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Jun Gai

Texas-based company auctioning 50 rare license plates



Inside C2

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

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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.



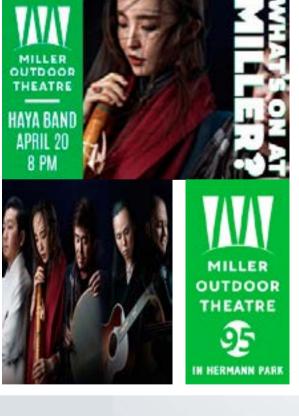
Police officers monitor activity outside as protestors demonstrate inside a Center City Starbucks, where two black men were arrested, in Philadelphia



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

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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 Daiqing 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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LOCAL NEWS

Months after Harvey, see how the bat colony is faring

at the Waugh bridge

By Greg Morago

For years fluttering, flying black creatures of the night were stars every dusk under the bridge they called home. Thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats would emerge from their rest under the bridge in search of food to the delight of dozens and dozens of onlookers. Hurricane Harvey changed all that.

Back in December the Houston Chronicle's Maggie Gordon revisited the colony, ravaged by raging floodwaters that took over Allen Parkway.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Diana Foss, the colony at one time was home to over 300,000 bats

Less than half had returned in the months after the hurricane. The crew's nightly flight in search of food, once an awe-inspiring festival of guano and flapping wings, was just a skeleton of its former self. Still no less a marvel to watch, the diminished numbers were 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

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."



Texas-based company auctioning 50 rare license

By Daniela Sternitzky-Di Napoli

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

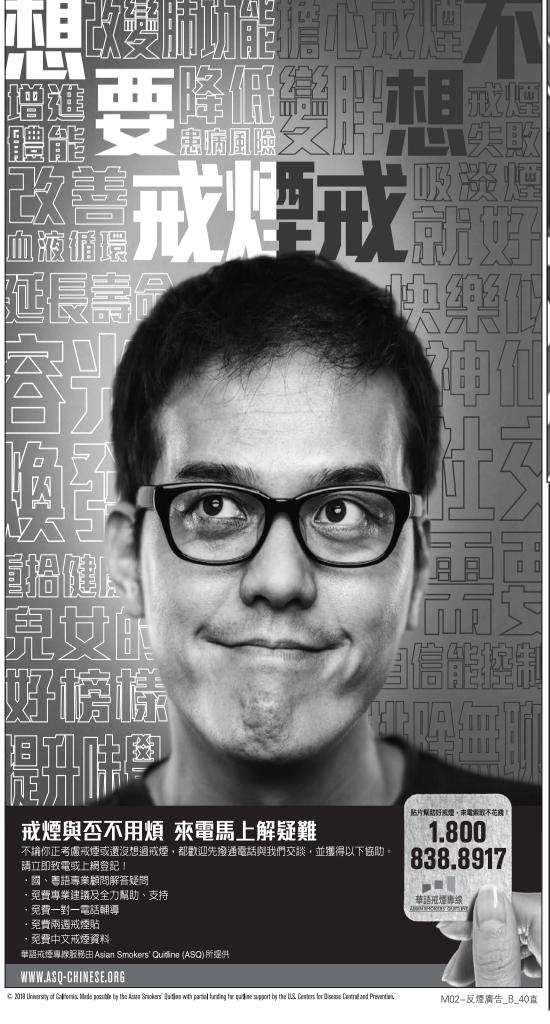
The "Great Plate Auction" is officially live on the MyPlates.com website and will last through 8 p.m. April 25, so potential buyers have plenty of time to get in their bid.

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."









Wednesday, April 18, 2018



Editor's Choice Picturs



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



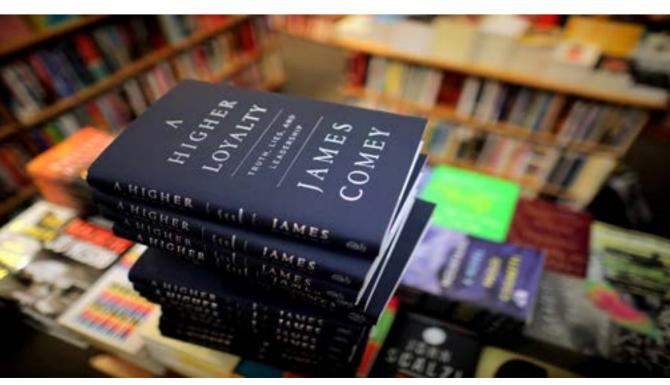
Pegeons are seen perched on windows in the old city of Damascus



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.



COMMUNITY

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 histor-

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 Frenchoutpostin Biloxi or farther upriver near modern-day Baton Rouge.

Only Bienville's machinations brought New Orleans to its present spot. Af-

ter 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 Baltimore, 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 Bingler, a New Orleans 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., Bingler 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, Bingler 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

"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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BUSINESS



New studies have confirmed, once again, the rapid melting of the polar ice in both hemispheres.

A British team has used satellite data to reveal that the retreat of the all-important grounding line of many Antarctic glaciers has accelerated to five times the historic level. And US scientists have confirmed that in Arctic waters the West Greenland ice sheet is now melting faster than at any time in the last 450 years.

Both studies deliver ominous evidence of the long-term consequences of climate change due to profligate human use of fossil fuels. The Greenland icecap holds enough water to raise global sea levels by seven metres. The West Antarctic ice sheet - where the latest study has identified most of the change – holds enough water to raise sea levels by up to five metres.

The UK measure of Antarctic ice retreat is important because it confirms on a wider scale what individual measurements of glacier retreat have already shown: that increasingly warm southern ocean waters are melting the ice at depth.

Depth in this study is critical: glaciers move slowly because the frozen rivers are "anchored" or grounded in bedrock as they flow off the continent, and then grounded again up to a kilometre deep off the continental shelf.



This applies a brake to the flow towards the open sea. The further from the coast the grounding

line, the slower the glacier's flow, the more stable the ice shelf, and the slower the consequent sea level rise.

Hannes Konrad of the University of Leeds in the UK and colleagues report in the journal Nature Geoscience that they used the European Space Agency's satellite Cryosat-2 data to track the changes in the grounding line along 16,000 kilometres of southern polar coastline.

Around West Antarctica, more than a fifth of the ice sheet has retreated faster than the 25 metres or so a year that has been normal since the end of the last ice age. In some cases the retreat of the grounding line has been five times that rate. The retreat has been extreme in eight of the ice sheet's 65 biggest glaciers.

"Long-Term Consequences Of Climate Change Due To Extreme Human Use Of Fossil Fuels"

Polar Ice Is Melting Fast In Both Hemispheres

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

Clear evidence

"Our study provides clear evidence that retreat is happening across the ice sheet due to ocean melting at its base, and not just at the few spots that have been mapped before now," Dr Konrad said.

This retreat has had a huge impact on inland glaciers, because releasing them from the sea bed removes friction, causing them to speed up and contribute to global sea

Far to the north, ice is also melting. Erich Osterberg of Dartmouth College in the US and colleagues report in the journal Geophysical Research Letters that they collected seven ice cores from a remote zone in the West Greenland ice sheet where meltwater trickles down into the deeper snow and then freezes again: this "new" ice in the compacted snow provides scientists with a record of melting over time.



Longer Record Researchers have watching been the apparent acceleration of the summer melting

of Greenland's ice for decades: they have monitored ever faster rates of glacier flow and tried to identify direct influences on the surface of the ice sheet that might accelerate overall melting.

But direct observation of the northern hemisphere's largest concentration of ice began only about five decades ago. The Dartmouth cores provide a total of almost five centuries of summer melt patterns.

'The ice core record ends about 450 years ago, so the modern melt rates in these cores are the highest of the whole record that we can see. The advantage of the ice cores is that they show us just how unusual it is for Greenland to be melting this fast," Dr Osterberg said.

We see that West Greenland melt really started accelerating about 20 years ago. Our study shows that the rapid rise in the West Greenland melt is a combination of specific weather patterns and an additional long-term warming trend over the last century." (Courtesy https://www.truthdig.com/

Related

West Greenland Ice Sheet Melting At The Fastest Rate In Centuries

Weather patterns and summer warming trend combine to drive dramatic ice loss HANOVER, N.H. - March 2018 - The West Greenland Ice Sheet melted at a dramatically higher rate over the last twenty years than at any other time in the modern record, according to a study led by Dartmouth College. The research, appearing in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. shows that melting in west Greenland since the early 1990s is at the highest levels in at least 450 years.

While natural patterns of certain atmospheric and ocean conditions are already known to influence Greenland melt, the study highlights the importance of a longterm warming trend to account for the unprecedented west Greenland melt rates in recent years. The researchers suggest that climate change most likely associated with human greenhouse gas emissions is the probable cause of the additional warming.



Ice cores from the West Greenland Ice Sheet 'percolation zone' were studied under a light table at Dartmouth's Ice

Core Laboratory to reveal ice layers that tell the history of how much melt has occurred through time.

"We see that west Greenland melt really started accelerating about twenty years ago," said Erich Osterberg, assistant professor of earth sciences at Dartmouth and the lead scientist on the project. "Our study shows that the rapid rise in west Greenland melt is a combination of specific weather patterns and an additional long-term warming trend over the last century

According to research cited in the study, loss of ice from Greenland is one of the largest contributors to global sea level rise. Although glaciers calving into the ocean cause much of the ice loss in Greenland. other research cited in the study shows that the majority of ice loss in recent years is from increased surface melt and runoff.

While satellite measurements and climate models have detailed this recent ice loss, there are far fewer direct measurements of melt collected from the ice sheet itself. For this study, researchers from Dartmouth and Boise State University spent two months on snowmobiles to collect seven ice cores from the remote "percolation zone" of the West Greenland Ice Sheet

When warm temperatures melt snow on the surface of the percolation zone, the melt water trickles down into the deeper snow and refreezes into ice layers. Researchers were easily able to distinguish these ice layers from the surrounding compacted snow in the cores, preserving a history of how much melt occurred back through time. The more melt, the thicker the ice layers.



'Most ice cores are collected from the middle of the ice sheet where it rarely ever melts, or on the ice sheet edge where the meltwater flows into the ocean. We focused on the percolation zone because that's where we find the best record of Green-

land melt going back through time in the form of the refrozen ice layers," said Karina Graeter, the lead author of the study as a graduate student in Dartmouth's Department of Earth Sciences.

The cores, some as long as 100-feet, were transported to Dartmouth where the research team used a light table to measure the thickness and frequency of the ice layers. The cores were also sampled for chemical measurements in Dartmouth's Ice Core Laboratory to determine the age of each ice

The cores reveal that the ice layers became thicker and more frequent beginning in the 1990s, with recent melt levels that are unmatched since at least the year 1550 CE.



"The ice core record ends about 450 years ago, so the modern melt rates in these cores are the highest of the whole record that we can see," said Osterberg. "The advantage of the ice cores is that they show us just how unusual it is for Greenland to be melting this fast"

Year-to-year changes in Greenland melt since 1979 were already known to be closely tied to North Atlantic ocean temperatures and high-pressure systems that sit above Greenland during the summer - known as summer blocking highs. The new study extends the record back in time to show that these were important controls on west Greenland melt going back to at least 1870.

The study also shows that an additional summertime warming factor of 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to explain the unusually strong melting observed since the 1990s. The additional warming caused a near-doubling of melt rates in the twenty-year period from 1995 to 2015 compared to previous times when the same blocking and ocean conditions were present.

"It is striking to see how a seemingly small warming of only 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit can have such a large impact on melt rates in west Greenland," said Graeter.



The study concludes that North Atlantic ocean temperatures and summer blocking activity will continue to control year-toyear changes in Greenland melt into the future. Some climate models suggest that summer blocking activity and ocean temperatures around Greenland might decline in the next several decades, but it remains uncertain. However, the study points out that continued warming from human activities would overwhelm those weather patterns over time to further increase melting. "Cooler North Atlantic ocean temperatures and less summer blocking activity might slow down Greenland melt for a few years or even a couple decades, but it would not help us in the long run," said Osterberg. 'Beyond a few decades, Greenland melting will almost certainly increase and raise sea level as long as we continue to emit greenhouse gases." (Courtesy https://www. eurekalert.org)

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