



PIGEON POST

AmCham Taichung plans Independence Day party

EVENT The American Chamber of Commerce Taichung invites the public to celebrate US Independence Day on Saturday. The free event is one of Taichung's biggest annual international celebrations and will feature live bands, food, drinks, vendors, games and other fun, the event's organizer said. The festivities will be held at Nan Yuan Park next to Costco from 2pm to 9pm. Volunteers are still needed for the event. For details, visit www.amchantaihung.org.

Kaohsiung County sets up group to aid foreign spouses

RESOURCES A 90-member group was recently set up to help foreign wives in Kaohsiung County, with 33 new female immigrants among its members. There are more than 20,000 foreign spouses in Kaohsiung County, with 7,200 of them from Southeast Asian countries, the county government said. Liu Chin-tian (劉進添), head of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) local committee, said some 258,000 children have been born to the 408,547 foreign spouses in Taiwan, and that newborns of these new female immigrants account for more than 10 percent of births in the country every year. This underlined the ever-growing significance of new immigrants, and assisting foreign spouses of Taiwanese citizens had become a very important task that the ruling party could not ignore, he said.

Taipei Artist Village announces open call for 2010 residencies

OPEN CALL The Taipei Artist Village (TAV), a non-governmental organization, announced its 2010 Artist-in-Residence open call for international and local artists to submit proposals related to art and culture, the creative industry and interdisciplinary business-art collaborations. Applications and portfolios including a maximum of six pieces of work submitted on a PC-compatible CD-ROM, DVD or VCD from the last two years of the artist's work, or excerpts from up to six pieces of work, should be presented in English and sent by post, the TAV said in a press statement. Applicants must have a minimum of three years experience or professional practice, while students, as well as grantees from 2007 and last year, are not eligible to apply. The application deadline for both domestic and international programs is July 31, and decisions on the successful applicants will be announced by October on the TAV's Web site.

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

German ambassador bear attends party in Taipei

BY LOA IOK-SIN
STAFF REPORTER

Director-general of the German Institute in Taipei Birgitt Ory, German expatriates and their Taiwanese friends unveiled the "Buddy Bear" for Taiwan at German Night in Taipei on Saturday. First created in Berlin in 2001, the Buddy Bear — a sculpture about 2m tall — serves as Germany's ambassador of friendship, traveling around the world to promote peace and international understanding. There are 1,300 Buddy Bears and 140 are on exhibit around the world, with each having a unique name and decoration. The Buddy Bear in Taiwan is painted black with plum blossom-shaped sunglasses, two clasped hands forming a white V-shaped strip across its chest and pants decorated with images representing Germany such as a German soccer player, the German high-speed ICE train and a picture of Albert Einstein. The bear arrived last month and was unveiled on Saturday after being painted in Kaohsiung by students of the Fengshan and Fengshin high schools, as well as students of the German School in Taipei, Ory said. "The plum blossom is Taiwan's national flower, the V-shaped strip is a feature of the Formosan black bear and the shaking hands symbolize friendship between Taiwan

and Germany," Ory explained. She said the Buddy Bear would have a busy schedule in Taiwan. "He will meet the German athletes at the World Games in Kaohsiung [next month] and at the Deaflympics in Taipei, and will make a brief stop at the German School in Taiwan," Ory said, adding that the Buddy Bear would also attend a concert featuring German music, and an event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in October. Another reason the Buddy Bear was brought to Taiwan is the theme of this year's Taipei Film Festival, which began on Friday and will last until July 12. After the unveiling ceremony, guests were treated to German cuisine and a screening of the movie *Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis*. Ory invited everyone in Taiwan to submit suggestions for Buddy Bear's name. Richard Pfennig, a native of Berlin studying at National Chengchi University, quickly made his own suggestion: Taibear. "Taibear is a combination of Taipei, Berlin and the bear itself," Pfennig said. "It also reflects my own life as I'm from Berlin and I'm studying in Taipei now." "It's interesting to find a film festival featuring movies about my city when I'm tens of thousands of kilometers away from it," he said.

DAT's the way Democrats do it

GETTING ORGANIZED: Boosts from the US Democratic Party victory in 2006 and President Obama's win last year helped Democrats Abroad establish a local chapter

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

The Taiwan chapter of Democrats Abroad, the US Democratic Party organization for millions of US expatriates, recently announced that Democrats Abroad Taiwan (DAT) has been approved as the organization's new country committee. DAT executive committee consists of five enthusiastic leaders, including John Eastwood, a law firm partner who serves as DAT chairman, and Justine Chen, a senior policy researcher who serves as DAT vice chairwoman, a press release issued by the group said. Other DAT members are: Michael Turton, DAT secretary; Josh Davis, an MBA student at National Sun Yat-sen University who is DAT treasurer; and David Bell, a graduate

student in Chinese history at National Taiwan University who serves as DAT counsel. Christine Schon Marques, international chairwoman of Democrats Abroad, said in the press release that members of the organization are pleased to welcome the establishment of DAT. "Taiwan's technology sector makes it home to many Americans, and in fact, many Democrats living abroad," Marques said. "We know that under John Eastwood's leadership, DAT will bring a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the entire organization and will help expand the number of Democrats in Congress in 2010." Eastwood said that in the days after the US invaded Iraq, anyone who expressed serious concerns

about what the country was doing would have their patriotism questioned. "Although Democrats Abroad had previously been active in Taiwan, we had to start over in those difficult years," Eastwood said. By organizing social events, Eastwood said, he and like-minded friends living in Taiwan created a comfortable atmosphere for fellow Americans to talk about what was happening to their country politically. When the Democrats took control of Congress in 2006, they began gaining some real momentum to further expand the scale of their activities. Eastwood worked with longtime member Tammy Turner to organize a series of events and provide

overseas voting information to fellow Democrats through elections in 2004, 2006 and last year. The effort received a boost when Bell and Cynthia Teeters joined forces with other Democrats to start efforts to establish DAT. Democrats Abroad has committees throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Antipodes. These country committees keep Americans abroad informed of their rights and help them participate in the US political process. The DAT will hold a Fourth of July fundraising party in Kaohsiung on Saturday. The event, held at a bar close to Kaohsiung Railway Station, is open to anyone wishing to enjoy live music performance and drinks. Americans can purchase a NT\$400 donation ticket and participate in the raffle, the event's organizer said.

“Taiwan's technology sector makes it home to many Americans, and in fact, many Democrats living abroad.”
— Christine Schon Marques, international chairwoman of Democrats Abroad

The raffle will feature some Obama/Democrat-related items, including inauguration memorabilia. For more information, visit www.democratsabroadtaiwan.org.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY JENNY W. HSU



CULTURAL LITERACY

Students at the German division of the European School in Taipei make Lunar New Year's decorations last Tuesday during a visit to the Chulai Elementary School in Taitung. They were taught by students from the Chulai Elementary School.

PHOTO: WANG HSU-TING, TAIPEI TIMES

Memorial held for Allied prisoners at Taipei camp

STAFF WRITER

A memorial service was held by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society at the old wall of the former Taipei Prison on Jinchuan Road on June 20 to honor the US airmen who were incarcerated in the prison in the last months of World War II, as well as the 14 men who were executed in the prison's courtyard by a Japanese firing squad 64 years ago. At 3pm, members of the POW Society and representatives from the Taipei City Government, the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission, the American Institute in Taiwan and other supporters gathered by the old entrance to the prison and marched to where a new plaque is located, led by Canadian bagpiper Mal Turner. Dignitaries unveiled a plaque and Reverend David Homer of Grace Christian Church read a message and a prayer to dedicate the memorial. Wreaths were laid alongside the plaque and 14 poppy crosses lined the wall in commemoration of the slain men. The piper played *Amazing Grace* and two minutes of silence were observed. Michael Hurst, director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society said: "The courage of these Allied airmen must never be forgotten. They fought for their country and the cause of freedom and what they believed was right. They have all sacrificed much for our freedom — let us never forget!" On Jan. 28, 1945, a PB4Y-1 Liberator aircraft was shot down over southern Taiwan and crashed in the sea after attacking Japanese ships. Of the crew, six survivors were taken prisoner. One of those, who was severely injured in the crash, was sent to Japan where he finished the war in a hospital. The other men were imprisoned in Taihoku (Taipei). On May 29, 1945, the five remaining crewmen and nine other captured US soldiers were tried

before a Japanese "War Disciplinary Tribunal," found guilty and sentenced to death. In the early hours of June 19, 1945, the men were shot in the prison's courtyard. The remaining prisoners were released on Sept. 5, 1945.

For more information on Allied prisoners of war in Taiwan during World War II, visit the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Web site at www.powtaiwan.org.



Above: Left to right, Jack Lu from the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission, director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Michael Hurst, Christopher Patton from the American Institute in Taiwan and Michael Teng from the Taipei City Government's Department of Cultural Affairs are pictured at the unveiling of a memorial to former prisoners of war in Taipei. Below: Canadian Piper Mal Turner leads the march along the old prison wall to the memorial.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Policeman finds grave of priest

DISAPPEARED: After a request by a German family, a Chaozhou Township police officer tracked down the burial ground of a priest who died in a crash in 1963

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

A policeman in Pingtung County recently tracked down the grave of a Catholic missionary from Germany at the behest of his family members, who were never fully convinced by reports that the priest had died there in 1963. Tien Hsiang Chen-ling (田項榛林), a member of the Chaozhou Township (潮州) police department, was assigned to the case after a request from Sebastian Heuken's family, who wanted any documents that could prove the priest's death. Heuken's younger brother Karl said the priest worked at a Catholic church in Chaozhou upon his arrival in Taiwan in 1960. Karl said his brother reportedly died in a traffic accident and was buried in the small town, but he questioned the report's accuracy because he never received a death certificate. Tien Hsiang said it was the most difficult case he had investigated because there were few clues indicating the priest ever existed. "I could find nothing at local household offices, other police stations and traffic police divisions," the policeman said. After turning to local churches,

he finally discovered that the missionary's remains were buried at a Chaozhou church cemetery. Heuken's tombstone was engraved with Chinese characters reading "the tomb of Father Ho Li-chien" and his German name. Tien Hsiang said he also visited an 86-year-old Catholic nun from Switzerland in Pingtung's Jiadong Township (佳冬) who had worked with Heuken to gain first-hand information about the accident that led to Heuken's death.

“I could find nothing at local household offices, other police stations and traffic police divisions.”
— Tien Hsiang Chen-ling, police officer in Chaozhou Township, Pingtung County

Germana Rotzetter told him that on the day of the tragedy, she and Heuken were riding motorbikes on Provincial Highway No. 1 when Heuken collided with an oncoming cargo truck, the policeman said. Rotzetter said that she sent for help, but when it came, it was too late. Tien Hsiang said he found out that Heuken's personal effects and his death certificate had been kept for a period at a parish in Donggang, but were eventually destroyed.

Crowd celebrates Canadian holiday a few days early

BY LOA IOK-SIN
STAFF REPORTER

Thousands of people — Canadians and non-Canadians alike — joined a beach party in Tamsui (淡水), Taipei County, on Saturday to celebrate Canada Day a little early. The annual event was organized by the Canadian Society in Taiwan at Shalun (沙漏) beach in Tamsui, four days before the official Canada Day tomorrow. Thousands enjoyed music, food, sports, face painting and other beach activities from noon to midnight on Saturday. With more than 5,000 people attending the event, the organizer said that it was the biggest Canada Day beach party outside of Canada.

Canada's birthday. "I had a great time today — I enjoyed the sporting events," Bryant Beamish, who had just finished playing volleyball, told the *Taipei Times*. "It feels good to have a piece of home in Taiwan." Beamish added that the only thing he had to complain about was the weather — it was cloudy all day with isolated sprinklings of rain.

TWO GAMES

Although the party was to celebrate Canada's national day, Yankuba Manga, a Gambian student at National Taipei University of Technology, said he enjoyed the day because "we just won two soccer games against the Canadians." Robbie Hertzman, from Montreal, said he enjoyed the day by simply sitting on the beach and talking with friends. "This is a nice beach and it feels good just to hang around with friends," he said with a smile. Despite the fun, a few people complained that the event was a bit disorganized, saying they could not always get answers from the information desk about where and when everything was.

ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the day, musicians such as Colby O'Donis, Won Fu, Skaraoke, Music Plant and Neon, as well as DJs including Dominik Hooker, Marcus Aurelius, Rick Kraft and Mr. Gin performed for the crowd. After sunset, a cake-cutting ceremony was held and fireworks were set off to celebrate



Germany's representative to Taiwan, Birgitt Ory, explains the significance of the decorations on Buddy Bear after he was unveiled in Taipei on Saturday.

PHOTO: LOA IOK-SIN, TAIPEI TIMES