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Trump, Xi exchange gifts at dinner

Chinese leader says he's giving 2 pandas to U.S.

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

Wild mushrooms are in their peak season across the United States in late September – and for a second time, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan were treated to the fungi at the White House.

On the menu for the state dinner hosted by President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump on Sept. 24 was wild mushroom fricassee as a first course. At the Chinese leader's first U.S. state dinner, hosted in September 2015 by former President Barack Obama and

then-first lady Michelle Obama, the meal started with a wild mushroom soup.

After a day filled with words of mutual admiration and an Oval Office bilateral meeting, the two world leaders toasted each other at dinner as tech titans – including Tesla CEO Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman – mingled with members of Trump's Cabinet.

"As the leaders of our two nations, President Xi and I both understand that we represent different systems, but the ties between our people endure, and we've never gotten along better," Trump said. "Since the first trade ships from New York left the harbor to arrive on the banks of the Pearl River, Americans and

See STATE DINNER, Page 3A



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, to the White House ahead of a state dinner in Washington, DC, on Sept. 24. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

Detroit officials pledge action after downtown stabbing



Surrounded by family, Samantha Wix, center, mother of Jaquoya Wix, listens during a news conference at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters in Detroit on Sept. 24 as Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison addresses Jaquoya's fatal stabbing in the alley by a Chipotle where she worked on Sept. 20. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Chief Bettison offers support to family of slain Chipotle worker

Andrea May Sahouri
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison stood beside the family of slain Jaquoya Wix and wondered what the woman's last thoughts were before she was stabbed to death in the alley behind the downtown Chipotle where she worked.

"Was she thinking about her daughter? Her family?" he said. "Or simply thinking about trying to make it home?"

No one will know the answers to those questions, but one thing is known, Bettison said.

"Jaquoya fought for her life," he said at a Thursday, Sept. 24, news conference.

Wix's sister and mother stood next him, squeezing each other's hands and

"When the unthinkable happened, they didn't just stand by. You jumped in, you stepped up to support Jaquoya, and you helped when she needed it the most."

Alicya Wix
Thanking her sister's co-workers

wearing sunglasses to hide their tears.

Authorities allege there was little interaction between Wix and Devon Watson, 42, of Detroit, before Watson

stabbed Wix several times around 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 while she was on break at work. She was "bleeding profusely" and still tried to get help, but collapsed.

Watson was quickly apprehended and charged on Sept. 23 with first-degree premeditated murder. He is reportedly mentally ill, although Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said that's no excuse.

Watson had been admitted to the hospital in July for "acute psychosis," according to a petition to have him hospitalized, and diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder.

A doctor checked a box on a report indicating the man could "reasonably be expected within the near future to intentionally or unintentionally

See STABBING, Page 3A

MI to ban firewood in fight against invasive bugs, plants

Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

State officials have announced a new ban on imports of out-of-state, untreated firewood to Michigan, in an effort to protect agriculture, forests and natural resources from invasive insects and plant diseases.

The ban – called a quarantine to comport with Act 189 of 1931, the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act – was ordered Sept. 17 by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Timothy Boring in consultation with the Michigan Invasive Species Program (MISP), a collaborative statewide initiative that works to prevent the introduction of new non-native species, limit the spread of established populations, respond to early detections, and manage or control invasive pests, plants and pathogens.

The ban takes effect Jan. 1, 2027, and applies to firewood originating outside of Michigan not properly heat-treated and certified by MDARD, another state agriculture department or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Firewood movement is one of the most common ways invasive pests and diseases can spread to new areas, often without anyone realizing it," Boring said in a statement. "Preventing the introduction of invasive pests is far more effective than trying to manage an established infestation. This new

See FIREWOOD, Page 3A



The spotted lanternfly, or *lycorma delicatula*, was first spotted in Michigan on Aug. 10, 2022. PROVIDED BY LAWRENCE BARRINGER



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