



For your health and the health of others
Get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination booking system

Please scan QR code or visit website
<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>
Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MACAU LAWYERS FIND PROPOSED NEW GAMBLING LAW'S DIVIDEND RESTRICTION 'IMPRACTICAL'

P5

LVS BRINGS IN DAVID GREEN AS KEY WITNESS IN MACAU COURT CASE

P3

TANZANIAN WRITER ABDULRAZAK GURNAH, WHOSE WORK EXPLORES THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN THEIR NEW HOMES, WON THE NOBEL FOR LITERATURE

P8

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong authorities yesterday said they have made their largest smuggling bust, seizing goods including endangered species worth an estimated \$26.9 million. The government said the smuggling ring operated using speedboats and that four trucks were also impounded in the raid. It said a 34-year-old man was arrested in the operation that began in June and more details were set to be released.

Japan A powerful earthquake registering a preliminary magnitude 6.1 shook the Tokyo area yesterday night, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami. The Meteorological Agency said the quake was centered in Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo, at a depth of 80 kilometers. It caused buildings to sway but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

AP PHOTO



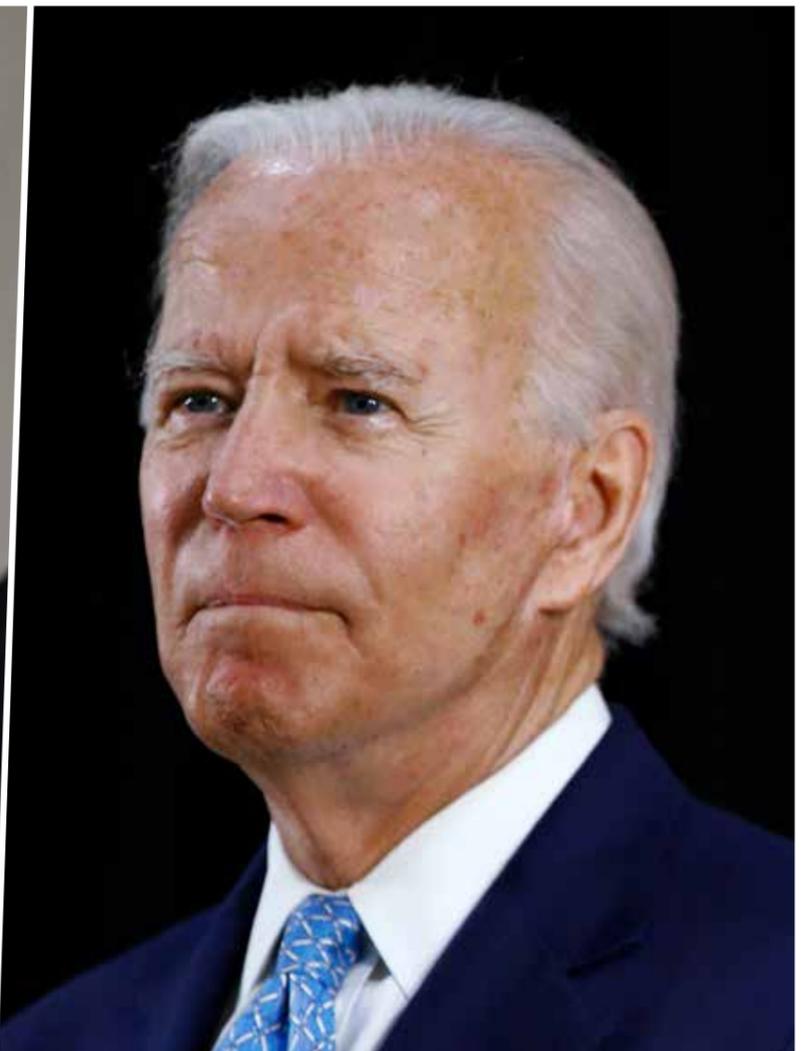
Philippine vice president and opposition leader Leni Robredo registered her presidential candidacy yesterday for next year's elections in a move that would bring the pro-democracy advocate to a new faceoff with the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos who is also seeking the top post. Robredo joined a growing list of aspirants for the May 9 elections after talks failed for key candidates to unite behind a single contender who would go against whoever President Rodrigo Duterte and his ruling party endorse for the race.

More on backpage

FACE TIME

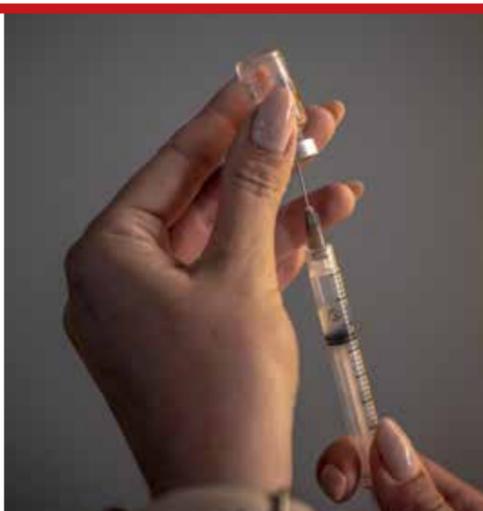
Xi, Biden expected to meet virtually by year's end after envoys of the two superpowers met successfully in Zurich

P6-7



**ON ARRIVAL
VACCINES
ARE FINALLY
PART
OF THE
EQUATION**

P3



**TOWN IN
ZHUHAI
IDENTIFIES
MACAU AS
HIGH-RISK
REGION**

P4

THE CONVERSATION

FACEBOOK'S SCANDALS AND OUTAGE TEST USERS' FRENEMY RELATIONSHIP

ELIZABETH STOYCHEFF
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

WHEN Facebook was down for most of the day on Oct. 4, 2021, did you miss it, were you relieved or some of both? Social scientists have compiled an expansive body of research that shows how people have come to develop a love-hate relationship with the social media giant with nearly 3 billion users.

Many users have felt their relationship with the platform devolve into a messy codependence, mired by ambiguity and mistrust. For others, reliance on the platform is taken for granted, if occasionally appreciated in moments of pandemic isolation.

And then there are the revelations that the company has been lying about applying its rules differently to important people, knowingly harming teen girls and having a big vaccine misinformation problem. Adding insult to injury, Facebook locked its keys in its car and didn't show up for over five hours. In short, Facebook is a hot mess.

All this leads to an extremely high-maintenance rela-

tionship, leaving users to wonder whether they should just move on with healthier friends. But it wasn't always like this.

FRIENDLY BEGINNINGS

At its launch, Facebook was one of the most authentic social networking partners. Existing online networks, like MySpace, had influential parent companies that chaperoned their platforms, pestering users with ads and gimmicks. But Facebook promised something different: a genuine connection. It was an unexploited social space to live your best life – well before anyone hashbragged it.

Still today, a friendship with Facebook comes with plenty of perks. Most importantly, it is the friend who brings everyone together. Participating in this community is shown to strengthen relationships between close friends and casual acquaintances. Individuals can bond over community causes, shared identities and amusing videos. Facebook has been credited for helping organize coalitions that took down dictators and raised millions of dollars to fight disease.

Adding to Facebook's po-

pularity, it lets users carefully curate a public image, emphasizing the best parts of their lives. The site has become a central source not only for information about one another, but also the world. Over half of U.S. Facebook users report regularly consuming news on the platform.

Academics friended Facebook, too. I led a study revealing that it is the most researched subject in the field of information and communication technology since 2005. This focus has led to advances in understanding online interactions, digital activism and human psychology.

UNDERMINING TRUST

But Facebook's stunning success has come at the expense of the privacy of its virtual friends. Its "we sell ads" business model may sound benign, but the platform collects more data and information about users than they may consciously know about themselves.

By sharing users' data, enabling disinformation campaigns and election interference, Facebook has revealed its allegiances – and they don't involve protecting users. Carelessness,

or what increasingly looks like intentional abuse, of user data has made it difficult to trust the platform with people's most intimate relationships.

Meanwhile, the company continues to change what information people see on its platform, which has consequences. Research finds that users can be emotionally manipulated by changes to Facebook's algorithm. This has made the public more politically polarized and less likely to share minority views – implications that may derail democracy.

Algorithms that foster day-to-day social comparison have also taken a toll on mental health. Recent research convincingly shows that Facebook use dampens individuals' happiness – both immediately and over the long term. Using Facebook has been linked to depression and so many other negative psychological outcomes that it inspired a summary report of 56 studies on the topic.

FRENEMIES FOR NOW

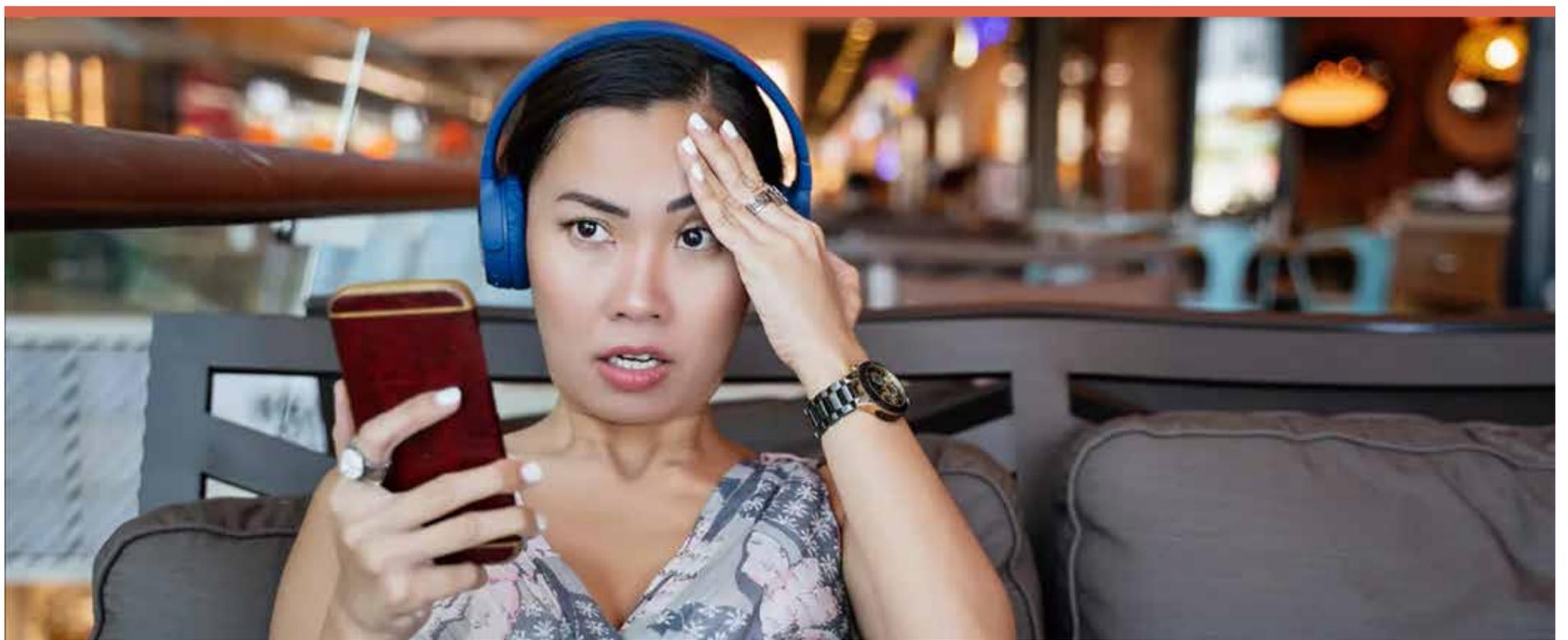
Despite widespread calls to #DeleteFacebook, most users have maintained their profiles and found themselves disrupt-

ted by its most recent outage. Why? Because abstaining from Facebook means giving up a network that has social currency and value. The site boasted 2.8 billion active users at the end of 2020, more than a third of the global population. As members of Congress have pointed out, Facebook has few market competitors, meaning it serves as a primary, if not the only, way for large groups to connect. It holds users together (or sometimes hostage) by maintaining relationships with all their friends.

For those who prefer Instagram or WhatsApp, know that Facebook owns those too, and is working to consolidate the technology behind them. These platforms also went down yesterday. Even people with the willpower to de-friend Facebook will still find their data swept up in content that others add to the platform and its affiliates. It's nearly impossible to escape Facebook's orbit.

Nevertheless, recapturing the public's trust will require significant changes. Options for unaltered news feeds, transparent advertising, and user control of data and metadata would be good places to start. But currently, it's unclear whether Facebook will make these changes to salvage its billions of friendships.

In the meantime, most of Facebook's friends are updating their privacy settings and just trying to coexist. **MDT/THE CONVERSATION**



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+21,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

COVID-19

New inbound flight policy for Macau will not affect quarantine time

RENATO MARQUES

FIRMER requirements introduced by local health authorities yesterday for those intending to fly into Macau will not result in any changes to the length of the quarantine period on arrival at this time, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, clarified in response to a media inquiry.

The new requirements stipulate that all travelers 12 years old and older from high-risk areas must present a valid vaccination certificate confirming they have had two doses of a vaccine against Covid-19 at least 14 days prior to traveling to Macau. They must also present three negative nucleic acid test certificates, all completed in the seven days before boarding a plane. According to Leong, there is not sufficient cause to reduce quarantine times at present.

Currently, most arrivals are required to quarantine for 21 days under medical observation, and in some cases another seven days of health self-management at home are mandated.

"This measure is designed to act as a disincentive to people wanting to travel to Macau from a high-risk area, [which risks starting] a local contagion. This [will ensure] the safety of this process, and so, at this moment, we have no cause to reduce quarantine time," Leong said.

Leong was also asked about the decision made by some countries, namely New Zealand,



to abandon a "zero cases" policy, instead adopting new rules designed to control disease spread without lockdowns each time a new case is found in the community.

Leong responded that "we have been researching this matter, about when we can live with the virus. For this [to happen] we need to guarantee that there are no chances of serious infections in the community, and that the number of cases that might arise is relatively low."

We cannot accept [finding ourselves in] a situation that could result in high mortality [rates], especially among the elderly," she added.

She went on to note that "these countries and regions that are

adopting this method of living with the virus have vaccination rates of over 80% of the whole population, or at least a very high vaccination rate among the elderly. Our [vaccination] rate needs to be this high [over 80%] before we can think about this."

The new rules for traveling to Macau came into effect at midnight yesterday (October 7) and apply to those traveling from countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Russia, Turkey, and South Africa.

If a traveler is not eligible for vaccination, they need to present a valid certificate issued by a testing agency recognized by the Chinese embassy or consulate in the country of origin.

SINOPHARM VACCINES ROLLED OUT TO YOUNGSTERS

Local health authorities will build upon the experience of

the mainland and soon make Sinopharm's inactivated virus vaccines available to people aged between 12 and 17 years old, Dr. Tai Wah Hou, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center, said yesterday at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center press briefing.

Tai — who also coordinates the vaccination program — said that mainland health authorities have concluded that both the Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines are safe and effective in the younger population. As such, the local authorities will make the Sinopharm vaccine (the only one of these two vaccines available in Macau) available to this age group soon.

Prior to this, only those aged 18 or above could choose to be inoculated with the Sinopharm vaccine, while those younger than 18 could only have the BioNTech mRNA vaccine.

HOTELS INVOLVED IN RECENT COVID-19 CASES NOT RULED OUT AS QUARANTINE VENUES

IN response to a question from the media, Dr. Leong Iek Hou clarified that the two hotel complexes (Golden Crown China Hotel and Treasure Hotel) involved in the recent Covid-19 outbreak have not been ruled out from potential use as quarantine venues in the future. According to Leong, the isolation period for the two hotels will end today, and the hotels will now be subject to a thorough cleaning and disinfection so they can be

reopened to the public. Regarding their use as quarantine venues, the doctor said that the authorities are currently ruling out this possibility for the time being. Hou said there was still much to be considered, as the hotels will have to pass a series of inspections by the authorities. They will also have to undergo an evaluation of several structural characteristics, including their capacity for adequate isolation and ventilation systems, she said.

LVS to bring in David Green as key witness in multi-billion dollar case

ANOTHER hearing of the Las Vegas Sands (LVS) lawsuit regarding a potential USD12 billion damages payout will be held today at the Court of First Instance.

The plaintiff, Taiwanese mogul Marshall Hao and his company the Asian American Entertainment Corp Ltd (AAEC), is accusing LVS of violating their contract for a casino license in Macau in the period from 2004-2022.

According to a source familiar with the case, LVS will bring in David Green as a key witness. Green, a gaming adviser is the head of New Page Consulting which has been a

consultant to the Macau government, involving the further development of the SAR's gambling regulatory framework.

Green was flown from Australia on August 30 and spent a month in a hotel quarantine.

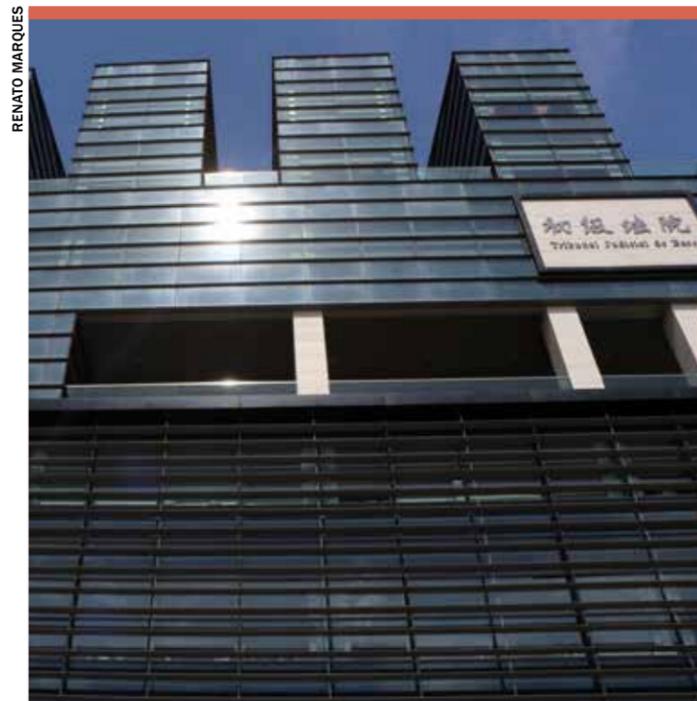
The legal dispute between Asian American and LVS has been ongoing since 2007, when the lawsuit against LVS was first filed in the U.S. It was later dismissed there for exceeding the statute of limitations and other procedural reasons.

AAEC and LVS were partners in attempting to bid for a license to operate casinos in Macau in the ear-

ly 2000s, when the local government was opening up the market and inviting operators from around the world. They later parted ways, and LVS partnered with Galaxy Entertainment Group to organize the bid.

According to information available, Hao thought the bidding documents submitted by the then partners were significantly similar to those prepared jointly by AAEC and LVS when they were still partners. This remains the foundation of the lawsuit at the Macau court.

The damages AAEC is asking for represent 70% of the profits made by LVS in Macau during the filed period. **AL**



RENATO MARQUES

CTM, CHINA TELECOM TO PROVIDE FREE DATA TO STRANDED STUDENTS

Local telecom service providers CTM and China Telecom have each announced that they will provide 30GB of free cellular data to every cross-border student stranded in Macau, following the sudden change of border restrictions between Macau and Zhuhai. Nearly 1,000 students have been affected, and 500 are still currently in Macau. The move is designed to ensure the students have access to their online classes. CTM has recently finished upgrading the internet infrastructure at the hostels in Hac Sa and Seac Pai Van. Similarly, China Telecom has gifted 10 cell phones and SIM cards to the Macau Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association for emergency use.

DSAMA ASKS PUBLIC TO AVOID CROWDING BEACHES

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has noted recent increases in crowds spotted on both the Hac Sa and Cheoc Van Beaches. It reminds the public to comply with health measures and guidelines by staying at home and reducing unnecessary community travel. If members of the public decide to visit the beaches, they should wear masks properly and maintain social distancing. The DSAMA has also reminded the public to dispose of their waste responsibly, and to be aware of weather changes over this coming weekend.

SIGNAL NO. 3 CHANCE 'MEDIUM TO RELATIVELY HIGH'

The probability of Signal No. 3 being issued today is "medium to relatively high," as the typhoon remained active last night, from 7 p.m. According to the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG), the tropical depression over the northern part of the South China Sea is developing a new center southeast of Hainan Island within its broad circulation. It will come closer to Macau than previously expected, passing by at a distance of about 400km southwest of Macau. It will move generally towards the area between Hainan Island and the Leizhou Peninsula over the next few days.

MICE RECEIPTS TUMBLE 54%

STAFF REPORTER

WITH a decline of over 70% in MICE events amid the pandemic, receipts of conference and exhibition organising services shrank 53.7% year-on-year to MOP288 million, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Receipts from the provision of conference and exhibition services tumbled by 60.2% and the corresponding proportion in total receipts fell from 90.8% in 2019 to 78% in 2020.

Meanwhile, the share of advertising services in total receipts expanded by 8.8 percentage points year-on-year to 15.5%.

As a number of large events were suspended or cancelled during the year, and there was a decrease in advertising spending across industries, receipts of the



advertising industry plunged 41.7% year-on-year to MOP523 million. The industry posted a deficit of MOP10.54 million in 2020, and Gross Value Added fell by 48.7% year-on-year to MOP183 million.

The number of establishments in advertising and conference and exhibition organizing services decreased by 108, while the number of persons engaged dropped by 789. Receipts from the two industries fell by 46.6%

and 40.2% respectively.

DSEC indicated that a total of 582 establishments were engaged in cleaning, property management and security services in 2020, representing an increase of 23 establishments year-on-year, with the total number of persons engaged rising by 325.

Meanwhile, the demand for security services was struck by the slowdown in economic activity amid the pandemic. Receipts of security services dropped by 7.8% year-on-year to MOP2.27 billion, and expenditure decreased by 3.0% to MOP2.05 billion.

Also, receipts of property management services grew by 2.5% year-on-year to MOP2.01 billion, of which 83.7% were generated from building management services. Expenditure went up by 2.5% year-on-year to MOP 1.82 billion, with Compensation of Employees and Operating Expenses accounting for 53.8% and 33.1% of the total respectively.

COVID-19

PSP to follow up on potential illegalities by patients 74 and 75

RENATO MARQUES



RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) will follow up on suspicions of illegal activity related to patients number 74 and 75, chief of PSP's Department of Planning and Operations Ma Chio Hong said yesterday during the regular Covid-19 press briefing.

Ma, who cited concerns aired in the community about the legal status of the patients, went on to say that

the police authorities are investigating the cases and will follow up with the two people as soon as their Covid-19 treatment ends.

The police chief confirmed that they are both suspected of working and/or living in an illegal situation.

In response to later media questions he added that patient 74 is confirmed to be in possession of a permit to stay in Macau, although he is suspected of performing illegal work. In the case of

patient 75, Ma said she does not possess any permit or even a record of entering the borders of Macau, and is suspected of being an illegal immigrant.

As both patients are undergoing treatment in isolation, Ma said that the police can only follow up on their cases after they are released from hospitalization.

The patient classified as number 74 is a 40-year-old male from Vietnam, and number 75 is a 42-year-old woman also from Vietnam. They are suspected to have been infected with Covid-19 while working with patients number 72 and 73 on the renovation of an apartment unit located in the Kam Toi Lei Fa Yun building in Macau.

COVID-19

ZHUHAI'S DOUMEN IDENTIFIES MACAU AS HIGH-RISK REGION

A public notice by Zhuhai's Doumen District government announced that Macau has been categorized as a region with mid-to-high Covid-19 risk.

At Tuesday's regular health press conference, neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou was asked by the press whether Macau is considered by the mainland as being mid-to-high risk. Tai brushed off the claim, adding that only the red and yellow zones are considered risky by mainland China.

The next day, Doumen authorities issued the

forementioned notice. In the notice, the authorities require entrants from several mid-to-high risk regions, including Macau, to take certain special measures. The authorities also discouraged Zhuhai residents from visiting mid-to-high risk regions, such as Macau.

Public health doctor Leong Iek Hou was questioned at Wednesday's regular health press conference about the matter. In response, Leong said that each city has different views on the risks faced by Covid-19. "Each authority makes their own

assessment," she said.

In addition, Leong said that the local authorities respect the Doumen authorities' decision to categorize Macau as being mid-to-high risk.

However, regarding the number of places that have categorized Macau as being mid-to-high risk, Leong said she did not have the data.

She reminded the local public that, during these special times, cross-border travel should be minimized so as not to "seep the local outbreak into other places on the other side of the border." AL

ONLINE CLASSES TO RESUME NEXT WEEK

STARTING from next week, according to the actual school-based situations, schools can launch the home learning programme gradually in accordance with the relevant guidelines on teaching during class suspension in the "School Operation Guide."

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) stressed that schools should adopt the principles of "Focusing on adapting to learning and giving priority to consolidating the foundation." Special consideration should be given to related home learning tasks, which should be based on those that students can complete on their own.

Reasonable and appropriate

arrangements should be made according to the learning environment and tools available, the bureau reminded.

In addition, online learning is not advised to be implemented fully for students from Pre-Primary to Primary Three and in Special Education. Appropriate ways can be adopted to keep the aforementioned students learning.

The DSEDJ said it will maintain close communication with the health department and schools, carry out an ongoing assessment of the epidemic development, formulate plans for class resumption so as to maintain appropriate teaching and learning arrangements. LV

Lawyers find proposed gambling law's dividend restriction impractical

ANTHONY LAM

TWO lawyers from a local law firm have said they find the government's proposal to restrict distribution of dividends "difficult to harmonize with Macau's legal framework."

The government is running a public consultation regarding the amendment of the gambling law, in preparation for the renewal of the city's six gambling concessions.

In the consultation document, the government proposes that dividend distribution by casino concessionaires be subject to government authorization.

Rui Pinto Proença and Rui Filipe Oliveira, both practicing law at a local firm, consider the proposal "controversial."

The justification given by the government regarding the proposal is: "[The government's] intention that profits resulting from gaming activities obtained by the concessionaires be applied more appropriately in promoting the sustainable and diversified development of the Macau SAR."

To achieve this, the consultation document suggests that dividend distribution be subject to (i) certain requirements previously defined and specifically designed for such

a purpose and (ii) government prior authorization.

Considering the proposal and the justification, the two lawyers question the fact that no details are provided about what the said requirements may be, and what the nature of the government authorization would be.

"In particular, it is not specified whether such authorization is confirmatory in nature (i.e. if it would be limited to the verification of objective legal and/or financial requirements and legally due upon the verification of such requirements) or, instead, if the government would hold a certain level of discretion," the two lawyers wrote in a document of opinion prepared under their names.

In contrast to the government's proposal, Proença and Oliveira suggest that alternatives could be found within the city's legal framework to "to reach the proposed goals without affecting the fundamental rights of shareholders under a free enterprise system as provided in the Macau Basic Law."

The two lawyers suggest the government study other concessions in Macau, under which "investment objectives may be set in the law (or regulations) and the concessionaires will have the obligation to prepare and deliver an investment masterplan

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



and their respective implementation plans and timelines."

In addition, the lawyers recommend the use of taxation channels to achieve the goal of benefitting the local community. They refer to the fact that existing contracts foresee further contributions (of up to 5%) may be made by the operators to promote Macau's tourism sector and social, cultural, educational and scientific development, a goal that "has not been reached formally" so far.

The lawyers suggest the government adopt "tried and tested pru-

dential rules," aside from the provision of adequate guarantees pursuant to

current laws, to achieve the goal aimed for in the proposal.

MACAU PASS SUSPENDS PAYMENT FUNCTIONS OF UNREGISTERED CARDS

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU Pass yesterday suspended some passengers' cards in order to identify those who had possibly boarded the same buses as confirmed Covid-19 patients, due to the potential risk of infection.

In a statement, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre stated that the move is necessary to identify these people through the bus ride records.

This measure is intended

to alert individuals who may have traveled on the same bus with confirmed patients of Covid-19, allowing more effective tracking and tracing of these individuals.

This way, anyone who has had their card deactivated will know to head to the following link — <https://bit.ly/covidBus> — in order to verify whether their bus journey matches with a patient's itinerary.

As the Covid-19 patients traveled via public bus, the government has quarantined some 855 resi-

dents identified as having a similar itinerary to the security guards who tested positive for Covid-19. The government has called on the public to contact relevant authorities if they traveled from September 19 to 24 on one of the six bus routes that the Covid-19 patients took.

These bus routes are 25B, 26A, 33, 37, 101X and MT1.

When the epidemiological investigation concludes, SSM will notify the company to reactivate the payment function.

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

ZURICH MEETING

Xi, Biden expected to meet virtually by year's end

JAMEY KEATEN
& AAMER MADHANI, ZURICH

WITH tensions rising between the global powers, President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are expected to hold a virtual meeting before year's end, according to the White House.

The agreement in principle for the talks was disclosed after White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi met for six hours in Zurich.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the two sides are still working through what the virtual meeting "would look like."

The presidential meeting was proposed after Biden, who spent a substantial amount of time with Xi when the two were vice presidents, mentioned during their call last month that he would like to be able to see Xi again, according to a senior administration official, who was not authorized to comment publicly on the talks between Sullivan and Yang and spoke on condition of anonymity.



Xi has not left China during the coronavirus pandemic and is not expected to attend in person the upcoming Group of 20 summit in Rome and a U.N. climate conference in Scotland.

A White House statement on the Swiss meeting said Sullivan stressed to Yang the need to maintain open lines of communication, while raising concerns about China's recent military provocations

against Taiwan, human rights abuses against ethnic minorities and Beijing's efforts to squelch pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong.

Sullivan made clear that while the United States would "continue to invest in our own national strength," it sought better engagement at a senior level "to ensure responsible competition," the statement said.

U.S. officials have expressed frustration that interactions with

high-level Chinese counterparts, including Yang, in the early stages of Biden's presidency have been less than constructive. But the talks yesterday were described as respectful, constructive and perhaps the most in-depth between the sides since Biden took office in January, according to the administration official.

China's official Xinhua News Agency echoed that description, saying the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views. It quoted Yang as saying that "China attaches importance to the positive remarks on China-U.S. relations made recently by U.S. President Joe Biden, and China has noticed that the U.S. side said it ... is not seeking a new Cold War."

Yang added, however, that China opposes defining the relationship as "competitive" and urged the U.S. to stop using Taiwan, Hong Kong, human rights and other issues to interfere in what China calls its internal affairs.

The White House said the meeting was intended to serve as a follow-up to last month's call between Biden and Xi in which Biden stressed the need to set clear parameters in their competition.

Still, the U.S.-China relationship has been under strain, exacerbated recently by the Chinese military's flying dozens of sorties near the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday [Macau time] reiterated concerns that Beijing was undermining regional peace and stability with its "provocative" action. China sent a record 56 fighter planes toward Taiwan on Monday alone.

"We strongly urge Beijing to cease its military, diplomatic and economic pressure and coercion directed at Taiwan," said Blinken, who was in Paris for talks with French officials.

At the start of Biden's presidency, he pledged to press Beijing on its human rights record.

In March, the United States, in coordination with the European Union, United Kingdom and Canada, imposed sanctions on top communist party officials for their roles in detaining and abusing Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. At June's Group of Seven summit in England, Biden successfully pressed fellow leaders to include spe-

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:
官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha °
山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
趙魯 Zhao Lu °*
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:
高文軒 Adelino Correia °
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues *
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Iolía Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陳芷喬 Joana Chan
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
陳健雄 Eurico Chan
吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
法律專家 JURISTS:
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
潘卡莉 Candice Pun
陳子健 Kimi Chan
伍福賢 Domingos Ng



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors
Macau SAR, China
地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623
Office hours:
Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30
Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00
Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996

end

CIA creates working group on China as threats keep rising

cific language criticizing China's use of forced labor and other human rights abuses in the leaders' joint statement.

Human rights advocates and Republican lawmakers in the U.S. have raised concerns that the administration might be easing pressure on human rights as it looks for cooperation from Beijing on the global effort on climate change and in thwarting North Korea's nuclear program.

The White House said last week it did not have a position on the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which was passed by the U.S. Senate in July.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican and sponsor of the legislation, wrote in the Washington Examiner on Wednesday that "the Biden administration is choosing to ignore the Chinese Communist Party's egregious human rights abuses to strike a deal on climate."

Psaki pushed back against the criticism. She asserted that Biden, unlike President Donald Trump, "has spoken out against human rights abuses, has raised his concerns about human rights abuses directly with President Xi and we have done that at every level."

The U.S. signaled this week that, for the time being, it plans to stick with tariffs levied against China during the Trump administration. **MDT/AP**

THE CIA said yesterday it will create a top-level working group on China as part of a broad U.S. government effort focused on countering Beijing's influence.

The group will become one of fewer than a dozen mission centers operated by the CIA, with weekly director-level meetings intended to drive the agency's strategy toward China. The CIA also announced that it would ramp up efforts to recruit Chinese speakers and create another mission center focusing on emerging technologies and global issues such as climate change and global health.

President Joe Biden's administration has called out what it sees as Chinese aggression on a range of security and economic issues while also seeking common ground on issues like climate change and a nuclear-armed North Korea. Top administration officials have repeatedly signaled a shift of resources toward "great power" competition with China while maintaining a focus on counterterrorism.

China is an especially difficult challenge for the U.S. intelli-

AP PHOTO



gence community given the insularity of its Communist Party leadership, its large military and security services and its development in advanced technologies that can counter spying. In a statement Thursday, CIA Director William Burns called the Chinese government "the most important geopolitical threat we face in the 21st century."

"Throughout our history, CIA has stepped up to meet whatever challenges come our way," Burns said. "And now facing our toughest geopolitical test in a

new era of great power rivalry, CIA will be at the forefront of this effort."

As part of an agency reorganization, the CIA will fold mission centers on Iran and North Korea into existing groups covering each country's respective region. Both country-specific mission centers were created during President Donald Trump's administration.

The CIA will also try to address the delays in recruiting through the often onerous process of completing background

checks and security clearances, with a goal of reducing processing times to an average of six months.

And it will designate a chief technology officer for the first time as part of a broader effort to implement advanced computing methods.

Intelligence officials have assessed that al-Qaida remains closely linked to the Taliban and could regain the capability to strike the U.S. within as little as one to two years.

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that he looked forward to working with the CIA "to ensure that organizational changes meet the challenges we are facing."

"The strategic threat environment has been changing, and the intelligence community needs to adapt to meet that new environment," Warner said.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., the intelligence committee's top Republican, welcomed the announcement of the new China group.

"The threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party is real and growing," Rubio said in a statement. "Every part of our government needs to reflect this great power competition in message, structure, and action." **MDT/AP**

AD



WE THINK DIFFERENTLY ...

NOT IN NOT OUT JUST THE BOX

28 years experience in shipping your goods across the ocean

Direct Service Macau - Lisbon

Don't Miss Out
Next Sailing **SOON**

 +853 63083130  onthefirst@ottcargo.com



NOBEL PRIZE

Tanzanian Abdulrazak Gurnah awarded literature prize

DAVID KEYTON & JILL LAWLESS, STOCKHOLM

U.K.-BASED Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose work explores the profound impact of migration on uprooted people and the places they make their new homes, won the Nobel Prize for Literature yesterday.

The Swedish Academy said the award was in recognition of Gurnah's "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents."

Gurnah, who recently retired as a professor of post-colonial literature at the University of Kent, got the call from the Swedish Academy in the kitchen of his home in southeast England.

"I'm absolutely excited," he told The Associated Press. "I just heard the news myself."

Born in Zanzibar in 1948, Gurnah moved to Britain as a teenage refugee after an uprising on the Indian Ocean island in 1968.

He is the author of 10 novels, including "Memory of

Departure," "Pilgrims Way," "Paradise" — shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1994 — "By the Sea" and "Desertion."

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel Committee for literature, called him "one of the world's most prominent post-colonial writers." He said it was significant that Gurnah's roots are in Zanzibar, a place that "was cosmopolitan long before globalization bonus."

"His work gives us a vivid and very precise picture of another Africa not so well known for many readers, a coastal area in and around the Indian Ocean marked by slavery and shifting forms of repression under different regimes and colonial powers: Portuguese, Indian, Arab, German and the British," Olsson said.

He said Gurnah's characters "find themselves in the gulf between cultures ... between the life left behind and the life to come, confronting racism and prejudice, but also compelling themselves to silence the truth or reinventing a biography to avoid conflict with reality."

Luca Prono said on the British Council website that

in Gurnah's work, "identity is a matter of constant change." The academic said Gurnah's characters "unsettle the fixed identities of the people they encounter in the environments to where they migrate."

Gurnah, whose native language is Swahili but who writes in English, is only the sixth Africa-born writer to be awarded the Nobel for literature, which has been dominated by European and North American writers since it was founded in 1901. He is and the first Black African winner since Wole Soyinka in 1986.

Hamad Mbarouk Hamad, director of the Cultural Arts Center in Zanzibar, said he felt "proud" at the news. But he said he had never read any of the writer's works.

"He's famous for those who like to study. For everyday people, I don't think so," Hamad said.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1.14 million). The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.

Last year's prize went to American poet Louise Glück for what the judges described as her "unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

Glück was a popular choice after several years of controversy. In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, the secretive body that chooses the winners. The awarding of the 2019 prize to Austrian writer Peter Handke caused protests because of his strong support for the Serbs during the 1990s Balkan wars.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize in physiology or medicine to Americans David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch.

The Nobel Prize in physics was awarded Tuesday to three scientists whose work found order in seeming disorder, helping to explain and predict complex forces of nature, including expanding our understanding of climate change.

Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan were named as laureates of the Nobel Prize for chemistry Wednesday for finding an easier and environmentally cleaner way to build molecules that can be used to make compounds, including medicines and pesticides.

Still to come are prizes for outstanding work in the fields of peace and economics. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2003 THE TERMINATOR TAKES ON CALIFORNIA



The film star Arnold Schwarzenegger has been elected governor of California, ousting the incumbent, Gray Davis, three years before his term was due to end.

It is the first time in the state's history that a governor has been sacked mid-term.

With most of the ballots counted, Mr Schwarzenegger has won almost 48% of the vote.

In a victory speech before jubilant supporters, Mr Schwarzenegger thanked the people of California for giving him their trust.

"I want to be the governor of the people," he said. "I know that together we can make this the greatest state in the greatest country in the world."

He pledged to restore trust in California's government and to re-impose discipline on the state's out-of-control budget.

Gray Davis has already accepted defeat, telling supporters voters had decided "it was time for someone else to serve and I have accepted their judgement."

The vote was triggered by Republican activists, frustrated at high levels of unemployment, struggling schools, and the state's budget deficit, which now runs into tens of billions of dollars.

In a two-part ballot, voters were first asked if they wanted to recall - or sack - Governor Davis.

The only other governor in US history to be recalled was North Dakota's Lynn Frazier, in 1921.

Then - regardless of their answer to the first question - they had to indicate who they preferred as an alternative among the 135 alternative candidates running.

With 96.8% of the results in, 54.4% wanted a recall.

Mr Schwarzenegger was running ahead with 47.9% support. His closest rival, Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, was on 32.4%.

The Austrian-born film star and former body builder - who made his name in action films such as The Terminator and Total Recall - galvanised the campaign when he announced he would be running on talk show host Jay Leno's television show earlier this year.

Large crowds had gathered to see him at campaign speeches and rallies.

But the political fight has been brutal at times, with Mr Schwarzenegger accused of sexually harassing a number of women, and allegations that he once praised Hitler.

He has denied the allegations, although he made an apology for "rowdy behaviour" on film sets.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final result was 55.4% in favour of a recall, with 44.6% opposing it.

Arnold Schwarzenegger won a decisive victory with 48.7% support, 16% ahead of his nearest rival.

He was sworn in as Governor of California on 17 November 2003.

His first act was to abolish an unpopular car tax rise imposed by Governor Davis. He also formally ruled out tax rises - one of the big question marks overhanging his campaign.

Later policies, however, have caused controversy. In February 2004 he ordered his top legal official to act against the city of San Francisco for allowing gay marriages in defiance of state law, saying they represented "an imminent risk to civil order".

After weeks of wrangling with senators, Governor Schwarzenegger secured a last-ditch agreement on California's \$103bn (£56bn) budget in July 2004.

The budget neither raised taxes, nor cut spending too deeply, instead committing the state to borrowing heavily to keep its finances on track.

Some economists have warned the policy only postpones - and could exacerbate - the state's economic problems.

PERSONNEL FINANCE

HOW TO INVEST IN CRYPTOCURRENCY WITHOUT BUYING ANY

ALANA BENSON

CRYPTOCURRENCIES are inherently cryptic — it's right there in the name. And if you follow Warren Buffett's advice to never invest in businesses you can't understand, it may be hard to justify investing in a currency made of math instead of gold.

But it's also hard to ignore some cryptocurrencies' astounding performance: The price of one bitcoin jumped from just under \$5,000 in March 2020 to over \$60,000 as of this April.

The excitement surrounding digital currency may leave some investors feeling like the lonely kid at the pool party, wanting to join their friends having fun in the deep end, but too nervous to jump in.

For those investors

who are cautiously curious, here are ways to gain exposure to cryptocurrency without buying it, and if you do decide to purchase, how to lower your risk.

INVEST IN COMPANIES WITH CRYPTO HOLDINGS

Think of this strategy as cryptocurrency investing once removed. Some publicly traded companies have cryptocurrency holdings. And because they are betting on its success, you can too, with those companies acting as a buffer.

"When you're thinking about investing in a company because they have exposure to crypto, it really runs the gamut from how direct or indirect you are in terms of that exposure," says Douglas Boneparth, a certified



financial planner and president of Bone Fide Wealth in New York City. "It just depends on how

much of their balance sheet is in crypto."

Checking a company's balance sheet can be revealing: As of June 30, 2021, Tesla held \$1.31 billion in digital assets. And while the tech giant has received lots of media attention for its investment, that \$1.31 billion currently equates to only about 2.4% of Tesla's total assets. But if those assets balloon in value, as cryptocurrency is sometimes wont to do, Tesla's stock value could too.

INVEST IN CRYPTOCURRENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

Another way to gain exposure is to invest in companies that have a stake in the cryptocurrency industry. Coinbase is a platform where investors can buy and sell cryptocurrency — and it's publicly traded.

"Just like you have with gold, you can either invest in the commodity itself or the infrastructure around it, the miners, the materials needed for mining, same with energy and oil," Boneparth says. "And there are public companies that are specifically operating in the blockchain space, but there's not many of them."

Riot Blockchain Inc.

is one of those few publicly traded companies that focuses on cryptocurrency mining. Riot Blockchain, among others, helps build cryptocurrency infrastructure and provides another cryptocurrency-adjacent investment opportunity.

GET READY FOR A CRYPTOCURRENCY ETF

While there are currently no cryptocurrency exchange-traded funds that have been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, there is demand for them. A cryptocurrency ETF would operate much like any other ETF, but instead of tracking a market exchange like the S&P 500, it would track a cryptocurrency. For instance, a bitcoin ETF would track the price of bitcoin.

"There's been many different attempts at ETFs and many of these have been rejected. There are ETFs in other countries for bitcoin that have been permitted, and I think it's just a thing that will happen in time," says Tristan Yver, the head of strategy at FTX.US, a U.S.-regulated cryptocurrency exchange. "I don't have an estimate of when this will occur, but I do think it's something that will happen, and I think it's

something that will allow people who aren't comfortable with investing directly in digital assets to get exposure to bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies."

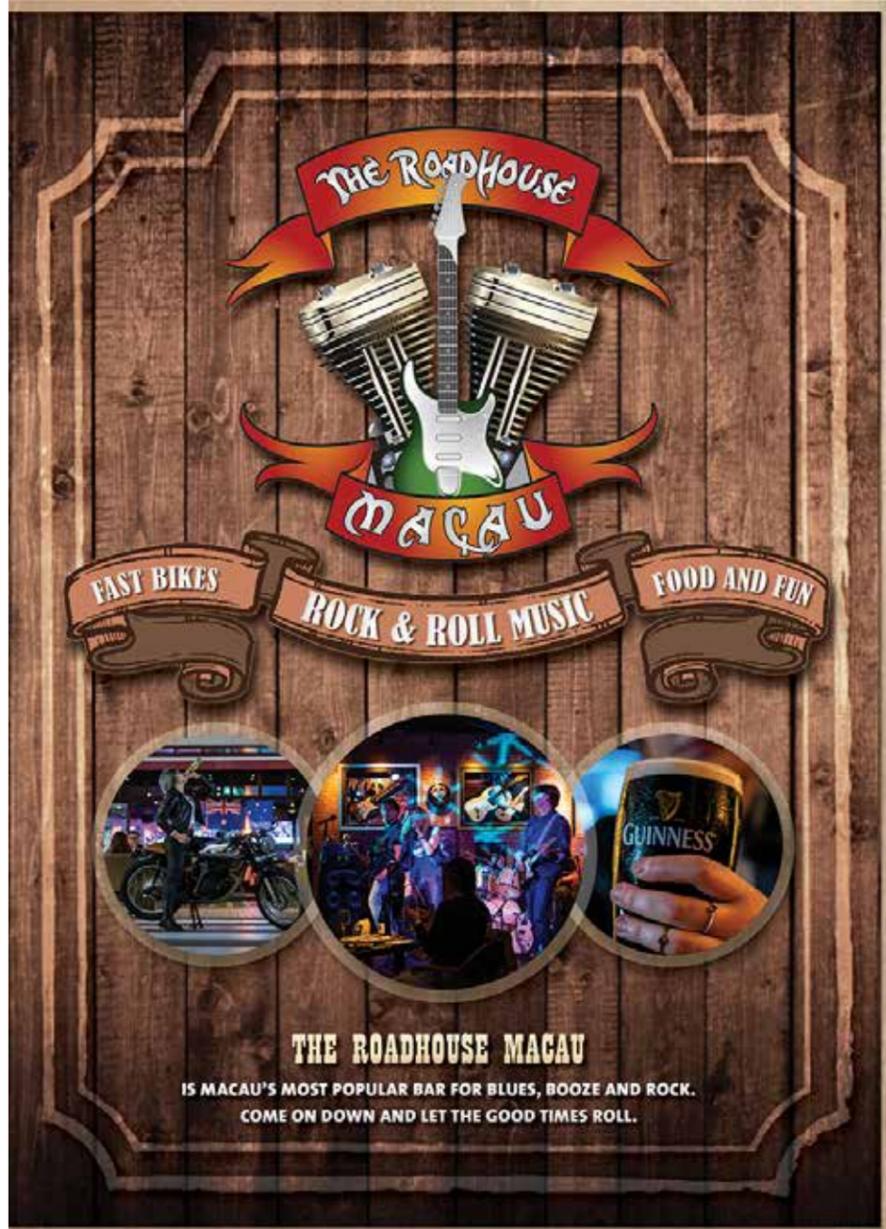
There have been numerous applications for cryptocurrency ETFs, and the SEC is expected to decide whether to approve investment manager VanEck's bid for a bitcoin ETF, which could be the United States' first such fund, on Nov. 14, 2021.

USE CAUTION IF INVESTING DIRECTLY

If you're willing to invest in cryptocurrency directly, there are a few ways you can mitigate your risk. One way to do this is to reduce the amount of money you invest. Some credit cards offer cryptocurrency rewards in a similar way as cash back or miles. If you decide to add cryptocurrency to your portfolio by way of rewards, you don't even have to use your own dollars to do so.

Another way to reduce your risk is to invest in stablecoins, which are similar to traditional cryptocurrencies but are backed by real-world assets, making them less prone to significant drops in value. **MDT/NERDWALLET**

AD



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TASTE OF EDESIA

The unspoken onion

IRENE SAM, MDT

KRUG has always lived up to its reputation as the first and still unique champagne house to create only prestige champagne every year since its foundation. Individuality, the art of understanding that every plot is in itself a single ingredient, is at the heart of the House of Krug's savoir-faire. From the humble potato in 2015 and the simple egg in 2016; the protean mushroom in 2017 and sundry fish in 2018, the enticing pepper in 2019, and now, the unspoken onion in 2021.

In the sixth edition of the Krug x Single Ingredient programme, Krug once again explores the passion, creativity and delight that a single ingredient can inspire. In 2021, the House of Krug continues its exploration of unexpected food pairings and brings together 11 Krug Ambassadors Chefs from 9 different countries who have taken inspiration from the House's unique approach to Champagne creation, unleashing their imagination

on the familiar onion.

The unspoken onion exists as a key component of almost every fundamental recipe from stocks, sauces, and stews, to baked goods and roasts. Its multifaceted expressions marry both the fullness of flavours and aromas of Krug Grande Cuvée and the elegance and boldness of Krug Rosé. The onion can be sweet, savoury, pungent, and aromatic; roasted, grilled, pickled, caramelised, battered, and deep-fried; sliced thin or chunky, served cooked or raw – making it one of the most versatile ingredients to ever exist in the culinary arts.

The world of onions is a culinary treasure trove of possibilities. White onions, red onions, sweet onions, shallots, leeks, or green onions – onions have surely exercised their enticing appeal on the Krug Ambassadors, who have made this remarkable ingredient the star of their respective dishes. The resulting creations match beautifully with both Krug Grande Cuvée and Krug Rosé and the unexpected spirit of the House of Krug.



DRIVE IN

'The Sopranos' prequel is made for the TV fans

MARK KENNEDY,
MDT/AP
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

WHEN "The Sopranos" is brought up these days, it's usually for the nebulous way it ended: That now-famous cut-to-black in a crowded diner while Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" plays. Whether Tony Soprano lived or died is still hotly debated.

The real death in 2013 of the great James Gandolfini ended hopes of putting that debate to bed, but David Chase, the creator and showrunner of "The Sopranos," has intriguingly kept the show alive with the new prequel film "The Many Saints of Newark."

It's intriguing mainly because the film conjures the greatest character ever created for TV back to life



Michael Gandolfini (left) and Alessandro Nivola in a scene from "The Many Saints of Newark"

but doesn't frame him in the middle. Tony Soprano is a cameo in his own origin film.

Instead, the guy in the center is Tony's so-called uncle, Dickie Moltisanti, played with real verve by

Alessandro Nivola. Mafia boss Moltisanti is the guy young Tony looks up to. But he's riddled with the same flaws Tony will soon share: Possessiveness, quick to anger, methodical and yet impulsive, prone to affairs and eager to consume vast amounts of pork products.

In a stroke of genius, the older of two young Tony Sopranos in the film is played by Michael Gandolfini, the son of the late actor who share his father's wide, sad expressive eyes and bearishness. He is riveting.

All the old gang — now made young with new actors, of course — are here: Uncle June, Livia Soprano, Paulie Walnuts, Silvio Dante, Pussy Bonpensiero, Janice Soprano, Jackie Aprile, Carmela and even Christopher Moltisanti, Dickie Moltisanti's son.

Michael Imperioli is back as the younger Moltisanti and he seems to have a bit of a chip on his shoulder about his one-time mentor, Tony Soprano, on account of the older man choking him to death in 2007. So he narrates unseen from the grave.

That leads to one of the funniest moments in the film: When an infant Moltisanti is displayed by his mother to the family but gets too close to Tony, the baby bursts into tears. "It's like I scare him or something," Tony shrugs.

The plot really is just a few slices of years in and around Newark, New Jersey, in the late 1960s and early '70s. The DiMeo crime family — of which the Sopranos are a crew — is trying to stay afloat

during civil unrest that includes deadly 1967 riots.

But what about Tony Soprano? How does he become the anxiety-prone mobster and dad, caught in the old ways and the new, as liable to brutally garotte an informant as break down and cry while hearing The Chi-Lite's "Oh Girl" on his car radio?

We leave him on the cusp of manhood, still teetering between criminality and innocence.

Tony is as mysterious at the end of "The Many Saints of Newark" as he is at the sudden end of "The Sopranos." Perhaps that's as it should be. Perhaps there's room for another prequel.

"The Many Saints of Newark," a New Line Cinema release, is rated R for strong violence, pervasive language, sexual content and some nudity. It's in theaters and HBO Max since September with a running time of 120 minutes.★★★★

OPINION

World Views

Ken Moritsugu, MDT/AP



**US-CHINA CHALLENGE:
 EASING TENSIONS
 DESPITE DIFFERENCES**

In a relationship as fraught as America's and China's, just an agreement that talks were productive was a sign of progress.

Nine months into Joe Biden's presidency, the two sides finally appear to be trying to ease tensions that date from the Trump administration — though U.S. complaints about Chinese policies on trade, Taiwan and other issues are little diminished.

A closed-door meeting in Zurich between senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan was not accompanied by the public acrimony on display at earlier meetings.

After the six-hour talks, the U.S. disclosed an agreement in principle for a virtual summit between Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping by the end of the year. The two have talked by phone twice since Biden became president in January but not held a formal meeting.

Major differences divide what are by many measures the world's two most powerful nations as they jostle for what each sees as its rightful place in the world order. Some differences over regional security and trade and technology may be irreconcilable, but successful talks could manage them and prevent any spillover that impedes cooperation in other areas such as climate change.

"I don't think this marks the turnaround and somehow we'll have a golden era, but maybe we've found the floor, or a floor, in which the relationships won't sink any deeper," said Drew Thompson, a former U.S. defense official who managed military-to-military relations with China, Taiwan and Mongolia.

Thompson, a visiting fellow at the National University of Singapore, said the meeting in Zurich went "spectacularly well" compared to a March meeting in Alaska that Yang and Sullivan attended and other U.S.-China meetings in the last three years.

Zhao Kejin, a professor of international relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing, described the current direction as an attempt to ease tensions and said a Xi-Biden meeting could cap those efforts.

"Compared to the tense relations during the Trump administration, the current relationship is moving toward mitigation," he said. "As far as how far it will move, we will wait and see."

One thorn in the relationship was removed two weeks ago when U.S. prosecutors reached a deal with a Chinese telecom executive that brought an end to prolonged extradition proceedings in Canada and allowed her to return to China.

Shortly after, two Canadians held by China for more than two years were released, and two Americans who had been blocked from leaving China were allowed to return to the United States.

And earlier this week, Chinese state media highlighted remarks by Biden's top trade official, Katherine Tai, that she plans frank conversations with her Chinese counterparts on resolving a tariff war. The U.S. administration, though, has not said whether it will accede to Chinese demands to roll back the tariffs, which were levied under former President Donald Trump.

There is little sign of any easing up in regional security, where China's territorial and strategic ambitions in the western Pacific are running into pushback from the U.S. military and its allies.

China flew a record number of military planes south of Taiwan over a four-day period in the past week, which the U.S. called risky and destabilizing. The flights came as the U.S. and five other countries carried out joint naval maneuvers with three aircraft carriers northeast of Taiwan. China describes such exercises as a provocation.

Biden is also under pressure from human rights activists and Republicans.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, tweeted that Biden is "dangerously delusional" if he thinks he can get a climate deal by playing down "great-power competition" with China.

Beijing residents were cautious about the future of relations, but some said it is better for the two sides to be talking than not. They blamed a hostile U.S. stance for the state of relations, echoing the position of the Chinese government.

[Abridged]

**WHO STARTS SHIPPING COVID-19
 MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO NORTH KOREA**

**THE
 BUZZ**

The World Health Organization has started shipping COVID-19 medical supplies into North Korea, a possible sign that the North is easing one of the world's strictest pandemic border closures to receive outside help.

WHO said in a weekly monitoring report that it has started the shipment of essential COVID-19 medical supplies through the Chinese port of Dalian for "strategic stockpiling and further dispatch" to North Korea.

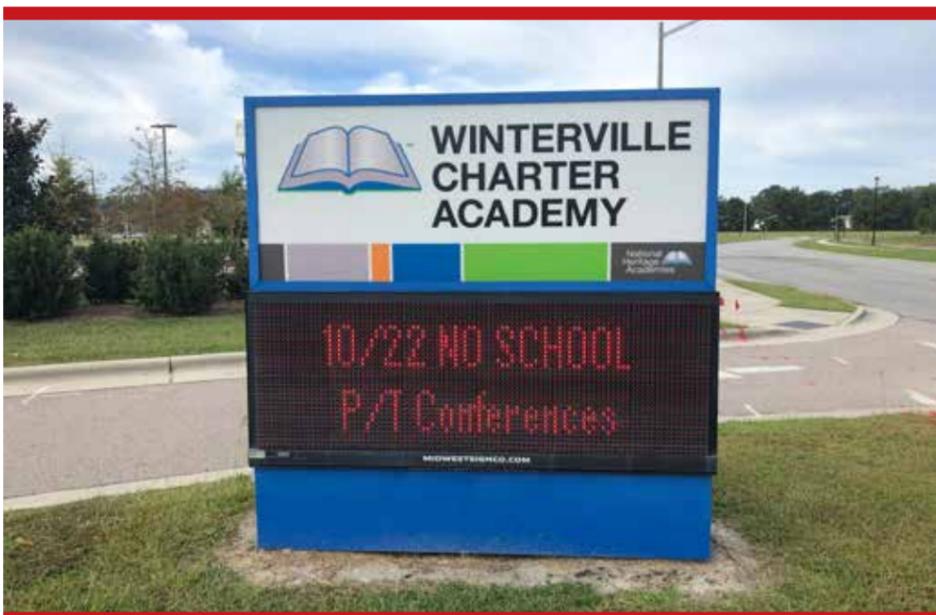
Edwin Salvador, WHO's representative to North Korea, said yesterday that some items, including emergency health kits and medicine, have reached the North Korean port of Nampo

after North Korean authorities allowed the WHO and other U.N. agencies to send supplies that had been stuck in Dalian.

"Consequently, we have been able to transport some of our items by ship to Nampo ... (including) emergency health kits, medicines and medical supplies that would support essential health services at primary health care centers," Salvador said.

Describing its anti-virus campaign was a matter of "national existence," North Korea had severely restricted cross-border traffic and trade for the past two years despite the strain on its already crippled economy.

AP PHOTO



USA

**NORTH CAROLINA CHARTER
 SCHOOL UNDER FIRE FOR
 TEACHER'S COMMENTS**

**TOM FOREMAN JR.,
 WINSTON-SALEM (N.C.)**

A teacher has resigned from a North Carolina charter school after telling Black students in her class that if not for the Constitution, they would be her "field slaves," a comment that one parent said brought attention to other racist incidents at the school.

Winterville Charter Academy sent a memo which also referred to "racially insensitive words" being used by children in the class without any action from the teacher. That teacher, according to the memo from principal Annastasia Ryan, "was supported in turning in her resignation and will not be returning on campus," WITN-TV reported.

"The school leadership team acted immediately upon learning about a racially insensitive lesson and student remarks, and is currently working to address ongoing concerns from parents that racially insensitive student remarks continue," said Colleen Cullison, spokesperson for National Heritage Academies, the parent company for the school.

Cullison said that while privacy rules prevent her from discussing details, "we will not tolerate racism in our school community and will continue taking swift action that addresses these issues."

Kanisha Tillman, who has an eighth-grader at the school, said a parent sent her a text message on Sept. 20 suggesting a particular teacher treated Black and white students differently at the school. Her son later that day described one such incident.

"A white student had called a Black student a monkey," Tillman told The Associated Press, as she relayed her son's account. "When the Black student educated him on that being racist and him not liking it and not to call him that and asked the teacher for support, the teacher turned around and said to him, 'Oh, it's OK. We're all a little bit racist.'"

The Black student then called the white student a "cracker," to which the teacher responded with a threat to write up the Black student for disciplinary action, Tillman said. That incident and several others were recounted on a private Facebook page devoted to the school's parents.

In September, the teacher asked Black students in her class to raise their hands. That's when she then told the students that they would be her "field slaves," were it not for the Constitution, parents alleged.

In another instance detailed on the Facebook page, Tillman said, a group of Black

girls was trying to explain how being called a monkey is racist when a teacher walked up to them and said, "It's OK, You're all my little monkeys."

Children complained about the racist references, but no action was taken, Tillman said. Later, the school sent an email saying it would look into the complaints. The teacher turned in her resignation, but the white student who made the comment to the Black student returned after a two-day suspension, according to Tillman.

Parents had a previously scheduled meeting with Ryan at the school on Wednesday, but Tillman said when she and other parents arrived at the school, the doors were locked and the school said the meeting was canceled. She said the racial incidents weren't the reason for the meeting, but they were sure to be part of the conversation.

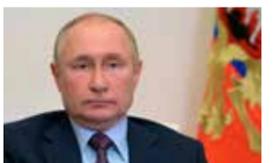
"I don't believe the school had no idea before Sept. 20," Tillman said. "I believe that the school was aware of it and they decided just to keep brushing it off."

The school's website says Winterville Charter Academy teaches 661 children in kindergarten through eighth grade. It opened in 2015 and is approximately 5 miles from downtown Greenville. MDT/AP

Pakistan A powerful earthquake collapsed at least one coal mine and dozens of mud houses in southwest Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 23 people as the death toll continued to creep higher. At least another 200 people were injured, an official said. The death tally was expected to rise even further as crews searched in the remote mountainous area, said Suhail Anwar Shaheen, the local deputy commissioner.

Iran's state TV reported yesterday that speedboats belonging to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard have intercepted a U.S. vessel in the Persian Gulf. A U.S. Navy spokesman said he was not aware of any such encounter at sea over the past days. The region remains on edge over Iran's escalating nuclear program. Talks in Vienna to revive Tehran's now-tattered 2015 accord with world powers have stalled since June, with no date set for their resumption.

AP PHOTO



Russia has the potential to boost natural gas supplies to Europe, where surging gas prices have ramped up pressure on consumers, the Kremlin said yesterday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said existing gas transit routes allow for bolstering supplies before the new Nord Stream 2 pipeline that will carry Russian gas to Germany begins operating.

AP PHOTO



Germany Outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel met yesterday with Pope Francis and Italian Premier Mario Draghi, who paid tribute to her "calm, determined" leadership even during difficult years for Europe and the common currency. Merkel herself has called this her farewell bilateral trip to Italy as chancellor, and her unusually long 45-minute papal audience and glowing tribute from Draghi indicated her Roman counterparts wanted to pay their respects, too.