, the medical societies agree. But flu is particularly dangerous for people 65 and older, pregnant women, young children, and people of any age who have chronic health problems, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and weak immune systems. The last two flu seasons were especially harsh, with unusually high numbers of child deaths — the vast majority of them in unvaccinated kids.

The vaccines don’t block all flu infections but they do help prevent the worst outcomes, decreasing older adults’ hospitalizations by 31%, according to the Vaccine Integrity Project, a public health group based at the University of Minnesota. Its analysis was published in the medical journal *JAMA*.

Here’s how to pick from the multiple flu vaccine options

Three “enhanced” flu vaccines are designed to better protect seniors. The American Academy of Family Physicians urges them to choose one — “but do not delay your vaccination if that one’s not available,” said AAFP’s Dr. Sarah Nosal.

There’s a new choice this year for people ages 50 and older, the first flu vaccine made with the same mRNA technology that was key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. One study found Moderna’s mFlusiva was 27% more effective against symptomatic illness among 50- to 64-year-olds than a standard shot. The FDA just approved the new option and the company expects some doses to be available soon at certain pharmacies.

The shot-averse could choose a nasal spray, FluMist, if they’re ages 2 to 49 and meet other health criteria.

The latest on COVID-19 vaccines

COVID-19 shots once were recommended for just about everyone by federal health agencies, but like last year, the FDA has only formally approved them for higher-risk people — those ages 65 and older or younger people with at least one health condition that increases their risk.

Still, the family physicians recommend all adults get a COVID-19 vaccination, especially seniors and those with other risk factors. Adults 65 and older should get a fall dose and then a second dose six months later, as immunity wanes over time, Nosal said.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a COVID-19 shot for all children ages 6 months to 23 months, and for older kids with high-risk conditions. It also supports vaccination for any child whose parent wishes it.

With millions of shots administered, there’s no evidence that coronavirus vaccination during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage or other problems, “so please get the vaccine,” said ACOG’s Dr. Christina Davidson.

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PEP22-08-03-002



Trump’s immigration crackdown has detained more than 50 military spouses and parents

By Jack Brook, Safiyah Riddle, and Aaron Kessler
The Associated Press

President Donald Trump’s administration has detained dozens of parents and spouses of active-duty U.S. troops as it rolls back immigration protections for military families to pursue its mass deportation agenda, an Associated Press investigation found.

More than 50 parents and spouses of active-duty service members have been detained since Trump took office for a second term, and at least six have been deported and one self-deported, The AP found in the first accounting of such detentions, which the government does not track. At least eight immediate family members of U.S. service members remain in federal immigration custody.

Parents and spouses of people in the military have generally been shielded from deportation under bipartisan consensus for decades. But The AP found they’re now routinely being detained for months as they try to adjust their legal status through the policies available to service members’ close relatives and even as the military continues to recruit by advertising immigration benefits for enlistees’ families. Experts warn that the reversal could undermine military preparedness even as the U.S. is at war in Iran. It’s left military members without emotional support and caretakers for their children, delayed deployments, and forced some to take leave.

“How can I even focus on my military career because I have to worry about how my wife is doing?” said Army Sgt. Hedar Leonel Turcios Juarez, who was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, when his wife was detained outside a Walmart in front of their 6-year-old daughter in July.

A handful of detentions of service members’ spouses have prompted public backlash and led to intervention by Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin to secure their release.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has said it does not compile data on these cases. The AP obtained information by analyzing thousands of federal court records compiled by Habeas Dockets, a project run by the Immigration Justice Transparency Initiative; by reviewing existing media coverage; and by verifying information with family members and attorneys. The actual number is likely much higher than the 52 cases AP found.

The AP asked for comment from DHS on each case, including the individuals’ immigration and criminal history. The agency did not provide specific information about the majority of cases but noted that at least seven people had been removed from the U.S. before, at least eight had removal orders, and at least two had drunken-driving or drug-related convictions.

“DHS and ICE value the contributions of all those who have served in the U.S. military,” DHS said in a statement. “U.S. military service alone does not automatically grant lawful immigration status, or exempt aliens from the consequences of violating U.S. immigration laws.”

The Pentagon declined to comment on The AP’s findings.

Service members are losing their safety net

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wendy Gbeve, 30, said she hasn’t had a good night’s sleep since her father, Luis Alberto Ramirez Zavala, was detained by immigration officials in July. Gbeve was there when he was arrested at a routine interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration



AP Photo/Pvan Romero



AP Photo/Joseph Vidrine

Services (USCIS) in Missouri about his pending application for legal status.

She spent hours refreshing the USCIS page to track where the government was taking her father: from a county jail in Missouri to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Texas. Finally, roughly two weeks after he was detained, she found out he had been deported to his native Mexico.

“It’s the most frustrating, helpless feeling,” Gbeve said.

Gbeve said ICE still hasn’t informed her family why her father was removed so quickly. Ramirez Zavala spent most of his life in the U.S. working as a ranch hand in rural Illinois.

Ramirez Zavala’s wife of 30 years, a legal permanent resident, is considering returning to Mexico to be with her husband. For Gbeve, whose husband is also in the Air Force, that would leave no one to watch their children, ages 2 and 4, if both were deployed.

“That would be our entire safety net,” she said.

Military members have had to take leave or delay a deployment

Some service members have been left caring for children alone.

Army Staff Sgt. Alexis Jaramillo, an aviation operations specialist who has served for more than a decade, said he would normally be involved in training soldiers at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Instead, he is on administrative leave, caring for his 5-year-old stepson, Noah, after his Brazilian wife, Maisa Lopes Eliaser, was detained in early July.

It happened during what the family thought was a routine appointment at a USCIS office in Alabama. Eliaser arrived in the U.S. on a tourist visa in 2019, and the couple was trying to change her status.

Immigration officials asked Jaramillo and his stepson to leave the room. Minutes later, they were told that Eliaser had been detained. The next time they saw her was inside a detention facility.

“It is really overwhelming because I

need to take care of my kid by myself. No one is here to help me out,” Jaramillo said.

At least one active-duty soldier halted her imminent deployment after her husband was detained by immigration officers, leaving no one to care for their then-5-year-old son, court records show. A judge eventually ordered the husband released.

Trump’s policy is a reversal even from his first administration

A new policy, implemented in April 2025, states that “military service alone does not exempt aliens from the consequences of violating U.S. immigration laws.”

Experts in military immigration law said this marks a stark shift from previous administrations across the political spectrum, including Trump’s first administration.

Dan Gividen, who served as ICE’s deputy chief counsel from 2016 to 2019 under Trump, represents a soldier’s father who has been in ICE custody for more than eight months. He said that during his time as an ICE prosecutor, immigration authorities rarely detained service members’ immediate family members unless they had committed violent crimes.

“We would not place them into removal proceedings, period. That’s insane,” Gividen said. “The fact that they’re doing it now is just outrageous.”

ICE previously generally cancelled past removal orders and allowed parents or spouses of troops to adjust their legal status, said Margaret Stock, an immigra-

MILITARY TARGETS. Army Sgt. Hedar Leonel Turcios Juarez, top photo, holds a picture of himself with his wife Cristy at home in El Paso, Texas. President Donald Trump’s administration has detained dozens of parents and spouses of active-duty U.S. troops as it rolls back immigration protections for military families to pursue its mass deportation agenda, an Associated Press investigation found. More than 50 parents and spouses of active-duty service members have been detained since Trump took office for a second term, and at least six have been deported and one self-deported. Pictured in the bottom photo is Army Staff Sgt. Alexis Jaramillo showing photos of his wife, Maisa Lopes Eliaser, a Brazilian national who is detained by ICE, near the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center in Basile, Louisiana.

tion attorney and retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. She said that’s because the government wanted to ensure troops focused on their duties.

“It’s the same thing that happens if you don’t provide healthcare to the troops, or you don’t provide housing to the troops,” she said. If soldiers are preoccupied with detained or deported family, “they’re not concentrating on their job anymore.”

Even some congressional Republicans who are otherwise largely supportive of Trump’s aggressive immigration crackdown have pushed for the release of service members’ relatives.

“The immigration system is failing the honorable and good Americans,” Florida Republican Representative Maria Elvira Salazar said at a news conference in July advocating for the release of the wife of retired Staff Sgt. Wilmer Trujillo, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. DHS said she illegally reentered the U.S. after being deported in 2005. Her attorney says they are seeking to rescind the removal order because she was not provided proper notice of the hearing that led to it.

Although DHS said it does not have data on active-duty troops, it has released figures for former service members, who also qualify for immigration benefits along with their immediate families. From January 20, 2025, through January 26, 2026, immigration authorities detained 125 military veterans — placing 34 into removal proceedings — and arrested more than 150 immediate family members, DHS said in a letter to several Democratic senators.

Anh Dung Cong Tran, known as “Tony,” had both a father and son who served in the military. Tran came to the U.S. in 1990 through a program for children of American military personnel born in Vietnam. Tran, 56, was deported in July, having lived in the U.S. for decades with regular check-ins with immigration authorities after an assault conviction soon after his arrival.

His son Antonio Tran said his father persuaded him to enlist in the military in 2022. “He has a totally different view on America now,” said Tran, who was discharged as an Army specialist in March after a serious injury.

“Whatever your family have done for this country, to keep this country safe, to give the people, Americans, the freedom to walk around and to sleep safe at night, well, we don’t care about that,” Tony Tran told The AP in a video call from Vietnam.

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Congressional Democrats launch probe into efforts to deport U.S. military members and their families

By Jack Brook and Safiyah Riddle
The Associated Press/Report for America

Congressional Democrats said they are investigating the Trump administration's efforts to deport military service members and their families after The Associated Press found more than 50 active-duty troops' spouses and parents have been detained by immigration authorities.

In a letter sent in mid-August to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Defense Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Democrats said they will investigate whether the Pentagon and DHS are coordinating to deport military service members and their families.

"These efforts imperil military readiness, weaken service members' morale, and betray America's promises to the people who put their lives on the line for our nation," according to the letter, which was signed by more than 60 lawmakers and provided to The AP.

The Pentagon declined to comment, stating it would "reply directly to the authors of the letter."

DHS told The AP that it values service members' contributions and "U.S. military service alone does not automatically grant lawful immigration status, or exempt aliens from the consequences of violating U.S. immigration laws."

The VA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In their letter, the Democrats provided an extensive list of questions to the agencies. They said the apparent collaboration between DHS and the military to deport troops' families "raises both ethical and legal concerns."

"Donald Trump is breaking our



country's promises to service members by tearing apart dozens of military families who were promised immigration protections," Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren said. "That's just plain cruel, and it's hurting our military readiness and morale."

Warren's office is leading the probe alongside Connecticut senator Richard Blumenthal, Illinois senator Tammy Duckworth, and several House Democrats.

The AP investigation found President Donald Trump's administration has rolled back protections for military families and departed from longstanding bipartisan consensus to carry out its mass deportation agenda. Service members have been forced to take leave of their duties, including delaying deployment, to care for their children after their spouses were detained.

The lawmakers pressed the administration on why military recruiters are still promoting immigration protections.

Citing The AP's reporting, the lawmakers urged the Trump administration to restore policies that had previously shielded military service members' families from immigration enforcement while allowing them to adjust their legal status.

"This report is appalling and shows the unbelievable cruelty at the center of the Trump immigration agenda," said Blumenthal, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "We will be demanding answers and accountability."

The Republican chairs of the armed services and veterans' affairs committees, Mississippi senator Roger Wicker and Kansas senator Jerry Moran, did not respond to requests for comment.

Also in August, Trump established the Military Spouse Commission, chaired by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's wife, Jennifer Rauchet, to develop policies and recommendations for improving life for

FIGHTING FOR FAMILIES. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Wendy Gbeve, not pictured, shows pictures of her parents in her home in Marysville, California. Gbeve's father was detained by immigration officials in July during a routine interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Missouri about his pending application for legal status. Congressional Democrats said they are investigating the Trump administration's efforts to deport military service members and their families after The Associated Press found more than 50 active-duty troops' spouses and parents have been detained by immigration authorities. (AP Photo/Haven Daley)

troops' spouses.

"Military spouses are intrinsically linked to the good order, readiness, and retention of our military," Trump stated in a letter published in the Federal Register on August 6. "Their support and contributions to our Armed Forces are crucial to mission success."

The Defense Department said in a December letter to Democratic lawmakers, obtained by The AP, that it had not implemented any recent policy changes for noncitizen family members in the military and has not conducted analysis on how deportations impact troop readiness and morale.

Danitzia James, president of Repatriate Our Patriots, an organization providing support to military families and veterans facing deportation, said troops are being betrayed.

"Our military service members are the ones that sign on the dotted line to go and defend our country and maybe not come back," James said. "They trust our government to take care of their families, and they're not doing that."

Brook is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative.

Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercover issues.

Trump's immigration crackdown has detained more than 50 military spouses and parents

Continued from page 8

Benefits for service members include what's known as parole-in-place

Military recruiters tout immigration benefits for troops' families as a selling point to enlist.

One of the military's most highly advertised immigration benefits is "military parole-in-place," which allows the spouses, children, and parents of active-duty service members and veterans to obtain legal immigration status from within the country. Not everyone qualifies: Those who overstayed visas or who already applied for legal status at the border, for example.

The policy was implemented under Republican President George W. Bush during the U.S. war with Iraq in 2007 and codified under Democratic President Barack Obama. DHS agencies can grant it on a case-by-case basis.

Under Trump, the average time it takes to receive military parole-in-place has more than doubled to 12 months, according to USCIS data. That leaves military families more vulnerable to being placed in ICE custody.

Congressional Democrats and organizations that help military families facing deportation, including Repatriate Our Patriots, said that The AP's findings were alarming.

"It's the job of the military to ensure that families are being taken care of — and this is not the way you take care of families," said California representative Gil Cisneros, a former undersecretary of defense for personnel who introduced legislation this year aimed at making it harder to deny parole to troops' relatives. "This administration just doesn't care, and they are not thinking about people who are putting their lives on the line for the country and to defend our nation."

Recruiters are still promoting immigration benefits

The AP found that troops' immediate family members have repeatedly been detained by ICE while applying for parole-in-place or seeking to adjust their status, including during immigration appointments.

Marine Cpl. Jose Manuel Vilchis-Valle's mother, Ursula Borja Valle, was detained at an appointment in August 2025 and deported to Mexico within a week. She had lived in the U.S. since the 1990s without a known criminal record. Her son was attempting to help her clear up a decades-old removal order through the immigration

benefits that military recruiters had used to help persuade him to enlist.

"They basically told me that if you serve, and if you served honorably, you can help your parents," said Vilchis-Valle, 23, who was honorably discharged shortly after his mother was deported. "In a perfect world, I wished, because of my service, they could have pardoned her."

In other cases, ICE has detained people who had already been granted protection, with the agency later arguing in court filings that their parole status had been revoked.

In June 2025, the Marine Corps officially stopped advertising enlistment as a way to protect immigrant family members, in response to inquiries from The AP. But recruiters for the Army and the National Guard still promote it.

"For some service members, enlisting isn't just about serving their country," read an Instagram post published in late July by an official Army recruiter based in California. "It's also about doing everything they can to help protect their parents who sacrificed everything for them."

Recruiters are expected to highlight the benefits of service to attract applicants and military parole-in-place remains in effect, Army spokesperson Christopher Surridge said.

The National Guard said it does not track detentions of its troops' relatives or which recruiters advertise immigration benefits and referred additional comment to DHS.

A soldier who helped patrol the border grapples with his father's detention

For U.S. Army Specialist Romero Ralios, his father's detention has left him remorseful about his deployment last year to the Joint Task Force Southern Border, where he spent nine months supporting U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

His father, Sebastian Ralios Tino, a Guatemalan landscaper with no known criminal record, was detained this summer. He lived in the U.S. for nearly two decades without legal status.

Ralios' commanding officer, Capt. Mohamed Elmaola, told The AP he wanted to speak up because Ralios is a

"phenomenal soldier" whose father should receive due process.

"It's very hard to communicate and to have credibility as a leader when your own subordinates are unable to get support," Elmaola said. "Considering he enlisted his time and his life into supporting and defending the United States Constitution, it is the right thing to do to support soldiers and their families."

Romero Ralios struggles to sleep at night due to the stress and wishes he had not been involved in immigration enforcement, even though he was just following orders.

"It was karma. I should've known," Ralios told The AP. "All those families I broke. I have regrets."

Brook is a corps member for The Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercover issues. Former AP reporter Morgan Lee contributed.

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New York City’s 9/11 memorial fundraises to educate youth with \$25 million match from Mike Bloomberg

By James Pollard
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The 9/11 Memorial and Museum has launched a \$75 million fundraising campaign as the nonprofit tries to educate the millions of U.S. youth who don’t remember the terror attacks on their upcoming 25th anniversary.

Boosting The Never Forget Fund’s latest appeal this summer was Mike Bloomberg. The former New York City mayor, who has rallied hundreds of millions of dollars toward the 9/11 Memorial and Museum as its chair, pledged to match the next \$25 million in donations through his Bloomberg Philanthropies. Organizers already secured the first \$25 million through unspecified initial gifts.

Officials count about 97 million memorial visitors and nearly 28 million museum attendees since they opened in 2014 at the site where hijacked jetliners destroyed the World Trade Center’s twin towers in lower Manhattan. But recent years have seen a budget crisis following pandemic closures and interest from the Trump administration in taking control of the site.

Beth Hillman, the organization’s president and CEO, says they need a permanent funding source to reach the roughly 100 million Americans born after the attacks. The goal is to frame the aftermath as one that inspired selfless acts of service and provide basic facts through new on-site exhibits and classroom materials.

“The ongoing importance of remembering 9/11 is to remind people that they can come together even in the face of incredible loss,” Hillman told The Associated Press.

The legacy of the September 11, 2001



attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people remains hotly contested. Younger generations have only ever known the existence of airport screenings, immigration enforcement officers, and other security measures pursued afterwards by the U.S. government. Many engage with the events through popular memes of the photograph showing then-President George W. Bush learning about the developments. Conspiracy theories abound about what government officials knew in their leadup.

Also debated is the notion of unity advanced by the memorial and museum. The September 11 attacks fuelled 20 years of war abroad that grew increasingly unpopular as the death toll rose. Young American Muslims growing up under their shadow have faced hostility, mistrust, and suspicion.

As the 25th anniversary approaches, Hillman sees a “compelling story of

service, of hope, of resilience, of coming together” for the people who didn’t live through that period. Those stories will be told in an exhibit called “In Their Honor.”

Celebrity chef Bobby Flay, she noted, was among the many chefs who prepared meals for first responders in the months following the attacks. Theater workers brought their lights to power the blacked-out area around ground zero. Victims’ family members started social services organizations such as 9/11 Day to inspire volunteering in memory of their lost relatives. Hillman also wants to inform more people of the first responders who developed chronic illnesses and still face hurdles to care.

The funds raised by the 9/11 Memorial and Museum will ensure free museum access continues for students, first responders, and veterans, according to Hillman, who said “we don’t want the price to be a barrier to them.” Standard adult admission currently costs \$36. The nonprofit’s website notes that it “relies primarily on ticket sales to help fund its operational costs.”

The organization plans to reach more educators with the funds. As teachers enter the workforce without lived experiences of September 11, Hillman said they want to help prepare lesson plans. The nonprofit runs summer teachers’

REMEMBERING 9/11. Ainsley, right, and Sarah Jurccak place a flower in the name of a relative during a ceremony in New York to mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on September 11, 2025. The 9/11 Memorial and Museum has launched a \$75 million fundraising campaign as the nonprofit tries to educate the millions of U.S. youth who don’t remember the terror attacks on their upcoming 25th anniversary. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

institutes, offers professional development programs, and remakes a 30-minute film each year with firsthand stories.

Hillman acknowledged a greater “degree of distraction and confusion” today than in the past when it comes to efforts to memorialize recent historical events. She sees a need to give “simple representations of what happened.” The March/April issue of the *National Council for the Social Studies’* magazine, which was guest edited by 9/11 Memorial and Museum staff, features a timeline of the morning of September 11, 2001.

“9/11 is heavy and compelling and full of inspiring stories,” Hillman said. “But also, just a trusted set of what happened on that day, of materials that can convey the basics of it — that’s the beginning of people learning and starting to understand, too.”

Alex Edgar, a Gen Z civic leader whose work with a group called Made By Us to amplify youth voices ahead of the United States’ 250th birthday, sees value in emphasizing the power of service. His peers, he said, have “never really seen a country that has worked” or one that “really lived up to the promise of America.” He finds that narratives about overcoming division to accomplish shared goals serve as an antidote to the political polarization frequently experienced by young people.

But he emphasized that those narratives must permeate classroom walls and museum doors.

“They invite young people to consider what’s preventing us from using any of the issues of our time as a rallying cry for folks to come together across backgrounds to build the type of country, the communities, that we want to live in,” he said.

Associated Press coverage of philanthropy and nonprofits receives support through The AP’s collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for content.

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Singapore diplomat, Myanmar activist & Bangladeshi aid giver win Magsaysay awards

Continued from page 20

Taiwan have been locked in tense territorial standoffs in the disputed waters for decades.

“Through his steadfast faith in dialogue, the rule of law, and international cooperation, he has helped make peaceful coexistence possible in a world of unequal power,” the awards body said.

Myanmar activist put his freedom on the line for democracy

Bo Kyi, the 61-year-old winner from Myanmar, has twice been arrested in the past and spent seven years in prison for a life spent in defense of democracy and resistance against widespread human rights violations by Myanmar’s military.

He has demanded the release of all political prisoners in his country, including former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and helped raise funds to support the detainees and their families, the awards body said.

In March 2000, Bo Kyi and fellow former political prisoners organized the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which has “devoted itself to documenting political imprisonment, supporting detainees and their families, and ensuring the continued visibility of the junta’s political prisoners in Myanmar and around the world,” the awards body said.

Bangladesh teacher brought compassion to the poor

Runa Khan, 67, of Bangladesh won the award for “her profound empathy for the poorest of the poor in her country.”

Coming from an affluent family, she



SELFLESS SERVICE. Singapore’s Ambassador at Large Tommy Koh gestures during a luncheon in Singapore, on September 18, 2006, on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings. Lawyer and diplomat Koh, now 88, will be recognized with a Magsaysay award on November 15 at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila, along with Bo Kyi of Myanmar and Runa Khan of Bangladesh. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E, File)

first served as a teacher to poor children in 1979. In 2002, she established an organization called “Friendship Bangladesh” that helped the most destitute “deal with climate change, educate their children, empower women, create livelihood opportunities, and bring social justice to the excluded,” according to the awards body.

Khan’s group now employs more than 7,500 people, with seven hospital ships and two land-based hospitals and 550 mobile clinics, it said.

“In her hands, privilege became not an entitlement, but a responsibility; not a family legacy to protect, but a gift to be shared so that others, too, might have the chance to live with hope, opportunity, and dignity,” it added.

HK’s independent bookstores are under threat

Continued from page 3

clearly stipulate that human rights, freedoms of speech, and publication should be protected.

The offenses linked to seditious intention expressly protect expression of opinions or even criticism against government policies, it said.

Spaces for refuge and companionship

University student Iris Wang from neighboring Guangdong sensed tighter control over Hong Kong. To her, Hunter encouraged people to think, instead of just selling books like its mainland peers. She bought a postcard about being courageous and a manga there.

Some mainland readers also visit the stores for non-political reasons, such as for their niche books or simply for their calmness.

Hong Konger Brian Leung found companionship in independent bookstores, saying each had its own character. When arrests happened at the shops he visited, he said he felt something he cherished and that Hong Kong deserved was being rejected.

“Part of what I have grown used to in Hong Kong is lost again,” he said, adding that the bookshops have not “incited” him because readers can judge for themselves.

Concerns over Hong Kong’s access to Taiwanese books

In Taiwan, widely seen as the freest publishing hub for Chinese-language books, some publishers have filled the gap as restrictions deepened in Hong Kong after the 2020 security law took effect. Some readers fear one day Taiwan cannot

send books to Hong Kong as freely as before.

Taiwan’s publishers released six times as many books about Hong Kong between 2020 and 2024 as in the previous five years, according to Cheng Tsu-Bang, a sociology professor at Tunghai University in Taiwan.

“The publication of books seems to have become a very important medium of communication between Taiwan and Hong Kong, or a medium of mutual support,” he said.

In July, Taiwan’s broadcaster FTV reported that a logistics firm stopped taking orders to ship books from Taiwan to Hong Kong bookstores under investigation. It also demanded a full book list before delivering to other Hong Kong premises, the report added.

One Hong Kong author who moved to Taiwan and has published books there is Lee, who spoke on condition of not using their full name out of fear of government retribution.

Lee has written about Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement, saying the independent bookstores served as a bridge to bring works about Hong Kong to the city and connect diaspora writers to their home.

The writer compared the collapse of civil society to a boulder rolling downhill, crushing things in its path. Lee said bookstores were a small flower field where people could breathe and try to safeguard what remained.

“It’s now like being told very directly and cruelly that perhaps this borrowed time is coming to an end,” Lee said.

Top U.S. doctors offer updated flu, COVID vaccine recommendations, aiming to ease confusion

Continued from page 7

Depending on age, people can choose a shot from Moderna, Pfizer, or the only non-mRNA version from Novavax and Sanofi.

Just like with flu vaccines, these shots are better at preventing severe disease than mild cases. The Vaccine Integrity Project said last fall’s COVID-19 shots cut the risk of hospitalization by 53% in seniors and slashed emergency room visits for very young children.

Common side effects for flu and COVID-19 vaccines are mild and temporary, such as sore arms, fatigue, headaches, muscle aches, and mild fever. They occurred somewhat more often with the new mFlusiva than with standard flu shots.

Here’s where you can get vaccinated

While pediatricians and some clinics offer both flu and coronavirus shots, they’re most common in pharmacies.

For COVID-19 shots, states have more pharmacy rules. For example, Walgreens says it offers those shots without a prescription in all but two states, Arizona and Oregon, but can provide doses for children as young as 3 in some states while others have higher age limits.

Medicare covers the fall shots and most private health insurers say they plan to continue doing so through 2027.

How to time your vaccination

October is ideal for a flu vaccine, as influenza typically starts spreading in November. COVID-19 tends to rise in late summer, as it is now, and again after the winter holidays. Fryhofer says it’s fine to time the coronavirus shot a few weeks ahead of an event you wouldn’t want to miss because of illness, like a special trip or get-together.



PHYSICIAN RECOMMENDATIONS. A certified medical assistant holds a syringe for a flu vaccine at a clinic in Seattle. Leading U.S. medical groups are urging people to get updated flu and COVID-19 vaccinations this fall, banding together to issue shot guidelines — and highlight the science behind them — saying they hope to ease confusion caused by the Trump administration’s changing advice. (AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson, File)

RSV is a nuisance for many, but it can be deadly for some

RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, typically is a cold-like nuisance during the fall, winter, and early spring. But it can be severe, even life-threatening, for infants and older adults.

The family physicians recommend a one-time vaccination for adults 75 and older, people 50 to 74 who are at increased risk, or younger people with weak immune systems.

It’s also recommended during late pregnancy to protect infants born during RSV season. Separately, the pediatricians recommend a vaccine-like medication for those infants whose moms weren’t vaccinated and some other high-risk babies.

The Associated Press’ health and science coverage receives financial support from The AP Fund for Journalism and private foundations. AP is solely responsible for content.



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MORE POWER TO YOU.

U.S. beats China and 7'3" Zhang Ziyu, 94-61, in women's FIBA World Cup opener

By Doug Feinberg
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Caitlin Clark had 14 points and 11 assists to help the United States beat China, which was led by 7'3" Zhang Ziyu, 94-61, in its women's FIBA World Cup opener last week.

Rhyne Howard also scored 14 points and Jackie Young added 12 for the Americans, who have now won 31 consecutive World Cup games dating back to a loss in the semifinal game of the 2006 tournament.

This a period of transition for the U.S. with a young roster that includes the trio of Clark, Paige Bueckers, and Angel Reese. None of them were in the starting lineup, but they were on the court together to close out the opening quarter, which the Americans dominated to go up 27-14.

China fought back at the start of the second quarter behind Zhang. The 19-year-old, who made her first World Cup appearance, towered over the Americans. On defense, she stood under the basket,



making it difficult for the Americans to score inside or get second shots off misses. On offense, the Americans constantly double-teamed her when she caught the ball.

Zhang's first basket of the game got China within 33-25 with 6:21 left in the half. The U.S. then went on a 16-4 run to close the first half up 49-29. Young had a three-point play and Breanna Stewart

FIBA WORLD CUP. Kiki Iriafen of the United States, left, is guarded by 7'3" Zhang Ziyu of China, right, during the women's basketball World Cup match between China and the United States in Berlin on September 4, 2026. The U.S. beat China 94-61 in the match. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

scored the final four points of the spurt.

China paired Zhang with 6'10" Han Xu in the third quarter, presenting an even more potent defensive wall against the U.S. China got within 53-37, but no closer as the young trio of Clark, Bueckers, and Reese helped spark a 17-5 run to close the period.

Zhang finished with 13 points, hitting nine of her 10 free throws. Han added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

The U.S., which is normally jeered by opposing crowds in international tournaments, had the fans backing them. Clark, who routinely spends time before games signing autographs for fans when she plays in the WNBA, signed a basketball and took a photo with a young girl who was wearing a Fever t-shirt with Clark's name on the back.

Li Yueru misses the women's FIBA World Cup after her replacement passport was lost in the mail

By Doug Feinberg
AP Basketball Writer

BERLIN — China is playing without Li Yueru at the women's FIBA World Cup after her replacement passport was lost in the mail and she wasn't able to get a new one in time for the tournament that started in Germany last week.

The Dallas Wings player posted on social media that her passport remains missing and despite efforts to solve the

situation, she won't be able to compete.

"Thank you to everyone who has been thinking of me and checking in on me. Over the past few years, I've maintained a great relationship with the Chinese Basketball Association and the national team. They have always been a strong source of support throughout my career overseas," she wrote. "The national team have always made me feel valued and wanted, and it has always been a tremendous honor to represent China. I

was incredibly excited and looking forward to joining the national team again."

The 6'7" Li was the team's leading scorer at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"Unfortunately, my passport was lost in the mail and still hasn't been found. Throughout this time, we've all been working hard together and exploring every possible solution, but maybe we were just a little short on luck this time. As of today, the passport is still missing," she said in early September. "Sometimes, disappoint-

ment is simply part of life. I'm sad that I won't be able to be there this time, but I'm incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported me and continues to support Chinese women's basketball."

The 27-year-old Li began her WNBA career in 2022 with the Chicago Sky. She also played with the Los Angeles Sparks and Seattle Storm before being traded to the Wings in June 2025.

China began play against the U.S. in Group D. The U.S. defeated China, 94-61.

18-year-old rookie golfer Jessica Bang dies in Thailand

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Rookie professional golfer Jessica Bang of Australia died in a hospital in Thailand at the age of 18, the WPGA Tour of Australasia said.

Bang collapsed on August 1 as she was preparing in Thailand for a tournament and was transported to a hospital in Bangkok, where she underwent emergency brain surgery.

The "Australian golf community is deeply saddened by

the passing of young tour member Jessica Bang in Thailand," the WPGA Tour of Australasia said in a statement. "Jessica was an outstanding young talent who made a significant impression in her short time on the tour."

Bang earned her place on the tour through qualifying school at the end of last year, and won the Women's New South Wales Open Regional Qualifying Event in February in just her fifth professional start.

Arnold A. Lim

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5	2	7						3
8		4		1	5			
			3	4				8
9				5	4			
7								5
			1	6				2
6				2	8			
			9	3		8		6
2						1	3	4
Difficulty level: Easy #52738								

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 #62946 (Hard)

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

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

September 15, 2026

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APIA VOTE

China is boycotting a major Asian art festival over the naming of a Taiwanese exhibition

By Hyung-jin Kim and Huizhong Wu
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A group of Chinese artists is boycotting a major art exhibition in South Korea over the organizers’ plans to use the name “Taiwan Pavilion” for an exhibition of works by Taiwanese artists.

China considers self-governing Taiwan to be part of its territory and rejects the island’s claim to sovereignty. Beijing generally refers to Taiwan as “China’s Taiwan region.”

China’s Foreign Ministry criticized the South Korean organizers of the biennial Gwangju Biennale, one of Asia’s most prominent art exhibitions, saying the organizers have “stubbornly clung to the wrongful practice, allowing China’s Taiwan region to participate under a designation that is completely incompatible with its status.”

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China hopes the South Korean government will uphold its political commitment to the “one China” principle through concrete action.

The Chinese artists said the same day that they were withdrawing from the festival, which opened over the weekend and runs through mid-November.

The “Taiwan Pavilion” is one of about 25 small national and institutional galleries to be operated separately from the biennale’s main exhibition site, under its so-called Pavilion Project.

“The organizers of the Gwangju Biennale used an incorrect name for China’s Taiwan region over its participation in the exhibition, causing a political issue to spill over onto the realm of art,” Chinese curator Ruan Yuelai told reporters through an interpreter. “The Chinese exhibition team cannot accept this and unanimously agreed to withdraw from the exhibition to express our strong protest.”

At press time, the Chinese participants had not yet removed their paintings, sculptures, and other works originally planned to go on display in the “China Pavilion.”

The festival organizers
apologize for the “confusion”



Taiwan’s Ministry of Culture said in August that Taiwan had planned to exhibit under the name “Taiwan Pavilion” but protested that organizers changed it to “National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts Pavilion.”

The art festival said it “deeply apologizes for causing concerns and confusion” to those involved in its “Pavilion Project,” and said there had been differences with the Taiwan museum over the naming issue.

Organizers said they signed a contract with the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts over its participation, so they thought Taiwanese artists would exhibit under the museum acronym, “NTMoFA.” They said the Taiwanese museum later insisted on the name “Taiwan Pavilion,” and said they felt pressure to accept the name.

Last week, China also warned of consequences for Taiwan after the island’s foreign minister attended a diplomatic forum in the island country of Palau. In May, China pressured an African country to exclude Taiwanese activists from an international human rights conference.

It’s unclear whether the Chinese protest would trigger a major diplomatic spat with South Korea, which is now

CONTROVERSIAL NAME. Attendees participate in the opening ceremony of the Gwangju Biennale in Gwangju, South Korea, in this March 31, 2021 file photo. A group of Chinese artists is boycotting a major art exhibition in South Korea over the organizers’ plans to use the name “Taiwan Pavilion” for an exhibition of works by Taiwanese artists. (Ryu Hyung-geun/Newsis via AP, File)

ruled by a liberal government which wants to improve ties with China, the country’s biggest trading partner.

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said the naming decision was made by a non-governmental entity and has nothing to do with the government. It said South Korea hopes the latest issue won’t affect relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Taiwan is a self-ruled island, but China claims it as part of its territory. The two sides split after a civil war in 1949. Beijing has stepped up its pressure on Taiwan, poaching diplomatic allies. The island now only has 12 diplomatic allies around the world.

Associated Press writer Kanis Leung in Hong Kong contributed to this report.



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Dear You, a migration tale shot in a southern Chinese dialect, gets buzz abroad

By Huizhong Wu and Jintamas Saksornchai
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — The buzziest film in China this year was shot almost entirely in a southern Chinese dialect that most Chinese viewers need subtitles to understand.

Yet *Dear You* has become China's second-highest-grossing film of the year. Now it is heading overseas, part of a broader wave of Chinese cultural exports.

Dear You was shot mostly in Teochew, a dialect spoken in Guangdong's Shantou region. Set among the Teochew immigrant community in Bangkok, it tells the story of people who left China in search of work to support their families. Made on a low budget, it features a cast of mostly unknown actors.

The film provides a glimpse into the centuries-long history of Chinese migration to Southeast Asia. It has succeeded in making this little-discussed history visible to a wider audience, threading the fine needle of passing official censorship requirements, experts say, while telling a compelling story.

As of August, the movie had grossed about 269 million yuan (\$40 million) at the Chinese box office. It was released in Thailand in early August after being shown in Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. It is being released in the U.S. this month.

China is increasing its soft power with cultural exports

The film's popularity comes as Chinese culture and consumer brands have been gaining global cachet — from collectible Labubu dolls to "Chinamaxxing," a social media trend of embracing aspects of the Chinese lifestyle.

The Chinese government began promoting the film as it became a hit and prepared for its international release.

The Chinese consul in Sydney said at a June screening of the film that it "reflects the Chinese nation's virtues of diligence, kindness, courage, and unity."

The movie aligns with Beijing's broader goal of "telling China's stories well," highlighting themes of friendship, tradition, and family, including motherhood and kinship, said Belinda He, an assistant professor of East Asian cinema and media studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

China's ambassador to Thailand presented the film at a special screening in July and again at a red carpet event last



Chen Zeguo/Xinhua via AP



Agung Kuncahya B./Xinhua via AP

month.

"We're grateful to Guangdong for making such a wonderful film," Chinese ambassador Zhang Jiangwei said at the red carpet event, which was attended by officials from Guangdong's Information Office. "Stories about ordinary people and simple, genuine emotions can be even more moving. This film is an excellent vehicle for telling China's story well."

Chinese migration to Southeast Asia has been ongoing for centuries

The film first resonated in Malaysia and Singapore because it showcases a history that's rarely featured in mainstream films.

Chinese migration to Southeast Asia dates back centuries, with many migrants coming from the Guangdong and Fujian provinces in southern China. Many worked as laborers in building projects in an era of western colonial rule across much of Asia.

The film starts with a young man trying

to find his grandfather, Deng Musheng, in hopes of getting a loan to repay his debts. In the family lore, there was supposedly a wealthy grandfather in Thailand, who left his young wife and children behind in China and never came back.

Using an address on an old remittance letter his grandfather had sent, he meets people who became part of his grandfather's life in Bangkok, uncovering the mystery of why his grandfather never returned.

The film's director, Lan Hongchun, wrote in a column for the *People's Daily*, a state media outlet, that he grew up hearing stories from his grandmother about people she knew migrating to Bangkok, and wanted to tell these stories in film.

The film also resonates with Thai Chinese viewers

The plot revolves around "qiaopi," remittance letters used by Chinese

BREAKOUT FILM. In the top photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a woman takes photos during a special screening of the Chinese film *Dear You* in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The buzziest film in China this year was shot almost entirely in a southern Chinese dialect that most Chinese viewers need subtitles to understand. Yet *Dear You* has become China's second-highest-grossing film of the year. Now it is heading overseas, part of a broader wave of Chinese cultural exports. In the bottom photo, viewers take a selfie in front of an advertisement for *Dear You* during its premiere in Jakarta, Indonesia, on August 5, 2026.

immigrants to send money and news back home. Many workers who could not write Chinese relied on scribes to compose the letters.

Scenes set in the centralized offices where the scribes worked, called "poy kuan," were directly out of the childhood of 74-year-old Sathien Tuntipaiboonana.

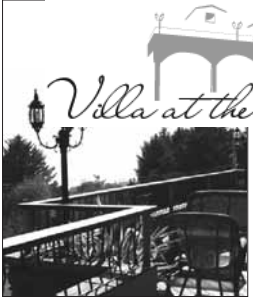
"I connected emotionally with that part of the film quite strongly," he said after watching the first screening of the film in a Bangkok theater with his older sisters and sisters-in-law. Among them was his eldest sister, who is 89 and needed help climbing the stairs to the cinema.

Their father had immigrated to Bangkok from China in search of work, leaving behind a wife and children. He ended up remarrying and never returned to China. But Sathien's family continued to send remittances to the family left behind in China.

Thitikorn Phanprayoon, a third-generation Thai Chinese, said he decided to see the film after hearing Teochew, the Chinese dialect he speaks at home, in the trailer. It surprised him since most Chinese films are in Mandarin. He plans to return with his parents.

"I felt like I was sitting at home," he said. "It felt like my family was performing in the movie in front of me."

AP writer Fu Ting contributed to this story from Washington, D.C.



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Comedian Jenny Yang uses a comedy tour to uplift immigrants, one grocery store at a time

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

Stand-up comedians are used to tuning out the din of clinking glasses from two-drink minimums and patrons walking in and out during sets. But what about rolling shopping carts or the smell of fried fish?

That kind of ambience is what you'll find on comic Jenny Yang's unique nationwide summer comedy tour, where she has been turning cultural grocery stores into comedy clubs for a night. And she's been leaning into her unconventional venue choice.

"I got to buy a bunch of small snacks and shrimp chips and throw it into the audience every time I felt like a joke didn't land," Yang said. "I mean this is my dream."

A stand-up and sketch comedy veteran whose acting credits include the Netflix show "The Brothers Sun," Yang is living a dream of "the most politically and creatively fulfilling project" she's ever done. The Good Egg Immigrant Grocery Store Standup Comedy Tour is partly her reaction to the immigration crackdowns by President Donald Trump's administration impacting Asian, Latino, and Black communities. She wanted to entertain in cities with immigrant enclaves where she could give back. So, Yang and her team chose grocery store stops and nonprofits to donate to based on recommendations from local organizations.

The unorthodox tour has grown from five performances to nearly 20, far beyond her expectations. It started June 5 in Los Angeles, where Yang lives, and has taken her to Minneapolis, Phoenix, and other cities. After stops in New York and San Francisco, the tour will wrap September 26 back in L.A. with Yang filming a performance for a proposed comedy special.

She touches on topics ranging from infertility to awareness of immigrant experiences in the U.S. While comedians are divided on whether stand-up should stand down on politics, Yang has always spoken on it.

"People come into this art form as a stand-up comedian for different reasons. I am of the mind that my stand-up comedy is just an extension of my values and I believe in punching up, not down," Yang said.

Being inspired to be a "good egg"

Last December, Yang, who immigrated from Taiwan, was back there to receive what was a failed round of in vitro fertilization treatment. Heartbroken and sitting in front of an omelet breakfast, she lamented not having "one good egg" to start a family. As she mulled a new endeavor to focus on, her mind drifted



toward the "non-stop barrage" of headlines about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations.

That's when the idea for a tour weaving her past as a labor organizer with her passion for stand-up sparked.

"The ability to do and bring a show together, and bring people together inside of the immigrant grocery store, to me, reaffirms our ability to take up space and to own the space that matters to us," Yang said.

After emceeding a gala for the Asian Law Caucus in April, Yang shared her outside-the-box idea with the San Francisco-based group. The Caucus works pro bono in immigrant communities and on high-profile cases like the recent birthright citizenship case. They hired Yang not just for her comedic touch but as "somebody who culturally could relate to the communities that we serve," said executive director Aarti Kohli. The Caucus offered its vast network of Asian American community leaders and immigrant-centered nonprofits nationwide.

AISLE ENTERTAINMENT. Jenny Yang walks through the Jerusalem Market prior to The Good Egg Immigrant Grocery Store Standup Comedy Tour in Phoenix. The comedy tour has grown from five performances to nearly 20, far beyond Yang's expectations. (AP Photos/Ross D. Franklin)

snacks and some drinks. A few people even did a bit of grocery shopping," Zhou said.

He then dimmed the lights for Yang.

"Just renting a spotlight makes a show," Yang said. "How fun is it that I'm literally doing stand-up comedy next to an aisle that sells fungus and five pounds of rice?"

Zhou found it a "unique experience" that he'd do again.

"We enjoyed every minute. Even after the show, everyone stayed and chatted," Zhou said. "I'm pretty sure it helped us promote the store."

The value of cultural grocery stores in the U.S.

"Ethnic food" is no longer just a supermarket aisle. Chains like H Mart and 99 Ranch Market, as well as smaller stores, generate \$55.8 billion in revenue, according to a 2025 report from market research firm IBISWorld.

These stores are also "cross-cultural meeting grounds," said Willow Lung, founding director of the Small Business Anti-Displacement Network. They provide jobs for locals and attract other businesses such as restaurants, beauty counters, and even tax preparers. They can be anchors where there is no Chinatown or Japantown.

"They act as kind of a 'main street,' if you will, for communities," Lung said. "There's just so many ways in which we underestimate the value of a grocery store as just being like, 'Oh, it just sells these products and services.'"

For over a year, international grocers have struggled with tariffs and the absence of immigrant customers fearful of venturing out. Some stores had to close temporarily or long-term, Lung added.

Grocery workers like Zhou try to "just help as much as we can." For a few customers, he took a shopping list via text and delivered it.

Yang hopes bringing a dose of humor will momentarily distract from the angst so many of these communities continue to feel.

"It's just a way to remind people, yes, there's a lot of doom and gloom," she said. "But, we got to make room for joy."

"Although we are a legal civil rights organization, we understand that so much of how we reach community is through, especially for Asian communities, food and culture," Kohli said. "I think comedy is healing and unifying."

How a grocery store becomes a stage

At Shuang Hur Supermarket in Minneapolis — half a block from where ICE agents fatally shot Alex Pretti — Yang put on a show in July, said manager Henry Zhou.

They reconfigured shelves near the checkout lanes to fit 150 chairs, he said.

"Everybody got in line to buy some

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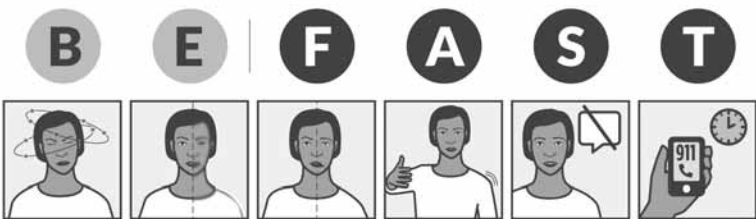


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BALANCE Did they suddenly lose balance or coordination?

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



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Events calendar

Swapna Mukhopadhyay

Through Sep 12, 9am-9:30pm (Mon-Thu), 9am-5pm (Fri-Sat), Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland). View hand-built functional and sculptural porcelain works by Swapna Mukhopadhyay, whose pieces are often small in scale and characterized by what she calls their “putting togetherness.” Delicate drawn elements adorn many of the ceramic surfaces, and several recent works incorporate textiles and found objects. For info, call (503) 823-ARTS (2787) or visit <www.multnomahartscenter.org>.

“Lost & Found: Searching For Home”

Through Sep 14, 10am-5pm (Wed-Sun), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St, Seattle). View “Lost & Found: Searching For Home,” an exhibit with paintings, video, and installations by Eric Chan, Lauren Iida, Ravleen Kaur, and Kyler Pahang that explore the complex relationship between place and belonging through the lens of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) identity. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (206) 623-5124 or visit <www.wingluke.org>.

“What’s the Story?”

Through Sep 19, 11am-5:30pm (Tue-Sat); Sep 12, 1pm (artist talk); ArtX Contemporary (512 First Ave S, Seattle). View pieces by Eric Chan, Lauren Iida, Samantha Yun Wall, and others at “What’s the Story?” A Story Time artist talk is scheduled for September 12 at 1:00pm and features select artists telling the story behind one of their pieces. For info, call (206) 839-0377 or visit <www.artxcontemporary.com>.

“TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition”

Through Oct 18, 9:30am-5:30pm (Tue-Fri), 9:30am-7pm (Sat), 9:30am-5:30pm (Sun), Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (1945 SE Water Ave, Portland). View “TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition,” a display of more than 100 authentic artifacts recovered from the wrecksite of the famous ship that embarked on her first and final journey in April of 1912. The exhibit reveals science and engineering in the early 20th century; a glimpse into the lives of the people whose journeys were forever changed by her voyage; and the contemporary effort to recover artifacts and conserve the wrecksite. In a first for West Coast audiences, the exhibit features a sweeping Immersive Gallery that brings the ship to life by pairing cinematic visuals with audio reenactments of passenger and crew accounts of *Titanic’s* grandeur, society, and tragedy. An optional VR tour immerses guests in the sights, sounds, and emotions of *Titanic*, including historically accurate views of previously unseen areas of the ship. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 797-4000 or visit <www.oms.edu>.

“Standing for Justice:

The Japanese Americans Shaping Oregon”

Through Oct 25, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sat), 11am-4pm (Sun), Japanese American Museum of Oregon at the Naito Center (411 NW Flanders St, Portland). View “Standing for Justice: The Japanese Americans Shaping Oregon,” an exhibit reflecting on two milestones in U.S. history — the nation’s 250th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the termination of Executive Order 9066 — and what does democracy mean when it is denied, challenged, and ultimately restored. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458, or visit <www.jamo.org> or <www.oregon250.org>.

“Lion Reborn”

Through Nov 1, 10am-5:30pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). View “Lion Reborn,” an exhibit by local artists Joshua Sin and Lark Pien that explores the rich and layered history of one of China’s most enduring traditions: the lion dance. Attendees learn about the martial arts roots of the traditional Chinese lion dance before wandering deeper into the garden taking in the art pieces. Through various mediums, Joshua Sin and Lark Pien interpret well-known Chinese cultural practices, philosophy, and symbols — from kung fu and qigong to relationships and spirituality. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

“Honoring Oregon’s Chinese American Veterans & Active-Duty Service Members”

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

“Anish Kapoor: Dissolving Margins”

Through Dec 5, 11am-5pm (Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat), 11am-7pm (Thu); Oct 22, 4pm (reception); Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) at Portland State University (1855 SW Broadway, Portland). View “Anish Kapoor: Dissolving Margins, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation,” a decade-spanning survey of the artist’s printmaking practice featuring more than 150 unique works. The free exhibit, Kapoor’s first retrospective survey dedicated to his printmaking, reflect his long-standing interest in iteration, variation, form, and color — all of which are central tenets of his artistic practice. For info, call (503) 725-8013 or visit <www.pdx.edu/museum-of-art>.

Portland Timbers 2

Sep 7 & 14, 1pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch Portland Timbers 2 (T2), the Timbers’ MLS NEXT Pro affiliate, take on Whitecaps FC 2 (Sep 7) and St. Louis City 2 (Sep 14). Attendance to T2 games is free.



Tickets (required) are available through SeatGeek. For info, or to reserve tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.timbers.com/t2>.

Time-Based Art Festival

Sep 9-13, several venues in Portland. Attend the 2026 Time-Based Art Festival (TBA:26), a gathering of artists and audiences from around the world featuring contemporary performances, exhibitions, music, and movement. For info, to purchase tickets, or to obtain a full schedule of events, call (503) 242-1419 or visit <www.pica.org>.

Portland Timbers

Sep 9 & 19, 7:30pm, Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch the Portland Timbers take on St. Louis City SC (Sep 9) and Atlanta United FC (Sep 19) in Major League Soccer action. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.portlandtimbers.com>.

Volunteer Expo 2026

Sep 10, 11am-2pm, Pioneer Courthouse Square (701 SW Sixth Ave, Portland). Learn about local and regional nonprofit organizations and how to get involved with them at the Volunteer Expo, Oregon’s largest gathering of nonprofits, volunteers, and donors. The free event, which features more than 100 nonprofit and volunteer organizations, helps members of the community discover opportunities that fit their skills and interests. For info, call (971) 321-3162 or visit <www.standard.com/volunteer>.

Welcoming Week in Beaverton

Sep 10-19, Beaverton City Library (12375 SW Fifth St, Beaverton, Ore.). Attend Welcoming Week in Beaverton, an annual campaign that was launched in 2012 by Welcoming America and its members that celebrate community efforts to create inclusive spaces for everyone, including immigrants. Planned events and initiatives this year include World Language Storytimes (Sep 11, 12, 14 & 18), conversation clubs (Sep 12 & 19), an evening with filmmaker & actor Vu Pham (Sep 18), and more. For info, call (503) 526-2439 or visit <www.beavertonoregon.gov/welcoming-week>.

9/11 Blood Drive

Sep 11, 8am-2pm, Portland Fire & Rescue, Skidmore Conference Room (55 SW Ash St, Portland). The American Red Cross is partnering with Portland Fire & Rescue to encourage people to give blood at a special blood drive in memory of those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Now observed as an annual Day of Service and Remembrance, 9/11 provides an opportunity to honor the victims and heroes of that day through acts of service such as donating blood. Jim Stevenson, a Red Cross volunteer who responded to ground zero in 2001, will be in attendance from 9:00am to 11:00am. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit <www.redcrossblood.org> (enter “PortlandFire”) to schedule an appointment.

“2026 Elections Kick-Off”

Sep 11, 11:30am (doors open), noon-1:15pm (program), University Place Hotel and Conference Center (310 SW Lincoln St, Portland). Attend “2026 Elections Kick-Off: What We’re Watching and Why it Matters,” a nonpartisan, big-picture conversation about the upcoming November 3 election. General admission is free for everyone, but registration is requested to help manage capacity. Lunch reservations must be submitted by September 8 at noon. For info, or to register, call (503) 228-7231, ext. 110, or visit <www.pdxcityclub.org>.

Panda Fest

Sep 11-13, 4-10pm (Fri), 10am-10pm (Sat), 10am-8pm (Sun), Tom McCall Waterfront Park (SW Naito Parkway between the Burnside & Hawthorne Bridges, Portland). Attend Panda Fest, an Asian food and culture festival featuring Asian street food vendors, handcrafted goods, live entertainment, cultural showcases, panda-themed experiences, and family-friendly activities. Asian food and merchandise vendors from the Portland metropolitan area as well as from across the country plan to create more than 200 dishes representing cuisines from China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and beyond at the event. For



WHAT’S THE STORY? Art pieces by Eric Chan, Lauren Iida, Samantha Yun Wall, and others are on view as part of “What’s the Story?” through September 19 at ArtX Contemporary in Seattle. Pictured are (counter-clockwise from top left) “The Pledge” courtesy of Densho; “The Pledge,” 2025, by Lauren Iida; and “Wheel of Joy,” 2025, by Eric Chan. (Images courtesy of ArtX Contemporary)

info, or to purchase tickets, e-mail <customer@pandafests.com> or visit <www.pandafests.com>.

“Steep & Paint”

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>.

I-5 Southbound 24/7 closure

Sep 11-Oct 16, I-5 South near the Rose Quarter. Starting on Friday, September 11, I-5 South though the Rose Quarter corridor will be closed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for safety and congestion improvements where I-5, I-84, and I-405 converge and for the reconnection project of the Albina neighborhood. The construction closure is expected to continue for up to five weeks (roughly October 16). (The actual I-5 closure dates are subject to change.) For info, call ODOT at (503) 470-3127, e-mail <i5RoseQuarter@odot.oregon.gov>, or visit <www.i5rosequarter.org>. To submit noise complaints, call (503) 276-7808.

Autumn Bonsai Exhibit & Vendor Marketplace

Sep 12, 10am-5pm, Hong Phat Supercenter, South Entrance (4200 SE 82nd Ave, Portland). Attend the Autumn Bonsai Exhibit & Vendor Marketplace, a free event featuring everything bonsai — supplies, pots, tools, stands, Oregon akadama bonsai soil, and more — in addition to food, beverages, free parking, and a free demonstration of Vietnamese bonsai at 2:00pm. For info, call (503) 998-4150.

Repair Café

Sep 12, noon-3pm, Leaven Community Center (5431 NE 20th Ave, Portland). Repair PDX is holding its first Repair Café of the season in northeast Portland. Volunteers are on hand fixing small appliances and jewelry, mending garments and textiles, sharpening tools and knives, and repairing bikes on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, or to let volunteers know in advance what items you might bring in, call (503) 893-9656, e-mail <RepairPDX@gmail.com>, or visit <www.RepairPDX.org>.

Portland Mid-Autumn Festival at SF Supermarket

Sep 12-13, noon-8pm, Shun Fat Supermarket (5253 SE 82nd Ave, Portland). Celebrate five years of culture, community, and tradition with the White Lotus Foundation at the Portland Mid-Autumn Festival at SF Supermarket. The two-day free event features live cultural showcases, such as music, dance, martial arts, and storytelling; family-friendly activities including craft workshops, games, and more; free paper lanterns and a lantern parade held each evening; more than 100 local vendors offering Asian food, beverages, snacks, and handmade goods; and a variety of authentic mooncakes for sale. An after-hours party is scheduled for Saturday from 8:00pm to midnight. For info, visit <www.whitelotusmarket.org>.

Sunday Parkways: Downtown Portland

Sep 13, 11am-4pm, the Cart Blocks, Darcelle XV Plaza, Director Park, Main Street Plaza, PSU Park Blocks, Lovejoy Fountain Park, Pettygrove Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square (Portland). Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, and more around downtown Portland without motor traffic during a Sunday Parkways event. Entertainment, live music, bike education and repair, activities for both adults and children, vendor marketplaces, and more take place in the parks and along the route, which has no start or finish. For info, call (503) 823-7599 or visit <www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways/2026>. To receive event updates, text “Downtown” to 1-888-520-0526.

“Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival”

Sep 13, 11am-6pm, Seattle Center, Armory Food & Event Hall (305 Harrison St, Seattle). Enjoy a day of Polynesian delights at the “Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival,” presented by Seattle Center Festál. The free event features Hawaiian food, live music and hula, workshops, presentations, Hawaiian crafts, a Keiki Korner, a marketplace, and more. For info, call (206) 684-7200, or visit <www.seattlecenter.com> or <www.seattlelivealohafestival.com>.

Mid-Autumn Festival at Central Library

Sep 13, 2-3pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Join the Oregon Chinese Coalition for a

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Events calendar

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celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival and the arts. The event features performance groups, including the Dragonfly Diablo Team and the Jade Dance Team, sharing their skills and passion for Chinese culture. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Portland Thorns FC

Sep 13, 19 & 26; Sep 13, 4pm; Sep 19, 1pm; Sep 26, 5:45pm; Providence Park (SW 18th Ave & SW Morrison St, Portland). Watch Portland Thorns FC take on the Chicago Stars (Sep 13), Orlando Pride (Sep 19), and the Houston Dash (Sep 26) in the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). The Thorns FC squad features Sam Hiatt and others. K-POP Day is the theme of the September 13 match. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 553-5555 or visit <www.thorns.com>.

National Voter Registration Day 2026

Sep 15. National Voter Registration Day takes place on September 15, 2026. Registering to vote is the first step in taking part in the democratic process and having your voice heard at the ballot box. To register, or to learn more, visit <www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org>.

Immigrant Town Hall and Legislative Dialogue

Sep 16, 5:30-7pm, Oregon Historical Society Museum (1200 SW Park Ave, Portland). Join a community-centered conversation bringing together immigrant and refugee community members, elected leaders, and community partners to share experiences, discuss community priorities, and strengthen dialogue between community and government. Joining the Immigrant Town Hall and Legislative Dialogue event, which is free and open to the public, are Oregon representatives Andrea Valderrama, Hai Pham, and Willy Chotzen, in addition to Oregon senator Kayse Jama. For info, or to reserve tickets, call (503) 222-1741 or visit <www.ohs.org>.

Carnatic flute concert

Sep 18, 7pm, First Baptist Church (909 SW 11th Ave, Portland). Attend a Carnatic flute concert presented by Kalakendra. The performance features J.A. Jayant on Carnatic flute with N.C. Bharadwaj on mridangam, Vazapalli Krishnakumar on ghatam, and Sreeram on flute support. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 308-1050 or visit <www.kalakendra.org>.

CullyFest

Sep 19, 10am-4pm, Cully 5 Corners (NE Cully Blvd & NE Prescott, Portland). Attend the third annual CullyFest, a day of fun, connection, and neighborhood spirit for all ages. The event features mural painting; a farmers market; vendors; workshops; a kid zone with activities, crafts, games, giveaways, and a bouncy slide; and more. For info, visit <www.cullyfest.org>.

Mid-Autumn Bilingual Storytime at Midland Library

Sep 19, 11:15am-noon, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Attend a Mid-Autumn Bilingual Storytime featuring books, mooncakes, and a lantern craft. The free event is for children younger than seven years old with an accompanying adult. Wearing ao dai is encouraged. Attendance is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Repair Café at Midland Library

Sep 19, noon-3pm, Midland Library (805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland). Repair PDX is taking its Repair Café on the road to Midland Library. Volunteers are on hand fixing small appliances, mending garments and textiles, and repairing bikes on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to library policies, sharpening is not offered at this event. For info, or to let volunteers know in advance what items you might bring in, call (503) 893-9656, e-mail <RepairPDX@gmail.com>, or visit <www.RepairPDX.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival Guzheng Music

Sep 19, 2-3pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Attend a special Mid-Autumn Festival performance featuring the unique and relaxing sounds of the guzheng, also known as the Chinese zither, with expert musician Mr. Hai Bi. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Bilingual Storytime at Holgate Library

Sep 20, 12:15-1pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Attend a Mid-Autumn Bilingual Storytime featuring interactive stories, songs, and games that encourage emerging Vietnamese language skills. The free event is for children younger than seven years old with an accompanying adult. Attendance is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival Origami Lanterns

Sep 20, 2-3:30pm, Woodstock Library, Large Community Room (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, a beloved holiday across many parts of Asia that honors time together with family and friends, with origami lanterns. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Festival Rabbit Lanterns

Sep 20, 2-3:30pm, Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by making a rabbit lantern craft to take home. Attendance is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Portland Asian Mid-Autumn & Harvest Festival Gala

Sep 20, 6:30pm (doors open), 7pm (show), Newmark Theatre (1111 SW Broadway, Portland). Celebrate Asian cultural traditions, music, dance, and contemporary creativity at the Portland Asian Mid-Autumn & Harvest Festival Gala. The 2026 theme is “East Meets West — Tradition, Modernity, Creativity.” The show features music and the performing arts in celebration of the spirit of reunion, harvest, and cultural connection. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335 or visit <www.portland5.com>.

Mid-Autumn Wooden Lanterns

Sep 22, 5:30-7:30pm, Rockwood Library (17917 SE Stark St, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by attending a family craft session with Rockwood Makerspace to make a beautiful wooden lantern. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. Supplies and materials are provided courtesy of The Library Foundation. Please note that there is a limit of two lanterns per family. Vietnamese and English language support is available. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Lantern Making in Vietnamese & English

Sep 23, 5:30-7pm, Holgate Library, (7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by making a beautiful paper lantern. Attendees are able to learn how to use a Silhouette Cameo cutting machine to create their lantern. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. Supplies and materials are provided courtesy of The Library Foundation. This event is a bilingual Vietnamese and English program. For info, call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

Mid-Autumn Wooden Lanterns

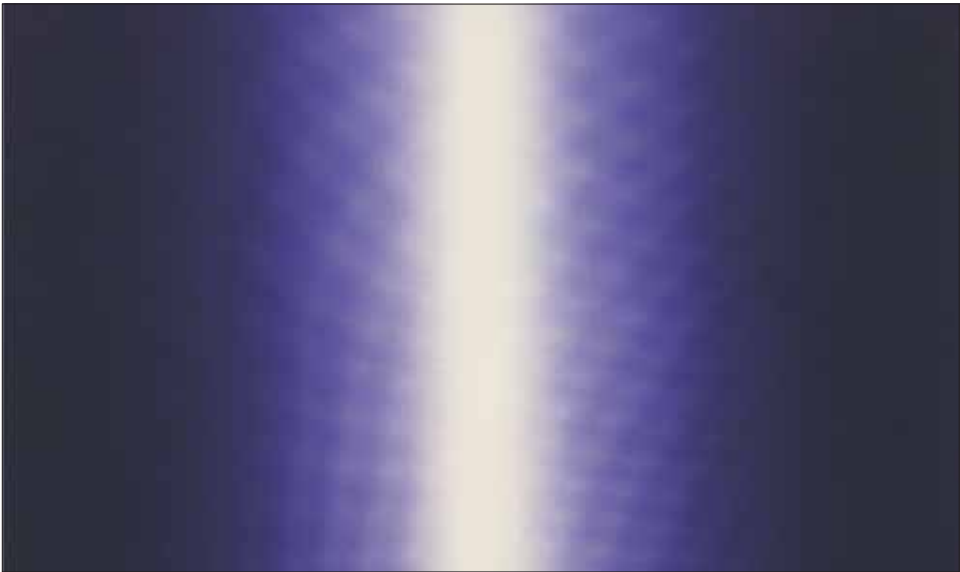
Sep 23, 6-7:30pm, East County Library (475 NW Division St, Gresham, Ore.). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by making a beautiful wooden lantern. All ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. Supplies and materials are provided courtesy of The Library Foundation. For info, or to register (required), call (503) 988-5123 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

APANO Action Fund’s Fall Social fundraiser

Sep 24, 5:30-7:30pm, APANO Community Space (8188 SE Division St, Portland). Join the APANO Action Fund at its annual Fall Social dedicated to building community power and advancing justice through civic engagement, leadership development, and advocacy. Community members, partners, and supporters are invited to the fundraiser to reflect, connect, and commit to what is next. Public transit is highly encouraged. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (971) 340-4861, e-mail <contact@apanoactionfund.org>, or visit <www.apanoactionfund.org>.

Mid-Autumn Market at Lan Sun

Sep 25-27, 10am-5:30pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Celebrate the



DISSOLVING MARGINS. “Anish Kapoor: Dissolving Margins, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation” is on view through December 5 at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) at Portland State University. Pictured is “Shadow,” 2007, polymer gravure etching, edition 21/35. (Photo courtesy of JSMA; Published by Paragon Press, London, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © Anish Kapoor. All Rights Reserved, DACS, London/ARS, NY 2026)

Mid-Autumn Festival at Lan Su’s Mid-Autumn Market, held in partnership with the Chinese Friendship Association of Portland. Activities include craft activities; a local vendor marketplace offering Asian cuisine, traditional Chinese medicine, and jewelry; family-friendly activities; and a mooncake workshop with Tommy Ly of GeekEasy Café. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

O-tsukimi

Sep 25-27, 5:30-8pm (Fri-Sat), 6-8:30pm (Sun), Portland Japanese Garden (611 SW Kingston Ave, Portland). Take part in the custom of o-tsukimi, or moonviewing, one of the oldest and most elegant traditions in Japanese culture. Participants stroll through the lantern-lit garden, observe an evening tea ceremony, and more. For info, or to purchase tickets (advance purchase highly recommended), call (503) 223-1321 or visit <www.japanesegarden.com>.

Mid-Autumn Nights Out

Sep 25-27, 7:30-9:30pm, Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St, Portland). Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at Lan Su Chinese Garden. Mid-Autumn Nights Out features lantern-lit evenings filled with tradition and autumn beauty, an illuminated dragon ribbon performance by Wei Da, a lantern parade, moon rabbit lantern sculptures from China, and more. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 228-8131 or visit <www.lansugarden.org>.

Chuseok Korean Thanksgiving

Sep 26, 11am-3pm, The Round (12600 SW Crescent St, Beaverton, Ore.). Attend Chuseok Korean Thanksgiving, a free harvest celebration featuring traditional and modern Korean dance, music, games, and food. The event is hosted by the Korean Society of Oregon. For info, call (503) 977-2617, e-mail <koreansocietyofor@gmail.com>, or visit <www.ksoregon.org> or <www.eventbrite.com>.

Multicultural Kids Festival

Sep 27, noon-6pm, Ventura Park (460 SE 113th Ave, Portland). Attend the Multicultural Kids Festival, a free family-friendly event at which children and parents can explore music, dance, traditions, hands-on activities, games, master classes, vendors, and more. For info, call 503) 544-3667, e-mail <info@sccofnw.org>, or visit <www.mkfpdx.org>.

Water for Elephants

Sep 29-Oct 4, Keller Auditorium (222 SW Clay St, Portland). Watch *Water for Elephants*, a musical about a young man, who, after losing what matters most, jumps onto a moving train unsure of where the road will take him. He finds a new home with the crew of a travelling circus, and a life — and love — beyond his wildest dreams. Seen through the eyes of his older self, the adventure is a poignant reminder that if you choose the ride, life can begin again at any age. The production, which is presented by Broadway in Portland and is recommended for attendees age 8 and above, runs 2 hours, 20 minutes with one intermission. The show contains smoke, haze, and gunshot sound effects. For info, showtimes, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 248-4335, or visit <www.portland5.com> or <www.broadwayinportland.com>.

Portland Taiko

Oct 4, 1:30pm, Main Street Plaza next to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall (1037 SW Broadway, Portland). Watch a free outdoor performance (weather permitting) by Asian-American drum ensemble Portland Taiko. The show is scheduled as a prelude to the Oregon Symphony’s 2:00pm concert. For info, call (503) 28TAIKO (288-2456), e-mail <info@portlandtaiko.org>, or visit <www.portlandtaiko.org>.

“The Nisei Paradox”

Oct 4, 1:30pm (doors open), 2pm (program), Mission Theater (1624 NW Glisan St, Portland). Attend “The Nisei Paradox,” a multi-media stage reading created, produced, and performed by a group of judges and attorneys that tells the story of 42 Nisei who were incarcerated during World War II at Minidoka in Idaho and chose to resist the draft because they and their families had been unconstitutionally and unfairly incarcerated and instead fight injustice through civil disobedience. The production centers around the trials for these young people and through their experiences, explores the many forms that patriotism and courage can take. For info, or to purchase tickets, call (503) 224-1458 or visit <www.jamo.org>.

ANISH KAPOOR

DISSOLVING MARGINS

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF JORDAN D. SCHNITZER AND HIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

AUGUST 28 – DECEMBER 5, 2026

JMA

JORDAN SCHNITZER
MUSEUM OF ART AT PSU

1855 SW BROADWAY ST | pdx.edu/museum-of-art

Jordan Schnitzer

FAMILY FOUNDATION

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BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR SUB-BIDS

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL
ECOLOGICAL & CULTURAL
KNOWLEDGE (ITECK) CENTER**

Bids due: 9/16/2026 at 10:00am
Job Walk: 9/1/2026 at 9:00am

Project jobsite:
1025 SW Harrison Street, Portland, OR 97201

Description: We are soliciting bids for the Portland State University Indigenous Traditional Ecological & Cultural Knowledge (ITECK) Center project for all scopes except mechanical, electrical and plumbing. This project is a renovation of the existing building along with an addition to the East. The project includes new sitework and landscaping as well as a new deck.

Please contact Ariell Weller, <aweller@hswc.com>, for further information and access to the drawings.



Howard S. Wright, a Balfour Beatty company
1455 NW Irving Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97209
<www.balfourbeattyus.com>
CCB# 191495

BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

WAIT LIST OPENING

Notice is hereby given that Vancouver Housing Authority will open the following HUD Multi-Family waitlist on Wednesday, August 27, 2026 through September 17, 2026.

**COLUMBIA HOUSE:
HUD MULTI-FAMILY**

Located at
130 W. 24th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

These 1 and 2-bedroom units are in non-smoking buildings that are designated for person(s) age 62 and older. Income limits for households must be less than \$53,940 for a family of one, \$61,620 for a family of two, \$69,300 for a family of 3, and \$76,980 for a family of 4.

Applications will be accepted online beginning August 27, 2026 at 9:00am and ending on September 17, 2026 at 4:00pm. You can access our applicant portal by going to our website at <www.vhausa.org>.

Paper applications are available upon request at our office located at 2500 Main Street, Vancouver, Washington 98660, Wednesday August 27, 2026 until September 17, 2026. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm. You can drop off completed paper applications at our office by 4:00pm on September 17, or mail them to us at the address listed above postmarked by September 17, 2026.

Units are offered to qualified applicants based on the date and time of application. For more information, visit our website at <www.vhausa.org> or call (360) 694-2501.

Vancouver Housing Authority welcomes qualified individuals/families of diverse backgrounds and, in accordance with various Federal and State laws or regulations, does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, familial status, creed, veteran's or military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

Vancouver Housing Authority will make reasonable accommodations for individuals whose disabilities require accommodation in order to enjoy full and equal access to our programs and services. This includes the application process, the informal hearing process and during residency. Please contact a staff member if you need reasonable accommodation.



Equal Housing Opportunity

Place your ad via e-mail to <ads@asianreporter.com>.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE
HVAC MAINTENANCE
AND REPAIR SERVICES**

Proposals Due: September 17, 2026

The City of Milwaukie is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced contractors for heating, ventilation, and air condition (HVAC) maintenance and repair services on an as-needed basis.

City utilizes Euna Procurement Bonfire for its electronic procurement system. To access the solicitation documents, be added to the distribution list for this solicitation's automatic notices, and to submit proposals electronically, please visit <<https://milwaukieoregon.bonfirehub.com/>> to login or register.

This project is a public works project subject to the State of Oregon prevailing wage rates under ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870. No proposal will be considered unless it contains a statement by the proposer that the provisions required by ORS 279C.838 or ORS 279C.840, as applicable, pertaining to prevailing wages, shall be included as part of the awarded contract.

Proposals are due by 2:00pm PDT, on Thursday, September 17, 2026. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. There will be no formal opening of proposals.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR

**CITY OF CAMAS
NORTH SHORE BOULEVARD**

**CITY OF CAMAS PROJECT number
STR25004 / WTR26002**

The City of Camas (City) solicits interest from consulting firms or teams with expertise in Civil, Structural, Environmental and Geotechnical Engineering, Real Estate Services, Project Management and Surveying for performing work under FHWA/WSDOT and City requirements. This work shall consist of project management, preliminary engineering, design engineering, right-of-way acquisition and environmental permitting including work within critical and sensitive areas. The selected consultant should also have experience identifying, evaluating, and incorporating innovative funding, financing, and project delivery strategies, including grant opportunities and other traditional and non-traditional funding mechanisms, such as growth-related financing tools, to maximize project funding and implementation. The City may elect to expand the consultant's scope of work to include future project phases, such as Final Engineering, Right-of-Way (ROW), and Construction (CN), including engineering, construction management, and field support services.

Although the initial phase of work will be funded with local funds, the consultant shall perform the work in a manner that maintains the project's eligibility for future state and federal funding opportunities, including compliance with applicable federal requirements, documentation, and processes necessary to support future reimbursement and implementation.

The contract type is Negotiated Hourly Rate.

This Contract has been assigned a 0% DBE goal for the PE Phase, however there is a voluntary 10% SBE Goal on this project.

Additional information for this RFQ is available online at the City's website link:
<<https://www.cityofcamas.us/rfps>>

Any questions regarding this project should be directed to Justin Monsrud, PE at <jmonsrud@cityofcamas.us> or (360) 817-7232.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information
The City of Camas in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. This material can be made available in an alternate format by e-mailing <procurement@cityofcamas.us> or by calling collect 0-360-817-7919.

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COST ESTIMATING SERVICES

RFP 4639

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 requesting proposals for Cost Estimating Services.

Proposals are due no later than 2:00pm, September 17, 2026, at BidLocker, <<https://bidlocker.us/details/5920>>.

For this RFP, Metro offers free coaching for interested small businesses. Firms must state that they're a small business owner. The coaching will be done by a contractor of Metro's choice. The coaching will be a 30-60 minute session about writing a proposal in general. Any interested small firms must communicate that interest by 2:00pm on September 1, 2026 to <bidsandproposals@oregonmetro.gov>. Metro staff will be in touch to connect you with the contractor for scheduling.

Metro is seeking proposals from qualified firms with extensive experience and knowledge of Oregon construction and associated materials, labor, and other construction related costs, to provide professional consulting services for cost estimating. Projects range from

AACE cost estimate development, review, and comparison for lump-sum, Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP), Cost-plus, to Time and Materials contracts. Contractor/Consultant to ensure costs are commensurate with the project scope and local market conditions. For details, RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from BidLocker at <<https://bidlocker.us/details/5920>>.

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

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

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

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BIDS, SUB-BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

CITY OF MILWAUKIE
WAVERLY SOUTH
AND 26TH AVENUE
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Bids Due: September 15, 2026, at 2:00pm

City of Milwaukie (City) is seeking bids from qualified and experienced contractors for sanitary pipe bursting, stormwater pipe installation, concrete flatwork and ADA ramps, and water system installation. The work includes providing all labor, materials, machinery, tools, equipment and other means of construction necessary and incidental to the completion of the work shown on the plans and described in specifications including but not limited to:

- Sanitary pipe bursting
- Install storm water pipes
- Install concrete storm inlets
- Install asphalt concrete pavement
- Install concrete ADA sidewalks and curb ramps
- Install concrete curb and gutter
- Install longitudinal pavement markings
- Install thermoplastic markings
- Install ductile water pipeline and water service connections
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2027

City's engineer estimate for this project ranges from \$1,060,000 to \$1,237,000.

City utilizes Euna Procurement Bonfire for its electronic procurement system (Procurement Portal). To access the solicitation documents, be added to the distribution list for this solicitation's automatic notices, and to submit bids electronically, please visit <https://milwaukieoregon.bonfirehub.com/>. To assist with registration, submission of responses, or for technical support, access Bonfire's online knowledge base or contact the Bonfire support team at <support@gobonfire.com>.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed in favor of the City of Milwaukie in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid amount. Bidders shall be pre-qualified with the Oregon Department of Transportation in the Class(es) of Work as appropriate prior to the public opening and reading of the bids.

This project is subject to the state prevailing wage rates under ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870. Each bid must contain a statement as to whether the bidder is a resident bidder, as defined in ORS 279A.120. In accordance with ORS 279C.365, the City will not consider a bid unless it contains a statement by the bidder that they will comply with ORS 279C.838 through ORS 279C.870.

City's expectation of any contractor it contracts with is that the contractor's values align with the City's values of highly ethical conduct, fiscal responsibility, respect for the City and others, and responsiveness to the City's customers.

City is committed to ensuring equity and fairness in its contracting and purchasing process and increasing opportunities for minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and emerging small businesses enterprises. Furthermore, the City strongly encourages its contractors to utilize these businesses when providing subcontracted services and materials under the awarded contract.

An optional pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:00pm on September 8, 2026, via Teams.

Bids must be submitted electronically through the Procurement Portal. Bids will be received until 2:00pm PDT on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, for the purpose of selecting a bidder who evidences the lowest cost. Bids submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Upon closing, submitted bids will be opened and read publicly.

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Community Classified Page

Boxed Ad

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From robot dogs to helpers, robotics ambitions put on display

By E. Eduardo Castillo
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Do you want to see whether a robot can fold a piece of cloth? Interested in getting a robot dog or even a humanoid robot that could offer some emotional support? Or perhaps you just want to watch robots boxing and dancing? Come to Beijing.

China held the 2026 World Robot Conference in August, with companies showcasing the country’s expanding robotics industry as it looks to move the technology beyond demonstrations and into factories and other real-world applications.

Organizers say around 3,000 products were showcased during the five-day event. Despite the conference’s name, there was no sign of other countries exhibiting.

One of the main attractions during the opening was the booth of Unitree, one of China’s leading humanoid robot makers, where some of its models boxed and danced. One even played ping pong with a human opponent.

The opening of the conference coincided with Unitree’s stock market debut in Shanghai.

The conference came weeks after the U.S. Federal Communications Commission announced a ban on imports of new foreign-made humanoid robots and power inverters, citing national security risks, in a move targeting China. The prohibition also covers new imports of quadruped robots, often referred to as four-legged robot dogs. The agency said advanced robots could pose cybersecurity and other national security risks.

UBTECH, another of China’s leading robotics companies, brought several industrial models to the conference. Some demonstrated tasks such as moving components around as they might on a factory floor.

But among those drawing the most attention were humanoid robots with lifelike faces, promoted for emotional care.

Jiao Jichao, deputy president of UBTECH Robotics, said one of its emotional-care humanoids can talk, make various facial expressions, rotate its neck, and move its hands. And it is available to individual buyers. The price: 168,000 yuan (more than \$24,000).

But despite the increasingly sophisticated displays, experts say many humanoid robots remain more impressive as performers than as practical workers.

Several companies showcased helper robots equipped with mechanical arms and hands. At one booth, a robot attempted a seemingly simple household chore: folding a shirt. After several minutes of trying, it couldn’t do it.

Singapore diplomat, Myanmar activist & Bangladeshi aid giver win Magsaysay awards

By Jim Gomez
The Associated Press

MANILA, The Philippines — A Singaporean lawyer and diplomat who led an international conference that adopted the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a Myanmar activist whose group documents human rights atrocities, and a former Bangladeshi teacher who has helped provide aid to her country’s poorest have been named the winners of this year’s Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Regarded as Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize and named after a popular Philippine president, who died in a 1957 plane crash, the awards honor “greatness of spirit” through selfless service to people across Asia.

The winners of the award, first given in 1958, will be recognized at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila on November 15 with a medallion, inscribed certificate, and an undisclosed cash prize.

Singapore lawyer led adoption of U.N. oceans treaty

Singaporean lawyer and diplomat Tommy Koh, 88, was recognized for promoting international dialogue and the rule of law. He is best known for presiding over a U.N. conference of more than 150 countries, which adopted the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982.

“Of enormous significance to maritime countries, this ‘constitution for the oceans’ defined territorial waters and the economic rights of countries to their coastal waters and provides mechanisms for settling disputes,” the awards body said.

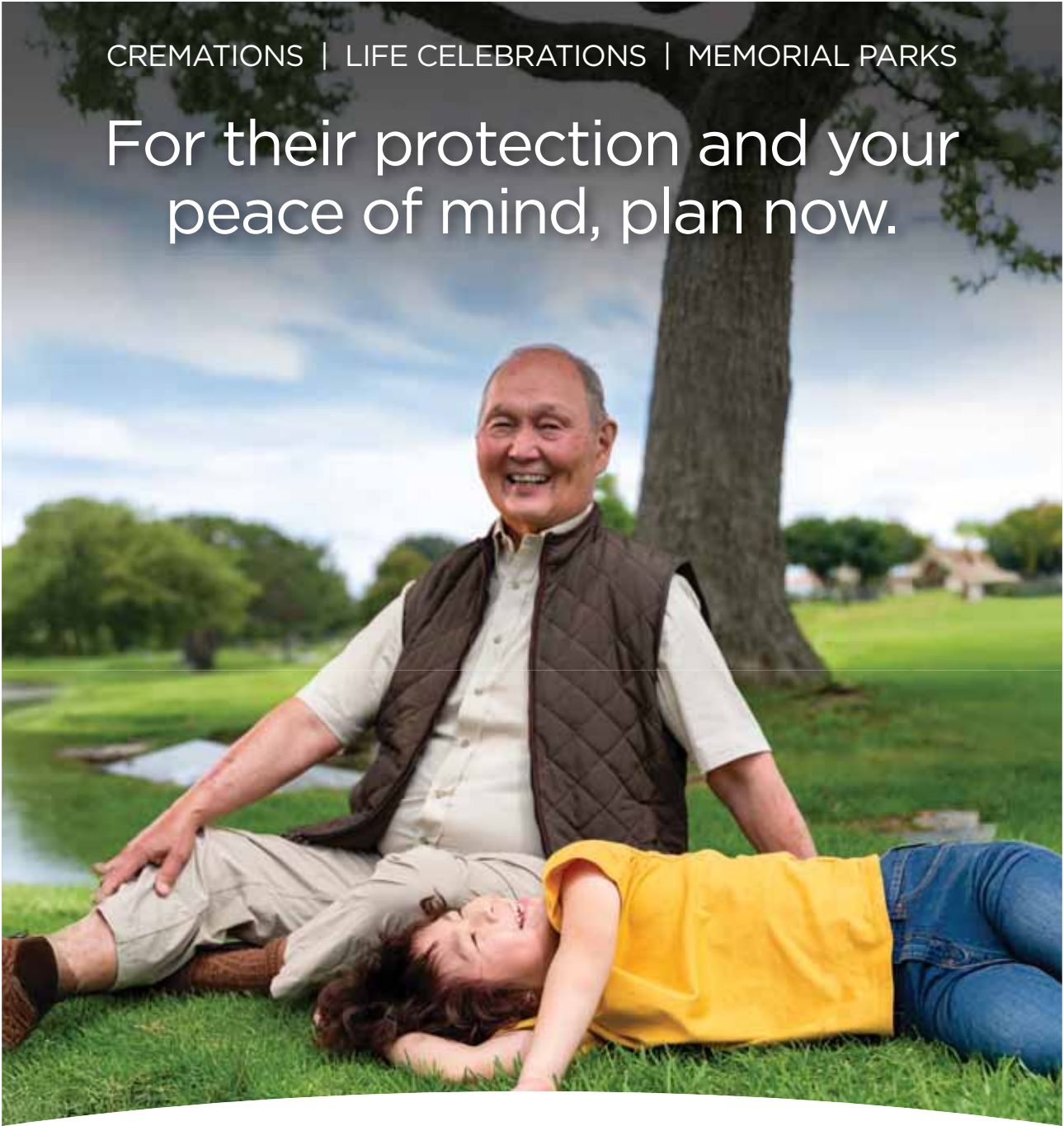
The U.N. convention was the main basis for a 2016 ruling by an arbitration panel in The Hague that invalidated China’s expansive claims in the South China Sea. Beijing, however, refused to participate in the arbitration that was initiated by the Philippines in 2013 and rejected and continues to defy the decision.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and

Continued on page 11



ROBOT SHOWCASE. Visitors watch a humanoid robot, left photo, at a booth during the World Robot Conference at the Beiren Yichuang International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Beijing. Organizers say around 3,000 products were showcased during the five-day event. In the photo on the right, a model shows her fancy dressed-up robotic dogs during the robot conference. (AP Photos/Andy Wong)



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