



SUBSIDY FOR DISASTER PREVENTION PROJECTS
The Science and Technology Development Fund is launching a subsidy program focused on disaster prevention

P2



AIR MACAU FLIGHT RETURNS TO GATE
The aircraft returned to the Macau airport after the captain of the flight reported having smelt smoke in the cabin

P3



SEARCH FOR MISSING PEOPLE CONTINUES AFTER QUAKE

P10 TAIWAN

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AD

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For appointment booking, please call the corresponding Health Centre

Wynn under scrutiny from Macau to Vegas

P4-5,9 REPORTS P20 OPINION



FOLLOWING FIA STANCE

GP organizers have no plans to replace 'grid girls'

P7 MDT REPORT

WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA Leader Kim Jong Un presided over an extravagant military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square yesterday, grabbing the spotlight on the eve of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea to thumb his nose at Washington. More on p13,19

CAMBODIA A court in Cambodia has allowed the release on bail of seven Westerners who were arrested last month for allegedly posting photos on social media of themselves engaged in sexually suggestive dancing.



THAILAND Nearly three dozen Thai democracy activists turned themselves in to police yesterday after being summoned in connection with a protest calling for the ruling military government to step down and relinquish power through elections. All were released the same day.

More on backpage



Extra
times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

IH received 9,600 public housing applications

The new round of applications for public housing ended on Wednesday and over the period the Housing Bureau (IH) received approximately 9,600 applications. About 5,200 applications for social housing are pending due to the lack of requested documents. The main missing documents include those related to income and net worth, documents proving the applicants' monthly income, and supporting documents (on net assets) issued by banks. The applicants should deliver all the necessary documents before March 2. If they fail to submit the missing documents by March 2, their applications will be excluded from the selection.

Gov't suggested subsidizing water heater changes

A member of the consultative council of the service community of the central district, Chan Kuai Son, has suggested that the government should subsidize expenses incurred by residents in changing their flueless gas water heaters to force type gas water heaters. Chan's suggestion was reported by Macao Daily News. Recently, a Vietnamese woman died of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning while she was taking a shower, and a mainland non-local worker was also CO poisoned while taking shower. Importing flueless gas water heaters is banned. All current existing flueless gas water heaters were installed before the ban was enforced.

Illegal smoking decreased 20.4pct in January

A 20.4 percent decrease in the number of illegal smokers was recorded, in January, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM). From the total number, 471 (92.9 percent) were male and 36 (7.1 percent) were female. Some 323 (63.7 percent) were tourists, 166 (32.7 percent) were Macau residents and 18 (3.6 percent) were non-resident workers. In 11 cases, police assistance was needed, and officers were called. This is nine cases less, in comparison to the same period last year. During the same time frame, the Health Bureau and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau conducted 71 tobacco-related inspections in casinos resulting in 146 offenses, of which 137 (93.8 percent) were male and nine (6.2 percent) were female. Around 131 (89.7 percent) were tourists and 15 (10.3 percent) were Macau residents.

FCDT to launch subsidy for disaster prevention projects

THE Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) is launching a subsidy program that is aiming to encourage schools to expand students' scientific knowledge, specifically in topics related to the prevention and reduction of disasters.

Aimed at improving students' emergency response capability and safety awareness in emergencies, both public and private schools are eligible to apply for the subsidy.

The subsidy covers expenditure for the required machinery and facilities necessary for the execution of the project, allowances for the pedagogic instructors, and other expenses.

With a total budget of MOP2 million, each project is entitled to an application of MOP60,000, at maximum.

According to FDCT, each proposal must include different measures including the program, time, schedule, methods used, budget and the



Frederico Ma

estimated number of participating students, as well as the expected results of the project.

The final report must be submitted within a period of 30 days after the completion of the project.

"We have a subsidized plan for schools and they can apply for funds [...] to educate the students and [teach them how to] prevent and reduce the disaster," said the chairman of FDCT, Frederico Ma Chi Ngai.

"By subsidizing schools [...] we hope that it could provide the schools with the opportunities to work on promoting emergency response and security awareness."

According to the bureau, the application period starts next week and will continue until the end of March.

Ma also noted that FDCT would hold further trainings and projects regarding disaster prevention in the future.

"Previously, we have invited some specialists to come and study the report and this is one of their suggestions. Of course we will do it for a long time in the future."

Ma was referring to the previous visit of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction, after which the "Work Report on the Evaluation of Typhoon Hato from the Expert Group of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction" was completed.

The report brought forward seven major suggestions and six of them refer to developing the culture of preparedness for disaster situations and the quality of the safety measures put in place. An emphasis was put on expanding school students' knowledge of disaster prevention and reduction.

FDCT invited two speakers to conduct a seminar on disaster prevention at the Public Servant Training Center yesterday. **LV**

Principal officials are targets in Coloane plot investigation

THE Public Prosecution Office (MP) has already initiated investigation procedures on the case of the stalled construction project at Alto de Coloane. This announcement was made by Prosecutor General Ip Son Sang while he attended the Liaison Office's Chinese New Year cocktail party at the Macau Tower yesterday.

"[We] will certainly carry out a relevant investigation if there are any signs of crimes [because] the Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) report mentioned that there has been a fraud regarding administrative violations of discipline," said Ip. He continued by saying that, regarding these

violations, "I believe the current administration authority has its own investigation policy and its own established procedures."

According to Ip, the prosecution authority opened the case as soon as it received the report from the CCAC.

As Ip pointed out, the case dates back to 1903, making it "a century-old issue" that "involves a considerable amount of work."

"If the land indeed belongs to the state, naturally the next step will consist of recovering the land back to the state's ownership," said Ip, adding "however, [we] have to wait for the investigation results."

When asked whether

MP will investigate the current principal officials from relevant departments, Ip replied, "we will investigate every person related to this case."

"Whether [these people] are currently under employment or not is not an aspect we will consider [regarding the investigation] because all citizens are equal before the law," Ip noted.

Currently, Ip does "not dare" to give an answer to the media regarding the case's time frame.

Both the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Araris do Rosário, and the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, attended yesterday's party at the Macau Tower.

Rosário, on the sideli-

ne of the cocktail event, did not comment on the case.

Chief Executive Chui told the media that the case would be handled "according to the law."

"I think the MP will investigate it exhaustively. If there is [proof] of violation of discipline or if there are illegal acts, then, of course, [the related parties] will be held accountable," Chui said.

According to Chui, he referred the CCAC report to the MP immediately after an analysis of relevant laws was completed.

Chui noted that due to the complex issues, this case will be delivered to the prosecution authority.

On Tuesday, the CCAC



Ip Son Sang

released their investigation report on the construction project at Alto de Coloane, listing many irregularities and claiming that the Macau government should recover the land plots that collectively cover more than 50,000 square meters.

Earlier, CCAC Commissioner André Cheong said that he "believes that there is existing" misconduct in the administration of the related government departments. **JZ**

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Air Macau flight returns after captain smells smoke in the cabin

Renato Marques

AN Air Macau Beijing-bound flight returned to the gate after it took off from Macau yesterday morning.

According to information given to the Times by the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM), the case involved Air Macau's flight NX006, which was scheduled to depart for Beijing at 7.10 a.m. yesterday. The same representative added that the aircraft "returned to Macau International Airport at 7.40 a.m., after the captain of the flight reported having smelt smoke in the cabin and declared an emergency."

According to AACM, "the operator subsequently performed a check on the aircraft [which] confirmed that [the smoke] was due to detergent that was applied to clean the aircraft engines the night before."



The aviation authority also mentioned that "the aircraft has [resumed] its normal operation from noon today [yesterday]."

Questioned by the Times, the AACM also noted that, in accordance with the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting System in force, the operator [Air Macau] would formally file the case report to AACM within 72 hours of

the incident.

There were reportedly 168 people on board of Air Macau's aircraft.

The airport also reportedly activated emergency services, where a team of fire fighters and equipment was dispatched to the landing point, although this was a precautionary method as the equipment was not used.

Credit card turnover in double digit growth

THE total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau continued to rise in the fourth quarter of 2017. According to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, both credit card turnover and total credit card repayments registered double-digit growth year-on-year.

On the back of prolonged growth of dual-currency and triple-currency cards, the total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau stood at 1,187,216 at end-December 2017, equivalent to an increase of 2.1 percent over a quarter earlier or 12.9 percent over a year earlier. The number of Pataca (MOP) cards, Hong Kong dollar (HKD) cards and Chinese Yuan (RMB) cards grew year-on-year by 12.6 percent (to 841,069), 6 percent (to 88,474) and 16.8 percent (to 257,673) respectively.

At end-December 2017, credit card limits granted by banks in Macau reached MOP28.5

billion, up 2.8 percent from end-September 2017 or 15.6 percent from end-December 2016. Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.7 billion, of which the rollover amount totaled MOP771.8 million, representing 29.1 percent of credit card receivables. The delinquency ratio, (the ratio of delinquent amounts overdue for more than three months to credit card receivables), dropped from 1.50 percent at end-September to 1.38 percent at end-December.

For the fourth quarter of 2017, credit card turnover totaled MOP5.6 billion, up 13.8 percent quarter-to-quarter or 13.2 percent year-on-year. The cash advance turnover was MOP236.8 million, occupying 4.2 percent of total credit card turnover. Credit card repayments, in which payments for interest and fees are included, amounted to MOP5.3 billion, up 3.1 percent from the previous quarter or 10 percent from the same period last year.

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ParisianMacao.com

Wynn case raises question: When do



Alexandra Olson, Marley Jay

WHEN should a company have to tell investors that a top executive is facing sexual misconduct allegations?

The question comes as Wynn Resorts is being rocked by the resignation of Steve Wynn, its chairman and CEO, following allegations that first surfaced in a newspaper report that sent the casino and resorts company's stock tumbling.

The issue is further complicated by the web of workplace and legal practices that companies have used to keep such situations under wraps.

The billionaire casino mogul's resignation Tuesday came less than two weeks after the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a USD7.5 million settlement.

Wynn now faces investigations

At least one shareholder, Norfolk County Retirement, accused the company's board of directors of breaching its fiduciary duties

by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly \$2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. Regulators in Macau, the Chinese enclave where the company operates two casinos, are also inquiring about the allegations.

Wynn has vehemently denied the report's allegations, denouncing in his resignation statement

Daniela Wei, Bruce Einhorn

BILLIONAIRE Steve Wynn's resignation as head of his gaming empire may alleviate some concerns over the future of Wynn Macau Ltd.'s license in the world's biggest gambling hub.

Wynn Macau's permit is up for renewal in 2022, and Macau regulators are preparing to outline the process for casino-license bidding later this year. Allegations that Wynn pressured employees for sex - which have drawn scrutiny from regulators in the U.S. and Macau - complicated Wynn Macau's status in the former Portuguese enclave that generates the bulk of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts Ltd.'s profits.

While Wynn's resignation isn't a guarantee that the casino operator will succeed in keeping its license, some industry watchers see it as a positive step. "It takes off the pressure as far as Macau is

Steve Wynn departure seen easing pressure on Macau scrutiny

concerned," said Pedro Cortes, a senior partner with the Macau law firm Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortes.

In the wake the sexual-misconduct allegations, the casino mogul on Tuesday stepped down as chairman of Wynn Macau and parent Wynn Resorts. Wynn, 76, has denied any wrongdoing. Matthew Maddox, the 42-year-old president of Wynn Resorts, was named chairman at both companies.

Here are the issues facing Wynn Macau as it navigates the scandal in the only Chinese territory that allows casinos:

SUITABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Macau's gaming law sti-



pulates that the reputation of the operator and its controlling shareholder is considered in the bidding process for licenses.

Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong and Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau director Paulo Martins Chan met last week with Linda Chen, Wynn Macau's chief operating officer, to discuss the allegations swirling around the casino magnate, the bureau said in a statement Wednesday.

In the meeting, the officials made it clear that major shareholders, directors and key employees must meet suitable qualifications. The regulator said in the statement it would "strictly enforce the

relevant stipulation" and will continue its review.

"Macau's regulator has emphasized it needs to make sure if the key persons of casino operators are suitable," said David Bonnet, partner at Delta State Holdings Ltd. Before Wynn's resignation, his presence on the board presented a "major risk" for shareholders as the casino operator's license faced expiration.

Wynn's resignation may not be enough to satisfy regulators in Macau, since the gaming law's suitability clause applies to major shareholders as well as executives and directors, according to Wang Changbin, director of the Gaming Teaching & Research Center at Macao

Polytechnic Institute.

"If Steve Wynn is considered not suitable, according to the law he should give up his shares," Wang said. Wynn remains in control of about 21 percent of parent Wynn Resorts, which owns 72 percent of the Macau company.

Wynn may be required to divest his shares in Wynn Resorts due to the jurisdictional review process, said

Bonnet. Regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts are also probing the allegations against Wynn.

WYNN BRANDING

While Wynn is stepping down from the company he founded, his name remains on the casino properties. The company could face more challenges on branding, because of Wynn's strong affiliation with it.

"They will have to relook at rebranding to something that sounds very similar to what it currently is," said Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX. "Win or Winners, or maybe even Wing Lei," he said, referring to the Chinese pronunciation for Wynn.

There are no plans to change the name of the casino company despite Wynn's departure, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Bloomberg Intelligence's Margaret Huang argues that the perception of the Wynn name for most people in Asia is tied to the upscale property and product, and less so to Steve Wynn as a figure. **Bloomberg**

COMPANY ANNOUNCES SALARY INCREASE

WYNN MACAU yesterday announced a salary increase for all eligible employees, excluding senior management, of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace. Some 98 percent of the company's current 13,100 workforce will be eligible for an increase between 2.5 percent and 7.2 percent, according to a statement issued by the casino operator. The salary increase will be effective

March 1, 2018. According to Wynn Macau, eligible employees with a monthly salary of MOP16,000 or less will receive an increase of MOP600. Meanwhile, eligible employees with a monthly salary above MOP16,000 will receive an average of a 2.5 percent salary increase. A one-month annual bonus was also recently given to employees in advance of the Chinese New Year holiday.

WYNN MACAU SHARES RALLY

WYNN MACAU shares climbed 8 percent in Hong Kong yesterday, resuming trading after being suspended the previous day. The stock had tumbled as much

as 17 percent after the sexual harassment allegations were reported last month. Wynn Resorts stock jumped 8.6 percent in U.S. trading Wednesday.

investors need to know?

an environment “in which a rush to judgment takes precedence over everything else, including the facts.” In accepting Wynn’s resignation, the company’s board of directors made clear it had done so “reluctantly.”

The scandal has cost shareholders money, leaving the company exposed to complaints that investors should have been informed about the allegations against a leader whose image and reputation were tightly tied to the brand. The company’s stock rallied Wednesday after Wynn resigned but has fallen almost 12 percent since the Journal’s Jan. 26 report.

Wynn remains the largest shareholder of his company and his signature is its logo. Additionally, in its annual filings with the Securities Exchange Commission, Wynn Resorts said the mogul’s “efforts, skills and reputation” are a large factor in the company’s ability to compete, and its business could suffer if he were to leave or lose his ability to focus on the company.

At least one shareholder raised those factors in a lawsuit filed Wednesday in a Nevada district court. The shareholder, Norfolk County Retirement, accused the company’s board of directors of breaching its fiduciary duties by “turning a blind eye and disregarding a sustained pattern of sexual harassment and egregious misconduct by Mr. Wynn.”

Joe Schmitt, an employment attorney with Minneapolis firm Nilan Johnson Lewis, said he would not be surprised if Wynn Resorts were to face more lawsuits from shareholders claiming the allegations against Wynn should have been disclosed.

“More importantly, in this case, the lawsuit is likely to result in a disclosure of the very facts that the company sought to keep confidential,” Schmitt said.

There is no law obligating companies to disclose internal allegations of sexual harassment or any settlements involvement employment-related complaints. The Securities and Exchange Commission, however, does have the power to require publicly traded companies to disclose litigation that could have a material effect



on their financial results.

But so far, Wynn Resorts hasn’t been linked to any payments to Wynn’s accusers. According to the Journal report, Wynn did not use company funds to pay the \$7.5 million settlement to a manicurist who alleged that he pressured her into having sex during an appointment. The newspaper reported that Wynn and his legal representatives set up a separate company to handle the settlement, which helped hide the payment.

However, under securities law, a company is obligated to disclose developments that might be important to investors considering buying its stock.

“It should have been disclosed,” said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at the Yale School of Management and an expert on corporate governance. “It’s not just his choice, his decision, but also his name and even his signature, so it’s hard to disentangle the value of his personal conduct and image with the brand value.”

A wave of sexual misconduct claims against prominent figures in entertainment, media and politics gained momentum last

fall in the aftermath of articles detailing movie industry mogul Harvey Weinstein’s decades of alleged rape and harassment. But Wynn is the first CEO and founder of a major publicly held company to come under scrutiny since the Weinstein allegations surfaced.

In some ways, corporations may be facing new territory when it comes to their legal obligations to disclose sexual misconduct allegations against their star executives. Sexual harassment allegations are proving more damaging to reputations than even just a few years ago because public perception over the gravity of such conduct has changed, Schmitt said.

“#MeToo has changed the landscape dramatically,” he said. “Things that were not a big deal 10 years ago are a big deal now.”

When it comes to corporate responsibility, companies have traditionally perceived a need to protect their reputations by keeping sexual misconduct allegations private. For that reason, “companies as a general matter, almost as a matter of course, structure non-disclosure agreements into their settlements

to prevent people from talking about it,” Schmitt said.

“From the company’s perspective, if it were shared, it would be damage the company’s brand and the bottom line,” he said.

There are some efforts in the works that would make it more difficult for companies to hide sexual misconduct allegations.

In December, Senators Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., introduced bipartisan legislation that would ban companies from forcing employees into arbitration proceedings if they bring sexual ha-

arrassment claims. Currently, it is common practice for companies to require employees to settle misconduct lawsuits through arbitration, which is handled by private companies instead of courts and typically leaves no public record.

“The company would rather be in arbitration because that is a much more favorable venue for them than a court. This is why arbitration agreements are popular with employers but also very controversial,” Schmitt said.

It’s hard to disentangle the value of his personal conduct and image with the brand value.

JEFFREY SONNENFELD
PROFESSOR AT THE YALE SCHOOL
OF MANAGEMENT

Wynn is a titan in Sin City and played a major role in the revitalization of the Las Vegas Strip in the 1990s. He built the Bellagio, Treasure Island and Mirage before he sold his Mirage Resorts company in 2000. Two years later, he founded Wynn Resorts, which now operates two luxurious casino-resorts in the city and is in the process of building a lake and hotel development called Paradise Park on the site of a former golf course.

He resigned as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee a day after the allegations were published. **AP**

DICJ CONDUCTS ‘BACKGROUND CHECK’

THE DIRECTOR of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Paulo Martins Chan, said yesterday that “a background check of the persons who were recently appointed [to lead Wynn Macau]” is currently being done. Regarding the investigations of Steve Wynn’s alleged improper behavior, Chan said that no complaints were received in Macau, so the U.S. authorities

are in a better position to conduct the probe at this moment. “We sent a request to the Nevada Gaming Control Board to inform us if there is any development. I think they are investigating and they have better conditions to have access to people and evidence than we have here. We are waiting for their notice,” the DICJ head said, as quoted by Radio Macau.

2002 report had high expectations for Wynn diversifying Macau

THE South China Morning Post (SCMP) claims to have obtained access to an official report, from 2002, describing special terms in the agreement between Wynn Resorts and the Macau SAR government when the former’s gaming license was granted during the liberalization period.

According to the newspaper, the terms have come under renewed scrutiny in recent weeks.

Citing an unidentified “gaming industry source”, the SCMP says that Macau gaming authorities are reviewing whether Wynn has engaged in sufficient diversification projects to meet the expectations outlined in

the 2002 report.

The impetus for the review was a slew of sexual harassment allegations against Steve Wynn that led him to resign from numerous positions at Wynn Resorts and its local subsidiary, Wynn Macau, on Tuesday.

Wynn Macau has remained focused on the VIP segment of Macau’s

gaming sector, perhaps more so than any of the other five operators.

However, under the terms of the 2002 concession agreement, Wynn was supposed to contribute to the shift from a gaming-only economy to a more general tourism destination for mass market tourists.

According to the SCMP,

the 2002 report states that one of the reasons Wynn Resorts was granted the concession license over other contenders was “because its controlling shareholder Stephen A. Wynn has made remarkable achievements, one of which is that he managed to transform Las Vegas from a gambling destination into

a family travel destination.”

If the anonymous source cited by the SCMP is correct, the renewed scrutiny of the Wynn concession could put the operator at a disadvantage when it comes to the license renewal negotiations that are due to be finalized in or before 2022.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

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GP organizers have no plans to replace 'grid girls' following FIA stance

Lynzy Valles

FORMULA One organizers announced that "grid kids" will be used this season, replacing the practice of using female promotional models on the starting grid of the races. What will happen later this year at the Macau Grand Prix, an event sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), where the presence of barely dressed female models at the starting grid and the paddock has been prominent, remains unknown.

In a joint statement issued by Formula 1 and FIA, it is mentioned that the "grid kids" will replace the female models in a bid to make the pre-race ceremony "more relevant and interesting" particularly to the younger audience.

The "grid kids" scheme will come into effect at the F1 season's opening race in Melbourne next month, and would apply to support events at Grand Prix and F1 – an initiative that is part of Liberty Media's revamp of world championship.

The kids will be chosen by their motorsport clubs on merit, or by lottery, and will already be competing in karting or junior formulae.

The lucky few will then be able to accompany and stand alongside the world's 20 best competitive drivers on the grid as they prepare for the race, according to the statement cited on the Formula 1 website.

FIA president Jean Todt said, "Formula 1 is the pinnacle of motor sport and the dream of every young racer competing in the junior series that makes up the FIA's single-seater pyramid, from karting all the way to F1."

"For the wider FIA, this is an excellent initiative that provides additional support to our member National Sporting Authorities (ASNs), who in their efforts want to grow motorsport worldwide through a unique reward provided to youngsters participating in their national series."



Meanwhile, F1 commercial chief Sean Bratches noted that using grid girls no longer fits in with the new brand image that the group wants for grand prix racing.

At the moment, we do not have any plans to cancel or replace the use of 'grid girls'.

SPORTS BUREAU

"While the practice of employing grid girls has been a staple of Formula 1 Grands Prix for decades, we feel this custom does not resonate with our brand values and clearly is at odds with modern day societal norms," he said.

"We don't believe the practice is appropriate or relevant to Formula 1 and its fans, old and new, across the world."

Grid girls have been employed

in motorsports for decades to conduct promotions. Macau is no exception. But what will happen now that the FIA has taken a new stance on the matter?

In a reply to the Times, the Sports Bureau (ID) said that the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee is aware of the changes in terms of arrangements yet revealed that it has no plans to adopt the new measure.

"At the moment, we do not have any plans to cancel or replace the use of 'grid girls' and we are focused on working on the overall arrangements and organization of this year's event," it said.

"We will make an announcement in due course on the details of this year's Macau Grand Prix," the bureau added.

The president of the Guia Circuit for Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM), José Luis Estorninho, described it as an interesting move as FIA is giving the race a different image compared to how it was portrayed in the past.

Yet, Estorninho remarked that the move is not relevant to the race itself, noting that the promotion of

the season will not affect the race.

"This change, whether they're going to do it in Macau or not, it's not going to affect the race. It's more of a promotion of the organization with a different point of view," he told the Times.

It's not going to affect the race, maybe just the ambience or the atmosphere.

JOSÉ LUIS ESTORNINHO

"As a fan of the race, it's not so relevant, whether they're going to have grid kids or grid girls, it's not going to affect the race, maybe just the ambience or the atmosphere."

He also noted that the move could also be applied to Macau since the region's annual Grand Prix is subject to FIA rules.

"What is relevant is the race itself and the image that the organi-

zers want to promote. In this case, it's going to be very interesting. I can see that this idea can be successful also."

Following the joint announcement there has been some backlash; specifically, former grid models are criticizing the move.

Although there have been suggestions that removing the glamour of paddock girls and grid girls would help change the perception of women in sport, some say that there is no correlation between the two.

Veteran Niki Lauda, an Austrian former Formula One driver and a three-time F1 World Drivers' Champion, voiced his opinion that the move does not favor the women who have worked as grid girls.

"Grid girls have always belonged in F1, and they should continue to belong in F1," he said, as cited in several reports.

"Women are stepping up [into senior roles], and they are doing it very well – it is moving in the right direction. But one does not exclude the other. I don't want to hold women back – I want to encourage them," he added.

HEALTH

World Cancer Day marked in Macau

THE Cancer Resource Center of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ) has marked World Cancer Day (February 4) with a series of activities. The activities, namely visits and physical exercises, were aimed at patients and their families in order to

promote their well-being, the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement. The range of activities also included an exhibition on "World Cancer Day" located at the hospital lobby, which was inaugurated on February 4 and will run until April 30. The purpose of this exhibition is

to raise awareness among citizens about cancer issues, such as support for cancer patients and preventive measures.

The center has been running since 2011 and has the commitment of the government to provide support, assistance and information to cancer

patients and their families to help them cope with the disease. The Center is staffed with a team of professionals who provide patients and families with comprehensive and ongoing care in the field of cancer prevention.

"World Cancer Day" is marked annually by

the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) with the aim of drawing society's attention to cancer prevention. For the period between 2016 and 2018, the UICC has adopted the motto "We can" as a way of encouraging the adoption of cancer prevention prac-

tices, changing prejudices and trying to create a healthy environment around its patients. They are working to achieve these aims through promoting a healthy lifestyle, knowing that the occurrence and prevention of cancer is in many circumstances related to daily living habits, such as participation in sports and general fitness, food choices, and smoking habits.

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SAM LEE

Most of us have jobs or businesses that we work that we work on during the day and preoccupy most of our productive attention. We like to believe that if we do our best at our jobs and work hard, then money will follow. We expect the work that we do to provide us not only with a sense of fulfilment, but also an income stream in the form of salaries or profits that we can depend on.

But this financial strategy merits a thorough review. If you only have one stream of income (salary or profits), you are at a very precarious position if that job disappears or the business stops producing money for you.

Also, you may get stuck in a vicious cycle of never having enough money because as you get promoted and make more money or your business

grows, your expenses and lifestyle goes up at a similar rate - leaving you with little money to speak for in the end.

The way out of this situation is to recognise that we each have at least two jobs. One as a professional or businessperson, and a second one as an investor. Your primary objective as an investor is to create multiple streams of passive income for you and your family so even if there are complications with your job or business you can ride it over smoothly. Or perhaps you don't want to work at all for a while, and your investments will support you financially while you relax!

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- Experience
- Excess cash

The E's are listed in order of importance. Yes that's right, having excess cash is the least important! Most people don't even pay any attention to their job as an investor because they don't have any excess cash. But if you start with Education instead, you'll find creative ways around this issue and realise that you can always find the money if you have the right investment opportunity.

I've recently started taking my job as an investor more seriously, and have been committing more and more time towards the first E - Education. If I can share a tip with you that I had to learn the hard way: learn the difference between investing and speculating early, and don't buy bitcoin just because everyone else is doing it!

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PROFILE

The new king of Vegas isn't nearly as flashy as his old boss

EVEN in a city known for glitz and glamour, Steve Wynn stood out. He leaves the gambling empire he built in the hands of a man who spends his days out of the spotlight.

As the new chief executive officer of Wynn Resorts Ltd., Matt Maddox will face some tough challenges right out of the gate. Top among them is how to separate Wynn the brand from Wynn the man. Before announcing his exit as CEO on Tuesday, Steve Wynn was fighting accusations of sexual harassment that had triggered probes from Nevada to Macau and threatened to derail licenses for new projects.

Maddox, a small-town native and former banker, won't have much time before he must decide if the Wynn formula can keep working or - as some analysts speculate - whether to entertain buyout offers.

Here are five things investors may not know about the casino industry's newest titan:



Matt Maddox

HE'S NO SIN CITY NATIVE

Maddox, 42, has been at Wynn since its inception 16 years ago. He's a familiar face to investors, having previously served as chief financial officer and as president for the past four years. Maddox was already on a short list of potential internal successors to Steve Wynn that also included Linda Chen, chief operating officer of Wynn Macau, and Ian Coughlan, president of Wynn Macau.

Maddox is "very competent and has essentially been running day-to-day operations for some time," says Adam Trivison, an analyst with G.research Inc.

Prior to Wynn, Maddox worked for Caesars Entertainment Corp. in corporate finance.

Maddox grew up far from Sin City. His family is from Mena, Arkansas, a town of about 5,600 people on the border with

Oklahoma. He studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. His father is a lawyer who runs a practice in Mena.

HE'S A FORMER BANKER

Before joining the casino industry, Maddox worked as an investment banker brokering deals at Bank of America Securities. His experience was an asset as he helped secure financing for Wynn's projects in Las Vegas and its liftoff in Macau, said David Bonnet, partner at Delta State Holdings Ltd. and former casino executive in Macau.

HE WAS A MACAU VISIONARY

Maddox is credited with building up the company's Macau operations, the only China-controlled region that allows

gambling. Macau now accounts for more than three-quarters of Wynn's earnings.

"Macau was like the Wild West," said Bonnet. "No one knew how big the market would be. Matt definitely was instrumental to guide the strategy of Wynn Macau in a very dynamic environment back then. He would be a natural fit to make sure that they can execute their strategic initiatives."

While Wynn has two properties each in Macau and its home-town of Las Vegas, gamblers in the Asian gambling enclave tend to spend a lot more at the VIP tables than their American counterparts, making the region a top priority for operators.

"Maddox's been there from the beginning," Bonnet said. "He'll have a good understanding of the strategic direction of the company."

HE MAKES A LOT LESS THAN STEVE WYNN

Maddox is entitled to \$4.5 million in annual target compensation, consisting of \$1.5 million in salary and a \$3 million long-term award linked to performance. That's far below his previous boss, who had a target pay of \$27.5 million. Maddox also got restricted stock worth \$19.2 million last year after signing a new employment contract that runs through 2019.

HIS JOB WON'T BE EASY

Right away, Maddox will have to navigate a few key issues, says G.research's Trivison. To name a few: deciding the extent of future development in Las Vegas; maintaining Steve Wynn's operating discipline; maintaining morale among employees; and potentially fielding M&A offers from interested parties, Trivison said.

One of the first potential hurdles Maddox will face is whether regulatory and licensing agencies will hold up the approval process on some of Wynn's projects.

Regulators in both Massachusetts and Nevada have been conducting reviews of the sexual harassment allegations against Steve Wynn, which he denies. Macau's government also has talked with Wynn management to make sure major shareholders, directors and key employees meet suitable qualifications, gaming officials said last month.

Easing their concerns is monumental as Maddox takes the company forward. A project in Boston; a casino and hotel in Everett, Massachusetts; new lodging in Las Vegas; and an expansion in Macau are all on the line. **Bloomberg**

Autonomous coast-to-coast Tesla trip past deadline, still coming



Dana Hull

TESLA Inc. hasn't thrown its plan to demonstrate an autonomous cross-country drive out the window - it's just tapped the brakes.

Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk said a self-driving Tesla will attempt the trip from Los Angeles to New York in the next three to six months after missing the deadline he set for late 2017. The autonomous ca-

pability will then become available to customers, he said.

"We could have done the coast-to-coast drive but it would have required too much specialized code to effectively game it," Musk said on the company's fourth-quarter earnings call Wednesday. Although the electric-car maker would have been able to pull it off, the solution would have been "somewhat brittle in that

it would work for one particular route but not be a general solution."

Tesla's Autopilot program has been going through a period of upheaval, with three division leaders in roughly a year. Amid the talent churn and a disclosure that Tesla didn't test any autonomous cars on California's public roads last year, investors have been wondering if the company - which doesn't use lidar - has the hardware necessary to deliver on its promises.

Musk tried to put the issue to bed Wednesday, reiterating his long-held belief that lidar - which uses laser beams to sense surroundings - is inferior

to Tesla's system of cameras, radars and ultrasonic sensors. Lidar is the tool of choice for most competitors in the self-driving race, including Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo and General Motors Co.'s Cruise Automation.

"They're going to have a whole bunch of expensive equipment, most of which makes the car expensive, ugly and unnecessary. And I think they will find themselves at a competitive disadvantage," he said, calling lidar "a crutch" that rivals will have a hard time giving up.

"Perhaps I'm wrong, in which case I'll look like a fool," he said. "But I am quite certain I'm not." **Bloomberg**

TAIWAN

Rescuers comb quake rubble for remaining seven missing

Taijing Wu, Hualien

RESCUERS in Taiwan continued their search for survivors in a dangerously tilted building yesterday, more than a day after it was damaged in an earthquake that shook the island's east coast and killed at least 10 people.

The Yunmen Tsuiti building was one of several damaged by late Tuesday's magnitude 6.4 quake. At least four mid-sized buildings in worst-hit Hualien county leaned at sharp angles, their lowest floors crushed into mangled heaps of concrete, glass, iron and other debris. Firefighters climbed ladders hoisted against windows to reach people inside apartments.

Residents at temporary shelters set up in Hualien City described the terror of the powerful quake and their immediate worry for loved ones. Chen Chu-rong, 52, said she wasn't home when the quake toppled the walls of her building, but her son was and he



had to climb down from their second floor unit.

"That fear is still there," she said. "I'm still afraid because things kept on falling down."

Taiwan's National Fire Agency said that 10 people were killed, 272 injured and seven remained unaccounted for. According to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV,

at least three of the dead were tourists from the mainland.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said nine Japanese were among the injured. Six mainland Chinese were also injured, the Chinese Communist Party-run People's Daily reported.

President Tsai Ing-wen reassured the public every effort would

be made to rescue survivors. On her Facebook page, Tsai said she "ordered search and rescue workers not to give up on any opportunity to save people, while keeping their own safety in mind."

At the Yunmen Tsuiti building, clothes and other personal items were visible on the balconies as

the rescue work continued.

Due to the structure's slant, Taiwanese media said, rescuers struggled with dizziness and vomiting during search efforts. The body of a woman identified as a cleaning person was recovered from Yunmen Tsuiti, Chinese broadcaster CCTV reported Thursday. She had been working for one of the families that lived in the building.

The shifting of the buildings was likely caused by soil liquefaction, when the ground loses its solidity under stress such as the shaking of an earthquake. The quake also buckled roads and disrupted electricity and water supplies to thousands of households.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said his country was dispatching a rescue team to help in the search effort.

Taiwan has frequent earthquakes due to its position along the "Ring of Fire," the seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. A quake two years ago collapsed an apartment complex in southern Taiwan, killing 115 people. Five people involved in the construction of the complex were found guilty of negligence and given prison sentences.

A magnitude 7.6 quake in central Taiwan killed more than 2,300 people in 1999. **AP**

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Beijing dismisses accusations from former Maldives leader

Mohamed Sharuhaan & Christopher Bodeen

CHINA dismissed accusations from the former leader of the Maldives that it is attempting to effectively buy up the Indian Ocean island state, while the Maldives government said yesterday it is sending envoys to three countries to explain its ongoing political crisis.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Chinese economic assistance came without political conditions and called recent remarks by exiled former President Mohamed Nasheed "totally groundless."

"China's aid to the Maldives has no political strings attached and does not harm the Maldives' sovereignty and independence at all, still less jeopardize security in the Indian Ocean," Geng said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Nasheed is wrapped up in the political turmoil that has swept the archipelago nation since the Supreme Court ordered his release in absentia as well as the release of other several jailed opposition leaders. Current President Yameen Abdul Gayoom rejected the order and declared a state of emergency this week in which two of the justices were arrested.



Maldives policemen clear the area of the supreme court after the government declared a 15-day state of emergency in Male this week

Yameen has cracked down on civil liberties since coming to power in 2013, imprisoning or forcing into exile nearly every political leader who opposes him.

Nasheed told reporters late last month in the neighboring country of Sri Lanka that Yameen has opened the doors to Chinese investment without regard for procedure or transparency.

China, Nasheed said, "is busy buying up the Maldives," adding that this year's presidential election could be the last chance to extricate the Maldives from increasing Chinese influence.

During a visit by Yameen to Beijing in December, the two countries signed a trade agreement that eliminates most tariffs on Maldivian exports, primarily fish,

and opens the Maldives to Chinese goods and services, including in finance, health care and tourism.

The Maldives is an archipelago of more than 1,000 islands with fewer than 400,000 citizens, more than one-third of them living in the crowded capital city, Male. Tourism now dominates the economy, with wealthy foreigners flown to hyper-expensive resort islands.

China is already the Maldives' primary source of tourists and is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in an airport expansion, housing development and other projects.

China considers the Maldives a key cog in its "One Belt One Road" project along ancient trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Central Asia. The initiative

is Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature project and envisages building ports, railways and roads to expand trade in a vast arc of countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

China's massive lending to poor nations for such projects has raised concerns about their ability to repay, as well as fueling fears in rival India that Beijing is methodically working to shrink New Delhi's influence in the Indian Ocean.

Already, Beijing has taken over ports it developed in Sri Lanka and Pakistan on long-term leases.

Highlighting China's importance to Yameen, it was among the three "friendly nations" to which the Maldives said it was sending envoys to explain the current political situation. The others are Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Yameen's government has close ties with all three nations.

Nasheed, meanwhile, sought aid from neighboring India earlier this week, asking it to intervene in the crisis that erupted on Feb. 1 with the Supreme Court ruling.

India has said it's monitoring the situation in the Maldives and has expressed concern about the state of emergency but little more.

Yesterday, Maldives ambassador to India Ahmed Mohamed tweeted that his government was also eager to send an envoy to New Delhi, but the dates proposed for the

visit were "not suitable" for Indian officials.

"We await the convenience" of the government of India, he added.

On Monday, Yameen declared a 15-day state of emergency, giving his government sweeping powers, including to make arrests, search and seize property, and restrict freedom of assembly.

Hours after the state of emergency was declared, security forces in riot gear and blue camouflage uniforms stormed the Supreme Court building to arrest Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed and Justice Ali Hameed.

Saeed's lawyer said his client was forcefully dragged on the floor from his chambers by security personnel. Lawyer Hisaan Husain said he was gravely concerned by the government's reaction to the court ruling, saying it is a "blatant violation and completely erodes the doctrine of separation of powers."

He called for his client's immediate release.

The acting national police chief, Abdulla Nawaz, said earlier this week that police had proof of bribes and found "piles of cash under the bed" of an arrested judicial official who is accused of influencing the court justices.

Since the detentions, the three Supreme Court justices who were not arrested have annulled the court's order to free the imprisoned opposition politicians.

The United Nations, India and other foreign governments have expressed concern over the state of emergency and have urged Yameen to respect the earlier court order. **AP**

China, African Union deny report bloc's building was bugged

CHINESE and African officials yesterday denounced a report alleging Chinese construction workers bugged the African Union headquarters, suggesting it was a ploy to

destabilize relations. African Union chairman Moussa Faki told reporters in Beijing he didn't believe China would spy on the bloc's headquarters in Addis Ababa. The

allegations are "all lies," Faki said after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. "No maneuvers could distract and divert us from our mission" of

strengthening relations with China, said Faki, who, flanked by Wang, announced the African Union would open a new office in Beijing later this year.

The office is to receive Chinese government support, but it wasn't clear who would fund its operations. Wang noted that the bugging allegation surfaced in Western media and said "attempts to divide China and Africa will not succeed."

French newspaper Le Monde reported last month that China bugged

the USD200 million facility it funded and built in Ethiopia's capital in 2012. The report cited unnamed African Union officials.

China has poured investments into Africa in the past decade, including a commitment to offer \$60 billion in loans and export credits made by President Xi Jinping in late 2015. **AP**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

AFGHANISTAN

Official says Chinese, Uzbek IS militants killed in raid

A joint U.S. and Afghan air raid this week targeting the Islamic State group in Afghanistan killed 25 militants, including a Chinese and three Uzbek militants, a provincial police chief said yesterday.

AP PHOTO



The airstrikes, which took place in northern Jowzjan province, were part of a joint operation with the U.S.-led coalition, said the police chief, Faqir Mohammad Jowzjani.

Jowzjani said IS has become prominent in Darzab district, where the airstrikes took place, and also in Kush Tepa district of Jowzjan province.

IS emerged in Afghanistan in 2014, mostly from the ranks of disgruntled Taliban, and in the initial years restricted its activi-

ties to the country's east, mostly Nangarhar province.

However, seeking to expand their footprint, the IS affiliate in Afghanistan, which goes under the name of Khorasan province, stepped up attacks and claimed responsibility for several horrific suicide bombings that targeted Shiite Muslim places of worship in the

capital, Kabul, and in western Herat province. The radical Sunni militant group reviles Shiites as heretics.

Analysts who track IS say there are now as many as 5,000 IS fighters in northern Afghanistan, most of them Uzbek nationals, formerly members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan militant group.

Jowzjani, the provincial police chief, said several Uzbek members of IS have settled in the north of Afghanistan with their families. The region is ethnically dominated by Afghan Tajiks and Uzbeks, with enclaves of ethnic Pashtuns and also and ethnic Hazaras. The Pashtuns live mostly in the country's east and south and the Hazaras dominate swaths of central Afghanistan.

Arkady Dubnov, a Moscow-based expert on Central Asian militants, has told The Associated Press that the son of Tahir Yuldashev, the powerful Uzbek leader of the outlawed Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan who was killed in a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan in 2009, was leading efforts to help expand IS influence in Afghanistan, particularly in the north of the country.

Extremists from the Turkic Muslim Uighur ethnic group native to northwestern China's province of Xinjiang have also been operating in Afghanistan and in the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan. **AP**

ICC to open probes in Philippines, Venezuela

THE prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced yesterday that she is opening preliminary probes into alleged crimes by police and security forces in the Philippines and Venezuela.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said that the probe on Venezuela will look at allegations that since April 2017 government forces "frequently used excessive force to disperse and put down demonstrations," and abused some opposition members in detention.

The Philippines probe will focus on allegations since July 2016 that thousands of people have been killed in the government's war on drugs.

"While some of such killings have reportedly occurred in the context of clashes between or within gangs, it is alleged that

many of the reported incidents involved extra-judicial killings in the course of police anti-drug operations," Bensouda said.

A Filipino lawyer last year presented documents to the court which he said contained evidence of the alleged involvement of President Rodrigo Duterte in the killings of suspected drug dealers and other crime suspects.

"It is a case for crimes against humanity against President Rodrigo Duterte and senior officials in his government," lawyer Jude Sabio told The Associated Press outside the court after presenting to prosecutors a 77-page file outlining the allegations.

Bensouda said in 2016 she was deeply concerned about the reports of the killings, and that statements by "high officials" in the Philippines "seem to condone such killings." **AP**

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Eric Talmadge, Pyeongchang

NORTH KOREA

With military parade, Kim thumbs nose at US

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over an extravagant military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square on yesterday, grabbing the spotlight on the eve of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea to thumb his nose at Washington while making a point of showing off his new-found restraint toward Seoul.

The parade itself had been anticipated for weeks.

North Korea announced last month that it would hold a big event to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of its military.

But instead of broadcasting the morning event live, North Korean television aired an edited version later in the day, giving it a somewhat lower profile than expected. The parade was also shorter and featured fewer missiles than the previous one, which was held in April last year and unveiled five new kinds of missiles — surprising analysts and generating headlines worldwide.

This time, Kim fine-tuned his more fiery rhetoric toward Washington.

Addressing tens of thousands of troops and civilians assembled on the square below him, Kim said the parade marks



In this image made from video by North Korea's KRT, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (left) attends a military parade in Pyongyang yesterday

North Korea's emergence as a "global military power" despite facing the "worst sanctions." He called for his military to maintain a high level of combat readiness against the

United States and its followers to keep them from infringing upon "the republic's sacred dignity and autonomy even by 0.001 millimeters."

He made no mention of the

Olympics in the parts of his speech that were broadcast. It was unclear whether the North showed the entirety of his speech during the recorded coverage of the parade.

The tone was in line with Kim's bigger strategy of late.

He has been making a major diplomatic push toward South Korea since he announced a last-minute proposal to send a delegation of athletes, officials and entertainers to the Pyeongchang games during his annual New Year's address.

The moves have been generally welcomed in the South.

Even as the missiles were rolling by his viewing stand, South Korean officials announced that Kim's younger sister, due to attend Friday's opening ceremony, will have a luncheon with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. That in itself is a major breakthrough for the Koreans. Kim Yo Jong is one of Kim Jong Un's closest confidants and she will be the first member of the Kim family to visit the South.

Overshadowing most of the unease over the parade, South Korean television networks have focused on groups of North Korean musicians practicing for congratulatory concerts during the games, and a welcoming ceremony for the North's competitors at the athletes' village. With cameras filming it all, young South Korean men did a breakdance and an all-female North Korean band played songs recognizable on either side of the Demilitarized Zone. AP

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MARS ON EARTH

Simulation in remote desert of Oman

Samuel McNeil, Dhofar Desert

TWO scientists in spacesuits, stark white against the auburn terrain of desolate plains and dunes, test a geo-radar built to map Mars by dragging the flat box across the rocky sand.

When the geo-radar stops working, the two walk back to their all-terrain vehicles and radio colleagues at their nearby base camp for guidance. They can't turn to their mission command, far off in the Alps, because communications from there are delayed 10 minutes.

But this isn't the Red Planet — it's the Arabian Peninsula.

The desolate desert in southern Oman, near the borders of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, resembles Mars so much that more than 200 scientists from 25 nations chose it as their location for the next four weeks, to field-test technology for a manned mission to Mars.

Public and private ventures are racing toward Mars — both former President Barack Obama and SpaceX founder Elon Musk declared humans would walk on the Red Planet in a few decades.

New challengers like China are joining the United States and Russia in space with an ambitious, if vague, Mars program. Aerospace corporations like BlueOrigin have published schematics of future bases, ships and suits.



Two scientists test space suits, each weighing about 50 kg, and a geo-radar for use in a future Mars mission in the Dhofar desert of southern Oman

The successful launch of SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket this week “puts us in a completely different realm of what we can put into deep space, what we can send to Mars,” said analog astro-

naut Kartik Kumar.

The next step to Mars, he says, is to tackle non-engineering problems like medical emergency responses and isolation.

“These are things I think can't

be underestimated,” Kumar said.

While cosmonauts and astronauts are learning valuable space-faring skills on the International Space Station — and the U.S. is using virtual reality to train

scientists — the majority of work to prepare for interplanetary expeditions is being done on Earth.

And where best to field-test equipment and people for the journey to Mars but on some of the planet's most forbidding spots?

Seen from space, the Dhofar Desert is a flat, brown expanse. Few animals or plants survive in the desert expanses of the Arabian Peninsula, where temperatures can top 125 degrees Fahrenheit, or 51 degrees Celsius.

On the eastern edge of a seemingly endless dune is the Oman Mars Base: a giant 2.4-ton inflated habitat surrounded by shipping containers turned into labs and crew quarters.

There are no airlocks.

The desert's surface resembles Mars so much, it's hard to tell the difference, Kumar said, his spacesuit caked in dust. “But it goes deeper than that: the types of geomorphology, all the structures, the salt domes, the riverbeds, the wadis, it parallels a lot of what we see on Mars.”

The Omani government offered to host the Austrian Space Forum's next Mars simulation during a meeting of the United Nation's Committee On the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Gernot Groemer, commander of the Oman Mars simulation and a veteran of 11 science missions on Earth, said the forum quickly accepted. **AP**

USA

George W. Bush says Russia meddled in 2016 election

FORMER President George W. Bush said yesterday that “there's pretty clear evidence that the Russians meddled” in the 2016 American presidential election, forcefully rebutting fellow Republican Donald Trump's denials of Moscow trying to affect the vote.

While never mentioning President Trump by name, Bush appeared to be pushing back on Trump's attempts to have warmer relations with Russia, as well as his comments on immigration.

The White House did not immediately comment on Bush's remarks.

“There's pretty clear evidence that the Russians meddled,” Bush said at a talk in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. “Whether they affected the outcome is another question.”

Bush also said that “it's problematic that a foreign nation is involved in our election system. Our democracy is only as good as people trust the results.”

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded Russia meddled in the 2016 election to help Trump win. Numerous investigations are under way to determine whether Trump's campaign aided the Kremlin in its efforts.

Trump has repeatedly denied any “collusion” with Russia.

Speaking of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Bush called him “zero-sum.”

“He's got a chip on his shoulder,” Bush said of Putin. “The reason he does is because of the demise of the Soviet Union troubles him. Therefore, much of his moves [are] to regain Soviet hegemony.”



Bush also stressed the need to back NATO and other alliances the U.S. has with the world.

Putin “is pushing, constantly pushing, probing weaknesses,” the former president said. “That's why NATO is very important.”

Bush also criticized Trump's decision to scrap

a program implemented by former President Barack Obama's administration that allows young immigrants living in the U.S. illegally who were brought here as children to remain in America.

“America's their home,” the 43rd American president said. “They've got to get it fixed.”

Bush acknowledged that he tried to overhaul America's “broken” immigration system, but failed.

“Our democracy is only as good as people trust the results.**”**

GEORGE W. BUSH

“There are people willing to do jobs that Americans won't do,” he said. “Americans don't want to pick cotton at 105 degrees [Fahrenheit], but there are people who want put food on their family's tables and are willing to do that. We ought to say thank you and welcome them.”

Bush in 2008 became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the UAE. He spoke yesterday at a summit in Abu Dhabi put on by the Milken Institute, an economic think tank based in California.

He made his comments while in a conversation with Michael Milken, known as the king of high-risk “junk” bonds in the 1980s. Milken pleaded guilty to securities-law violations in 1990 and served 22 months in prison. He agreed in a settlement with the SEC to a lifetime ban from the securities industry and paid a USD200 million fine.

Milken, who is a prostate cancer survivor, and his family have given hundreds of millions of dollars away in recent decades. Forbes magazine estimates Milken, 71, is now worth some \$3.6 billion. **AP**

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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
21:10	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:35	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Portuguese Serie (Resume)
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Portuguese Around the World - Sr. 2
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
15:55	Pop Lusa Sr 2
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:25	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	Europe League Magazine
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

Offbeat

COUPLE INUNDATED WITH MYSTERY PACKAGES WANTS IT TO STOP

A Massachusetts couple says it was fun when they started receiving free mystery packages from Amazon they hadn't ordered.

Now they want it to stop.

Mike and Kelly Gullivan, of Acton, tell The Boston Globe the first package arrived in October. They have continued to receive one or two a week with mostly cheap stuff like plastic fans and phone chargers.

The Gullivans say Amazon told them the merchandise was paid with a gift card with no sender's name.

Two experts say the Gullivans are likely being used to manipulate Amazon buyer reviews. The anonymous sender is likely writing glowing reviews of their own product.

An Amazon spokeswoman said the Seattle-based company is investigating inquiries from consumers who have received unsolicited packages and will ban vendors who abuse the reviews system.

cinema



CINETEATRO

8 FEB - 12 FEB



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



THE POST

ROOM 2
02:30, 04:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Sarah Paulson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

CODE GEASS LELOUCH OF THE REBELLION - EPISODE 1

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Goro Taniguchi

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 135 min



FATE/STAY NIGHT: HEAVEN'S FEEL - I. PRESAGE FLOWER

ROOM 3

5:00, 7:15pm

Director: Tomonori Sudô

Starring: Ayako Kawasumi, Jôji Nakata, Noriaki Sugiyama

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 120 min

this day in history



1950 McCARTHY LAUNCHES ANTI-RED CRUSADE

United States Senator Joe McCarthy has accused more than 200 staff in the State Department of being members of the Communist Party.

He made the startling allegation in a public speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, saying the State Department was infested with communists and brandished a sheet of paper which purportedly contained the traitors' names.

Senator McCarthy told the Ohio county women's Republican Club that Secretary of State Dean Acheson knew the names of 205 people who were in his words still "working in and shaping the policy of the State Department".

His comments brought an immediate denial from Lincoln White, press officer at the State Department.

Mr White said: "If he is correctly quoted, his allegation that the Secretary of State has a list of 205 Communist Party members who are working and shaping policy in the State Department is entirely without foundation.

"We know of no Communist Party members in the department and if we find any they will be summarily dismissed. We did not furnish Senator McCarthy with any such list and we would be interested in seeing his list."

Senator McCarthy has made his claims against a background of growing anti-Communist feeling.

Alger Hiss, a former senior public servant, was convicted and jailed last month of perjury after being accused of being an accomplice to a self-confessed former member of an underground Communist network.

Senator McCarthy's speech also coincides with the collapse of the Kuomintang regime in China and the establishment there of a Communist government, adding to American fears about the global spread of Communism.

Mr McCarthy was defeated for the Republican nomination for the Senate in 1944 but two years later was able to win the Republican nomination away from veteran Senator, Robert La Follette.

In the election he beat his Democrat opponent after a campaign of continuous misrepresentation of Professor Howard McMurray as a Communist sympathiser.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Two days after this initial outburst, Senator Joe McCarthy wrote to President Harry Truman saying he had been able to compile a list of 57 Communists.

On 20 February he delivered a six hour speech to Congress in which he referred to 81 individuals - not by name but nevertheless identifiable - who he said were members of the Communist Party or loyal to it.

By the time an investigating sub-committee was set up to look into his claims, his list of communists had dwindled to 10 names. He named Dr Owen Lattimore as "the top Russian espionage agent". His claims were not substantiated, but many lost their jobs or reputations. He used a combination of intimidation and hearsay evidence to browbeat the accused.

His Communist witch-hunt did win him popular support. At its height, 25 states passed legislation outlawing communist organisations.

The conviction in March 1951 of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for passing atomic secrets to the Russians also helped fuel his campaign.

His downfall came when he turned his attentions to the US Army. His methods were finally exposed to the public during a televised cross-examination of army personnel following further unsubstantiated allegations.

In 1954 he was censured by the Senate committee. His health declined through heavy drinking and he died in 1957.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You don't need to bat your eyelashes or drop your handkerchief - you're a couple of centuries beyond that! Your technique for charming favors out of people are much subtler (and more effective), anyway.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Something heats up your day in a surprising, but pleasurable way. You get the day off unexpectedly, or maybe your partner brings you exactly the right coffee without asking.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Shine your light on someone important to you today. You've got quite a bit going on, so the quiet types might get lost in the roar. Let them know how important they are to you.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's tough to walk that fine balance between love and work, love and your social life, love and - well, you get the picture. If an emotional gale is threatening to tip your own personal SS Romance on its side.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You love being part of a big, important plan, especially when you get to lay it all out and lead the way. Right now, as all your plans involve having shocking amounts of fun, you're completely in your element.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Now is the time to get together with a pal, especially one that you've been feuding with lately. Your energy brings your warmth to the table in a big way, so communication is sure to be lighthearted.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Great opportunities and fortunate events are all lined up for you, just waiting for your grand entrance. Now is the best time to put your big, personal plans in motion.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to ask yourself some deep questions - there may be unresolved issues you can only deal with on your own right now. Your unique P.O.V. and high-powered intuition have all the answers you need.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
What makes your heart pound? What sparks unlimited enthusiasm in you? Whether you're exploring a secluded beach in Mexico or networking with dozens of new people.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Sometimes you just push as hard as you can, but the social result you were hoping for doesn't click in the right way. Don't beat yourself up over this - in fact, try viewing it as an opportunity.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You may have been thinking that you'd lost touch lately, or that you don't have all that much in common with that one friend - or even that it was time to break up! Hang on for a while.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
It's not nearly as important to choose the best path as it is to pick a path - any path. It's vital to make solid decisions that take the positive and negative into account, but if you hesitate much, it all changes.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-7	4	cloudy
Harbin	-14	-3	cloudy
Tianjin	-5	5	cloudy
Urumqi	-14	-7	clear
Xi'an	-3	5	cloudy/overcast
Lhasa	-1	13	cloudy
Chengdu	4	10	drizzle
Chongqing	7	10	overcast/drizzle
Kunming	3	18	clear
Nanjing	-1	9	cloudy
Shanghai	2	10	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	2	11	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	0	10	cloudy
Taipei	14	21	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	9	19	cloudy
Hong Kong	14	17	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-9	-1	flurry
Frankfurt	-2	1	flurry/sleet
Paris	-2	2	clear/drizzle
London	-2	6	sleet/drizzle
New York	-3	3	flurry/cloudy

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;



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- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
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- Telephone - Report 1000
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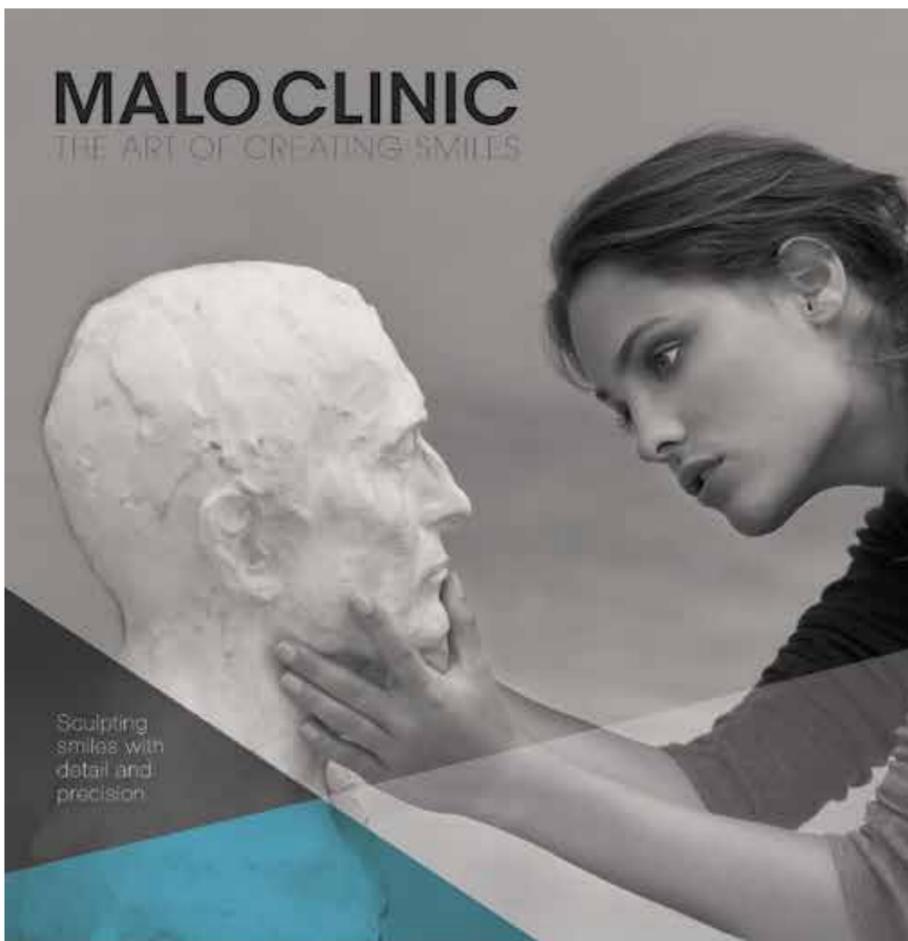
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AD



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.

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(Can be contacted at any time)

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,

WORLDWIDE

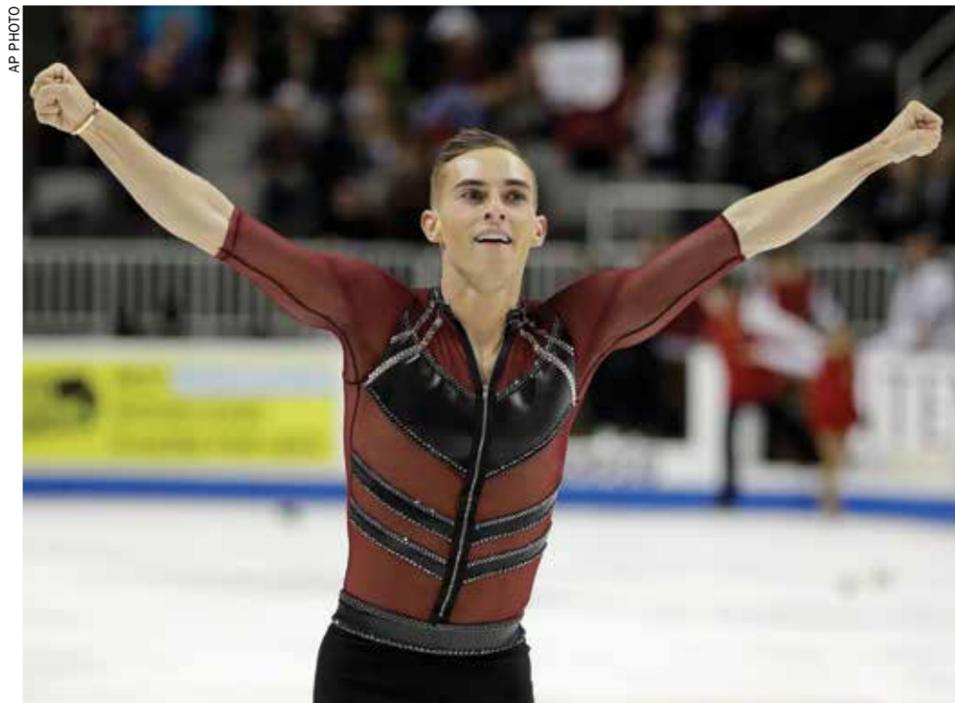
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+ INFO



FOLLOW US



Adam Rippon

WINTER OLYMPICS

US skater Rippon wants Pence spat to take backseat to games

ADAM Rippon doesn't want his monthlong dispute with Mike Pence over the vice president's record on gay rights to overshadow his long-awaited Olympic performance.

Or those of the rest of the American team.

One of two openly gay U.S. athletes at the Pyeongchang Games, Rippon criticized the White House last month for choosing Pence to lead its official delegation for today's opening ceremony.

Pence has been considered an opponent of the LGBT community after the conservative vice president signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act while serving as governor of Indiana.

Critics say the legislation encourages discrimination against gay people.

"I don't want to make this too much for my competitors and for my teammates," Rippon said after an afternoon practice session yesterday. "I'm just kind of focused on the competition. The opening ceremony is tomorrow. I don't mind talking about it but I don't want to distract my teammates."

Pence, who arrived in Seoul yesterday, also tried to bury the story. He tweeted to Rippon: "I want you to know we are FOR YOU.

Don't let fake news distract you. I am proud of you and ALL OF OUR GREAT athletes and my only hope for you and all of #TeamUSA is to bring home the gold. Go get 'em!"

What Rippon jokingly referred to as "brouhaha" began with an interview with USA Today last month in which he called Pence, among other things, a hypocrite for espousing Christian virtues while standing by some of the divisive and inflammatory statements made by President Donald Trump.

"If he's OK with what's being said about people and Americans and foreigners and about different countries," Rippon said, "I think he should really go to church."

Pence's press secretary, Alyssa Farah, was quick to respond with a sharp rebuke. Farah said in a statement that some of Rippon's statements were "totally false" and had "no basis in fact," including an assertion he made that Pence was a proponent of gay conversion therapy.

Their spat took another odd twist this week when USA Today, citing unnamed sources, reported Pence tried to speak with Rippon in mid-January but the skater turned down his overtures.

Jarrod Agen, the vice president's communications director, called the report "false" and said Pence's office never reached out to Rippon. Agen called for the report to be corrected.

Rippon did not say whether any olive branches were offered, but he did say he has no interest in meeting with Pence until after the Olympics. The 28-year-old American will make his debut Monday in the free skate portion of the team event for the medal-contending U.S. squad, then he'll compete later this month with teammates Nathan Chen and Vincent Zhou in the individual competition.

"I mean, after the competition I'll have an open conversation," Rippon said, "but the opening ceremony is tomorrow. I'm really focused on the competition. I've waited 28 years to get here. I'm trying to stay focused. It's my opportunity show the world what I've got and represent my country."

U.S. skier Gus Kenworthy, who also is openly gay, also has been critical of Pence's role in leading the U.S. delegation, calling him a "strange choice" in an interview with Ellen DeGeneres this week.

Rippon and Kenworthy both say they would skip a White House visit if Team USA is invited. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Seedorf back in La Liga to try to kick-start coaching career

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

TRYING to kick-start his coaching career, Clarence Seedorf is back in the place where he thrived as a player.

After two stints as a coach in Italy and China, Seedorf is taking over the helm of Deportivo La Coruna in the Spanish league, where his playing career took off with Real Madrid in the late 1990s.

Seedorf was highly successful as a midfielder, dominating nearly everywhere he played, but his attempts at coaching haven't been as effective. He was in charge at AC Milan for only four months in 2014, and spent half a season with a second-division club in Chinese football two years ago.

"Coaching is not easy," Seedorf said this week after being introduced at Deportivo. "There are a lot of coaches out there, that's why I thank Deportivo for giving me this opportunity."

Seedorf will have his work cut out to turn around Deportivo's



Clarence Seedorf of the Netherlands during the UEFA Champions League draw in Monaco, in 2016

fortunes.

Deportivo is 18th in the 20-team Spanish league standings, with 17 points from 22 matches, just inside the relegation zone. It hasn't won its last seven matches, being outscored 24-6.

"I can help the club, and the club can help me," the 41-year-old Seedorf said. "I like to take on challenges. It would be easy to go to a place where everything is working well."

Seedorf said his lack of coaching experience won't keep him from doing a good job. He noted that France great Zinedine Zidane had even less experience when he took over as Real Madrid coach.

"You have to look at the quality of the professional, at his potential," Seedorf said. "You have to have faith in this young generation of coaches. And this young generation has been doing well."

Zidane was 43 when he joined Madrid two years ago. He has led the club to two Champions League titles, among other achievements.

Seedorf said he learned from a lot of experienced coaches during his playing career, including Fabio Capello, Louis van Gaal, Carlo Ancelotti, and Marcello Lippi.

"I've had the luck to have worked with several important coaches, and I've taken a lot from each one of them," Seedorf said. "As a player, I've always been interested in understanding the coaches' minds, in seeing how they made a group function. Many times my role was to work as a link between the coaches and the players, it was to be a leader. That was something natural for me."

Deportivo president Tino Fernandez said it was looking for someone with Seedorf's background.

"We only considered candidates who were leaders," Fernandez said. "This team needs to improve, and leadership and

charisma are key for that. That's what Seedorf can provide us."

Seedorf was a prominent player for Real Madrid from 1996-99, helping the club win the Champions League in 1998. He had already won one with Ajax in 1995.

Seedorf left Madrid in 2000 to play for Italian clubs Inter Milan and AC Milan, where he spent most of his career, and won two more Champions Leagues, both with AC Milan. His final playing days were with Brazilian club Botafogo.

Seedorf also had a prominent role playing for the Netherlands for more than a decade.

Seedorf took over AC Milan's coaching job after Massimiliano Allegri was fired in the 2014-15 season. The team wasn't far from the relegation zone at the time and Seedorf led the club to a seventh-place finish in Serie A. Seedorf said he felt he did a good job, but his contract was not renewed at the end of the season after 11 wins, nine losses and two draws.

Seedorf's other stint as a coach was with Chinese club Shenzhen in 2016. He failed to promote the club to the top-flight after four wins, six losses, and four draws.

His initial contract with Deportivo is good until the end of the season.

Seedorf's first match with Deportivo is on Monday at home against Real Betis. **AP**

RUGBY | SIX NATIONS

Jones starts mind games ahead of England-Wales

ENGLAND coach Eddie Jones recalled Jonathan Joseph and urged the center to put inexperienced Wales flyhalf Rhys Patchell "under some heat" in the Six Nations match between the two fierce rivals tomorrow.

"Every time Rhys Patchell looks up, he's going to see Jonathan Joseph in his vision — it's not a

great sight," Jones said, before attempting to heap more pressure on the No. 10.

"Wales have to get the ball wide and Patchell hasn't played much test-match rugby. He's a young guy, he's inexperienced, and is their third-choice No. 10. He's got to get the ball wide and that's going to be a big job."

Starting in place of injured flyhalves Dan Biggar and Rhys Priestland, Patchell was influential in Wales' 34-7 win over Scotland last week and kept his place as part of an unchanged Wales lineup for the trip to Twickenham. It will be his seventh cap for Wales.

"Scotland couldn't cope with the expectation," Jones said, "and now he has

got to cope with the expectation of playing well. Patchell will have to find guys around him to help because he'll be under some heat."

Joseph comes in for Ben Te'o and was one of two changes from the England team that opened the Six Nations with a 46-15 win against Italy.

Danny Care replaced the injured Ben Youngs and

will move past 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Matt Dawson as England's most-capped scrumhalf, on 78 appearances.

Te'o impressed with his powerful carrying against Italy but faded in his first appearance since undergoing ankle surgery in October. Jones opted for the slick footwork and experience of Joseph against the Welsh, saying he had a

"gut feeling."

"I feel he will start the game well against Wales," Jones said. "Jonathan's got great experience, he's fast, a great defensive player."

"We were very happy with Te'o last week, but it's also his second game back. And in my experience with players in their second game back from a long injury, it's always the most difficult game." **AP**



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NOBODY WYNNS

Since when was gambling not synonymous with sex and vice? Marketers may position casinos as family-friendly but the ogling of pole dancers and free-flowing booze at the gaming trade show in London this week, reported as outrage by The Daily Mail, thwarts that spin. Revelations of decades of sexual harassment by Steve Wynn was also of no surprise to many, but his resignation in response is driven by similar concerns as London's criticism over gyrating hostesses.

Much of the difference between unwelcomed sexual advances and harassment hinges on a power imbalance. Wynn is now caught up in a cultural shift that rightly has no tolerance of the latter and is gaining intolerance for the former.

Even before investigations, alleged perpetrators are being denounced. Should the shame not be with their cronies for not guiding them with wise counsel? Or, with the community for not developing moral outrage earlier?

In our era, acceptable sexual behaviour is broad, based upon personal values rather than highly prescribed community mores: where university orientation camps provide "buddy rooms" for coupling; where school auditoriums giggle at skits about marital infidelity; and where radio call-back shows discuss the benefits of first-date sex versus playing the man for relationship longevity. These conundrums are but irrelevant for the diehard "not out of wedlock" unicorn found under a blue-moon.

Within this freedom to hold personal values and act as guided by conscience, navigating appropriate methods of approach cannot be easy.

Not so paradoxically, in this 'liberated' world of flexible and opaque sexual boundaries, anger has seethed and spilled over into #MeToo-like movements, followed by hasty retreats by prominent personalities as seen in this week's resignations of Steve Wynn and the mayor of (ironically) the world's friendliest city, Melbourne's Robert Doyle. Both resigned amid decades of innuendo and rumour. Advice to victims has typically been to "be discrete" for the good of careers and the business. 'Discretion': such an insidious word in its implication of the victim as complicit.

Personal sexual liberation requires each to know his own morality and to be aware that others unlikely share it. I fear that what we are experiencing today is not moral cultural shift from a liberal stance but a power unleashed from indignation fuelled by popular moral outrage, but one unhinged from personal experience.

Sexual liberation must mean that what is improper is not someone's approach per se but the persistent use of power in the approach. There is now a real antipathy and time-worn intolerance of powerful people behaving badly.

It is one thing for an individual to abuse their power, for eventually they are likely to get their comeuppance. It is entirely different for the populace - and those entities who fear them - to take their newly found power legitimacy to condemn those yet to be investigated. Both Wynn and Doyle resigned this week under such circumstances.

Cases like these are profoundly sad for all involved. We have seen many artists, visionaries, politicians, and celebrities, and their works and memories destroyed. Their brilliance in other spheres of their lives have been negated and invalidated because the time is now and not when influence pardoned their misguided proclivities. In reference to the WSJ article on Wynn's resignation is a poignant comment: "A year ago you could have published the same article and the world would have shrugged."

Proven vile actions should be punished. But, how did we become so intolerant, so simplistically puritanical, so totalitarian in our views that we would obliterate an entire fruit-bearing tree for a likely disease in one limb?

Our liberties are more at risk from the lynch mob than from those miserable men who will be called to account for their basic urges and corrupt use of influence causing debilitating injury to the powerless.

THE BANGKOK KNOWN FOR TOURIST SITES
BUZZ CHOKES IN POLLUTED HAZE

A cloud of unhealthy haze has settled across the Thai capital, shrouding the gilded temples and towering skyscrapers that draw millions of tourists to the city each year.

The country's Pollution Control Department said that concentrations of tiny particles known as PM 2.5

that are a benchmark measure of air quality were almost double the levels considered safe.

Department officials blamed high humidity for contributing to the haze, while environmentalists cited the capital's famously traffic-choked streets.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Good
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good
Ambient	45-65 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan police chief said yesterday that a Chinese and three Uzbek militants were killed in the joint air strikes in Jowzjan province, where an IS affiliate group has gained a foothold. More on p12



YEMEN Along a narrow road in Yemen choked by natural gas tankers and heavily armed soldiers lies the Awwam Temple, an ancient temple neglected and threatened in a nation now at war.

SYRIA Rescue workers and activists say the death toll from ongoing government strikes on the opposition-held region near the capital Damascus has risen to at least 35.

CYPRUS Exploratory drilling off Cyprus' southern shore has shown indications of a potentially sizeable gas deposit that raises hopes for more discoveries.



FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron stood firm in the face of growing nationalist demands in Corsica, rejecting calls for increasing autonomy in the once-restive Mediterranean island.

BELGIUM A shootout with Belgian police that led to the capture of Europe's most-wanted man may have been criminal but it wasn't terrorism, a lawyer for the key surviving suspect in the Islamic State attacks against Paris argued yesterday.



ARGENTINA A photograph of Argentina's president (right) shaking hands with an off-duty police officer who fatally shot a man in the back after he stabbed and robbed a U.S. tourist has triggered a heated debate over the limits of a crackdown on crime.

Macau-born skier to participate in Winter Games



A Macau-born athlete will be going to the Olympics in Pyeongchang, which open today, representing Portugal in cross-country skiing.

Requeyen Lam, an Okanagan pharmacist, is one of the two athletes Portugal is sending to the 2018 Winter Games. His dream has been to make the Olympics for two decades, and he will be given the honour of carrying the flag into the opening ceremony.

"It's going to be tough. It is going to be the toughest thing that we've done on skis and I think that is going to be the fun part," Lam said, as cited in Canadian news outlet Global News.

Lam was born in the region during the Portuguese administration time

and moved to Canada as an infant, thus holding both Canadian and Portuguese citizenship. Lam's parents were refugees from Vietnam.

"My parents had fled Vietnam because of the war and there was no future there. So they jumped on a boat. [After] a month-long voyage in a rickety boat, they made it to Macau and they lived in a refugee camp," Lam explained.

The athlete shared that he was inspired to pursue the Olympics after watching the 1998 Nagano games where Ross Rebagliati, a Canadian snowboarder, won gold.

Lam first chased Olympic glory in cross-country snowboarding but was injured in 2013. After his recovery, he changed sports

and pursued cross-country skiing. He competed in his first cross country skiing competitive race just over two years ago.

"I basically travelled the world in the last year just... training hard and chasing points. When you are determined and you know there is something that you want and you go after it, you'll get it."

"I'm not doing anything really special. I'm someone who has a passion and I've realized a dream," he added. "I hope that other people can see that. If it inspires one kid to pick up a sport and to pursue their dreams, then that's more than enough."

Lam also hopes to create "new Olympic moments for the next generation and raise the profile of his sport." LV

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Eraldo Peres



Yemanjá. Thousands of Brazilians flooded beaches around the northeastern city of Salvador to pay tribute to the sea goddess Yemanjá and ask for her protection ahead of Carnival celebrations.