

MOSAIC

Rapeseed blooms bring beauty and lessons of resilience

After Spring Festival holidays, there's one thing I look forward to most in March — the golden fields of rapeseed flowers that bloom across the terraced hills in my husband's hometown in rural Zhejiang province. It's a stunning display that ushers in the coming of spring, one full of beauty and resilience.

I say resilience, because rapeseed must survive some of the coldest days of the year before they flower; something I discovered one January while hiking among the snow-dusted terraced fields in the

village. I was surprised to encounter neat rows of tiny green plants at that time of year, thriving in spite of the white flakes that covered their leaves and the soil around them. How could anything flourish in such frigid weather, with temperatures that hovered around and even just below zero? But, as my husband explained to me, the rapeseed must take root in winter to blossom at just the right time, which happens to fall in March in the village. Those tiny plants eventually shoot up into sturdy rows of rapeseed around half my height. Then one day, as if by the wave of a conductor's wand, their petals gradually unfurl, painting every hillside in an exuberant shade of yellow that shines with a brilliance second only



Jocelyn amid the blooming rapeseed in Zhejiang province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

to the sun. It serves as a visual overture to the warmer spring days set to arrive, promising everyone who gazes upon these fields of gold that better times are coming. The whole sight uplifts not only

the landscape, but also the spirit within. I recall one day when, after receiving some bad news, I went on to counter it with a long walk in the hills, among these glorious rapeseed flowers. I'm certain they had something to do with the fact that I returned home with a lighter gait and a little more hope in my heart. It's extraordinary that such a spring spectacle could arise from what is arguably one of the most common crops in China. Rapeseed

gets planted in fields across the nation because it serves such a basic and critical purpose in people's lives — to provide cooking oil for the household. This is exactly the reason why my mother-in-law raises a plot of rapeseed every year, yielding enough cooking oil to last often well beyond 12 months. And while some fields of rapeseed flowers have emerged as great tourist draws, pulling in travelers from home and abroad, most are more like those in my husband's hometown, quietly performing for a local audience expecting their arrival each year, which heralds a good harvest later on. This makes rapeseed blooms one of the most easily accessible delights of the spring. Merely setting out on a countryside drive in the right area at

the right time of the year could give you the opportunity to witness their great golden bow of the season. This year, I won't have the chance to witness the blooming of rapeseed flowers in my husband's home village in Zhejiang. But as March comes, I will hold the dazzling vision of fields I've seen once before deep in my own heart as a reminder of the resilience of life — that after enduring some of the coldest and darkest days, we too can bloom into something beautiful.

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Candid camera: Tourism in focus

The home of the Terracotta Warriors, Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, proves a big draw for tourists during the Spring Festival holiday. MA HUZHEN / FOR CHINA DAILY



This Day, That Year



Editor's note: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China.

On Feb 20, 1968, the China Academy of Space Technology was established as the main spacecraft development and production facility in China. Two years after its foundation, China successfully sent its first satellite, Dongfanghong 1, into orbit in April 1970, making the country the fifth to achieve independent launch capability. In the decades that followed, with

launches of more orbiters, probes and taikonauts, the country has been rapidly establishing itself as a space power. An item from China Daily on May 11, 2017, showed engineers from the academy working on the research and development of Shijian 13, the first Chinese-made high-throughput satellite. In 1998, the Taikonaut Corps of the People's Liberation Army was established. About six manned spaceflights have been conducted. China launched its first manned space mission in 2003, becoming the third country in the world to independently develop manned spaceflight, after Russia and the United States. Yang Liwei became well-known as the country's first taikonaut in space

after orbiting the Earth 14 times and traveling some 600,000 kilometers in space in 21 hours. China started sending robotic probes to the moon in 2007 and has carried out several lunar missions since then. It landed the Chang'e 3 probe, which carried the first Chinese lunar rover, on the moon in December 2013. On Jan 2, the Chinese spacecraft Chang'e 4 made a historic landing on the far side of the moon. Last year marked the first time China had launched more rockets into

China makes headway in race for space technology domination

By CHANG GUOHAO

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Satellite communications technology is the crown jewel of China's high-tech development, and has played a vital role in connecting the country with the rest of the world.

A team of about 300 engineers from the China Academy of Space Technology, with an average age of just 35, forms the backbone of design, research and application for China's satellite communications technology, which is used in commercial and mobile communications, broadcast and data transfer, among many other things.

This team, which was established in 2000 for innovation purposes, and is headed by Zhou Zhidong, has overcome the dominance of overseas technologies and developed the Dong Fang Hong 4 large-scale commu-



Engineers from the China Academy of Space Technology work on the research and development of Shijian 13, the first Chinese-made high-throughput satellite, recently in orbit.

nic orbits. The difficulty had prompted Chinese experts to debate over whether to use the technology when the

it the most powerful communications satellite the nation has developed. Since May 2007, 10 satel-

lites have been launched by the academy.

orbit than any other country in any given year.

China saw 39 orbital launches in 2018, equaling the nation's total space missions in the 1990s.

The newspaper and beyond

On our Sina Weibo

Applicants for art academies reach a new high

The number of applicants for art academies in Beijing has reached a new high this year, making competition even fiercer, Xinhua News Agency reported recently. This year, the Central Academy of Drama plans to admit 573 students, while more than 67,000 candidates will sit for the exam. The number of applicants has increased by more than 16,000 compared with last year. In recent years, art colleges and universities have put more weight on candidates' cultural literacy and comprehensive ability.



Video platforms urged to regulate bullet chat

Comments that fly across the video that you're watching are popular in China. The China Netcasting Services Association recently released regulations on short video platforms, which highlights chat filters in real time. People's Daily doubled down on the request for video platforms to better moderate chat. "It is beneficial to create better quality bullet chat if platforms review comments first before airing them," it reported.

How to control and manage anger properly

Anger is a normal, healthy emotion. But it's unhealthy when it flares up all the time or spirals out of control. Chronic, explosive anger has serious consequences for your relationships, health and state of mind. The good news is that getting anger under control is easier than you think. With insight about the real reasons for your anger and these anger management tools, you can learn to keep your temper from hijacking your life.



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Heritage: Scientists discover ancient fossils

Paleontologists in Hubei province have uncovered fossils of a prehistoric marine reptile that closely resembles the duck-billed platypus, found in Australia. Two new specimens of the reptile discovered reveal that *eretmohipsis carrolli* lived about 248 million years ago and had similar hunting methods to today's platypus by using its bill made of cartilage. The animal, about 70 centimeters long, also had a small head, tiny eyes, four flippers for swimming and a long, rigid body with triangular bony blades protruding from the back. The specimens represent the oldest record of reptiles and mammals with extremely reduced visual capacity.

Rankings: Top admired companies in the world

Apple topped the world's most admired companies list for 2019, followed by Amazon and Berkshire Hathaway, according to a recent report by Fortune. E-commerce company Alibaba was the most admired Chinese company, ranking 34th on the list, the report said. Fortune surveyed some 3,750 execu-

tives, analysts, directors and experts in collaboration with its partner Korn Ferry to look for global industrial leaders. Visit our website to learn more about the report.

Trend: Universities open classes on love

Students in China sometimes have a hard time understanding love, and they feel embarrassed to talk about it with their parents. Universities are stepping in and offering students lessons on the subject of love. In 2013, East China Normal University in Shanghai opened an elective course regarding marriage and love. It was designed for 84 students but in the end, nearly 500 people registered. Zhengzhou Normal University, Tianjin University and Nanjing University have opened similar courses.

Forum: Self-heating food raises safety fears

Railway police officers have warned against self-heating food due to recent safety concerns over its use on trains during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush. Last month, a passenger triggered the smoke alarm on a high-speed train. The attendant found that the

passenger's self-heating rice caused the incident. Self-heating food packaging usually uses a heat releasing reaction between quicklime and water, which produces steam.



Biz: New energy vehicle sales surge last month

Sales of new energy vehicles in China jumped 138 percent to 96,000 units in January, making the sector the best performer in the automotive industry, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Sales of electric vehicles increased about 180 percent to 75,000 units last month, and those of plug-in hybrids grew 54.6 percent to 21,000 units, data showed.

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What's on



SID 15th Anniversary Asia Tour — The Place Where We Love Most 2019

When: Feb 24, 7:30 pm Where: Tango Live, Beijing

SID was founded in Japan in 2003 by vocalist Mao and bassist Aki. They were later joined by two supporting members, guitarist Shinji and drummer Yuuya.

The quartet released their first demo CD, *Yoshigai Manabu 17-sai*, on minidisc in August of the same year, and quickly signed to Danger Crue Records.

Though SID technically began in 2003, the band considers Jan 14, 2004, to be the date of their "birth", as it was announced at their show at the Meguro Rock festival that Shinji and Yuuya would be joining as official members.

With their lineup now complete, they released their first single *Kajou-Ban* in March 2004 before traveling overseas for a two-day performance at the Anime Central convention, in the United States in May 2004.

The young band made quite an impact, gaining a number of international fans, and the members have since expressed a desire to return to the US.

In early 2008, SID announced they would be joining Sony Records, and later put out *Monokuro No Kiss*, their debut major single, which was used for the opening of anime *Kuroshitsuji* — the release was available in four versions, one of which was a special *Kuroshitsuji* version featuring the two main characters on a card-board sleeve.

Their debut concert at Nippon Budokan sold out in less than two minutes in November 2008.

Their single *Enamel*, was used for the opening of *Black Butler: Book of Circus*.

Craig David's TS5 Tour: 2019 Live in Beijing

When: Feb 24, 7:30 pm Where: Beijing Exhibition Center

Craig David brings his TS5 Tour to Beijing.

The multi Grammy-nominated pop star from the United Kingdom has sold 15 million albums worldwide. It's nearly two decades since his debut album, the critically acclaimed *Born to Do It*, was at No 1 internationally, selling 1.5 million copies in the United States alone and spawning Billboard hits *7 Days*, *Fill Me In* and *Walking Away*.

In 2016, David's album, *Following My Intuition* stormed straight to the top spot in the UK's Official Albums Chart, and was a top-10 hit in more than 30 countries and regions.

He recently returned to the iconic Ibiza Rocks for a landmark 12-week residency with

his renowned DJ show TS5. In the US, he brought TS5 to huge sold-out shows across the country, including in New York and Los Angeles, as the TS5 movement continued to catch fire.

A Dream of Red Mansions

When: March 1-2, 7:30 pm Where: Performing Arts Center for the National Center, Beijing

It's based on the Chinese classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* by Cao Xueqin from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

There are about 30 main characters and 400 minor ones in the novel.

It describes the Jia clan's wealth and influence and their fall from the height of their prestige, and their mansions are raided and confiscated.

Jia Yuanchun, one of the clan's offspring, is chosen as an imperial concubine, and a lush landscaped garden is built to welcome her visit.

Jia Baoyu, the carefree male heir of the family, was born with a magical piece of "jade" in his mouth.

He shares his love of music and poetry with his sickly cousin Lin Daiyu, but he's betrothed to marry another cousin Xue Baochai.

He experiences a bittersweet life and finally understands that life is nothing more than a long dream.

Laputa: Castle in the Sky

When: March 2, 7:30 pm Where: Shanghai Oriental Art Center

The multimedia concert features songs from Studio Ghibli animated classics — including the eponymous *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*, as well as *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke* and the Oscar-winning *Spirited Away*.

They were all created by composer Joe Hisaishi and director Hayao Miyazaki.

Its charm and appeal ensures that fans of the Japanese animation studio won't want to miss the offering performed by Music Fans Classical, a professional chamber orchestra founded in 2015.

Based on classical music and a wide range of instruments, the orchestra aims to create, interpret and rearrange classical and popular music to the adaptation of chamber music characteristics, breeding into modern-classical style.

Color and Dance

When: March 9-10, 7:30 pm Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, Beijing

China has 56 ethnic groups and each has its own unique history and culture.

Traditions are passed down from generation to generation through legends, song and dance.

Poems will be recited during the show to highlight the beauty of dance.

They are designed to express the poets' emotions or imagination with their own unique rhythms and these will present vivid images to the audience.

This show is based on a series of poems from different ethnic groups, creating a perfect combination of melody, poem and dance that allow the audience to experience the random, wild and fanciful.