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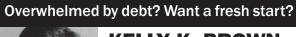
Elephants soak passers-by ahead of boisterous Thai holiday of Songkran



SONGKRAN SOAKING. With assistance from mahouts, elephants blow water from their trunks at tourists on a motor-tricycle, or Tuk Tuk, at Songkran, or the ancient Thai New Year celebration, in Ayutthaya province, central Thailand. The festival — which is also celebrated in neighboring Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos — falls at the hottest time of the year, when temperatures often creep above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. See story on page 4. Locally in Portland, the third annual Cambodian/Lao/Thai/Burmese "New Year in the Park" takes place Saturday, April 29 from 9:30am to 6:00pm at Glenhaven Park in northeast Portland. See an event listing for the celebration on page 13. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)







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