

BUSINESS

Visiting intern will help local firms prepare to do business in China. • P5



EDUCATION

Minnesota Fil-American teens tie for best essay contest. • P10



FILM

Korean feature Treeless Mountain opens at Lagoon Cinema July 17. • P11



Asian American Press

Volume XXVIII: No. 27

“BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY”

WEEK OF JULY 10 • 2009

www.aapress.com

Act would name post office for Lim Poon Lee

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi introduced the Lim Poon Lee Post Office Act on July 7, 2009, with a bipartisan group of 35 original co-sponsors in Washington, D.C. Speaker Pelosi represents the San Francisco area, where President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Lim Poon Lee Postmaster in 1966. At the time, it was the highest federal appointive post ever held by a Chinese American. The Lim Poon Lee Post

Office Act will commemorate the life of the first Chinese American Postmaster in the United States,” said Pelosi. “By dedicating the post office located at 867 Stockton Street in San Francisco’s Chinatown as ‘The Lim Poon Lee Post Office,’ we honor the life of a dedicated public servant and proud American. Lee is credited with transforming the face of San Francisco’s postal

service, increasing the hiring of women, minority, and disabled postal employees. In 1977, Lee established San Francisco’s Chinatown Post Office, the post office located at 867 Stockton Street. “It is fitting that this post office now be named for him,” Pelosi added. “California, and particularly San Francisco, is blessed to have a diverse population, including a vibrant Chinese American community that

represents the beauty and strength of our country.” Lee was born in Hong Kong in 1911, and moved to San Francisco with his family as an infant. After serving as a U.S. Army counterintelligence specialist during World War II, he attended the College of the Pacific and the Lincoln University Law School. Postmaster Lee passed away at the age of 91 in 2002. ■

18 charged in indoor Marijuana operation

MINNEAPOLIS (July 2, 2009) – The West Metro Drug Task Force, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office, and the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force conducted an investigation into a major indoor marijuana grow operation that has ended with 18 people facing federal charges. Thirteen of the suspects make their initial appearances today in federal court. If convicted, the defendants each face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. “Officers and deputies have worked countless hours to investigate this case and pursue it relentlessly,” said Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek. “They should be commended for dismantling one of the largest drug operations of its kind in Minnesota.”

The West Metro Drug Task Force concludes deputies from the Sheriff’s Office and officers from Medina Police, Orono Police, West Hennepin Public Safety, and Mound Police. The Drug Enforcement Agency assisted with the investigation. Charged with one count of conspiracy to manufacture at least 1,000 marijuana plants are: Johnny Cuong Tran, 36, Brooklyn Center; Tuan Van Nguyen, 41, Maple Grove; Nhu Van Nguyen, 58, Maple Grove; Kevin Dinh Phan, 43, Blaine; Tuan Ngoc Phan, 39, Savage; Kenny Thai Tran, 25, Brooklyn Center; Hoa Thai Tran, 22, Brooklyn Center; Dat Thai Tran, 27, Woodbury; Vinh Xuan Hoang, 32, Brooklyn Park; Phung Due Hoang, 29, Brooklyn Park; Doai Long Hoang, 40, Savage; Minh Duong, 34, Brooklyn Park; Winston Nguyen, 32, Austin; Hao Thi Doan, 36, Austin; Anne Huyen Vu, 36, New Hope; Timothy Quang Tran, 41, Shakopee; Thai Van Ngo, 34, Savage; and Phuong The Cong, 28, Shakopee.

On June 30, search warrants were executed at several locations throughout the Twin Cities. More than 3,300 marijuana plants were seized. The Sheriff’s Office estimates the street value of the plants at more than \$5,000,000. More than four times that amount is the estimated value of the marijuana that could have been produced by the entire grow operation each year. At six locations, law enforcement officers found indoor marijuana grow operations that included marijuana plants, watering equipment, and grow lights. Single-family homes were used, nearly exclusively as indoor gardens in Coon Rapids (923 plants seized), Elk River (576 plants seized), Lake St. Croix Beach (630 plants seized). **CHARGES** Continued on Page 8

Hmong Sports Tournament 2009

By TOM LAVENTURE Managing Editor

ST. PAUL (July 4, 2009) – The athletes seemed to thrive in hot, sunny weather, with the occasional cloud passing in front of the sun that allowed the spectators to lift their hats or drop their umbrellas.

The 4th of July weekend saw the 28th Hmong Sports Festival at McMurray field, again brought athletes from all over to compete for big cash prizes in soccer, volleyball and flag football, takraw, tennis and top spin.

The festival draws Hmong community from around the country, and the world, wherever Hmong have resettled over the past thirty years, and other groups that have come to enjoy the same sports are also welcome to compete. These extended families meet at events such as this all over the country.

Top, from left: Canadian takraw players from Regina, Saskatchewan, Jeff Bender, Rick Engel and Caelan Reilly, with Chinese national team takraw player, JiaJia Lu, and Pheng Yang, who organizes the annual Sepak Takraw U.S. Open for the Hmong Sports festival.



Bottom, in a semifinal match, a player from the Arsenates of Milwaukee, right, tries to move the ball around a player from Solid Swat of Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Manitowish.



but the St. Paul tournament has come to be the main event as the heart of the Hmong American community.

In one of the best women’s flag football matches, the defending champion St. Paul Valkaries defeated first year team, Athena, after a lengthy overtime period to decide which team would go on to play in the championship.

SPORTS

Continued on Page 6

Four Hour ‘Parade of Nations’ kicks off Lions Club International

AAPRESS staff report

MINNEAPOLIS (July 7, 2009) – More than 15,000 members of Lions Clubs International and their families gathered in this week for its 92 Annual Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The event kicked off Tuesday with an estimated 10,000 Lions from 150 countries marching in a Parade of Nations down Nicollet Mall, a four-hour event that showcased all of the countries present in their best ethnic dress or some type of float.

The Ha Family Entertainment and Lion Dance Troupe, which is often seen performing locally for CAAM and other events, divided itself to perform during the parade with the China HongKong/Macau Lion Club International delegation; and the 43-person delegation from Taiwan. According to Chuan Chang, head of Taiwan



The delegates from Sri Lanka, above, in the Parade of Nations, Tuesday, a four hour event to open the international convention. A few other countries in the parade included Japan, above right, Guam, center right, Taiwan, below right, Republic of Korea, below center, and China, below left. (AAP staff photos by Tom LaVenture). More photos are on Page 3 and Page 4.



LIONS CLUB
Continued on Page 3