



FIRE! MORE DEMAND FOR SPECIAL OPS

Firemen had to attend to 47,936 incidents this year, 2,158 more than in 2016

P2



4-YEAR-OLD GIRL DIES FROM FLU VIRUS

The infant died from type A influenza virus at Kiang Wu Hospital, the first flu-related casualty of the year

P5 HEALTH

FIRST MAJOR TITLE IN WOMEN'S FINAL AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN



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GAMING

LVS profit soars on Macau premium mass

P3



GEMMA FROM MACAU

Natural born stylist makes it in NYC

P4 MDT INTERVIEW



Extra
times
Extra
weekend Guide
INSIDE

WORLD BRIEFS



US-VIETNAM A U.S. Navy aircraft carrier is expected to make a port visit to Vietnam in March, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday. It would be the first such visit in the postwar era.
More on p13

MALAYSIA's central bank yesterday raised its key interest rate for the first time in four years ahead of general elections due by August.



PHILIPPINES A volcano that's been erupting for almost two weeks in the Philippines still appears to be swelling with magma under the surface, scientists said yesterday.

PAKISTAN Officials said yesterday they are investigating whether a suspect arrested in the slaying of eight girls was linked to an international child-porn ring.

More on backpage

Taxi driver accused of driving over man's foot

A 20-year-old man lodged a case with the Public Security Police Force (PSP) at 5 a.m. yesterday, after reportedly being injured by a taxi driver. The young man reported that, at the time of the incident, he was outside of the taxi talking with two of his friends who were inside. The young man alleges that while they were talking, the taxi driver drove over his left foot. Later, the taxi driver, who is in his sixties, told the police that he had been assaulted by the 20-year-old man. The young man denied the taxi driver's accusation. The two were brought to the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CHCSJ) to have their injuries treated. The incident took place at Doca Lam Mau.

Tobacco products displayed in airport stores

The Health Bureau (SSM) has reported that two tax-free stores inside the Macau International Airport were displaying tobacco-related products to the public, in contravention of new smoking regulations introduced at the start of this year. The case was reported to the SSM after tobacco control officers visited the airport this week to conduct a surprise inspection of their practices. The two tax-free stores that were displaying tobacco products were King Power and Sky Shilla. The two stores have already been required to remove the tobacco-related products from their display areas. The case will be followed up by the related government department.

Zone A sewer pipe construction starts in Q2

The second phase of the construction of the sewer pipe at Av. da Ponte da Amizade will start in the second quarter of this year, the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) announced yesterday. The first phase of construction will install a 190-meter-long section of sewer pipe that will collect sewage from the new urban area, 'Zone A', once construction of the area is completed. During the second phase of construction a 650-meter-long section of the sewer pipe will be installed. This section of the pipe will lead to the Macau Peninsula's sewage treatment plant. In total, GDI received 12 bids for the construction contract. The maximum working period allowed for the construction was 360 days.



Fire services says growing demand for special operations

THE Commissioner of the Fire Services Bureau (CB), Leong Iok Sam, reported yesterday that last year's operational data showed the number of cases related to CB's overall and special services increased in comparison to those of 2016. A total of 47,936 incidents were lodged, 2,158 more than 2016, which represented a 4.71 percent increase year-on-year.

In 2017, CB dispatched 55,576 ambulances (11,252 more than in 2016) to 39,613 incidents (954 more than in 2016), representing an annual increase of 2.47 percent.

There has also been an increase in rescue operations; 5,758 were recorded, reflecting a 4.79 percent increase year-on-year.

The data also shows that the number of CB's special services increased dramatically when compared to last year.

In 2017, 5,785 special services were provided, representing a 25 percent increase (equating to 1,174 more cases) in comparison to 2016.

CB's special services include assistance in incidents resulting from falling objects and trees, gas leaks and the misuse of dangerous products.

The only recorded decrease relates to fire alarms. Fire alarms were activated 1,034 times in 2017, representing a 3.72 percent drop year-on-year.

Approximately 100,000 pamphlets, posters and guides for fire prevention were distribu-

ted in order to raise the public's awareness of fire safety.

Regarding typhoons, seven tropical storms and four rainstorms hit Macau in 2017. Accounting for all these storms, CB dispatched services 1,554 times, including 1,319 cases due to Hato, 92 cases due to Pakhar, and 33 cases due to Khanun.

Further commenting on the typhoons and in particular typhoon Hato, Leong said that the bureau reviewed its work after the disaster and as a result they have added additional rescue equipment to their resources. The recently added equipment includes 69 sets of fire pumps for firefighting and 11 power generators for the upcoming typhoon season.

When asked about the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (which is due to become operational later this year) Leong said that CB is ready to respond to this new environment.

A future Macau-operated fire station for the HKZMB will be located on the artificial island, near the border.

Currently, the members of the firefighting squad that will be based at the new station are completing their training. "We will arrange 75 firefighters and six fire engines to guard the fire station. [...] Everything is ready," affirmed Leong.

Leong also mentioned that the bureau is currently going through an internal restructuring process. **JZ**

ENVIRONMENT

Guangdong governor addresses difficulties with air quality improvement

ACCORDING to Chinese reports, Ma Xingrui, Governor of Guangdong province, has said that it will be difficult for Guangdong to improve the province's air quality, which in turn impacts the potential for Macau's air quality to improve.

The air quality in Macau exceeded five times

the recommended safe level on Monday, leading the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau to warn residents not to engage in outdoor activities.

Macau's proximity to the mainland means it is likely to be affected by poor-quality air in neighboring provinces.

Yesterday, during the

13th Guangdong Provincial People's Congress, Ma addressed the Guangdong government's work report and made the aforementioned statement. Ma spoke about how combatting several kinds of pollution continues to be a difficult task.

He took the opportunity to report on the topic

of Guangdong's pollution and acknowledged that serious situations of water pollution have been reported in some parts of Guangdong's river.

Currently, there are several discolored and odorous water bodies in urban areas and delays in sewer network construction. Ma also noted that the soil is severely

polluted in some areas of Guangdong.

According to a report by Xinhua, in 2017, Guangdong had satisfactory air quality on 89.4 percent of the days.

Macau's neighboring city, Zhuhai, ranked in the top ten, among 74 of the most important Chinese cities, in terms of good air quality.

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Christopher Palmeri and Daniela Wei

GAMING

LAS Vegas Sands Corp.'s big bet on Macau continues to pay off.

The world's largest casino operator, which opened the USD2.9 billion Parisian in the Chinese enclave in 2016, reported sales and profit that beat Wall Street estimates. Its Macau unit, Sands China Ltd. reported earnings before interest taxes depreciation and amortization increased 20 percent to \$731 million in the fourth quarter. That beat the median estimate of \$718 million by seven analysts, compiled by Bloomberg News.

Sands, based in Las Vegas, has invested more than any other operator in the only place in China where casino gambling is legal. Billionaire founder Sheldon Adelson is planning to spend an additional \$1.1 billion remodeling the Sands Cotai Central there.

"Our strategy to build integrated results towards scale and diversity is clearly paying dividends, as Macau's mass and tourism growth accelerates," said Adelson on a conference call. "I'm very optimistic and I'm very, very confident about the growth of Macau." Adelson also said the company has received expressions of interest in Sands' first resort in Macau, but has no plans to sell.

Still, there's a margin of uncertainty in Macau as the territory plans to lay out the process for casino concession licenses this year. News that MGM Cotai was allotted 125 new gaming tables - fewer than the expected 150 - sent some casino shares tumbling in Hong Kong.

Shares of MGM China Holdings Ltd. fell as much as 8 percent in early trading yesterday, the most in more than a year on an intraday basis. Despite its earnings beat, Sands China dropped as much

Las Vegas Sands profit surges on continuing Macau rebound

4.7 percent.

For now, Sands is focused on attracting casual players, tourists and families with property renovations. The London-themed remodel of the company's Sands Cotai Central property will feature replicas of Big Ben, Parliament and Tower Bridge, Adelson said. Double-decker buses will carry guests around the area. And they'll be able to get cash from faux telephone booths with ATMs inside.

■ Sands is focused on attracting casual players, tourists and families with property renovations

The Macau casino market is bouncing back from a three-year slump, prompted by a government crackdown on corruption, though betting remains below the all-time high. Gamblers are being drawn back to market by a still-strong mainland economy and a string of new resorts designed to appeal to high-rollers as well as casual gamblers.

In Macau, the operator's winnings at table games for recreational gamblers increased 27 percent - the highest such win since 2014 and outpacing the growth in the overall market, according to the company.

BLOOMBERG



Well-to-do players, below the free-spending VIPs, accounted for most of the growth in Macau, attracted by renovated rooms at Venetian and the Four Seasons, Morgan Stanley analysts led by Praveen K Choudhary said in a note yesterday. Still, the operator's new Parisian, opened in 2016, reported weaker-than-expected earnings with some premium rooms under renovation, according to the note.

Profit in Sands' hometown of Las Vegas rose despite a tou-

rism slump tied to the October 1 mass shooting and gained in Singapore as well.

For the fourth quarter, profit increased to 88 cents a share, excluding some items, Sands said in a statement. That beat analysts' projections of 77 cents. Sales grew to \$3.44 billion, beating estimates of \$3.26 billion on strength of casino results in Macau and Singapore, where Sands is also the largest operator.

Shares of Las Vegas Sands rose as much as 4.4 percent

to \$80.82 in extended trading after results were announced. The stock fell 0.3 percent to \$77.44 at the close in New York and rose 30 percent last year.

Earlier this week, Wynn Resorts Ltd. also reported quarterly results that beat Wall Street estimates and outlined plans to expand the \$4.2 billion Wynn Palace on Macau's Cotai Strip as well as plans for a new property in its hometown of Las Vegas.

Bloomberg

MGM delays Cotai opening to February

MGM China Holdings postponed the opening of MGM Cotai for the fifth time yesterday, implying that the "administrative approval process" by the Macau government is taking longer than expected.

"The company is going through the administrative approval process of obtaining relevant licenses to operate MGM Cotai," MGM China said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange. "As a result, it is now expected that the public opening date of MGM Cotai will be within the month of Fe-

bruary 2018."

In a written note to the Times, an MGM representative said that "while still undergoing government approval process, we are now focusing on our Grand Opening within the month of February."

"We are working closely with the Macau government to bring to our community and to the public a long-awaited world class resort that takes diversified consumer experiences to a new height and that thousands of our employees feel deeply proud of."

The Chinese Lunar New Year holiday, considered one of the most profitable gaming weeks in the Macau calendar, begins on February 16. It remains unknown whether the operator will be able to open in time.

On Wednesday, Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau awarded the casino operator a total of 125 new-to-market tables, with 100 of them available for immediate deployment.

The previous delay to the property was announced in October last year, justified on the back of

damage sustained during the passing of Typhoon Hato in August. At that time, MGM China assured that the property would open its doors on January 29. Several months later, the casino

operator announced that a formal inauguration ceremony would take place several weeks after the scheduled opening.

Gaming analysts have suggested on several occasions that the delayed

openings of some Macau-based properties might serve to benefit operators as they wait for signs of a stronger MSAR economy, while enabling them to minimize overheads.

Macau gross gaming revenue reached MOP22.7 billion in December 2017, up 19.1 percent over a year earlier. **DB**

THE 13 WILL OPEN WITH OR WITHOUT CASINO, SAY OWNERS

THE OPENING date of The 13 hotel has been delayed once more, according to a statement that The 13 Holdings filed to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange this week. In the filing, the company said that the resort will open by April 30 this year, postponed from March 31 as previously announced. It also said that company owners are pre-

pared to open with or without a casino, acknowledging that The 13 Holdings will require permission from the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau before establishing casino facilities. The delay follows financial problems at the company that have reportedly inhibited the resort's development for the past few years.

Q&A GEMMA HOI

Macau fashion designer to debut at NYFW

Renato Marques

IN Nei Hoi, better known as Gemma Hoi, is a Macau-born fashion designer who recently established her own label in New York City, USA.

Gemma is preparing a collection to be presented during the New York Fashion Week (NYFW) next month, becoming the first ever Macau designer to present in the prestigious event.

To learn more how about how preparations for the event are going and the designer's feelings ahead of this major international debut, the Times interviewed Hoi.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – For those that don't know you well, can you recount a bit of your story and explain how you started in this industry?

Gemma Hoi (GH) - I was born and raised in Macau. My father was a menswear designer, so it was under his influence that I wanted to engage in fashion design since I was little.

At 18 years of age, I started sending out resumes to different design companies in Macau.

To my surprise - since I had no prior experience in the field whatsoever - a company called Estawon granted me an interview. They were originally in search of designers with at least four years' experience, but the head of the department at the time, Anne Chou, also the first to see my profile, thought she'd give me a shot.

After three rounds of interviews, Anne gave me the last challenge, which was to illustrate designs according to a set theme. Three hours later, I came out of the conference room that was used as the place for challenge, and handed in my design, which I was quite confident with. Then they told me "Gemma, welcome to Estawon," and so I became the youngest fashion designer of the company.

MDT – What are your principles in relation to the fashion design industry, what values do you represent and what inspires you to create new items and new collections?

GH - Well, I think the current fashion market is no longer [made] of beautiful clothes, so I am only creating meaningful clothes [instead].

In Italian, the word Gemma means jewels or gems, and that was the name that I picked for myself as well as for my brand, because I believe every woman has her own unique luster, or quality, that will make her shine. However, it takes time and effort, and especially self-confidence to explore and express this unique "charisma."

In a scientific study conducted in the United States' Northwestern University, it was proved that "one's choice of outfit and style does reflect and influence his or her emotion, health, and confidence." Therefore, I personally pay [a great deal of] attention to how my designs can bring that positivity and confidence out of my customers. This is very meaningful to me, because although on a present and narrow scope, we are just making clothes, on a more futuristic and broader scope, the beauty and comfort brought by the clothing can also change a person's life through bringing more positivity.

We all want to be special at some point, and there are many things that we can study and explore to help to find what makes each and every one of us special, and this is what inspires me to design.

MDT - How was the move from Macau to NYC? What challenges did you face?

GH - When I first arrived in America, the language was my greatest challenge. My mother

tongue is Cantonese, yet to become a designer of the international market, I had to break through the language barrier. Luckily, art and design doesn't necessarily have a boundary, as visual language is rather universal.

It is because of the visuals I present that Parsons School of Design recognized my talent, and thus granted me acceptance, since I wasn't able to submit my application through the usual methods.

MDT - You are going to present a collection for the first time at NYFW. How do you feel about it?

GH - I've always dreamed about being part of the New York Fashion Week, and it has always been one of the biggest motivators that drove me to leave the peaceful hometown of Macau to the gigantic city of New York.

I still remember the first day when I arrived with two large suitcases, as I walked out of JFK Airport. I vividly recall how nervous I was when I was having trouble communicating in my less-than-proficient English. Yet surprisingly, here I am, after four years, being able to present a solo exhibition at the One World Trade Center last year, and this year, I finally entered New York Fashion Week. I'm truly grateful for all the opportunities of growth that this city has offered me. I'm so proud now to say that "I am a fashion designer, and I come from Macau."

MDT - Regarding your design, do you think that the fact you lived in different place, and with a quite different culture, influences you in any way?

GH - Yes, I believe design is reflected and influenced by the creators' history, culture, and personality. For example, my experiences at the patternmaking department of 3.1 Phillip Lim taught me the



Gemma Hoi

different possibilities that can be achieved through creating new patterns.

Another experience of mine in Marchesa's couture department inspired me through the usage of mix-and-match materials to create expansive extravagance. It is through these western influences, and my own eastern background, that I now express a culturally balanced style of design.

MDT - What are you presenting at NYFW? What inspired you to create it?

GH - I named my collection "Time Traveller 1940s." The collection is inspired by the uniforms of America's female factory workers. The 1940s was a dramatic period of time when America was involved in World War II, and it was also the second bloom of the women's rights movement [after] the 1920s.

These historical facts symbo-

lize the rising from the ashes of womens' rights, and embody the spirit of courage, freedom and democracy. Denim is a symbolic fabric, perhaps the most, in American history, and its toughness and ever-changing definition played a huge role in the evolution of women's gender role. I hope my audiences can view this collection from a symbolic standpoint, and engage in the history, more than viewing the collection as a row of products.

MDT - What do you expect from NYFW? What will it represent to you?

GH - I hope this is the end of a journey, but also the beginning of an [new] era.

Gemma Hoi's collection will hit the stage of New York Fashion Week on February 11 at 1 p.m. local time (February 12, 2 a.m. Macau time).



4-year-old dies from flu virus

A 4-year-old girl died from type A influenza virus yesterday at Kiang Wu Hospital, the Health Bureau (SSM) reported in a press conference. The girl's death marks the first due to the flu this year.

The girl went to Kiang Wu Hospital for the first time on January 19, where she was diagnosed with the flu. A doctor from Kiang Wu Hospital discharged the girl after writing her a prescription for several medications.

On January 22, the girl visited Kiang Wu Hospital again, where she was given another dose of medicine. The girl was then brought back to the hospital the next day and was diagnosed with Influenza A.

On January 24, her situation had deteriorated and she eventually passed away at 1 p.m. yesterday.

The deputy director of Kiang Wu Hospital's medical department, Li Pengbin, reported that the type A flu virus exacerbated a hemolytic urethral syndrome. The worsening of the syndrome led to multiple organ failure, resulting in the girl's death.

THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Press association calls for mechanism to oversee CARIC

THE Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) has called on the government to set up an independent mechanism to oversee and supervise the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre (CARIC) in light of the cybersecurity act being discussed.

CARIC is a planned centre aimed at preventing and coordinating responses to cybersecurity incidents.

In an open letter to the Secretary for Security, the association claimed that the role to be played by the Judiciary Police in the future monitoring body falls short of a clear explanation.

The consultation paper stated that the Judiciary Police will play a role of coordination of the planned CARIC, a move that the association condemns.

The association recalled that Article 32 of the Macau Basic Law and the Criminal Procedure Code are clear on the protec-



José Carlos Matias, president of AIPIM

tion of citizens' privacy and the right to secrecy. Violations of such rights can only be carried out by the relevant authorities, in accordance with the law, and for the sake of public security or as part of a criminal investigation.

"The crux of the question here lies in the blurred boundary between having access to digital metadata and the content of the

same data or communications," the letter read.

"We do not understand [why] this should be a role to be assigned to a criminal policy body (Judiciary Police) when we are not dealing with criminal infringements but instead administrative infractions."

AIPIM also cast doubts over the inclusion of radio and television broadcasting operators'

critical infrastructures.

As there is uncertainty on whether CARIC will be barred from having access to the content of monitored data, AIPIM believes that there may be risks related to press freedom and professional secrecy. "We would like to highlight here what is spelled out in article 6 of the Press Law which acknowledges journalists' right to protect their sources of information and maintain them [in] secrecy," AIPIM stated.

AIPIM highlighted that it is essential that the future law states that CARIC representatives are barred from having access to information related to journalists' sources.

"We deem it crucial to set up an independent and credible mechanism to oversee and supervise CARIC's future action and ensure that the citizens' fundamental rights are fully respected so that residents can be at ease with what is being proposed," it added.

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IC to launch Cultural and Creative Map

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is launching the 2018 edition of the Macau Cultural and Creative Map (CCM Map) on paper and through its mobile app. The bureau is currently calling for cultural organizations that are interested in being included in the database to submit their applications. The IC will consider applications that are submitted before February 23.

The CCM Map seeks to build a database of cultural and creative organizations in Macau to promote the sector to both residents and tourists.

The map covers Macau's seven parishes and provides information about World Heritage sites, museums, routes for cultural tours, as well as popular bus routes in the city.

To be eligible for inclusion in the CCM Map, cultural and creative spaces should be open to the public over the long term and they should sell creative products or organize creative activities.

According to the IC, if the number of eligible applicants exceeds the planned quota, the bureau will select the final list by drawing lots.

The first edition of the CCM Map was launched in 2014. More than 970,000 copies of the map have been printed since then and distributed across approximately 180 locations in Hong Kong and Macau, including border checkpoints, hotels, travel agencies and museums.

Macau Famine 2018 to support three regions

MACAU Famine 2018, an event organized by World Vision of Macau Association, started yesterday with the theme "Hunger - Violence in Disguise." The aim of the event is to call for locals to pay attention to refugees' needs, and the violence that is often linked to famines and scarcity in general.

Hosted by World Vision of Macau Association, the group emphasized that war, poverty and climate change are the main causes of hunger.

Speaking at the ceremony, Amelia Che, manager of World Vision of Macau Association said, "815 million people in the world are still in hunger, and half of them live in conflict-affected countries. At the same time, the number of refugees in the world has reached 22.5 million, and half are chil-



Amelia Che (third from left)

dren under 18."

Macau Famine 2018 will raise funds for refugees living in Syria, South Sudan and Rakhine State in Myanmar, where events beyond their control have left many families incapable of providing their children with food and clothing.

The total number of refugees for the three regions has reached 8 million, and a significant number of these

refugees lack food security and are acutely malnourished.

According to data provided by the association, there are 1.31 million residents in Syria who need humanitarian aid, while over 4 million people in South Sudan have lost their homes and are still displaced.

Over 60 percent of the refugees in Bangladesh are children under the age

of 18, and 21 percent of its refugee children under the age of five are malnourished.

This year, Che is aiming to surpass the target fundraising amount of MOP1.1 million.

The manager told the Times that the group raised MOP1 million last year, a little less than its goal.

"This year, we really want to meet the target. The needs are very specific and we want to let residents know more about this [initiative]," she said.

Last Year, World Vision of Macau Association conducted fund-raising activities including "Skip-A-Meal," "10-hour Famine" and "Red Pocket Campaign".

The funds were to support World Vision's food security, health and nutrition, and livelihood projects in African countries such as South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Somalia. **LV**

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Basic real estate measurements

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

When analysing investment opportunities, it is important to know the relevant terminology and the acceptable benchmarks to make good decisions. Below are some basic financial measures and benchmarks that you could consider.

GROSS RENT MULTIPLIER

The Gross Rent Multiplier is a simple method by which you can estimate the market value of an income property. In basic terms, the Gross Rent Multiplier (GRM) is the number of years the property would take to pay for itself in gross received rent. As you can imagine, the GRM in Macau tends to be a lot higher than in most other parts of the world. GRMs can be used to compare investment opportunities, but generally should not be the only criteria.

RULE OF 72S

The Rule of 72s is a great method to calculate the approximate number of years for an investment to double in value at a particular rate of com-

pound interest. Simply take the rate of growth and divide it as a whole number into 72. Keep in mind that the answer is not precise; you would need to divide into 72.73 to nail the exact amount.

Number of Years to Double in Value (Approx) = 72 / Rate of Growth

LOAN-TO-VALUE RATIO

The Loan-to-Value Ratio (LTV) is simply a term used to express the ratio of a loan to the value of an asset purchased. For example, if you borrow HKD 10,000,000 to buy a HKD 15,000,000 property, the LTV would be $10,000,000/15,000,000 = 66\%$. Of course, the remaining 34% is covered by the borrower's equity to add up to 100% of the property value.

CASH-ON-CASH RETURN

Usually a quick calculation done on the back of a napkin more than anything, the cash-on-cash return is the ratio between the property's cash

flow in a particular year and the amount of the initial capital investment, expressed as a percentage.

DEBT COVERAGE RATIO

The Debt Coverage Ratio (DCR) is the ratio between the property's net operating income (NOI, covered in a previous article) for the year and the annual debt service. If these two are exactly the same, the ratio is 1.00, which means that you have exactly enough net income from the property to make your mortgage payments. If it is less than 1.00, it means your property does not generate enough income to pay the mortgage, and vice versa if it is higher than 1.00.

Debt Coverage Ratio = Annual Net Operating Income / Annual Debt Service

Of course, there are many more things that you should consider when making an investment decision, but I hope this gets you started and helps you on your journey as a property investor.

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CHINA may be poised to build its first car in Western Europe, with the help of Sweden's Volvo Car Group.

The iconic brand that was taken over by Chinese billionaire Li Shufu, would offer its factory in Gent, Belgium, to build an upscale brand for the tycoon, the Swedish company's Chief Executive Officer Hakan Samuelsson said. The Swedish carmaker may also extend its Europe infrastructure - service and other logistics - to the brand.

Li's Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co. started selling its upmarket compact SUV in China about two months ago under the Lynk & Co brand for a base price of 158,800 yuan (USD25,000). Volvo Cars could consider offering the factory to build the model if and when the Chinese company wants to expand to Europe, Samuelsson said in an interview in Hong Kong.

A "Made in Europe" stamp will augur well for the ambitions of a Chinese brand as it takes on global car majors such as Volkswagen AG, which has dominated the China car market for a decade. After years of selling lower-priced models at home, Chinese carmakers such as Geely and BYD Co. - which signed Leonardo DiCaprio as a brand ambassador - are increasingly turning their attention to the international market.

A Chinese car built in Western Europe? Geely could be first



"If and when they decide to go global, to Europe, possibly the U.S., we can of course make that entry more credible," Samuelsson said.

Li bought Volvo Cars from

Ford Motor Co. in 2010 and spent more than \$11 billion to modernize its production facilities. Last year, Geely bought almost 50 percent of Malaysia's Proton Holdings Bhd. and 51 percent of British sports-car

maker Lotus Cars. Li has ambitions of making Geely into a global major and as part of that plan, he unveiled the Lynk & Co in 2016, a brand that targets young customers.

The \$25,000 Lynk & Co brand

compares with the more popular \$14,000 Haval H6 from Great Wall Motor Co., China's biggest SUV maker. Great Wall is also seeking to move upscale with its Wey brand, which sold 86,427 units in 2017.

Volvo Cars owns 30 percent of Lynk & Co, while Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd. holds 50 percent. The rest is with Zhejiang Haoqing Automobile Manufacturing Co., a firm controlled by Zhejiang Geely. Lynk & Co shares the production line with the Volvo XC40 in a factory in China's Luqiao, 350 kilometers south of Shanghai.

"We would of course have interest doing that," Samuelsson said, referring to the support Volvo Cars is offering Geely. The Chinese carmaker is studying the feasibility of making the cars in Europe, a Geely spokesman said.

Volvo Cars' volume sales in China last year rose about 25 percent to 114,410 units, and the automaker's biggest market will "continue to grow fast" in 2018, Samuelsson said, without elaborating. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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FEATURE

A woman, an investigator, and a q

THE young woman, new to the grind of Chinese factory life, knew the man who called himself Kalen only by the photo on his chat profile. It showed him with a pressed smile holding a paper cup in a swank skyscraper somewhere late at night.

Yu Chunyan and her friends didn't know what to make of him. Some thought his eyes were shifty. Others said he looked handsome in a heroic sort of way.

Yu was among the doubters. The daughter of factory workers, Yu paid her way through college by working in factories herself. She and thousands of other students had toiled through the summer of 2016 assembling iPhones at a supplier for Apple Inc., but they hadn't been paid their full wages.

Kalen was offering to help — and asking nothing in return.

This struck Yu as suspicious. If there was one thing she had learned in her 23 years it was this: "There's no free lunch."

Disputes like these often don't go well for workers in China. But over the years, suicides and sweatshop scandals have pushed some companies, like Apple, to reconsider their approach to workplace fairness.

Today, a growing number of brands, including Apple, Nike Inc., Gap Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., and the H&M Group prioritize transparency and take public responsibility for conditions throughout their global supply chains. Labor rights groups like the one Kalen worked for, China Labor Watch, can play a useful watchdog role for these companies, by helping them understand what's really going on at their suppliers.

But not everyone has embraced this new approach.

When China Labor Watch confronted Ivanka Trump's brand with charges of labor abuses at its Chinese suppliers, her company refused to engage. It made no public effort to investigate the allegations: forced overtime, pay as low as USD1 an hour, and crude verbal and physical abuse — including one incident in which a man was hit in the head with the sharp end of a high-heeled shoe.

Ivanka Trump, who still owns but no longer closely manages her namesake brand, stayed silent. Neither she nor her brand would comment for this story.

Unlike Apple, her brand doesn't publish the identities of its manufacturers. In fact, its supply chains have only grown more opaque since the first daughter took on her White House role.

But as the summer of 2016 was ending, Yu Chunyan had no idea she was about to get an education in geopolitics and corporate social responsibility. She wanted one thing only: her wages. And she saw one way to get them: The stranger with the odd English name.

Kalen and China Labor Watch would link Yu not just to Apple, but ultimately, to the daughter

of the President of the United States. Their intersecting stories highlight the contrasting approaches Apple and Ivanka Trump's brand have taken to workplace fairness — and the impact those decisions have had on the ground in China.

It would take Yu more than a year to discover who Kalen really was.

NO HELP CAME

When Yu was still a baby, her parents went to work at a factory in one of the southern boomtowns of Guangdong province. As a child, entire years passed without a visit from her mother or father.

This was an ordinary enough fate in China, and Yu grew up bouncing between her grandparents' homes in central China's Henan province.

The first extraordinary thing that happened to Yu was her high school entrance exam. She aced it, despite her middling grades, scoring even higher than the known overachievers in class.

The shock of her accomplishment gave Yu a soaring sense of her own potential. She raced to tell her mother.

"Oh," was her mother's stony response.

Yu's test score opened the possibility, unsettling to her parents, that she would not marry young, produce grandchildren and start earning money for the family.

Her parents regarded aspiration warily: Excellence would only lead to inflated expectations. Just the sort of thing, her parents feared, that could crush a person. Better to remain where you are, bound by a certain, riskless horizon.

Yu did not agree. "As long as I want something, I will get it," she decided.

Her parents let her stay in school, but if Yu wanted to go to college, she would have to pay her own way.

And so she did. She enrolled in a college in Henan province. Ultimately, she wanted to do something creative, like design; in the meantime factory jobs weren't a bad way to make money.

In July 2016, Yu took her place on the assembly line at Jabil Inc.'s Green Point factory in Wuxi, a city near Shanghai. She spent her 12-hour shift snapping the back cover of the iPhone 7 into a mold and passing it down the line.

"It seems simple," Yu said. "But if you work the whole day doing this your hands will be really tired. Normally, it's a job for a man."

Her group's production quota kept going up, climbing from 2,000 to 50,000 units a day, Yu said. She got dizzy. Her hands hurt. She thought: "When will it be over?"

In August 2016, she quit, ignoring admonitions that her pay would be docked 500 yuan (\$79, at today's rates) for leaving early.

Yu made the 12-hour train trip back to school in Henan and on Sept. 10, her final paycheck hit her bank account. It was an ugly surprise. She was 1,100 yuan short of the 4,930 yuan she expected. Her salary was supposed to cover her tuition. Now it didn't.

"I was furious," she said. "I thought that no matter what I would get my money back."

She called the factory and the labor broker who had gotten her the job only to be informed of a range of surprising fees, some legitimate, others not.

Yu called the labor union at Green Point for help. "Useless," she said. She called the local labor bureau, but no one picked up.

On Chinese social media, Yu found a chorus of despair as other students — the children of farmers, factory and construction workers — vented about being stiffed on WeChat, QQ and Weibo.

"Everyone had an attitude like, 'Well, it has nothing to do with me,'" said Zhuang Huaqian, an electrical engineering student at Hunan University of Technology, who spent the summer assembling iPhones in a moon suit of dust-free clothing.

The head of one of the labor brokers in the dispute, Ding Yan, said his company had done nothing wrong. "Wages are our bottom line. We will never underpay them," he said. "I wouldn't risk this brand."

Frustrated, the students took their case to the press. A few articles appeared detailing their complaints, but Yu and another student said postings began to disappear. Were they being censored, they wondered?

The local government published an article on an official Weibo account that said authorities acted swiftly and more than 2,100 students had been repaid. The post included complaint hotlines workers could call.

Chen Jianbin, head of Wuxi's labor security supervision unit, said his team had to sort through verbal contracts, informal intermediaries and fake complaints apparently lodged by people paid to smear competing labor agencies.

"We were trying our best to help," said Chen. "Those students' lives were not easy."

But many students hadn't gotten their money back.

Beneath their fury was growing desperation. Every lever of redress they had tried failed them. They had appealed for help to forces they thought they could believe in — society, the government — but no help came.



Chinese labor activists Hua Haifeng (center) carries his son Bo Bo, and Li Zhao (second from left)

'THE WORLD IS FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE'

There was, however, one guy, who did offer help. He called himself Kalen.

Kalen had worked in a phone factory himself, 13 years earlier, polishing cheap landline phones for a Chinese brand at a factory in Shenzhen. Back then, he didn't realize he was being underpaid until he wandered into the office of a local labor rights group one day and learned that he wasn't earning the legal minimum wage.

That knowledge electrified him. He devoured books about labor rights in the group's reading room as he prepared his case. Two months later, he won 3,000 yuan in back pay through a local arbitration panel.

Kalen wondered how many other workers out there were like him, ignorant of their rights. He quit his factory job and dedicated himself to teaching workers how to use China's laws to protect themselves.

Kalen brought his evidence-based approach to China Labor Watch, a group many of the students had never heard of before. He told them about the group's past work with Apple suppliers and taught them how to calculate what they were owed. He admonished them to be honest as he gathered details about working hours and pay from over 200 workers.

"Seek truth from facts," he wrote them on QQ.

In September, China Labor Watch asked Apple to intervene. The company sent a local team to investigate, reporting that 2,501 students had received back wages.

But many said they still hadn't been fully paid.

When Kalen asked for a volunteer to write a letter to Apple, Yu was torn: Could she get kicked out of school for speaking out?

"It was so hard for me to make this money," she said. "As long as there was a little bit of hope left I wanted to try." She stayed up past midnight writing down everything that had happened.

On Sept. 28, Li emailed Yu's letter to Apple.

Five days later, Apple wrote back: It had done further investigation and would ensure workers got paid for their day of training and extra work during meal breaks.

"Jabil invested hundreds of hours of staff time to contact approximately 17,000 employees," Eric Austermann, Jabil's vice-president of social and environmental responsibility wrote in an email to AP. "Although often lacking an email address, phone number, or other standard contact information, Jabil located all but about 5 percent of these employees, all of whom have been paid in full."

The workers received over 2.7 million yuan (\$426,000, at today's rates), according to Jabil Green Point and an October 2017 email from Apple to China Labor Watch.

Apple declined to comment on the case.

The students' payments came in a few hundred or thousand yuan at a time. This was money for school, for food, a way to stay out of debt. By the end of October, Yu had gotten back everything she was owed.

She was impressed. She amended the letter she had written for

Quest for justice in China



as he leaves a police station after being released in Ganzhou in Jiangxi Province (July 2017)

Kalen, turning it into a testimonial and a statement of personal intent. China Labor Watch posted it on its website.

“Due to this experience, I am confident that the world is full of good people, people who make selfless contributions,” Yu wrote. “I wish to join a public interest organization. I wish to help others.”

But China was changing. Hundreds of human rights lawyers and activists had been swept up in a crackdown against perceived threats to the ruling Communist Party. Those with foreign ties, like China Labor Watch, were viewed with particular suspicion.

Yu had yet to grasp the perils of her growing idealism.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME

After Chinese New Year, Yu moved to Shanghai, a city she had only seen in pictures, to take a job at an interior design company. In March 2017, five months after she'd received her back pay from the factory, Yu reconnected with Kalen on WeChat.

Kalen told her China Labor Watch might need people to work undercover.

China Labor Watch was closing in on factories that made Ivanka Trump merchandise, including Ganzhou Huajian International Shoe City Co.

But the thought of returning to the grind of factory life was more than she could stomach.

“I needed to push myself forward,” she said. She wanted to learn English, dress better, lose weight.

China Labor Watch ultimately sent two men to work undercover. The group obtained a video of a manager berating a worker

for apparently arranging shoes in the wrong order.

“If I see them f---ing messed up again,” the manager yells, “I’ll beat you right here.” Another worker was left with blood dripping from his head after a manager hit him with the sharp end of a high heeled shoe, according to three eyewitnesses who spoke to the AP.

The Huajian Group, which runs the factory in Ganzhou, denied all the allegations as “completely not true to the facts, taken out of context, exaggerated.” In April, China Labor Watch laid out its initial findings in a letter to Ivanka Trump at the White House.

She did not respond.

Over the years, Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., Gap Inc., Target Corp., Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other companies took China Labor Watch seriously enough to respond to criticisms or meet Li in person, according to emails and meeting notes reviewed by AP. Walt Disney Co. severed its relationship with at least one supplier after China Labor Watch exposed poor working conditions.

“We did an investigation on Apple because Apple is a big American company,” Li said. “If Apple changes, the other companies will follow. Now Ivanka is the most famous person among all these companies. If she can change, the other companies will too.”

But that plan backfired.

At the end of May, three China Labor Watch investigators were arrested, accused of illegally using secret cameras and listening devices.

One of them was investigator

Hua Haifeng. Police had warned Hua to drop the Huajian investigation, but he pushed ahead anyway, Li said.

A wiry man not easily moved to alarm, Hua seemed to accept fear as the cost of his decision to live his life as an expression of his values.

In more than a decade working on labor rights in China, Hua had helped thousands of workers get back money they were owed, all the while half-wondering when he'd be forced to stop.

Now that he had, Hua, 36, was cut off from his wife and two young children.

Inside the Ganzhou City Detention Center, Hua shared a toothbrush with strangers. Locked in a cell so crowded there weren't enough wooden boards to sleep on, Hua stretched out at night on a concrete floor next to a bucket that served as the toilet for around 20 men. The men added water and soap, hoping the bubbles might somehow take the stench out of human waste. It didn't work.

It was the first time in China Labor Watch's 17-year history that its investigators had been arrested. Police raided the group's Shenzhen office and carried away computers and documents, Li said.

From his office in New York, Li worked frantically to get the men out of jail. He was convinced the shift in fortune was due to the target of their inquiry: a brand owned by the daughter of the U.S. president. But he had no proof.

Ivanka Trump — and her brand — said nothing about the arrests.

WHERE IS KALEN?

Days after the arrest, Yu Chunyan took a new job at a design company in Shanghai, but something lingered from her experience at the Green Point factory. “I'd prefer work that can help more people,” she said.

She got a friend request from China Labor Watch's Li Qiang. She messaged Kalen to check Li out.

Kalen never replied. She wondered what had happened to him.

On June 5, the U.S. State Department called for the immediate release of the three China Labor Watch investigators.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded that other nations “have no right to interfere with our judicial sovereignty.” State-owned media reported that the trio had tried to steal trade secrets and sell them overseas.

Li Qiang wrote to Ivanka Trump at the White House on June 6, describing what he called “extreme working conditions” in her supply chain. “Your words and deeds can make a difference in these workers' lives,” he wrote.

He got no reply.

Her brand has called its supply

chain integrity “a top priority,” but also maintains that its suppliers are overseen by licensees — companies it contracts with to make tons of Ivanka Trump handbags, shoes and clothes.

The brand said its shoes had not been produced at the Huajian factory since March, though China Labor Watch obtained an April production schedule for nearly 1,000 pairs of Ivanka Trump shoes due in May.

In late June, after 30 days in jail, the three China Labor Watch investigators were released on bail. Hua carried his son in his arms as he walked out of a police station in Ganzhou.

Hua declined to be interviewed for this story. His lawyer said police ordered him not to speak with the media. His bail conditions dictated that he must check in weekly with police and cannot travel without permission. That, plus the cloud of criminal suspicion that clung to him in his small hometown, made it hard to get a job.

In July, Hua asked police for permission to take a family vacation in the Wudang mountains, three hours away. After articles came out in the foreign press quoting Hua, half a dozen plainclothes policemen appeared at a restaurant where Hua was having dinner with his family and tapped him on the shoulder. The next morning they escorted him home, leaving his wife, Deng Guilian, to wander through Taoist temples alone with the kids.

With her husband out of work, Deng got a job selling drinks and snacks at a local karaoke parlor from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m. After her shift, she heads to a nearby dormitory where she and a female co-worker share a bed with a Snoopy headboard.

She gets three days off a month to see her four-year-old son, Bo Bo, and seven-year-old daughter, Chen Chen.

“They seem accustomed to not having their mom,” Deng said, flashing an uneasy smile.

Each Monday morning after dropping his kids at school, Hua makes the short drive past weedy lots and a factory spewing thick white smoke to check in with the local police in Nanzhang County.

At first they lectured him: Change careers. Don't speak out. Live a normal life. Now, he usually just signs his name, his wife said, but it is clear that missteps can quickly draw the wrath of local authorities.

Police in Nanzhang County, Ganzhou city and Jiangxi province did not respond to requests for comment.

In October, Li Qiang again wrote to Ivanka Trump and her brand.

He said he got no response.

Ivanka Trump's actions show “that she does not care about these workers who are making her products, and is only concerned with making profits,” Li said in an email. “As a public figure, she has the ability and resources to not only work on labor conditions

at her own brand's factories, but also to help improve labor conditions of the global supply chain as a whole. However, she did not use her influence to do these things.”

AN ORDINARY PERSON

Shortly after 6 p.m. on an October evening, Yu Chunyan left her office and walked through Shanghai's former French Concession, the wealthy heart of China's most prosperous city. She passed rows of thick plane trees, black against a darkening sky, and stepped into a discreet tea house.

Yu slid open the wooden door of a private room and peeked inside with a wide, nervous smile at the AP journalists she had agreed to meet. A chunky, colorless sweater hung off her body and her stocking feet poked out of white sandals despite the cold.

Yu slipped off her shoes and took a seat at the sunken table, doing her best to avoid the list of fancy teas glowing from a scrollable iPad menu. She began to talk about Kalen, and pulled out her phone to flip to their exchanges on WeChat.

There, in his tiny profile photo, was a familiar face.

“Do you know him?” she asked, surprised.

AP had been writing about him for months.

Kalen was Hua Haifeng.

Yu had no idea that her Kalen was the same Hua Haifeng who had been arrested while investigating Ivanka Trump suppliers. She listened, still and silent, to news of interrogations and surveillance, his son's sudden nightmares, the jail and the bucket of urine.

Her eyes welled. Elegant cakes lay untouched in front of her.

An hour later, she sent a WeChat message to Kalen.

“Do you have to take risks to work in your industry?” she asked.

Risks depend on politics, he wrote her, and the conditions of the country you live in. “From the beginning, I expected something like this could happen,” he told her. “So it's not about bad luck. It was going to happen sooner or later.”

“If you had another chance, would you do the same thing?” she asked.

“Yes,” he answered. Hua told Yu that he had to live a life that embodied his values. He tried to be encouraging. “I am not saying that everyone has to pay that high a price.”

But Yu had a sense that Hua had run up against forces neither of them could fully grasp, much less defeat. In her mind, she was recalibrating the risks of idealism.

“I wouldn't be able to do it,” Yu said.

In late November, she left Shanghai to go back and live with her parents.

“I want to be an ordinary person,” she said. “I don't want to get involved with controversial things.” AP

Matthew Pennington, Washington

THE Trump administration slapped sanctions yesterday [Macau time] on North Korean financial and business networks in China and Russia as it pushed to cut off revenues for the increasingly isolated nation's nuclear and missile programs.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control also targeted five North Korean shipping companies and six of its vessels. That's part of an intensified effort by Washington to interdict ships that help the North evade sanctions.

The sanctions have been tightened significantly in the past year as Kim Jong Un's government accelerates toward perfecting a nuclear weapon that can threaten the U.S. mainland. While Beijing and Moscow have supported U.N. restrictions, they bristle at Washington imposing unilateral sanctions to bolster the pressure campaign.

The intensification of the U.S.-led campaign is a counterpoint to a thaw in relations between North and South Korea revolving around the North's participation in next month's Winter Olympics being hosted by the South. That has eased tensions on the divided peninsula, but the North shows no sign it's willing to negotiate over its nuclear program.

"The U.S. government is targeting illicit actors in China, Russia, and elsewhere who are working on behalf of North Korean financial networks, and calling for their expulsion from the territories where they reside," Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said in a statement. Americans are barred from dealing with those who are designated.

Among those blacklisted were 10 representatives in China and Russia of the Korea Ryonbong General Corporation, which is already designated by the United States and the United Na-

Trump blacklists North Korea business interests in China, Russia



A submarine missile is paraded across Kim Il Sung Square during a military parade in Pyongyang, North Korea

tions and is said to support the North's defense industry. The Treasury Department said the company's procurements also probably support North Korea's chemical weapons program.

Half of the individuals are located in the Chinese cities of Dandong, Ji'an, Linjiang and Tumen near the China-North Korea border. Others are based in Russia and Abkhazia, a breakaway province of Georgia. They include, Kim Ho Kyu, said to be a Ryonbong representative and North Korean vice consul in Nakhodka, Russia.

The Treasury Department also designated five individuals it said were linked to North Korean financial networks, and pointedly highlighted that several of them held accounts at Chinese banks.

North Korea conducts most of its trade through its northern neighbor China, and is believed to rely on banks and companies in that country to connect with the international financial system.

The department added to its blacklist two China-based companies, Beijing Chengxing Trading Co. Ltd. and Dandong Jin-

xiang Trade Co., Ltd. It said that between 2013 and 2017, the two companies cumulatively exported over USD68 million worth of goods to North Korea and imported more than \$19 million of goods from North Korea.

Also designated were North Korea's ministry responsible for crude oil and Hana Electronics JVC, one of North Korea's only electronics companies.

The sanctions imposed on North Korean shipping are the latest in a slew of restrictions the U.S. has declared against North Korean shipping companies. The

administration is pressing China, Russia and other countries to prevent vessels from conducting illicit ship-to-ship transfers of oil and other cargo.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo said earlier this week that through the agency's efforts, the U.S. government has improved its ability to interdict shipments into North Korea. He warned that the North was moving "ever closer" to putting Americans at risk and that he believes Kim won't rest until he's able to threaten multiple nuclear attacks against the U.S. at the same time. **AP**

Probe: Opioid sellers exploit US postal service flaw

CHINA said yesterday it is ready to work with the United States in fighting illicit opioid shipments after congressional investigators found that Chinese opioid manufacturers exploit weak screening in the U.S. Postal Service to ship large quantities of illegal drugs to American dealers.

"Anti-drug coordination is one of the highlights of China-U.S. law enforcement cooperation," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing. "We stand ready to work with the U.S. to enhance our coordination in this field."

In a yearlong probe published this week, Senate investigators found that Chinese sellers, who openly market opioids such as fentanyl to U.S. buyers, are pushing delivery through the U.S. postal system. The sellers are taking advantage of a failure by the postal service to fully implement an electronic data system that would help authorities identify suspicious shipments.

At a time of massive growth in postal shipments from China due to e-commerce, the investigators found that the postal system received the elec-

tronic data on just over a third of all international packages, making more than 300 million packages in 2017 much harder to screen. Data in the Senate report shows no significant improvement during 2017 despite the urgency.

The U.S. Postal Service said it has made dramatic progress in the last year in total packages with opioids seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"The Postal Service will continue to work tirelessly to address this serious societal issue," spokesman David Partenheimer said in a statement.

He said implementing the use of electronic data is slowed by the need to negotiate with international partners, but the service is making progress.

The Senate probe matches many of the findings of a 2016 investigation by The Associated Press that detailed unchecked production in China of some of the world's most dangerous drugs.

AP reporters found multiple sellers willing to ship carfentanil — an opioid used as an elephant tranquilizer that is so potent it has been considered a chemical weapon. The sellers also offered advice on how

to evade screening by U.S. authorities.

Researchers on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations also contacted Chinese sellers directly. The sellers preferred payment in Bitcoin.

Investigators traced the online sellers to seven U.S. opioid deaths and 18 drug arrests. The Senate has cleared the report to be handed over to law enforcement.

In one case, the investigators traced orders from an online seller in China to a Michigan man who wired USD200 in November 2016. The next month he received a package from

someone identified by the investigators as a Pennsylvania-based distributor. A day later, the Michigan man died of an overdose from drugs, including a chemical similar to fentanyl.

The huge influx of opioids has led to a wave of overdose deaths across the U.S. in recent years. Republican Sen. Rob Portman, the subcommittee's chairman, noted that fentanyl now kills more people in his home state than heroin.

"The federal government can, and must, act to shore up our defenses against this deadly drug and help save lives," he said. **AP**

AP PHOTO



The times they are a changin': US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (left) shakes hands with his Vietnamese counterpart Ngo Xuan Lich

50 YEARS AFTER TET OFFENSIVE

US likely to send first aircraft carrier since war to Vietnam

Robert Burns, Hanoi

IN a move likely to irritate China, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier is likely to visit Vietnam in March for the first time since the war, U.S. and Vietnamese officials said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his counterpart discussed a plan for a carrier visit to Danang in March, Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said.

He said the Vietnamese are awaiting final approval by more senior government authorities but Davis said the U.S. expects the approval to be granted.

The Vietnamese Defense Ministry said separately that the two defense ministries had submitted their proposals for a port visit to their leaders. The idea was floated last summer when Vietnamese Defense Minister Ngo Xuan Lich met Mattis at the Pentagon.

The two met again in Hanoi on Thursday during Mattis' first trip to the Southeast Asian nation, which also included a meeting with President Tran Dai Quang.

"From post-war legacy issues to what Minister Lich called the positive trajectory of our military-to-military relations, I'm confident we're on the right trajectory, sir," Mattis said in his opening remarks at the presidential palace, where he and the president sat side-by-side beneath a large bust of revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.

Earlier yesterday, Mattis

broke from his usual pattern of official business meetings to pay his respects at one of Vietnam's oldest pagodas, where he spoke at length with a senior monk and remarked on the serene setting. The Tran Quoc Buddhist pagoda stands on a small island at the edge of a lake in Hanoi, a short distance from a concrete marker noting where Sen. John McCain was shot down during a Navy attack mission over the city in 1967. McCain was retrieved from the lake and imprisoned at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton."

As he strolled among tourists at the 6th century pagoda, Mattis said to the monk, "Beautiful. Peaceful. It makes you think more deeply."

It was Mattis' first visit to Vietnam. He joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1969, while the decade-long war was ongoing, but he did not serve in Vietnam.

His visit happened to come just days before the Vietnamese celebrate Tet, the Lunar New Year.

Next week will mark the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive, in January 1968, when the Communist North launched synchronized, simultaneous attacks on multiple targets in U.S.-backed South Vietnam, including the city of Hue. The offensive was a military failure, but it turned out to be a pivot point in the war by puncturing U.S. hopes of a swift victory. The war dragged on for another seven years before the U.S. completed its withdrawal. **AP**

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Eric Tucker & Chad Day,
Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump declared he's "looking forward" to being questioned — under oath — in the special counsel's probe of Russian election interference and Trump's possible obstruction in the firing of the FBI director.

Trump said he would be willing to answer questions under oath in the interview, which special counsel Robert Mueller has been seeking but which White House officials had not previously confirmed the president would grant.

"I'm looking forward to it, actually," Trump said yesterday when asked by reporters at the White House. As for timing, he said, "I guess they're talking about two or three weeks, but I'd love to do it."

He said, as he has repeatedly, that "there's no collusion whatsoever" with the Russians, and he added, "there's no obstruction whatsoever."

The full scope of Mueller's investigation, which involves hundreds of thousands of documents and dozens of witness interviews, is unknown. And there have been no signs that agents aren't continuing to work on ties between Trump's campaign and a Russian effort to tip the 2016 election.

But now that Mueller's team has all but concluded its interviews with current and former Trump officials, and expressed interest in speaking with the president himself, the focus seems to be on the post-inauguration White House. That includes the firing of FBI Director James Comey and discussions preceding the ouster of White House national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The timing and circumstances of a Trump interview are still being ironed out. But soon it will probably be the president himself who will have to explain to Mueller how his actions don't add up to obstruction of justice. And that conversation will be dominated by questions tied to whether he took steps to thwart an FBI investigation.

Asked if he thinks Mueller will be fair, Trump replied: "We're going to find out." He then reiterated that there is "no collusion."

In a potential signal of his defense, Trump suggested that he didn't obstruct — he simply fought back against a false accusation.

So far, witness interviews and the special counsel's document requests make clear Mueller has a keen interest in Comey's May 9 firing and the contents of Comey's private conversations with the president, as well as the ouster months earlier of Flynn and the weeks of conversations leading up to it.

A focus on potential obstruc-

AP PHOTO



RUSSIAGATE

Trump 'looking forward' to being questioned under oath

tion has been evident almost since Mueller's appointment as special counsel. And recent interviews with administration officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions, have shown that Trump is dealing with prosecutors who already have amassed a wealth of knowledge about the events he'll be questioned about.

Prosecutors have interviewed numerous Trump aides, including close confidants such as White House counsel Don McGahn, former chief of staff Reince Priebus and the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

■ **The full scope of Mueller's probe, involving hundreds of thousands of documents and dozens of witness interviews, is unknown**

Sessions, who had urged Comey's firing, was interviewed for hours, becoming the highest-ranking Trump administration official known to have submitted to questioning. Mueller also wants to interview former adviser Steve Bannon, who has called Comey's firing

perhaps the biggest mistake in "modern political history."

The White House initially said the firing was based on the Justice Department's recommendation and cited as justification a memo that faulted Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. But Trump himself said later he was thinking of this "Russia thing" and had intended to fire Comey anyway.

Sessions, the target of the president's ire since he stepped aside last March from the Russia investigation, would have been able to offer close-up insight into the president's thinking ahead of the termination. He also could have been able to speak to the president's relationship with Comey, which Comey documented in a series of memos about conversations with Trump that bothered him.

In one memo, Comey described a January 2017 meeting over dinner at which he said the president asked him to pledge his loyalty. Separately, a person familiar with the conversation said this week that Trump in a meeting last year with Deputy Director Andrew McCabe brought up McCabe's wife's political background following the revelation that she had accepted campaign contributions during a state Senate run from the political action committee of then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a close Clinton ally.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday night that Trump had also asked McCabe whom he voted for in the presidential

race. McCabe replied that he did not vote. Trump said he did not recall asking that question.

Another of Comey's memos centered on a February conversation at the White House in which he said Trump told him he believed Flynn, the fired national security adviser, was a "good guy" and encouraged Comey to drop an investigation into him. The FBI had interviewed Flynn weeks earlier about whether he had discussed sanctions with the Russian ambassador during the transition period between the election and the inauguration. Flynn pleaded guilty in December to lying to the FBI during that interview.

Mueller has been investigating the events leading up to Flynn's dismissal from the White House, including how officials responded to information from former acting Attorney General Sally Yates

that Flynn had misled them by saying that he had not discussed sanctions. Despite that warning, and despite an FBI interview days after Trump's inauguration, Flynn was not forced to resign until Feb. 13 — the night of media reports about Yates' conversation with McGahn.

Mueller will likely want to know what Trump understood, before asking Comey to let the Flynn investigation go, about Flynn's interview with the FBI — and whether he had made false statements — and about his conversation with the Russian ambassador.


Four people have so far been charged in the Mueller investigation, including Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Flynn and former campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos have pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI. **AP**


AP PHOTO



Former FBI Director Robert Mueller, the special counsel probing Russian interference in the 2016 election


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FRIDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:35 | Zig Zag |
| 18:15 | Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated) |
| 19:05 | TDM Talk Show (Repeated) |
| 19:40 | Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:20 | Portuguese Serie |
| 22:10 | Brazilian Soap Opera |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 01:10 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:50 | RTPi Live |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:30 | Comedy |
| 11:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT) |
| 15:00 | Portuguese Serie (Resume) |
| 16:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT) |
| 21:00 | Drama (PT) |
| 21:45 | Portuguese Serie |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:05 | RTPi Live |

SUNDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:25 | Kids Serie |
| 11:00 | Sunday Mass (Live) |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:15 | Pop Lusa Sr 2 |
| 17:10 | Brainstorm |
| 17:55 | Got Talent Portugal |
| 19:30 | Portuguese Serie Sr 3 |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Non-daily Portuguese News |
| 22:00 | Documentary |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Bocage |
| 00:20 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:55 | RTPi Live |

Offbeat

MOVIE, NEWSPAPER THAT SHARE NAME
CONFUSING SOME 'POST' FANS

A student newspaper in Ohio is getting some social media love meant for the award-winning movie with the same name.

The Post of Ohio University in Athens has the Twitter handle @ThePost, which some people have assumed belongs to "The Post" movie. Steven Spielberg's real-life 1970s drama about The Washington Post this week was nominated for the best picture Oscar, while Meryl Streep earned her 21st best actress nomination.

But some messages meant for @ThePostMovie have gone to the Ohio U. Post's account. Besides a 20th Century Fox congrats for Streep, there have been fan messages and promos for TV appearances and movie showings including at theaters in England.

The Post's social media director blogged this week about "numerous compliments for the great work we've done, which we actually haven't."

cinema



CINETEATRO

25 JAN - 31 JAN



MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

ROOM 1
(2D) 02:15, 04:45, 9:345pm
(3D) 07:15pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: Rosa Salazar, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 142 min



DOWNSIZIG

ROOM 2
02:15, 04:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Alexander Payne

Starring: Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

FATE/STAY NIGHT: HEAVEN'S FEEL -
I. PRESAGE FLOWERROOM 3
02:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Tomonori Sudô

Starring: Ayako Kawasumi, Jôji Nakata, Noriaki Sugiyama

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 120 min



COCO

ROOM 3
7:15pm

Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history

1998 CLINTON DENIES AFFAIR
WITH INTERN

President Clinton has strongly denied allegations that he had an affair with a 24-year-old former White House aide.

He also rejected accusations that he asked her to lie about the relationship on oath.

Mr Clinton has come under intense media pressure as rumours circulate that he conducted an 18-month affair with Monica Lewinsky in 1995.

Miss Lewinsky, who is currently in hiding, has made no public admission, although it is understood that she has admitted to the relationship on tape.

The president made his categorical denial at a White House news conference today.

With his fist clenched and his voice shaking, he said: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky.

"I never told anybody to lie, not a single time, never.

"These allegations are false and I need to get back to work for the American people."

Mr Clinton left the room without answering any questions.

First lady Hillary Clinton is said to be in "fighting mood" and has vowed to stand by her husband to save his political career.

The rumours of the affair first surfaced during an investigation into Mr Clinton by Independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Mr Starr is understood to be keen for Miss Lewinsky to give evidence before the grand jury about the alleged affair.

But the former aide fears she will be prosecuted for perjury if she goes public about the affair as she has already denied it under sworn testimony in a separate sexual harassment case involving Paula Jones.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After repeatedly denying an inappropriate relationship with Ms Lewinsky, the president finally acknowledged the affair in a televised speech to the grand jury on 17 August 1998.

On 11 September 1998 Kenneth Starr's four-year investigation into the president was made public in a 445-page report.

As a direct result of the report, the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president.

Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign.

His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're great at cutting to the chase, so mind games don't usually work for you - unless they're the kind that people who are attracted to each other like to play. Since you can easily spot frauds and those who hold info back from you.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You're not usually known for having much of a temper. It takes quite a lot to get you riled up, for one thing, and by the time you actually get around to expressing anger, you've realized that it's likely not worth the energy.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Secrets aren't really your thing - you much prefer chatting about anything that crosses your mind just as soon as it passes through. Right now, one big secret is becoming almost impossible to keep quiet about.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You love entertaining at home almost more than anything else. You're a natural caregiver, and when you've got everyone you love under one roof, eating whatever you've whipped up (with plenty of TLC).

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You've never minded working overtime. You do whatever it takes to get things done right, but when it's time for fun, it's time for fun. In fact, for a while, you've been thinking about taking time off.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
To you, there's nothing quite as dangerous as boredom. It can cause even the most rational person (that's you) to behave in some crazy ways. Instead of letting that happen, try to find a new way to amuse your big brain.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Anyone who tries to zip through an encounter with you using superficial chatter should be ready for a lesson because it just can't work. You're often a fan of pleasant small talk.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Today may be tough for you, but if anyone is up for a bit of a challenge, it's you. The good news: Once you've done your duty and start to head home, you find a sweet surprise waiting for you.

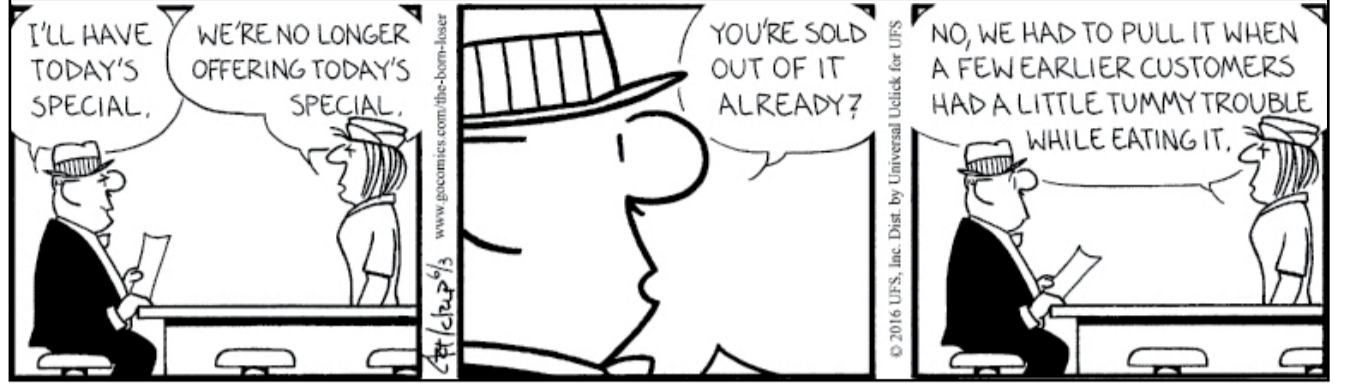
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You're not afraid of hard work, but you've been doing far more than your fair share lately, and you seriously need some time off. Let yourself go! You can be extravagant when it comes to downtime.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
There's only one thing you can do to get out of this rut: take action. Let that wild urge for activity lead you somewhere new and pleasant. Have everyone over for some big-time fun.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've decided that something just isn't working for you. It's not really in your nature to accept the unacceptable, and you're famous for having little patience with those who do. You need to make some changes.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You've just broken out of a dark place. It certainly wasn't easy, but now that you're back out in the sunshine, you don't take kindly to anyone who tries to drag you back.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

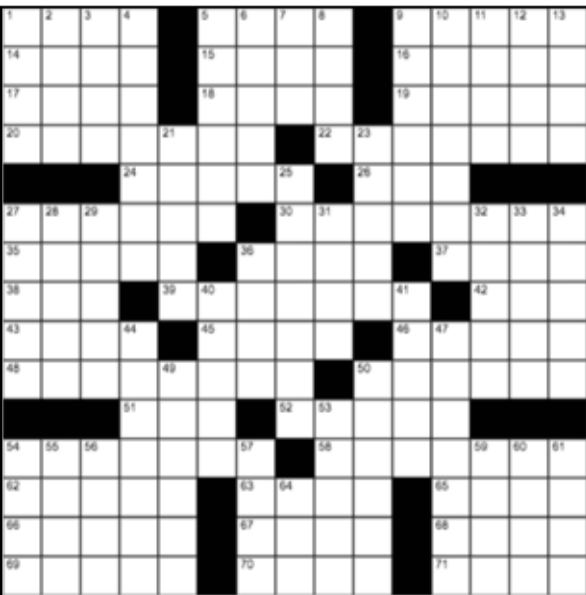
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -11 | -3 | clear |
| Harbin | -32 | -20 | clear/cloudy |
| Tianjin | -11 | -3 | clear |
| Urumqi | -26 | -20 | flurry |
| Xi'an | -7 | -2 | overcast/flurry |
| Lhasa | -4 | 10 | cloudy/clear |
| Chengdu | 1 | 5 | overcast |
| Chongqing | 3 | 5 | drizzle |
| Kunming | 4 | 20 | clear |
| Nanjing | -3 | -1 | moderate snow/overcast |
| Shanghai | 0 | 2 | moderate to heavy snow |
| Wuhan | -3 | 0 | moderate snow/flurry |
| Hangzhou | -1 | 1 | moderate to heavy snow |
| Taipei | 15 | 17 | drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 13 | 18 | overcast |
| Hong Kong | 16 | 20 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -8 | -3 | flurry |
| Frankfurt | 7 | 9 | drizzle |
| Paris | 6 | 8 | drizzle |
| London | 4 | 6 | drizzle |
| New York | -4 | -1 | clear |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Looking down from; 5- Swedish auto; 9- Some Art Deco works; 14- Actor Lugosi; 15- Carson's successor; 16- Compass point; 17- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 18- Catchall abbr.; 19- Somewhat; 20- Elate; 22- Wounded; 24- Maritime; 26- 100 yrs.; 27- Stick; 30- Sicilians, e.g.; 35- Stock unit; 36-Ski lift; 37- Blue dye source; 38- Warned the bench; 39- Scoffed; 42- Narc's org.; 43- Lincoln and Vigoda; 45- Long objects used to row a boat; 46- Build; 48- Distrust; 50- Stops; 51- Suffix with ball; 52- Hanker; 54- Fatty; 58- Voted into a seat; 62- Does a Daffy Duck impression; 63- Female child; 65- Sacred; 66- Small bay; 67- Diva's song; 68- Fencing blade; 69- Anatomical passages; 70- Poor grades; 71- Lens holders;

DOWN: 1- You're making ___ mistake!; 2- Narrate; 3- Olive genus; 4- Partner; 5- Arm cover; 6- Big name in insurance; 7- Actress Alicia; 8- Not fearful; 9- Tooth layer; 10- Republic in SE Europe; 11- Math subject; 12- Suffix with cigar; 13- Storage shelter; 21- Ventures; 23- Without ___ in the world; 25- Freedom; 27- Indian state; 28- Abu ___; 29- Loathes; 31- Salts; 32- Peaks of Peru; 33- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 34- Mattress supports; 36- Afternoon affairs; 40- People and places, e.g.; 41- Caterpillar rival; 44- Cork; 47- Ben Cartwright, for one; 49- Perches; 50- Operatic soprano; 53- Weird; 54- Et ___ (and other men); 55- Force; 56- "Cast Away" setting; 57- Crikey!; 59- Species of antelope found in South Africa; 60- K-6; 61- Changes color; 64- Wrath;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com</p> <p>FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLProperty.Com (853) 2835 2699 Office</p> | <p>Grande Plaza Taipa 980 sq ft / HKD 8.8M HKD 9,061sq ft Three Bedroom Apartment Ref: 17115537</p> | <p>1st Floor Car Park, The Manhattan Taipa sq ft / HKD 1.95M HKD 00sq ft 1st floor car park space Ref: 17115539</p> | <p>Apartment B, Daffodil Court Coloane 1,663 sq ft / HKD 8.3M HKD 4,990sq ft Large Kitchen Ref: 17115536</p> | <p>Va Fat Taipa 636sq ft / HKD 4.25M HKD 6,661sq ft Well Maintained Ref: 17085533</p> |
| | <p>Kinqlight Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 15,000 / 800 sq ft Ref: 17120662</p> | <p>Carnation Court, Hellene Gardens, Unit A Coloane 3 Bedrooms Apartment Lovely Green Open View HKD 17,500 / 1,663 sq ft Ref: 17110661</p> | <p>Apartment C, Nam Long Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Sun Terrace HKD 8,800 / 420 sq ft Ref: 17110660</p> | <p>Apartment C, Vai Fat Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Modern Fitted Kitchen HKD 12,800 / 800 sq ft Ref: 17110659</p> |



Dear patients and friends of Taivex Malo Hospital Dental Clinic/Macau MALO CLINIC,

We at Macau MALO CLINIC Dental Care would like to apologize to you all.

The Macau Health Bureau has notified the hospital to stop all operations for 6 months, thus the dental clinic won't be able to provide you with dental services either. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Within this time period, patients may choose the following options:

A. Go to one of our 18 MALO CLINIC clinics in Mainland China, all of which, together with Macau MALO CLINIC, operate under MALO CLINIC China Management, following the exact standards and medical protocols as any international MALO CLINIC.

Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.

B. For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

C. For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

If any urgent situation arises or if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Office phone | Cellphone | Wechat | Email | Website |
| 8862 2206 / 8862 2206 | 00853—6826 9099 | MALODENTAL553 (Can be contacted at any time) | service.mimo@maloclinics.com.cn | http://www.maloclinics.com.cn |

Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all. Thank you all for your understanding and support. We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

Guimaraes | Oporto | Giza | Avila | Coimbra | Braga | Coimbra | Lisboa | Alameda | Porto | Faro | Funchal | Wroclaw | Vienna
 Munchengambach | Doha | Warsaw | Odessa | Athens | Ioannina | New York | Rotterdam | Jersey City | Stockholm | Mainz | Portland
 Toronto | Montreal | Sao-Paulo | Broward | Bogota | Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Brisbane | Hobart | Gold Coast | Luanda
 Taipei | Ramat Hasharon | Dubai | Karachi | Chennai | Mexico | Hong Kong | Beijing | Shanghai | Guangzhou | Shenzhen | Taipei
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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

WINTER GAMES OF DETENTE

North, South Korea hockey players team up for Olympics

FEMALE hockey players from the rival Koreas were paired up with each other yesterday to form their first-ever Olympic squad during next month's Pyeongchang Winter Games, as their countries press ahead with rare reconciliation steps following a period of nuclear tensions.

A dozen North Korean hockey players wearing white-and-red winter parkas crossed the heavily fortified border into South Korea earlier Thursday, as about 30-40 conservative activists shouted anti-Pyongyang slogans at a nearby border area.

The North Koreans traveled on to a national athletes' village in southern South Korea, where they were welcomed by their South Korean teammates and Canadian coach Sarah Murray, who presented them flower bouquets in an outdoor welcoming ceremony.

"I sincerely welcome your arrival," Lee Jae-kun, head of the athletes' village, told the North Koreans after they got off a bus.

Park Chol Ho, a North Korean coach who arrived with the 12 athletes and two support staff, told reporters that he's happy to team up with South Koreans. "I'm very pleased with the fact that North and South are united as one to participate in [the Olympics]. I expect we'll see good results if we unite our efforts [...] though we don't have much time," he said.

The Korean players later shouted "We are one!" and took a group photo. North and South Korean players plan to practice separately for several days as Murray needs time to learn about the North Koreans.

The players were sharing the same locker room and the lockers



North Korean women's ice hockey players arrive at South Korea's national training center yesterday

of the North Korean players were deliberately placed between those of their South Korean teammates so that they could become close quickly, according to Yonhap news agency.

The Koreans fielded a single team to major sports events only twice, both in 1991. One event was the world table tennis championships and the other soccer's World Youth Championship. But this is the first time they've assembled a single team for the Olympics.

The Koreans explored how to cooperate in the Olympics after the North's leader Kim Jong Un abruptly said in his New Year's address that he was willing to send an Olympic delegation. As part of the rapprochement deals, the Koreans also agreed for their athletes

to march together under a single flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony. Some experts say North Korea may want to use improved ties with the South as a way to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions.

The International Olympic Committee has allowed 22 North Korean athletes, including the 12 hockey players, to compete in Pyeongchang in exceptional entries given to the North, which initially had none for the games. The 10 others will compete in figure skating, short track speed skating, Alpine skiing and cross-country skiing. They will come to South Korea on Feb. 1.

The joint hockey team deal has triggered a backlash in South Korea, with a survey showing about

70 percent of respondents opposing the idea because it would deprive South Korean players of playing time. The IOC-brokered agreement requires at least three North Korean players to suit up for each game, meaning that three from South Korea's original roster cannot play in those games.

Murray has said that the North Koreans' hard-hitting style would make them suited to be her fourth line, a group of players who are typically asked to provide strong physical play in short bursts while giving their teammates with greater scoring responsibilities a chance to rest.

Murray, who examined the North Koreans first hand during an event in Gangneung last year, has identified five players as me-

morable, but among them, only forwards Jong Su Hyon and Kim Hyang Mi made the trip for the Olympics.

The unified Korean team will open their group action against Switzerland on Feb. 10. It will then face Sweden on Feb. 12 and Japan on Feb. 14. What draws attention is its Japan match, as many in both Koreas still harbor bitter resentment against Japan's 35-year colonial rule that ended in 1945, three years before two different governments were formally established on the Korean Peninsula.

Conservatives in Seoul have held a series of small-scale rallies in recent days. On Monday, activists burned Kim's photo and a North Korean flag as the head of the North's popular girl band passed by them during a visit to the capital. North Korea responded Tuesday by warning similar actions could disrupt ongoing reconciliation efforts.

South Korean officials hope an Olympic-inspired mood of detente would serve as a stepping stone to the resumption of diplomatic talks that could slow down North Korea's nuclear advancement. North Korea, however, has insisted it won't discuss its nuclear program during its ongoing talks with South Korea, and some experts warn that tensions could flare again after the Olympics. AP

TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

First major title, top rank at stake in Halep-Wozniacki final

John Pye, Melbourne

SIMONA Halep fended off Angelique Kerber to set up a high stakes Australian Open final against Caroline Wozniacki that will have a first Grand Slam title and the No. 1 ranking on the line for both players.

After No. 2 Wozniacki had secured her spot in the final, top-seeded Halep raced to a 6-3, 3-1 lead in the second semifinal before Kerber rallied to force a third. Both players had chances to serve out the match, and both staved off match points in long and engrossing rallies, before Halep converted her fourth match point in a 6-3,

4-6, 9-7 victory.

Halep was on a 10-match winning streak after collecting the title in Shenzhen, China, while Kerber was on a 14-match streak that included the Hopman Cup and her title run in Sydney.

"Well, definitely was very tough. I'm shaking now — I'm really emotional," Halep said after her 2-hour, 20-minute semifinal win over Kerber, the only major winner to reach the last four. "I'm really glad that I could resist. I had two match balls and I lost them. Today I was like a roller coaster — up and down — [but] I had confidence in myself."

For Halep, now, it's a

first Grand Slam final appearance off the clay at Roland Garros. For Wozniacki, it's a first Grand Slam final outside of America.

Both finalists have had to save match points to reach tomorrow's championship match.

Halep spent just shy of 10 hours on court in her first five matches, the longest of any of the semifinalists, and fended off triple match point in her third-round win over Lauren Davis that ended 15-13 in the third.

Wozniacki has had a slightly smoother run, though she had to save match points and rally from 5-1 down in the third set of

her second-round win. She also had some nervous moments in her 6-3, 7-6 (2) semifinal win over Elise Mertens.

In the tiebreaker, Wozniacki's experience made the difference.

"Once she had set points. I thought, 'OK, now you just have to go for it [...] she's nervous now, too,'" Wozniacki said. "I managed to just gather myself and thankfully closed it out in the end."

The 27-year-old Dane squandered a match point in a semifinal here against Li Na seven years ago, but held her composure this time around and converted her first match point in the tiebreaker. AP



opinion

Bizcuits
 Leanda Lee



IMPERFECT SUCCESS

Wabi-sabi is an Asian aesthetic of Zen origin that values beauty in the transient (as the ephemeral cherry blossom), in impermanence, in the incomplete, the flawed, the weathered and in uncertainty.

The exacting nature of business operations is hardly conducive to the wabi-sabi sensibility given the search for continuous improvement in systems; careful selection, training and retention of personnel; and ensuring that all activity adds value leading to a competitive edge. In this economic rationalist world view, tolerance for uncertainty and the imperfect is low.

Over the last decade and a half of stunning economic growth, Macau has seen a slow unfolding of an uncomfortable coexistence of community-based values and international business imperatives: between family and community ties on the one hand, and, on the other, the demands on workers to improve skills and knowledge, to be exacting, to take initiative and to lead their organisations to profitability now and into the future.

The trappings of wealth – luxury goods, the ‘good-life’ and status – may have helped bridge the values’ gap between a small community-based aesthetic and that of a successful corporate ladder climber. This is a change that distances family and work lives, from the familiar maze of local streets where home, community and work are intertwined, to the large impersonal edifices only accessed by key cards and security passes. The engineered glitz and glamour is a world away from the cacophony of life that continues beneath the spaghetti of electrical and telecoms cables in Barra or the squawks of livestock in markets dotted around town.

Our Macau embraces imperfection, perhaps less mindfully, but as wabi-sabi embraces imperfection. The concept has been popularised by a crack in a teacup mended in gold. This gold enhances the cup’s beauty by bringing attention to the imperfection; the vessel always held value, too much to simply toss, even beyond what the eye could see in its original and complete form. The damage thus told suggests there is another story to tell.

Leonard Cohen introduced the concept to many in the western world with his lyrical provocations in the album, Anthem: “Ring the bells that still can ring, forget your perfect offering. There is a crack, a crack in everything, That’s how the light gets in.”

It is a tall order to suggest that this aesthetic or a similar embodiment of the less than perfect might bring benefits to our businesses but this is precisely what a global network of academics and management practitioners aim to explore at a conference in Tokyo later this year.

The aesthetic allows, for example, to see beyond eccentricities of individual teachers or specialists who may not conform to all expectations of ‘normal’ behaviour in their roles but who have expertise far beyond their colleagues. Rather than dismissing these people for their oddities, being able to manage their sub-optimal behaviours in order to harness their extra-ordinary talents and brilliance can lift companies to greater things. To insist on organisational conformity and the reduction of difference relegates an organisation to mediocrity.

Along with Macau’s process towards internationalisation, have we too become overly preoccupied in our professional, business and organisational lives with perfection, excellence, completeness and total control? Does this preoccupation violate human values that have been imbedded in our own community and narrow streets? Rather than ask what we as a community may have lost, the question now being asked is what creativity, harmony, wisdom, connectivity, humility, flexibility or other integral value can the corporate intruders upon our reclaimed lands learn from the messy imperfection and rustic beauty of our locale?

THE US SENATOR MAY RELEASE RUSSIA BUZZ INTERVIEWS OF TRUMP JR., OTHERS

The Senate Judiciary Committee is finishing its investigation into the meeting between Russians and President Donald Trump’s campaign in June 2016 – and the committee chairman wants to release transcripts from closed-door interviews with Trump’s son and others.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley says he wants to work out an agreement with Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California to release transcripts from interviews with Donald Trump Jr.

and others who attended the campaign meeting in Trump Tower. Feinstein is the committee’s top Democrat.

Grassley said he had hoped to interview Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law who also attended the meeting. But he says the chances of that interview were “shot” after Feinstein unilaterally released a transcript from another interview conducted as part of the Russia investigation. (More on p14)

Trump wants to tell Davos elite how great US is

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he’s going to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, “to tell the world how great America is and is doing.”

“Our economy is now booming and with all I am doing, will only get better...Our country is finally WINNING again!” the president adds in a tweet before departing the White House for the summit.

The annual gathering convening many of the world’s business and political elites in the Swiss Alps is a surprising destination for Trump, who ran for office promoting an “America First” agenda.

European leaders came to the defense of free trade and global cooperation, laying out a vision to counterbalance what many perceive as a rise in the more brash, nationalistic policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

“We believe that isolationism won’t take us forward,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the elite gathered in the snowy Alpine town. “We believe that we must cooperate, that protectionism is not the correct answer.”

Merkel stressed there is too much “national egoism” at the moment and that the World Economic Forum’s motto of

“creating a shared future in a fractured world” was “exactly right” for 2018.

As the US Air Force One was landing in Zurich, French President Emmanuel Macron was calling for acting in “a multilateral way” to better fight against extremism around the world - in an implicit reference to Trump’s foreign policy toward North Korea and Iran.

Macron said “the fight against criminal organizations shouldn’t be a justification leading to the fragmentation of our responses.”

In a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, he called for “acting in a multilateral way” to put pressure on countries such as North Korea and Iran “without leading to the fracturing of the region.”

He also said a multilateral political and diplomatic approach will help achieve peace, especially in the Middle East and in Africa’s Sahel region.

Meanwhile, David Cameron, the former British prime minister who called and lost the referendum on the country’s membership of the European Union, says Brexit is a “mistake, not a disaster.”

In unguarded comments to Indian steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal that was captured in-house

at the World Economic Forum, Cameron conceded that Brexit has turned out “less badly” than feared but that “it’s still going to be difficult.”

On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Greece’s prime minister Alexis Tsipras held talks with Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev for nearly three hours. It was the first meeting between leaders of the two countries in more than seven years.

Greece wants its neighbor to change or modify its name, arguing that it implies a claim to the territory and ancient heritage of its own province of Macedonia.

One global leader is skipping Davos this year.

The U.N. says Secretary-General Antonio Guterres decided not to go to the World Economic Forum’s annual global gabfest in the Swiss ski resort this year because “there was a scheduling issue.”

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters at U.N. headquarters yesterday that Guterres will be leaving today for the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

He said “often we get criticized for going to Davos, and we get criticized for not going to Davos.” **MDT/AP**

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Roadside | 35-55 Good |
| High Density Residential Area | 35-55 Good |
| Ambient | 40-60 Good |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

US-IRAN U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan came to the United Arab Emirates yesterday promising to take a harder line on Iran’s ballistic missile program and its regional proxies, and saying he was open to imposing new economic sanctions.



TURKEY’s president has vowed to expand Ankara’s operation against Kurdish forces in northern Syria beyond the enclave of Afrin and toward the town of Manbij.

EGYPT’s Foreign Ministry has expressed its “absolute rejection” of a statement by U.S. Sen. John McCain criticizing the country’s crackdown on human rights and democracy under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.



ITALY A commuter train derailed yesterday in northern Italy, killing at least three people, seriously injuring 10 and trapping others heading into Milan at the start of the work day, officials said.

FRANCE’s Interior Ministry says it has seen a sharp rise of the number of lawsuits filed for sexual crimes at the end of last year, in the wake of the scandal surrounding Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

JAMAICA A man accused of trying to sell more than 25 pounds of marijuana in New Jersey has been captured in Jamaica after more than 13 years on the run.



BRAZIL Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is charging ahead with his plans to run for Brazil’s presidency again, even after an appeals court unanimously upheld a graft conviction against him and added years to his prison sentence.



Protesters holding posters with Donald Trump’s portrait saying “You’re not welcome” in Davos, Switzerland