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Publisher: Wea H. Lee
General Manager: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Business Manager : Jennifer Lopez
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Texas-based company auctioning 50 rare license plates



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Starbucks to close 8,000 U.S. stores for one afternoon for racial-bias training

(Reuters) - Starbucks Corp (SBUX.O) will close 8,000 company-owned U.S. cafes for the afternoon on May 29 to train nearly 175,000 on how to prevent racial discrimination in its stores. Starbucks' roughly 6,000 licensed cafes will remain open. Starbucks said it would make training materials available to the employees of those stores, who are employed by the grocery stores or airports where they are located. The announcement from world's biggest coffee company comes as it tries to cool tensions after the arrest of two black men at one of its Philadelphia cafes last week sparked accusations of racial profiling at the chain. Protesters have called for a boycott of the company, in what has become the biggest public relations test yet for Chief Executive Kevin Johnson. Johnson, a former technology executive, took the helm about a year ago and was already fighting to boost traffic to Starbucks amid intense competition from coffee sellers ranging from hipster cafes to fast-food chains and convenience stores. The afternoon hours are the slowest time for Starbucks' business. Nevertheless, the closure of 8,000 stores

and its corporate offices for an afternoon will almost certainly have an impact on sales. Starbucks did not say how many hours the stores would be shuttered on May 29. "While this is not limited to Starbucks, we're committed to being a part of the solution," said Johnson, who has apologized for the "reprehensible" arrests of the two men and taken responsibility for the incident. Attorneys for the company said Johnson and the two men involved have "engaged in constructive discussions about this issue as well as what is happening in communities across the country." While Starbucks has deftly navigated thorny issues such as gay marriage, gun control and Congressional gridlock, U.S. race relations have proven more challenging. Its 2015 "Race Together" campaign to foster a conversation on the topic following the high-profile police shootings of several unarmed black men stirred an intense social media backlash. Starbucks shares were up 0.8 percent at \$59.87 in afternoon trading.



Police officers monitor activity outside as protestors demonstrate inside a Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia



Interfaith clergy leaders stage a sit-in at the Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia,

Miller Outdoor Theatre Celebrates its 95th Anniversary Season!

April scheduled performances
All performances are always free
Fun facts and frequently asked questions at the bottom



HOUSTON —It's Miller Outdoor Theatre's 95th Anniversary Season and there will be activities marking this special occasion throughout the year! Since 1923, Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park has been one of Houston's most beloved cultural treasures, a gathering place for the community and the site of thousands of memorable free performances. Miller is unique in the United States, offering an eight month season of professional, artistically-excellent and culturally diverse entertainment completely FREE of charge to the public. This is the largest "always free" program of its kind in the country and it attracts hundreds of thousands each season. From daytime programs especially for young children to family friendly evening performances of classical music, jazz, ethnic music and dance, ballet, Shakespeare, musical theatre, popular concert artists, films and more, this is

Houston's best entertainment value.

HAYA Band: The Migration
April 20 at 8 p.m.
<http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/files/3127/HAYA>
Band performs Migration, a calm sampling of traditional and contemporary Chinese music.

Founded in 2006, HAYA Band is an award-winning world music collective representing a new era in folk music. The group has won many accolades, including from the China Music Awards (Best World Music Performance) and the Chinese Media Awards. Lead singer Dai-qing Tana was recently voted "The Most Beautiful Voice in China."

MIGRATION is about searching for one's own spiritual home, experiencing the beauty of life itself, and returning to a simplistic, survivalist lifestyle. HAYA Band's "Migration" Concert employs

innovative musical language alongside classic traditional songs, fusing a variety of musical elements such as chants, the Mongolian horsehead fiddle, plucked string instruments, throat singing, and shaman drums. Their music is refined and captivating. Their shows have a distinct "ceremonious" feel. Migration provides us with a path for escape from this fast-paced modern world, a contemporary migration to another realm, one surrounded by the wonders of nature and life. This is a ticketed event for the covered seating area. Free tickets are available (4 per person over age 16 while they last) at the Miller Outdoor Theatre box office the day of the performance between the hours of 10:30 a.m. -1p.m. If tickets remain at 1p.m., the box office will re-open one hour before show time to distribute the remaining tickets. As always, open seating on the hill. The show goes on rain or shine.

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By Greg Morago

nonetheless troubling.

This tiny bat is an orphan and needs constant care and feeding.

She was rescued by Batzilla the Bat in Brisbane and carer Denise Wade says the babies need feeding five times every day. Credit: Batzilla the Bat via Storyful

But according to Foss, the bats are coming back now in full force as spring warms up. Their numbers are increasing. Just as the city has bounced back, so have the bats.

“The bats are examples of the ‘Houston Strong’ motto – they survived and are doing extremely well,” Foss said Tuesday. “Given some time, the colony will be huge again. The emergence is still really wonderful.”

According to Foss, the Mexican free-tailed bats that migrated elsewhere for the winter are back under the Waugh bridge now.

“A few stragglers are still arriving,” she noted. “Pregnant females will be giving birth to their one pup, starting at the end of May, and going through most of June.”



By Daniela Sternitzky-Di Napoli

The Texas-based custom license plate company, My Plates, is auctioning off 50 rare and highly sought-after plates including unique phrases, two-digit numbers, and even a single-letter plate.

The “Great Plate Auction” is officially live on the MyPlates.com website and will last through 8 p.m. April 25, so potential buyers have plenty of time to get in their bid.

Plates being sold include things like ASTRO5, RCKETS, GO TEXAS, NASA and GRACIAS. According to My Plates president Steve Farrar, “The auction features a little something for everyone.”



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Editor’s Choice Pictures



Interfaith clergy leaders stage a sit-in at the Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia
PHILADELPHIA-STARBUCKS/



Interfaith clergy leaders stage a sit-in at the Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Police officers monitor activity outside as protestors demonstrate inside a Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia



Police officers monitor activity outside as protestors demonstrate inside holding a “Good Cops in a Racist System” sign at a Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia



Pegeons are seen perched on windows in the old city of Damascus



A boy kicks a ball during a practise session of a seminar organised by the FC Shakhtar Donetsk, for soccer training for children with disabilities, near Kiev



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, his wife and head of the China’s Communist Party’s International Department Song Tao applauds with ballet dancers



Copies of former FBI director James Comey’s book “A Higher Loyalty” are seen at Kramerbooks book store in Washington D.C.

NEW ORLEANS — Ever since Canadian-born French explorer Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville chose the swampy, flood-prone bend in the lower Mississippi River in 1718 as the spot for a new French colony, New Orleans has been a non-stop roller coaster of historical events.

Nouvelle-Orléans, as it was originally known, was ruled by three countries in less than a century — France, Spain and America — and swelled with Caribbean, European and African immigrants. It endured outbreaks of yellow fever, slave uprisings, river floods and one debilitating hurricane after another. The most recent big one, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, submerged 80% of the city, led to about 1,400 deaths and threatened the city’s very existence.

This year, New Orleans, birthplace of jazz and jambalaya, celebrates its survival from three centuries of tumult with a 300th birthday party filled with exhibitions, panel discussions, street parades and parties. Throughout the city, large “300” signs have been set up in plazas and parks, each big enough for visitors to snap pictures beside.

Sean Cummings, a New Orleans hotelier and entrepreneur, said the tricentennial is as much a tribute to the city’s resilience as it is its existence.

“For me, it’s a (sign) that something here works,” he said. “It’s lasted for 300 years, and New Orleans has managed to be not only part of the physical landscape as an American city but in many ways part of the poetic landscape.”



Street scene in today’s New Orleans.

New Orleans Celebrates 300 Years Of Survival From Storms, Floods, Revolts And Newcomers

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Founded in 1718, New Orleans will turn 300 years old this year. The city plans to celebrate with a series of talks, concerts and street parades. (Photo /USA TODAY)

The city that today is New Orleans almost wasn’t. British explorers nearly claimed the area for themselves, and even the 18th-century aristocrats in Paris originally wanted their French outpost in Biloxi or farther upriver near modern-day Baton Rouge.

Only Bienville’s machinations brought New Orleans to its present spot. After surviving disease, starvation and storms, New Orleans in the 19th century became a thriving center of commerce, reaping profits from cotton, banking, slaves and anything that floated up or down the Mississippi, said Lawrence Powell, a Tulane University historian and author of *The Accidental City: Improvising New Orleans*.

By 1840, New Orleans was the third-largest banking center in the U.S., behind only New York and Balti-

more, he said. “There was a time when this town was practically the center of the universe,” Powell said.

New Orleans, like the rest of the nation, was gripped by World War I during the city’s 200th anniversary in 1918 and didn’t roll out much of a celebration. This year, expect the city to throw a true party, he said.

“Three hundred years is a pretty good run,” Powell said.

They’ll be street performances at Congo Square, where slaves would meet and dance to beating drums, displays of 18th-century artifacts and documents explaining the city’s founding, and a tricentennial fireworks show.

More than anything, the city will be celebrating the various groups and cultures that have descended onto New Orleans over the years and forged its uniqueness, said Steven Binger, a New Orle-

ans architect and urban planner.

Each new wave of immigrants to the city — from Spanish settlers to Sicilians to Senegalese — brought with them their particular style of food, music and architecture. Spanish settlers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries used local ingredients to morph their beloved paella dish into jambalaya.

They also filled the French Quarter, the city’s oldest neighborhood, with homes decorated with ornate wrought-iron balconies and center courtyards, more akin to homes in Havana and Sevilla than anything found in the U.S., Binger said.



Pedestrians on Chartres Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The city that today is New Orleans almost wasn’t. British explorers nearly claimed the area for themselves and even the 18th-century aristocrats in Paris originally wanted their French outpost in Biloxi or farther upriver near modern-day Baton Rouge. (Photo/ USA TODAY)

Each new style had to somehow merge with the older traditions, a trend that continues today, Binger said. “Almost every art form in New Orleans is connected to an earlier era,” he said. “That’s what distinguishes New Orleans.”

Into the 20th and 21st centuries, New Orleans struggled through waves of economic depression, more blistering storms and a steady brain drain of its educated class. Hurricane Katrina infused billions of dollars of recovery money

into the economy and led to some significant flood protection and public school improvements.

Still, the economy appears stalled, job growth is slowing, and the poverty rate still lingers at around 24% — nearly double the U.S. average, according to the Brookings Institution. Murders and violent crime also remain challenges.



Benny Jones Sr., leader of the Treme Brass Band, before performing at the d.b.a. nightclub in New Orleans. Jones, 74, has been playing traditional New Orleans music since he was a preteen in his Sixth Ward neighborhood. His band plays some of the standards that helped put New Orleans on the global map. (Photo/ USA TODAY)

None of that seemed to matter to Benny Jones Sr., leader of the Treme Brass Band, on a recent Tuesday night as he readied his musicians for a gig at d.b.a.’s on Frenchmen Street. Jones, 74, has been playing traditional New Orleans music since he was a preteen in his Sixth Ward neighborhood. His band plays some of the standards that helped put New Orleans on the global map, such as Treme Second Line and Back of Town Blues.

Jones said he never thought he’d live to see New Orleans’ 300th birthday. But now that it’s here, he plans to praise it right.

“It’s going to be a party,” he said. “And it’s going to be big.”

For a list of New Orleans 300th anniversary events and activities check out: <http://2018nola.com>.

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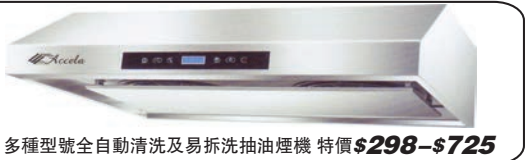
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