

Silk Road strategy

Infrastructure will be key focus of \$40b fund > p13

Auction ardor

Chinese art collectors lift sales at top auction houses

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Yang at heart

Off-maligned sheep have a place in Chinese folklore

> LIFE, PAGE 9



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ART



Chinese film director Wong Kar-wai speaks on Monday morning at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The museum will be unveiling its new China-themed exhibit in May, exploring how China influenced Western fashion designers for centuries. The exhibit will feature more than 130 examples of haute couture and ready-to-wear pieces next to Chinese masterworks. AMY HE / CHINA DAILY

Met museum to focus on China

By AMY HE
In New York
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The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York will be celebrating centuries of China's influence on the West in its new China-themed exhibit, which focuses on how Western fashion designers were inspired by the country and incorporated elements of its art into fashion pieces.

The exhibit, *China: Through the Looking Glass*, will be unveiled to the public on May 4 and will be presented in the Met's Chinese galleries and the Anna Wintour Costume Center. It runs through Aug 16.

"With the world's largest population and one of the oldest cultures, China is a leading force in economics and politics, so [there is] the need to engage with China,

understand its culture," said Maxwell Hearn, chairman of the museum's Department of Asian Art.

"This exhibition is a collaboration between the Costume Institute and the Department of Asian Art and underscores the key role that the encyclopedic museum like the Met can play in exploring the many ways in which Chinese culture has for centuries influenced and inspired the West," he said during a media briefing.

Chinese director Wong Kar-wai, best known for his work on *In the Mood for Love*, served as artistic director of the exhibit.

"When we look at a mirror, we see ourselves," he said. "But when this mirror turns into a window, we will see a world around us. We hope this exhibition will serve as a window for the Met's audience to have

a better view of the historical and contemporary Chinese culture and aesthetics. Instead of reinforcing the difference, I hope this show will be an event to bring us and our two cultures together."

China: Through the Looking Glass features more than 130 examples of haute couture and ready-to-wear pieces juxtaposed with pieces of Chinese art. Clips from well-known Chinese films — such as *Farewell My Concubine*, *In the Mood for Love*, and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* — will also be incorporated into the exhibit to illustrate how China is portrayed through popular culture.

"In Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, his character Alice enters an imaginary, alternative world by climbing through a mirror," said Andrew Bolton, curator of the Costume

Institute. "In this world, everything is topsy-turvy, and back-to-front. Real life roles are reversed."

"Like Alice's make believe world, the exhibition *China: Through the Looking Glass* presents an image of China that is a fabulous invention, a fictional universe that embraces an alternate reality with a dreamlike object," he said. "This fictional universe reveals itself through a series of carefully curated juxtapositions of western fashion and Chinese costumes and decorative arts."

Bolton said that the exhibit will be broken up into two series: one called *From Emperor to Citizen*, which focuses on three periods in Chinese history—the Qing dynasty, the Republic of China and New China—and the clothing worn during that time, which were

the *changshan*, *qipao* and *zhongshan*.

"For designers, the appeal of these garments lies in their cultural and historical specificity, they serve as a kind of sartorial shorthand for China and the shifting social and political identities of its people," he said. "These three types of garments in turn tell a story of the gradual introduction of Western technique with Chinese dress-making traditions."

The second — called *Empire of Signs* — will focus on signifiers that Westerners associate with China, such as jade, lacquer and porcelain.

The exhibition is sponsored by Yahoo, Condé Nast, Chinese textile and apparel tycoon Silas Chou; Wendi Deng, Rupert Murdoch's former wife; and several other Chinese donors who wished to remain anonymous.

INVESTMENT

China boosted by Japan inflows

By ZHONG NAN
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Japanese investment in China surged in January after months of decline last year.

The development indicates that the world's third-largest economy continues to count on the Chinese market to put economic growth on a firmer footing amid growing domestic and international economic problems.

Japanese contracted investment in China rose by 46.9 percent year-on-year in January. The number of new enterprises set up by Japanese investment increased by 3.5 percent and actual investment rose by 3.2 percent, the Ministry of Commerce said on Monday.

At a news conference, the ministry did not provide a total amount for Japanese investment last month.

Shen Danyang, the ministry's spokesman, said China's high-quality labor force, developed infrastructure facilities, improved business environment and ongoing urbanization were the main factors that attracted increased Japanese investment in January.

Japan's direct investment in China fell by 38.8 percent year-on-year in 2014 to \$4.33 billion.

The decline, compared with a fall of about 4 percent in 2013, reflects soured bilateral relations over territorial and wartime historical issues, as well as rising operational costs in China.

Shen said, "The January growth trend will continue as China is diversifying its export channels through e-commerce trade platforms and favorable policies resulting from bilateral or multilateral free trade agreements."

Zhao Zhongxiu, a trade professor at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, said China's incoming investment last year rose generally at a time when global investment flows were

less than robust.

"Japan is still confronting issues such as slow demand in the global market last year, inflation, labor shortages and a long-term financial deficit," Zhao said.

"China will continue to remain a key investment area for Japan to seek new market growth points this year."

China saw strong inflows of foreign investment in January despite slower economic growth, with services and high-end manufacturing luring investor interest.

The country gained \$13.92 billion in foreign direct investment last month, an increase of 29.4 percent from a year earlier. Investment from South Korea, Sweden, Singapore, Germany and another six nations and regions accounted for 96.5 percent of China's FDI in January.

The service sector accounted for two-thirds of inbound investments in January, while high-end manufacturing took up nearly all the remainder.

Domestic companies also showed growing interest in making offshore investments, with much of their attention focusing on Europe.

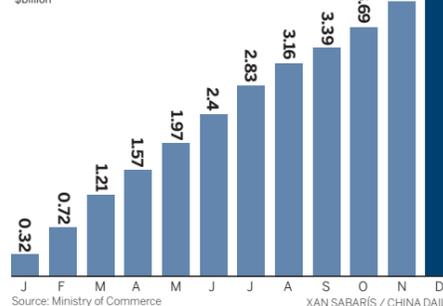
The ministry said it hasn't seen Japanese companies withdrawing capital or human resources from China. Only a few companies from Japan reduced their investment in China last year due to management errors and weak market demand.

Wei Jianguo, vice-chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said, "That a few foreign companies leaving China is normal."

Higher costs and wages may see some manufacturing companies leave, Wei said. But the boom in China's industrial upgrading and restructuring will see its high-end manufacturing and service sectors flourish and attract more international investors.

Japanese FDI in China

2014 cumulative figure
\$billion



Source: Ministry of Commerce
XAN SABARIS / CHINA DAILY

FESTIVAL

Fireworks on Hudson tonight to usher in Chinese New Year

By NIU YUE
in New York

Chinese Lunar New Year will move into the big time on Tuesday with a fireworks show over the Hudson River.

The show will be organized by China's largest and most prestigious arts academy, the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), with an endorsement from China's Ministry of Culture.

Chinese Lunar New Year falls on Thursday, Feb 19, and is celebrated by approximately one out of every six people in the world.

Titled Harmonious China and conducted in partnership with Fireworks by Grucci, the 20-minute fireworks display will commence at 7:30 pm, deploying three barges on the Hudson River next to Manhattan's West Side, nearly equaling the scope of the iconic Macy's Independence Day Fireworks Spectacular on the Fourth of July.

The display will also be the first large-scale fireworks display in the United States to commemorate Chinese Lunar New Year.

Viewing will be possible along the Hudson River from both the



Fireworks display over Hudson River in a file photo. PROVIDED TO / CHINA DAILY

Midtown Manhattan and New Jersey sides, and there will be live music broadcast on three local radio stations — WKDM AM1380, WZRC AM1480 and WGBB AM1240 — featuring special music composed by Guan Xia, director of the China National Symphony Orchestra.

The fireworks display will be divided into four thematic and emotional chapters — starting with Great Jubilation, followed by The Return of Spring, then Illumination of Stars and the Moon, and concluding with a powerful Universal Celebration. The fireworks kick off a week

of Lunar New Year events at cultural institutions around New York City as part of CAFAs Happy Chinese New Year: Fantastic Art China, including a public art exhibition at the Rubenstein Atrium and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center (Feb 18-24), a lighting display of the Empire State Building (Feb 17-19), and other events hosted by partners including the New York Philharmonic, New York Historical Society, National Dance Institute, US-China Cultural Institute / Committee of 100, the China Institute, and the Chinese Consulate in New York.

BOOKS

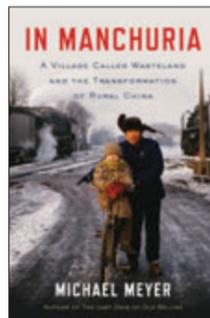
Manchuria: Land reflects past, future

By NIU YUE
in New York

Michael Meyer decided to write a book about his wife's hometown, a village called dahuangdi, or "Wasteland", in Northeastern China's Jilin province, as he saw books and news coverage were too much about China's urban areas. He stayed there from 2010 to 2012, and what he got was more than expected.

"I moved to Wasteland thinking I would write only about the village, and about a single plot of land," Meyer wrote in an e-mail to China Daily about his book *In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China* published Tuesday. "But people's stories kept alluding to historical events outside the village."

"Manchuria" is the old name for Northeastern China, including eastern Inner Mongolia. The place, as the Minnesota-born writer found, is in many ways similar to his home state: the chilly climate often goes below -20 degrees Fahrenheit



heit in winter, and there are qualities of high hospitality and overcompensation, just like "Minnesota nice".

Popular small-talk questions to strangers in the area include where they came from, when they were born and their heights. So, Meyer kept saying "American, 1.86 meters, Year of the Rat."

The region used to be the home of the Manchu, an ethnic group living in the area that later founded the Qing Dynasty, which spanned the mid-17th century to the early 20th century.

SEE "BOOK" PAGE 3

In the news

CHINA

Golf club's lie

A luxury golf club in suburban Shanghai was still in operation Monday despite being exposed as illegally built and operated. > P4

Drug sweep

More than 30 are arrested as 1,000 officers raid suspected drug dens in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province. > P5

Child-labor fines

Seven companies in the electronics, toy, jewelry manufac-

turing and catering industries in Guangdong province are fined for using child workers. > P5

LIFE

Elegant tea dance

The Fairmont Peace Hotel's Afternoon Tea Dance in the Jasmine Lounge in Shanghai is a gracious tradition that harkens back to the city's 1930s heyday. > P7



2 ACROSS AMERICA

CULTURE

Portland State
CI ready for
Spring FestivalBy LIA ZHU
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The Confucius Institute at Portland State University is geared up to promote Chinese culture, taking advantage of the Chinese people's most important festival, the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on Feb 19 this year.

"Promoting Chinese culture means helping the world better understand the profound meaning behind the images," said Gao Mingliang, co-director of the Confucius Institute at Portland State University. "Chinese New Year is rich in cultural elements, which provides a good opportunity that we can't miss."

Celebrating the Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is a traditional program of the institute, which is among the major Confucius Institutes in the US. "But we try to present new features every year to attract more people from both the university and the local community," Gao said.

A Chinese language corner, themed Speak Chinese, Talk about New Year and Welcome the Year of Ram, is one of the new features of this year's celebration.

The event was held last week in Lan Su Chinese Garden, a walled, south China-style garden in Portland, to reach out to the local community.

"At first only a few visitors stopped and listened to our story about the origination of the Chinese New Year, but later dozens of people gathered around," said Chang Yao, the event's organizer and teacher at the Confucius Institute.

"Some of them are learning Chinese now, and some used to live in China," she said. "There are also some loyal fans who are seen at most of our activities."



Confucius Institute teacher Chang Yao describes the origins of Chinese New Year. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

For this event, Chang and her colleague brought some must-have decorations for the Chinese Spring Festival, like New Year scrolls, Chinese knots and traditional New Year posters. They also taught the visitors how to make Chinese knots and to do Chinese paper-cutting.

"They are all very interested in Chinese festivals," said Chang. She was most impressed by a student who later made a short animation about the Qixi Festival, often known as the Chinese Valentine's Day, after he learned about the festival.

As part of a series of events celebrating the Chinese New Year, the institute is also going to have a Chinese dumpling party and its signature Spring Festival party.

This year, more people have been invited to give performances, including professional performers, faculty members and students, as well as members from local organizations, Gao said. The audience is also expected to come from various sectors, from kindergarten children to senior citizens.

"In order to show the audience that Chinese is not difficult to learn, we will invite non-Chinese native speakers as the party hosts," Gao said.

The Spring Festival party has become popular through the institute's promotion on media and social network, as well as word of mouth. "This year, we expect the audience exceeding 1,000," Gao said.

Established in 2007, the Confucius Institute at Portland State University is the 11th of its kind in the US and the first in the Northwest. It has enrolled 12,000 school students now and more than 8,000 others are taking short-term courses.

"Despite the 50 teachers we have now, we are short of Chinese teachers, facing the high demand in Chinese education," Gao said.

EDUCATION



David Weeks (center, speaking), co-founder of the NHSDL, introduces the four participants in Monday's debate at the Asia Society headquarters in New York. From left: Xiao Ze'en (Jiangsu, China); Chloe Kokedjian (New Canaan, Connecticut); Eliza Posner (New Canaan); and Liu Jiawei (Tianjin, China), took part in the event. JACK FREIFELDER / CHINA DAILY

Students debate the environment

By JACK FREIFELDER
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The trade-off between the role of civil societies and government in the protection of the environment was the subject of a lively debate Monday between high school students from China and the United States at the Asia Society.

Civil society organizations should take a leading role in environmental protection because they promote social interaction between "voluntary

associations" as well as structures that promote networks of public communication, Liu Jiawei, a senior from Tianjin Nankai Senior High School in Tianjin, China, said as part of the pro side of the debate's opening address.

"The whole core of this debate ... ought to be decided on the ability to develop and maximize the influence of a certain decision," Liu said. "It should not be decided based on willingness or better executive power. Government and polluters rely on each other, which puts obstacles for government

to protect the environment."

Xiao Ze'en, a senior from Zhenjiang Maple Leaf International School in Jiangsu, China, said government's executive powers are in fact "crucial to fighting pollution" because a government can impose taxes to "eliminate externalities" like consequences from the ups and downs of general economic activity.

"Government can also impose direct regulations when the environment gets too bad," Xiao said, speaking against a leading role for civil societies. "When the environment gets

too bad, government regulation is the most efficient method to cure it in a short time."

Eliza Posner and Chloe Kokedjian, both seniors from St. Luke's School in New Canaan, Connecticut, also joined Liu and Xiao for the event at the Asia Society headquarters in Manhattan. War of Words with High Schoolers from China, was hosted in conjunction with the National High School Debate League of China.

"A leading role in environmental protection should not be based on willingness or better executive power," Pos-

ner said during the debate. "Civil society organizations are more willing to implement change, and they have more ability to develop and maximize influence because they are directly connected to the community."

Orville Schell, the Arthur Ross Director of the Asia Society's Center on US-China Relations; David Weeks, co-founder of the debate league, and other members of the American and Chinese debate communities shared their thoughts in a question-and-answer session with the audience.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Chinese communities join in on the fun

By PAUL WELITZKIN
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Thursday marks the arrival of the Chinese Lunar New Year, and although thousands of miles and in many cases several generations away from celebrations in the mainland, Chinese communities across the United States also will gather to mark the holiday.

Major celebrations will take place in New York City and San Francisco, but also in cities that may be little known for their Chinese communities. Here is a look at three such cities and their New Year's events.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Chinese first came to New Mexico in the 1880s, according to Changjian Feng, a professor in the pharmaceutical sciences department at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

"Chinese Americans would find their way to New Mexico on the railroads and as miners. The dangerous, Western leg of the transcontinental railroad was built by Chinese laborers. When the railroad came to Albuquerque in the late 1800s,

Chinese immigrants and laborers came with it," said Feng.

The Chinese community in Albuquerque, the state's largest city, numbers about 3,000. In 2013, the US Census Bureau estimated the state population at 2.08 million, with approximately 1.6 percent of Asian descent.

"We have a number of professionals who work at the university like me," said Feng. "We also have scientists who work at the Sandia National Laboratories (an engineering and science laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company, for the US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration). We also are represented by physicians in private practice and those who practice Traditional Chinese Medicine."

Feng also serves as principal of the New Mexico Chinese School of Arts and Language. The Albuquerque school is open to all members of the community and provides classes for beginners and advanced instruction for those with basic Mandarin skills. It also offers art and music classes.

The school's New Year's cel-



Young dancers from the New Mexico Chinese School of Arts and Language perform at last year's New Year celebration in Albuquerque. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

bration will be held on Feb 22. Feng anticipates 200 to 300 people will attend. Also on Feb 22, the University of New Mexico's Chinese Spring Festival Gala will be held on the campus. It is sponsored by the school's Chinese Students and Scholars Association and co-sponsored by the Consulate General office in Los Angeles and the univer-

sity's Graduate and Professional Student Association.

Columbus, Ohio

The Chinese population in Columbus is about 20,000, according to Minru Li, assistant director of National East Asian Languages Resource Center at Ohio State University. The school has over 3,000

international students with more than half from China.

"The first official record of arrival of natives from China in Ohio was in 1843," Li said. "The first Chinese in Columbus came in 1893 and the first Chinese laundry opened in 1898."

SEE "NEW YEAR" PAGE 3

Politics plays unspoken role in Chinese-American officer's indictment

Chinese communities around the globe are ready to welcome in the Year of the Ram, which will fall on Thursday. Many Chinese Americans, meanwhile, are paying close attention to the case of an indicted New York City police officer who risks being sacrificed as a scapegoat by politicians to ease lingering tensions between the police and the public.

Officer Peter Liang, 27 was indicted on Feb 11 by a grand jury on charges of manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, assault, reckless endangerment and official misconduct in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man in a darkened Brooklyn public housing



Chang Jun
SAN FRANCISCO JOURNAL

complex stairwell on Nov 20.

Liang, a Chinese American on the force for 18 months, was patrolling the Louis H. Pink Houses in November when he fired a single shot. The ricocheted bullet killed 28-year-old Akai Gurley, who was walking downstairs at the time.

Calling Gurley "totally innocent", New York Police Commissioner William Bratton responded to the scene immediately and characterized the shooting as an "unfor-

tunate accident", hinting there was no suggestion that Liang intended to shoot the man.

However, on Feb 11, the circumstances surrounding Gurley's death led to a manslaughter indictment against Liang, which could carry a prison term of 15 years.

The indictment of Liang is the first in more than two years involving a fatal encounter between a police officer and civilian in New York City.

Chinese communities on both coasts have expressed their concerns about the handling of Liang's case.

"Why are the outcomes so different of Liang's case compared to other police encounters that took the lives of Michael Brown in Ferguson,

Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island?" asked Peter Du, a member of the Flushing Chinese Business Association.

A cell-phone camera captured the arrest of Garner on July 17, after a police officer restrained him with a chokehold despite Garner saying he couldn't breathe. Garner died shortly afterward.

"Why did the officers involved in both cases walk out free without criminal charges?" asked Du. "It's not fair."

Du said that different Chinese organizations in New York and on the West Coast are orchestrating big rallies to call for a fair and transparent handling of Liang's case.

Li Chunyan, assistant profes-

or at Pace University in New York, who is following Liang's case, said she had noticed that Liang's partner on the same patrol with him that day had received immunity from prosecution in exchange for testifying against Liang.

A New York Post article on Feb 12 indicated that Liang's fate was sealed by his partner Shaun Landau, as Landau's grand jury testimony played "the key to notching the top charges".

The Post cited a law enforcement source as saying, "I don't think you would have any case against Liang without the testimony of Landau."

"How much the grand jury would buy Liang's partner's testimony (in ruling the case)

remains a question to the community," Li said.

Mike Lupica of the New York Daily News wrote on Feb 12: "Officer Peter Liang's indictment in Akai Gurley fatal shooting is for the Eric Garner case, too."

Refuting Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson's remarks that "the two cases have nothing to do with each other", Lupica said they are inevitably linked by politics.

"Eric Garner was killed by a fatal chokehold during an arrest in Staten Island," Lupica wrote. "Officer Daniel Pantaleo was not indicted in his death."

Lupica believed that in addition to Thompson's claimed

pursuit of justice, "this is also about politics, and that means racial politics."

"But it is fair to ask, whatever Thompson is saying in public, if he goes at Liang this hard if the city hadn't reacted the way it did after there was no indictment in Eric Garner's death," Lupica wrote. "It is as fair to ask if Thompson goes at Liang this hard for something that happened in a dark corner of the city, one of the places that cops try to keep safer."

Liang pleaded not guilty on Feb 11 to all charges against him.

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TOP NEWS

CRIME

Reward raised for clues to Chinese family's slaying

By MAY ZHOU
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It has been more than a year since the killing of a Chinese family of four in their suburban Houston home, with no arrests made in the case.

The Houston Chinese Alliance (HCA) and Crime Stoppers announced Monday that an extra \$5,000 was added to a reward in the case, bringing it to \$75,000. The reward money was raised by the HCA.

Sun Maoye, 50, his wife, Xie Mei, 49, and their two young sons, Timothy Xie Sun, 9, and Titus Xiao Sun, 7, were found slain in their home on Jan. 30, 2014. The possible date of death was estimated to be between Jan. 24 and Jan. 25.

According to police reports, all were shot once in the head and each was found in a different room in the house in northwestern Harris County.

Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia asked the community on Monday to have confidence and patience: "This is a complicated case. The last thing we want is to rush the investigation. Ultimately, we want justice and a conviction."

"The volume of evidence collected is incredible, and unfortunately, this is not the



Harris County (Texas) Sheriff Adrian Garcia on Monday calls for information leading to arrests in the January 2014 slayings of a Chinese family of four. Behind him from left are: Houston Chinese Alliance members Steve Pei, Howard Xu, Sun Yingying and Texas State Representative Gene Wu. MAY ZHOU / CHINA DAILY

only murder case we have," Garcia said. "I'm asking you not to look at this case in its singularity; there are other violent crimes. We are still waiting for all results to come back from the Institute of Forensic Sciences," Garcia said.

Garcia said the investigators interviewed many people. He said there are many theories on what happened, but it does not help to speculate openly about the case.

Other than the fact that a

gun was involved in the killings and that the case appears unrelated to others, Garcia declined to elaborate on any working theories, number of suspects, motives or any progress.

The Chinese community has been frustrated over the lack of progress in the case, said Sun Yingying, president of the HCA. The frustration is compounded by the fact that police are disclosing little information.

"Sheriff Garcia called for the

perpetrator(s) to come forward to confess," Sun said. "I think this is unlikely to happen, therefore meaningless. We hope the police will step up the investigation. We can't be part of the investigation; we can only express our opinion on behalf of the community."

Sun also said that the HCA will get an update every two months from the sheriff's office.

Steve Pei, a professor at the University of Houston and a

member of the HCA, said that the police probably got quite a bit of evidence to work with at first, but none led to any clear leads.

"However, we want the community to know that the investigation is still active," Pei said.

Howard Xu, HCA vice-president, said that many people shared similar backgrounds and lifestyles to the Sun family. The father was an engineer, and the children went to the local elementary school.

"We feel threatened; the community is disappointed due to the lack of progress," Xu said. "We urge the community to ask people with information to contact Crime Stoppers or the case investigators."

Texas State Representative Gene Wu appealed to anyone with information to "come out and share with us. The law enforcement needs it, we need to catch the people who did this, to heal. Please don't be afraid. Please come out and share your information with us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477). Anyone providing information that leads to the filing of felony charges or an arrest/arrests in the case could receive up to \$75,000.

Book: 'Wasteland' teaches history lesson

FROM PAGE 1

"Its relatively short regional history illustrates modern China's," said Meyer. The final years of the dynasty saw China struggle with foreign powers. The region was then occupied by warlords and annexed by Japan in 1931.

Japan's colonization didn't end until 1945, when Soviet tanks crushed the faltering Japanese Army. Many Japanese civilians, who came to Northeastern China following government propaganda, committed suicide.

After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the region became the frontier of the Korean War, industrialization, and layoffs in the late 1990s, as the government decided not to support money-losing State-owned enterprises.

"I didn't expect that in Wasteland I would glimpse the nation's future," Meyer wrote.

The village's name coincided with T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* but the village is lively.

"The poem begins, 'April is the cruelest month.' But in the village, April was the beginning of life," said Meyer. "The poem is at the forefront of Modernism, and so is the village, when it comes to agriculture, at least."

When Meyer arrived in the village, China already had

allowed farmers to transfer their land-use rights to support mass-scale operations with higher efficiency. A company called Eastern Fortune Rice rose during the time.

The company encouraged local farmers to transfer their land-use rights to the company. In return, the company would pay them an annual lease for the land, put them into modern apartments, and employ them.

The vision of Boss Liu, head of Eastern Fortune Rice, is to offer his fellow villagers an American-style township life. Most farmers were happy with the plan. The house where Meyer was living has been torn down, as his landlord moved into an apartment and became the company's employee.

His departure from Wasteland in 2012 "could not have been more joyous," said Meyer, as his wife was pregnant, something villagers had been eager to hear for years. They now want to see their son, and the Meyers are planning a trip to Wasteland.

Meyer is living with his wife, Frances, in Singapore. He is on a book tour and will speak at the New York Public Library on Tuesday and the Asia Society in New York on Wednesday.

Lu Huiquan in New York contributed to this report.

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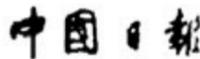
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NEW YEAR

In Tibet, two celebrations coincide

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The streets are more crowded and business is booming in Lhasa at the approach of Losar, Tibetan New Year, which coincides this year with the traditional Chinese Spring Festival.

This year, New Year falls on the same day, Thursday, in both traditions. Losar dates to about 100 BC, the time of the ninth king of Tibet, Pude Gungyal. The celebration runs as long as 15 days.

Although the heavy snow that fell in Lhasa two days ago has not melted yet, residents are gearing up for the festival. Many of the hot shopping spots, such as the Ramoche



A Han woman (left) and a Tibetan girl make traditional local food in Lhasa on Sunday, to greet Spring Festival and Tibetan New Year, both of which come on Thursday. PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY

Ramoche and the Barkhor Shopping Mall, are packed with customers.

"My business is much better than last year. With the New Year festivals together, I had more shoppers," said Basang Lhamo, a stall owner in the Barkhor market.

"I did not have time to prepare for my own Losar," said the 38-year-old, adding that she will close her business on Tuesday, one day

before New Year's Eve. As hordes of shoppers prepared for the festival, some bus drivers find it difficult to avoid traffic jams. "Ahead of Losar, with buses and streets crowded with people, it is hard to keep the bus moving smoothly," said Nyima Tsering, a driver in Lhasa.

Basang Lhamoang, stall owner, Barkhor market, Lhasa

Karma Sonam, 43, a restaurant owner in the city, said his business has boomed this month. "My restaurant has been so full that my wife and our staff don't have time for lunch most of the time," he said. His family will travel to Xigaze for the festival, and he will give the staff a 15-day holiday.

Sonam Droma is a Tibetan woman who married a Han. They plan to spend the festival on the grassland. "It is more fun to embrace Losar in a remote grassland, as we enjoy the evening bonfire dancing and singing," Sonam Droma, 27, said. "It is happier on the grassland."

Features of the festival include activities such as eating *guthuk* — a kind of noodles — expelling evil, pilgrimages to temples, parties, circle dancing

and singing. "Traditionally, *guthuk* contains nine ingredients, such as yak meat, cheese, a wild sweet potato called toma, cabbage, wheat, barley, beans, water and salt," said Choezin Lhamo, a 13-year-old Tibetan girl in Lhasa. "Each of the nine elements you find in your *guthuk* has a symbolic meaning."

On the morning of the first day of the festival, Tibetan residents in Lhasa will cook *changku* — cheese, brown sugar and roasted barley flour boiled in barley wine — an activity followed by good-luck offerings to each other made from *chemar*, a mixture of roast barley flour and butter.

Many residents of Lhasa make a pilgrimage to Buddhist temples in Jokhang and Ramoche, as well as to the Potala Palace.

FESTIVAL

People speak from the heart through traditional scrolls

By LUO WANGHU
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Chinese netizens are posting New Year's scrolls online to salute President Xi Jinping, according to People's Daily's overseas edition.

A netizen using the name Tianyaduomei initiated the activity in December on the website of China Central Television. The goal was to collect 2015 New Year's scrolls for Xi. The activity has received many "likes" by netizens. Through the end of January, the main online post had received 300,000 visits.

Chinese traditionally post Lunar New Year scrolls on their doors for Spring Festival. On New Year's Eve, red scrolls appear around doorways, and red paper-cuttings are displayed as window decorations. Scrolls are decorated with characters and sayings to bring happiness and good fortune — for example, the Chi-

nese character *fu*, which means blessing and happiness.

Meng Wei, a communications scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that new media create a bridge between leaders and ordinary people that offers a positive and vivid forum for public opinion.

Among the scrolls in the online activity, the word "anti-corruption" has been popular. Gong Min, a senior at Renmin University of China, told People's Daily that while she did not write a scroll herself, she paid a great deal of attention to the activity.

"The voluntary dedication of scrolls to President Xi shows he is loved by the Chinese people. The anti-corruption battle is a hot discussion online, which means that the reform benefits the people," Gong said.

Su Hongyuan, a journalism professor at South China University of Technology, told People's Daily that the anti-graft

campaign is a public-spirited activity that is welcomed by ordinary people. Netizens have used traditional vehicles, such as the scrolls, to speak from the heart, Su said.

Voluntary salutes to top leaders can be traced back to 1984, People's Daily said. Peking University students carried a scroll emblazoned with *Xiaoping, Ni hao*, meaning "Hello, Deng Xiaoping", that year in the National Day parade. A photograph recorded the people's recognition of the opening-up policy, which was brought about by then-top leader Deng.

In the Internet era, people show respect and admiration to top leaders online. A micro blogger created an account with which to collect Xi Jinping material and communicated with other Xi fans.

An account on WeChat, a Chinese instant messaging tool, got more than 100,000 subscribers within a year who share and discuss Xi's political thoughts online daily.

New Year: Tennessee traditions

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Li said the Chinese community is composed mainly of middle-class professionals who work at large companies, such as Columbus-based Nationwide Insurance and at Chemical Abstracts, a scientific organization.

On Feb 21, the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) at OSU will sponsor a New Year's celebration. On Feb 22, the Ohio Chinese School in Worthington, a Columbus suburb, will hold a New Year's event. And on Feb 23 the Chinese Culture Club at OSU will hold a celebration. Members of the club are Americans studying Chinese language, culture and history. "Quite a few of the members have no Asian or Chinese heritage. Many members are second and third generation Chinese," said Karen Mancl, a professor and adviser to the group.

Ming Wang, a physician, president of the Tennessee Commerce Chamber of Commerce and honorary chairman of the Tennessee American-Chinese Chamber of Commerce. "My understanding is that after the Civil War ended in 1865; the south was very strong in agriculture. The Chinese were brought in to labor on cotton farms," he said.

Wang said the state's Chinese community now numbers about 50,000, primarily in Knoxville, home of the University of Tennessee, Memphis and Nashville.

"The first wave of modern immigrants to Tennessee was employed on farms or operated restaurants and retail shops and was mostly from Taiwan," Wang said. The second wave which began in the 1970s, were more professionally focused including physicians (like Wang) and research scientists at colleges, including Vanderbilt University in Nashville and the University of Tennessee.

"The Chinese community in Nashville and in Tennessee first arrived in Tennessee in the late 19th century, according to Dr

see is a lot like the Chinese communities in San Francisco or New York City 50 years ago," said Wang. "Most of the Chinese Americans here are still engaged in professions traditionally represented by Chinese Americans such as being restaurant owners and university researchers. The challenge faced by the Chinese Americans here in the heartland of America today is how to step out of the comfort zone of our own ethnicity and integrate more effectively and in larger numbers into American mainstream activities."

Two major Chinese New Year events will be held in Nashville. On Feb. 21, the Asian American Student Association will present the annual Asian New Year Festival, a showcase of dances and performances spanning 11 countries across Asia on the Vanderbilt campus. On Feb 22, the Greater Nashville Chinese Association, which consists of mostly business people, will hold a New Year's celebration focused on the community.