



Internet interprets Texas state representative's tweet as a jab at Stephen

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Stephen Hawking, who unlocked the secrets of space and time, dies at 76

LONDON (Reuters) - Stephen Hawking, who sought to explain the origins of the universe, the mysteries of black holes and the nature of time itself, died on Wednesday aged 76.

Hawking's formidable mind probed the very limits of human understanding both in the vastness of space and in the bizarre sub-molecular world of quantum theory, which he said could predict what happens at the beginning and end of time.

Ravaged by the wasting motor neurone disease he developed at 21, Hawking was confined to a wheelchair for most of his life.

As his condition worsened, he had to speak through a voice synthesizer and communicating by moving his eyebrows - but at the same time became the world's most recognizable scientist.

Hawking died peacefully at his home in the British university city of Cambridge in the early hours of Wednesday.

"He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years," his children Lucy, Robert and Tim said. "His courage and persistence with his brilliance and humor inspired people across the world."

Hawking shot to international fame after the 1988 publication of "A Brief History of Time", one of the most complex books ever to achieve mass appeal, which stayed on the Sunday Times best-sellers list for no fewer than 237 weeks.

"My original aim was to write a book that would sell on airport bookstalls," he told reporters at the time. "In order to make sure it was understandable I tried the book out on my nurses. I think they understood most of it."

The physicist's disease spurred him to work harder but also contributed to the collapse of his two marriages, he wrote in a 2013 memoir "My Brief History".

In the book he related how he was first diagnosed: "I felt it was very unfair - why should this happen to me," he wrote. "At the time, I thought my life was over and that I would never realize the potential I felt I had. But now, 50 years later, I can be quietly satisfied with my life."

U.S. space agency NASA said: "His theories unlocked a universe of possibilities that we and the world are exploring."

Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, said: "We have lost a colossal mind and a wonderful spirit."

Hawking's popular recognition became such that he appeared as himself on the television show "Star Trek: Next Generation" and his cartoon caricature appeared on "The Simpsons". He narrated a segment of the opening ceremony of the

London Paralympic Games in August 2012, the year he turned 70.

A 2014 film, "The Theory of Everything", with Eddie Redmayne playing Hawking, charted the onset of his illness and his early life as a brilliant student.

"We have lost a truly beautiful mind, an astonishing scientist and the funniest man I have ever had the pleasure to meet," Redmayne said.

In Cambridge, Hawking's university college Gonville and Caius flew its flag at half mast.

"At Caius he will always be 'Stephen' - the man whose wicked sense of humor enlivened high table dinners and saw him spinning uproariously around hall in his wheelchair to the strains of a waltz at a college party," it said in a tribute.

Since 1974, Hawking worked extensively on marrying the two cornerstones of modern physics - Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, which concerns gravity and large-scale phenomena, and quantum theory, which covers subatomic particles.

As a result of that research, Hawking proposed a model of the universe based on two concepts of time: "real time", or time as human beings experience it, and "imaginary time", on which the world may really run.

"Imaginary time may sound like science fiction ... but it is a genuine scientific concept," he wrote in a lecture paper.

He caused some controversy among biologists when he said he saw computer viruses as a life form, and thus the human race's first act of creation.

"I think it says something about human nature that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive," he told a forum in Boston. "We've created life in our own image."

Another major area of his research was into black holes, the regions of space-time where gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape.

When asked whether God had a place in his work, Hawking once said: "In a way, if we understand the universe, we are in the position of God."

He married undergraduate Jane Wilde in July 1965 and the couple had Robert, Lucy and Timothy. But Hawking tells in his 2013 memoir how Wilde became more and more depressed as her husband's condition worsened.

"She was worried I was going to die soon and wanted someone who would give her and the children support and marry her when I was gone," he wrote.

Wilde took up with a local musician and gave him a room in the family apartment, Hawking said. "I would have objected but I too was expecting an early death ...," he said.



FILE PHOTO: Professor of mathematics at Cambridge University Stephen

He divorced Wilde in 1990 and in 1995 married one of his nurses Elaine Mason, whose ex-husband David had designed the electronic voice synthesizer that allowed him to communicate. The pair divorced in 2007.

Stephen William Hawking was born on Jan. 8, 1942. He grew up in and around London. After studying physics at Oxford University, he was in his first year of research work at Cambridge when he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease.

"The realization that I had an incurable disease that was likely to kill me in a few years was a bit of a shock," he wrote in his memoir. In fact there were even advantages to being confined to a wheelchair and having to speak through a voice synthesizer.

"I haven't had to lecture or teach undergraduates and I haven't had to sit on tedious and time-consuming committees. So I have been able to devote myself completely to research," he wrote.

"I became possibly the best-known scientist in the world. This is partly because scientists, apart from Einstein, are not widely known rock stars, and partly because I fit the stereotype of a disabled genius." Reporting by Pratima Desai; Editing by Veronica Brown and Edmund Blair

A severe drought afflicting South Africa's Western Cape province is expected to cut agricultural output by 20 percent in 2018, decimating the wheat crop and reducing apple, grape and pear exports to Europe,

according to national government.

The City is bracing for "Day Zero" in late August when its taps could run dry.

Moody's said in a report that one of the most direct impacts would be on Cape Town's operating revenues, as 10 percent of them are from water charges. The ratings agency estimates capital expenditure related to water and sanitation infrastructure could be as much as 12.7 billion rand (\$1 billion) over the next five years.

"The long-term solutions are likely to require significant capital and operating expenditure," Daniel Mazibuko, an analyst at Moody's said.

The drought also threatens to slow South Africa's economic rebound which has been fueled by a surge in agricultural production. Cape town generated nearly 10 percent of the country's total gross domestic product in 2016.



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Internet interprets Texas state representative's tweet as a jab at Stephen

By Keri Blakinger

A Texas state representative has drawn Twitter's ire after hundreds of people interpreted a late night tweet as a slight against famed physicist Stephen Hawking. The tweet was sent by Rep. Briscoe Cain of District 128, which includes Baytown and Crosby, at 12:34 a.m. Wednesday, shortly after news broke that Hawking, 76, had died.

"Stephen Hawking now knows the truth about how the universe was actually made. My condolences to his family," Cain tweeted.

The tweet has since collected more than 350 responses from people interpreting the message as an insult to the award-winning scientist and his lifelong quest to find the universe's origin. Hawking also once famously stated, "[T]here is no god. No one created our universe, and no one directs our fate."

Renowned Physicist Stephen Hawking Dead at 76 A family spokesman confirmed the news on Wednesday. We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today. He was a great scientist and an extraordi-

nary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years. Hawking had suffered from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, since 1963, when doctors only gave him a few years to live. The disease left Hawking paralyzed and dependent on others and technology in order to survive. Many of Hawking's most memorable achievements center around time and space, becoming the leading physicist on black holes and the Big Bang.

"It must hurt to be reminded that there are people who are remembered fondly by millions when they die, whereas no one will remember you at all," David Klion tweeted.

"What an embarrassment you are. Trolling someone at the time of their death is a sign of weakness no matter how you feel about them. You are a jerk," Roger Hutchison tweeted.

Cain spoke to the Austin American Statesman regarding his tweet.

"While many see him as one of the greatest public intellectuals of the last century, and no one disputes that he was brilliant, the fact remains that God exists. My tweet was to show the gravity of the Gospel and



A Texas state representative has drawn Twitter's ire after hundreds of people who interpreted a late night tweet as a stab against famed physicist Stephen Hawking.

what happens when we die, namely, that we all will one day meet the Creator of the universe face to face," Cain said. Hawking published numerous books on physics, including "A Brief History

of Time" and "The Universe in a Nutshell." "God not only plays dice with the universe, but sometimes throws them where they can't be seen," Hawking once said, according to his obituary in the New York Times.

The real reason the U.S. spends twice as much on health care as other wealthy countries

A sweeping new study of health care expenditures found that the United States spends almost twice as much on health care as 10 other wealthy countries, a difference driven by high prices — including doctors' and nurses' salaries, hospital charges, pharmaceuticals and administrative overhead. For years, it has been clear that Americans are not getting a good bang for their buck on health care. The United States spends more than any other country and gets much less, at least as measured by life expectancy or infant

mortality. Policy fixes have tended to focus on the idea that medicine is being overused. The thinking goes that the American health care system is uniquely set up to incentivize wasteful imaging scans, many unnecessary prescriptions and procedures that could have been prevented. The new study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggests instead that Americans are using health care at similar rates to other rich countries, and the real difference is the prices of procedures and treatments. The finding doesn't mean Americans aren't overusing

health care; it just means that the U.S. isn't alone in doing so. "The narrative that has come up, that has developed, is that America spends so much more because Americans demand more health care," said Ashish Jha, a professor of health policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "We have done, through the Affordable Care Act and other policy efforts, almost nothing about prices. To me, that has been the big missed opportunity." Children born in the United States are 70% more likely to die before 18 than children born in any other

wealthy democratic country. Veuer's Sam Berman has the full story. The study compared the United States to the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, Japan, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Denmark from 2013 to 2016 on nearly 100 different measures of care. It found that the United States spent about twice as much per person on health care, an investment that produced the shortest life spans and the highest rate of infant deaths. The United States used more imaging scans than most countries, but spent much less on inpatient hospital care.

Its utilization patterns were overall similar to other wealthy countries — leading the researchers to focus on other drivers of difference. Nonspecialist doctors in the United States are paid on average \$220,000 per year — double the average salary in the other countries. Nurses and specialists were also compensated better. Defenders of doctors' higher salaries often point to the burden of medical school debt in the United States, but one study found that taking into account tuition cost didn't explain the difference in earnings.



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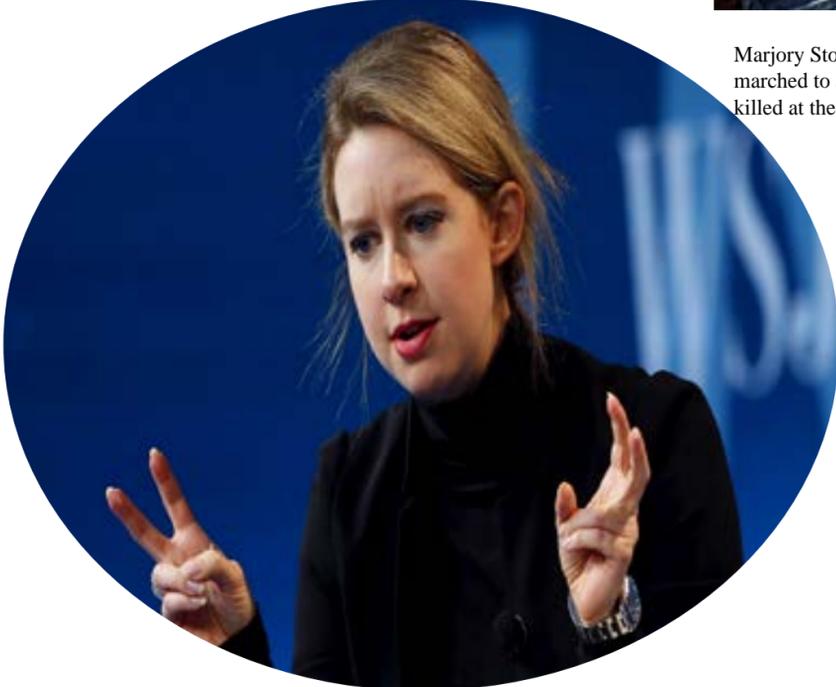
A Snapshot Of The World



Students march from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Westglades Middle School to a nearby park as part of a National School Walkout to honor the 17 students and staff members killed at the school in Parkland, Florida, U.S., March 14, 2018. REUTERS/Joe Skipper



Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student Lenore Munoz, 17, speaks to a crowd of students after they marched to a nearby park as part of a National School Walkout to honor the 17 students and staff members killed at the school in Parkland, Florida, U.S., March 14, 2018. REUTERS/Joe Skipper



FILE PHOTO: Holmes attends the WSJLive conference in Laguna Beach



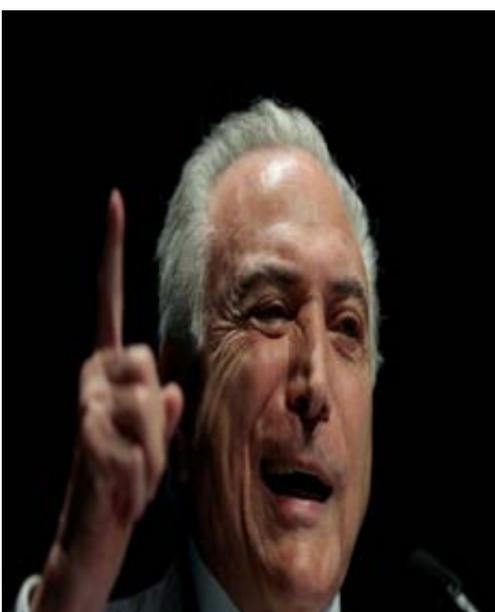
Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Westglades Middle School react after marching to a nearby park as part of a National School Walkout to honor the 17 students and staff members killed at the school in Parkland, Florida, U.S., March 14, 2018.



Russian president Vladimir Putin addresses the audience during a rally marking the fourth anniversary of Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol



First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon attend a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee, chaired by Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May at 10 Downing Street in London



Brazil's President Michel Temer attends the World Economic Forum on Latin America in Sao Paulo



Horse Racing - Cheltenham Festival



Horse Racing - Cheltenham Festival - Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham, Britain - March 14, 2018 The Last Samurai ridden by David Bass and Tiger Roll ridden by K M Donoghue clear a fence during the 16:10 Glenfarclas Chase (Cross Country Chase) Action Images via Reuters/Matthew Childs

Could A Video Game Be The Next Big Breakthrough In Treating Kids With ADHD?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



A screenshot from Akili's video game designed to treat ADHD.

Akili Interactive Labs reported this week that its late-stage study of a video game designed to treat kids with ADHD met its primary goal, a big step in the Boston company's quest to get approval for what it hopes will be the first prescription video game.

In a study of 348 children between the ages of 8 and 12 diagnosed with ADHD, those who played Akili's action-packed game on a tablet over four weeks saw statistically significant improvements on metrics of attention and inhibitory control, compared to children who were given a different action-driven video game designed as a placebo. The company plans next year to file for approval with the Food and Drug Administration.

"We are directly targeting the key neurological pathways that control attention and impulsivity," said Akili CEO Eddie Martucci. The study "was meant to be a strong objective test to ask: Is it the targeting we do in the brain or is it general engagement with a treatment that's exciting and interesting ... that actually leads to these targeted effects? And so I think we clearly see that it's the targeted algorithms that we have."



Despite the positive results, questions about the product remain. For instance, parents and physicians subjectively perceived about the same amount of improvement in children's behavior whether they were playing the placebo game or the therapeutic game. And if Akili can get approval, it remains to be seen whether clinicians and insurers will embrace its product.

The video game has not been tested head-to-head against ADHD medications or psychotherapy to see if it's equally effective.

Akili's video game, which is played on a tablet, sends players down a molten lava river and through an icy winter wonderland, rewarding them with stars and points as they complete tasks. Akili sees the video game as the delivery system for targeted algorithms that act as a medical device to activate certain neural networks. That's a different category than existing apps and games that help patients manage their disease, such as those that deliver cognitive behavioral therapy or help patients track symptoms or monitor

their glucose levels. "We have something that looks and feels and is delivered through a video game," Martucci said, "but when someone's using it, they're getting a direct physiological activation that will lead hopefully — and we have a nice glimpse of data now — to cognitive and general clinical improvement."

The researchers recommended that kids complete a 30-minute session of the game five days a week for four weeks. Just 11 of the participants reported adverse events, mainly headache and frustration — much milder than the usual side effects associated with the drugs often used to treat ADHD.



Akili CEO Eddie Martucci (right) talks about one of the company's video games with Jeff Bower, Akili's director of data science.

Akili is also studying whether a similar version of its video game may have promise in treating adults with depression; the company recently started a mid-stage clinical trial in that population, with early results expected late next year. Akili has also explored the therapy's potential in early stage studies of patients with pediatric autism and multiple sclerosis.

While the effectiveness of brain fitness games is heavily debated among researchers, one neuroscientist may have invented a video game with real staying power and results.



His game, on its journey through FDA approval, uses multitasking to improve overall brain function and he hopes that, pending FDA approval, the game could be used to help people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and ADHD.

Brain fitness games that promise to prolong memory, boost brain health and prevent cognitive decline are everywhere. In fact, the estimated market for these games is close to \$1 billion and experts believe the industry will grow to \$6 billion over the next five years. With stores and marketers promising consumers that these games will make them smarter, raise IQ and forget less, it's no surprise that brain fitness games are a thriving industry.



However, some experts are more than skeptical about the results of these games.

Psychology professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology Randall Engle has been outspoken about his skepticism saying, "We're really talking about a biological system. The idea that you can do some little computer game for half an hour a day for 10 days and change that system is ludicrous on the face of it." He went on to say, "There's very little research that's don't right that suggests that these thing work."

Engle has completed numerous studies putting brain fitness game to the test and has not seen any "substantial benefit" to the games. In fact, Engle was one of 75 scientists who signed a letter to the brain fitness game industry stating that marketers are inventing claims and even targeting elderly customers worried about memory loss.

New Brain Health Game Takes a Different Approach

Neuroscientist Adam Gazzaley, who in fact signed the same letter as Engle, believes that he may have invented a game that addresses both the business and science aspects of brain fitness games.

His game is in the process of getting approval from the Food and Drug Administration, which will take several years and even more money. However, if approved, the game could be used to help people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, PTSD, traumatic brain injury and ADHD.



The game is fully immersive and focuses on multitasking. For example, the player would need to guide a horse through the desert while tapping only green carrots flashing at the top of the screen, but not the radishes or carrots of another color. Gazzaley says that "if we created this, what we call a high-interference environment, with multitasking going on and lots of distraction... if we put pressure in that environment, we would see benefits in other aspects of cognitive control."

He believes that by improving one area of cognition, all areas of cognition may be improved. He also hopes that one day the game can be analyzed by doctors to tailor the treatment of the player after seeing how the player responds to the game in varied environments.

Admitting that his game and his theory needs to undergo extensive testing, Gazzaley is cautiously optimistic.

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WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has removed U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, a native Texan, from his Cabinet post, replacing him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

The president made the move on Friday, according to The Washington Post, and in a public statement said “a great deal has been accomplished over the last 14 months” of Tillerson’s tenure.

But other details emerged Tuesday that conflicted with that account, including an NBC report suggesting Tillerson found out he was fired from the president’s tweets.

The latter scenario would indicate that Tillerson’s termination came after he took a hard line supporting British allegations that Russian operatives poisoned an ex-Russian spy and his daughter. Trump has been hesitant to criticize Russia, even as special counsel Robert Mueller investigates whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia in the 2016 presidential election.



Rex Tillerson and his wife with President Trump at his swearing ceremony as Secretary of State in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 1, 2017.

When speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Trump indicated the Tillerson decision had long been on his mind and said the two “disagreed on things” and “were not thinking the same.” But he said he still hoped to maintain a relationship with Tillerson.

“I actually got on well with Rex,” he said, “but it was a different mindset.” In the afternoon, Tillerson told reporters at the State Department that he will leave his role in the federal government on March 31.

“Between now and then, I will address a few administrative matters related to my departure and work towards a smooth and orderly transition for Secre-

Mounting Tensions Between Tillerson And The President Spurred His Departure

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Is Leaving Trump’s Cabinet

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, whose departure from the Cabinet was announced on March 13, 2018, is shown arriving at a news conference between President Donald Trump and Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at the White House on Jan. 10, 2018. (Photo/ REUTERS)

tary of State-Designate Mike Pompeo,” Tillerson said.

He went on to remind his department’s “foreign service officers and civil service colleagues” that they are all bound by a commitment “to support and defend the Constitution.”

“As a state department we are bound together by that oath, we remain steadfast here in Washington and at post across the world,” Tillerson said. “These are experiences no lecture hall in an academic environment or in a think tank can teach you. Only by people going to the front lines to serve can they develop

this kind of talent.”



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson pauses while speaking to State Department employees upon arrival at the State Department in Washington on Feb. 2. (Photo AP)

The news follows a year of escalating

tensions between Tillerson and Trump, including reports in October that Tillerson called Trump “a moron.”

The change at the State Department comes at a consequential moment in American foreign policy: Trump agreed last week to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

A series of senior Trump administration officials have left the administration in recent months, a remarkable level of churn so early in a presidential term.

Tillerson leaves behind a State Department that is widely viewed as understaffed, strapped for resources and de-

moralized due to pushes for budget cuts by the Trump administration.

A Wichita Falls native, Tillerson was a surprise choice for the secretary of state position but had the backing of much of the Republican foreign policy establishment. He had no diplomatic experience but was the longtime CEO of Exxon-Mobil.



Rex Tillerson is leaving his post as Secretary of State and entering into private life.

Tillerson is closely aligned with a fellow Texan, NATO Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison.

During his remarks to reporters Tuesday, Tillerson did not specifically thank Trump for the opportunity to serve as the nation’s top diplomat.

“All of us we know want to leave this place as a better place for the next generation,” Tillerson said. “I’ll now return to private life to private citizen as a proud American, proud of the opportunity I’ve had to serve my country.”

Speaking with reporters in Washington after the news broke, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said he was “grateful for the good and hard work that Rex has provided as secretary of state, and I’m confident that Mike Pompeo will make an excellent secretary of state.” Yet Cruz also alluded to the rocky relationship between Tillerson and Trump. “These are challenging times,” Cruz said. “It was evident for some time that Secretary Tillerson and the president — that there was real tension between the two of them. And that’s a difficult situation in any administration, to have the secretary of state and the president on different pages.” (Courtesy texastribune.org)

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中国老人连申11次加拿大签证被拒 办签证需注意这些

杨先生和赵女士是来自中国大陆的一对老夫妇。2011年，二人的女儿从中国移民加拿大，随后在加国定居，结婚生子。

常年住在国内老两口十分思念女儿。尤其是在女儿生了孩子之后，俩人每天一睁眼，就惦记着什么时候能去加拿大，想亲手抱抱外孙。

“不行，一定得去。”老两口这样想着，便开始申请旅游签证，盘算着等签证一下来，立刻拔脚走人。

可事情却不想他们想象的那样顺利。2011年起，两人申请了好几次，都遭到拒绝。

一开始，老两口还摸不着头脑，以为自己运气不好，多试几次就可以成功。谁知直到2017年，两人连续被拒11次后，签证还是没拿下来。

“这不是故意难为我们吗！”

老人心里又气又委屈，2017年3月，在女儿和女婿的帮助下，杨氏夫妇以“签证官做出错误决定”为由，一纸诉状，将签证中心告上联邦法院。

如今时隔一年，近日，法庭终于宣读了审判结果，但事情最终的走向，却并没如能杨家人所愿——

法庭判定
◎杨氏夫妇败诉
◎签证中心拒签理由充分
◎法庭将不会推翻签证官的决定
那么，到底是什么，导致了杨氏夫妇怎么都出不了国？

首先，这家人在诚信上有前科。

根据法庭出示的证据，这对夫妇的女儿在加拿大有不良信用卡记录，女婿还有犯罪记录，二人信誉度都较差。

据悉，杨先生的女儿曾给法官写信，信中称如果加拿大政府批准她父母的签证，能鼓励她更遵守加国法律。但法官认为，这不能成为给她父母签发签证的正当理由。

事实上，别说常常来往于海内外的华侨华人了，就是中国留学生，是否在信誉记录上留有污点都很重要。

比如，曾有留学生在留学期间酒驾被查，尽管并未判其具体罪名，只是理论上的“犯罪嫌疑人”，但由于已被记录，后来在续签留学签证时直接被拒了。

其次，杨姓夫妇的资产证明存在漏洞。

二人提交的财产证明是4.2万加币的银行存款。从单一角度，这份证明可以力证，他们赴加后有管好自己衣食住行。但糟心的是，二人无法证明存款来源合法……

此外，签证官和法官还认为，银行存款属于流动性很强的资产，这是很“危险”的事。

因为，不管人在哪里，都可以随时把存款提出来用掉，这份资产不足以保证他们日后一定会回中国，两人极有可能非法滞留在加拿大。

最后，这对老夫妇所持护照为“白本”。

法院裁决文件显示，杨姓夫妇此前从未离开过中国，从没有任何出国的旅游经历。

首次申请签证，理由就是太想女儿和外孙，这让签证官很难相信未来他们

能按时离境。

综合以上三个原因，您来评判一下，杨家这两老两口被拒11次这事，还叫冤吗？

太强调自己不稀罕移民？也不行！

与杨姓夫妇类似，2016年，中国吉林男子张先生想申请探亲签证，赴美国看望已定居的女儿。但有所不同的是，张先生一家信用记录良好。

为争取一次成功，张先生在材料方面做了充足准备，不仅带齐了自己在国内的多处公寓房产证，还有一份前景不错的工作证明。

临行前，女儿嘱咐他“不要表现得特别想来美国，在签证官眼里，每个申请人都有移民倾向，所以要自信一些、轻松一些，打消他们这种顾虑”。

可悲的是，在申请签证面试中，当签证官问及是否有移民倾向时，张先生回答：“我在中国有车有房，要不是为了看女儿，去你们美国干嘛”，之后，迟迟没有递上女儿准备好的邀请信等材料。

原本，张先生此举只是想突出，自己没有移民倾向。可由于矫枉过正，导致签证官认为其藐视美国，于是还没等张先生回过神，他已被签证官给拒了。这些事都会为签证埋雷你根本想不到！

刘先生一家曾多次出境游，每次签证都顺利通过，申请起来得心应手。

可今年再去美国，面签了两次后，仍然拿不下来。明明各项材料一应俱全，回答的时候游刃有余……张先生一家百思不解。

后来经人点拨，张先生才想起，一年前去澳大利亚旅游时，曾在当地出过

一点交通事故，没有按照当地规定来处理，被警方扣了车。

没想到，在澳大利亚的经历居然会影响去美国的申请。

无独有偶。上海某上市公司高管王先生打算携太太赴美产子，两人资产丰厚学历又高，本来以这样的资质，过面签应该是分分钟的事。

谁知道，面签官却抓着各种细节问来问去。直到问及留学的部分，王先生才反应过来。原来他在英国留学期间，曾与邻居产生矛盾导致对方报警，这件事引起了面签官的注意。

经过多番唇舌，总算给了签证官满意的解释，最终面签通过。

以上情况，大家是不是也觉得匪夷所思？怎么在其他国家出状况，美国签证官是如何知道的？

原来，美国与英国、加拿大、澳大利亚是共享签证信息的。

共享信息包括生物特征信息、个人基本信息、签证和出入境信息以及安全背景调查信息，通过这些信息，可识别出申请失败者、被驱逐者、海外难民移居申请被拒者以及试图利用假身份入境者。

也就是说，如果你去过以上国家，并留有不良记录，会在多个国家的使领馆签证处和移民局被匹配和关联。

在此，为您呈上一份攻略，希望对您申请各国签证有所帮助：

- 1. 材料不齐全 (如没有成绩单原件，没有结婚证翻译)
- 2. 材料不按要求 (如资金证明格式不符合要求)
- 3. 证明不充分

- (如资金余额不够)
- 4. 无法证明真实性 (如面试不通过)
- 5. 申请表信息填写有误
- 6. 之前申报的信息有误
- 7. 材料真实性被怀疑或认定为虚假陈述

如何提高签证成功率

1、签证的申请表非常繁琐，需要填写的内容多且详细，填写时一定要确保仔细阅读每一个词，100%理解了问题的目的后，再回答。

2、许多国家，如英国，每年都要进行移民法的调整与修订。每次申请前，应查询最新要求，确保所递交的各项材料符合最新标准。

3、申请材料若是他人代为整理，申请前应通篇仔细阅读，确保对自己所递交的材料心中有数。

4、面试时保持应有的礼貌和谦逊，诚实回复，一问一答。不刻意回避也无需太过“实诚”。

5、穿着干净整洁，目光从容不回避，更易给签证官留下好印象。

被拒后怎么办

【谨记】签证官再难缠，大多数签证被拒，也都是由于申请人自身原因所造成的。

拒签会明确提出拒签证据，以及适用的移民法条款。

此时，应仔细阅读拒签理由，按照信中信出的依据重新准备材料，并在下一次申请时，做好合理且充分的解释。一旦准备好，便可再次提交。

另外，对于像本文杨氏夫妇连续被拒的情况，建议找专业人士加以咨询，毕竟，多次拒签费时费钱，对于签证信誉也有影响。

美国 DACA 计划到最后期限 政府并未采取任何行动

5日，特朗普取消DACA计划时所设置的半年缓冲期来到截止日期。但特朗普还没有采取任何行动。

去年9月份，特朗普撤销了奥巴马时期实行的DACA计划，这让近80万无证移民受到影响。特朗普承诺说，他会受对DACA计划保护的梦想生表示同情，并将这个问题提交给国会，并设定3月5日为提出解决方案的最后期限。

然而，在1月份特朗普拒绝签署两党DACA法案后，谈判陷入僵局。特朗普指责民主党人对DACA无所作为。

白宫5日指责国会缺乏行动。白宫发言人桑德斯5日称：“我认为国会未能采取行动是非常可怕的。事实上，他们无法团结起来并完成某件事情是可悲的，现在他们以法院为借口。”

但桑德斯忽视了这样一个事实，即参议院两党提案未能取得进展主要是由于白宫无情推翻了两党的妥协方案。

数百名DACA计划支持者5日举行示威和宣传活动。他们在华盛

顿表达自己的诉求。许多人在封锁国会山周围入口和道路的示威活动中被捕。

随着一系列的枪击案爆发，国会议员将焦点转移到美国的枪支法律上，关于DACA计划的讨论逐渐消退。

2月26日，最高法院拒绝对此前加州法官要求的延长DACA计划的决定进行听证。这意味着在争议解决前，梦想生还可以继续续签自己的受保护身份。

当3月5日到来时，什么都没有发生。白宫几周来一直对此问题保持沉默，而白宫发言人对此事也没有做出评论。

最高法院的裁决暗示这个问题不会很快得到解决，DACA计划的问题继续陷入法律僵局。

胡安·艾斯卡兰特(Juan Escalante)11岁时从委内瑞拉抵达美国。他是DACA计划保护的梦想生之一。今年28岁的他表示：“这是政治最糟糕的状况。特朗普和国会玩弄着包括我在内的80万人的生。”

他说：“你可能看到梦想生没

有被驱逐出境。但事实上，我们仍然没有受到保护。谁知道会发生什么？这真的很悲惨。”

根据多项调查显示，绝大多数美国人赞成给予梦想生永久的居留身份。许多人认为，只要满足了某些要求，比如纳税和上学，梦想生就不应该受到惩罚。

民主党人称他们不会赞同任何不包含保护梦想生的移民法案。但特朗普和强硬派共和党人坚持要采取措施改变“链式移民”，并要求国会支付美墨边境墙的资金。

特朗普5日发了多条推特，但没有一条涉及DACA计划。

3月23日是下一个联邦政府运转的短期资金到期的日期，一些国会议员建议在通过新的开支法案时来通过有关DACA计划的移民法案。但有消息称，共和党众议院领导并不希望将移民法案和开支法案结合，这可能会引发新的冲突。

此前在参院，两党的妥协法案并没有获得足够的票数通过。这个妥协法案也遭到了特朗普的抨击。

新西兰移民局棒打鸳鸯？ 配偶访问签证 拒签率达35%

最近新西兰的签证审批变慢，拒签率也特别高，让许多人大伤脑筋。其中配偶担保类签证频频出现被拒签的情况。数据显示，最近申请配偶访问签证的拒签率高达1/3，移民顾问表示背后的原因是移民局的审批变得更严格。

据悉，新西兰的配偶签证主要有2种类型：配偶访问签证和配偶工签。两者的区别是持访问签证者不能在新西兰工作，但持配偶工签可以在新西兰任何地点为任何雇主工作。

但就是这样一份时间最长2年，且不能合法工作的配偶访问签证，最近拒签率却异常高。数据显示，10年前该签证的拒签率仅为14%，但2017年的拒签率到了35%。

4年前Steve Razos和太太Krystel在菲律宾相识，现在育有一个2岁的儿子John。没想到，就在Krystel和丈夫短暂分别回国探亲时，移民局取消了她的签证，原因是移民局认为她提供了虚假信息，怀疑他们夫妻关系的真实性和稳定性。目前，夫妇俩在往返交通和签证处理上已经花费了3万至4万新西兰元。

“这真的让人很沮丧，这堵墙让我们分隔两地。”Steve说，“我们有一个孩子，我们结婚在一起很久了

，也不打算去别的地方，而且我们非常相爱，可是当下我们却不能在一起。”移民局副局长Kris Faafoi拒绝重新考虑这个案子，因为这是他的前任审理的。对此Steve也觉得非常受伤，而且他并没有合法渠道可以进行申诉。

根据当前政策，如果配偶签证申请人在新西兰境内提交申请被拒后可以提起申诉，但如果申请人在海外就没有申诉权。新西兰移民投资协会主席June Ranson认为，在海外的申请人也应该有申诉的权利。

新西兰移民投资协会称，签证审批的转变是因为移民官的审理更加严格了。配偶签证的申请也变得更难，移民官的审查重点是配偶关系的真实性。仅仅拥有一个共同的银行账户已经不能说明问题，还需要更多其它的证据。

“有些审理真的很不公平，整个过程是不透明的。我们确实看到签证审批发生了很大变化。”

移民顾问表示，移民局审查配偶关系主要看3个方面：真实性，稳定性，同居。很多朋友喜欢自主申请配偶签证，但他们却容易忽略很多重要信息，导致拒签。

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贵州这么缺水的地方居然有个"东方威尼斯"?

这里是镇远，一个有着两千多年历史的黔东南古镇。乍一看有点像凤凰古城，但没有凤凰那样艳丽，也没那么喧嚣，却多了一份清静，散发着独特的魅力，就像一首可以让人细细回味的诗。

镇远古镇是贵州黔东南州镇远县的名镇，位于舞阳河畔，四周皆山。镇远自汉高祖五年（公元前202年）设县开始，已有2200多年的历史，是云贵高原上历史最悠久的名城，有“东方威尼斯”美誉，也是中国十大古镇之一。

这里的瓦屋多呈现一种黑白灰的色调，没有太多的色彩，但那穿城而过的、碧绿得像玉一般的舞阳河，已是最好的装饰。

镇远古镇不大，商业化程度也不高，基本保持了古朴的建筑和风情。相比于丽江、凤凰等名气大的古镇来说，镇远显得静谧了很多。往来的游客不多，做生意的大多是本地人，操着一口地道的贵州普通话，慢节奏的生活，仿佛让这里的时间也变慢了。

这是一个集文化名城、名山丽水、自然文化、民族风情为一体古镇，因此也被誉为“完美的山水古城、难得的度假胜地”。

舞阳河以高峡平湖、瀑泉飞流、喀斯特为主体；山水水韵风光迷人。

“破镜重圆”半含水中半露峥嵘；鸳鸯夫妻结队戏水，情深意浓；奇妙的三叠水、珠落玉盘直泻深潭；喊泉神灵有喊必应，呼之水出、止呼水隐；石峰神形如“孔雀开屏”、形态逼真；“大圣师徒”前往探幽，忙里偷闲，“面象山”浑然天成，鬼斧神工，整个景区一湾一画，一步一景。

雄伟绝壁的石屏山宛如雄狮昂首挺胸，姿势鬼鬼傲傲，碧水如诗的舞阳河如一条凝碧的玉带，以“S”形穿城而过。北岸为旧府城，南岸为旧卫城，远观颇似太极图，故谓“太极古城”，人们临水而居，乘船往来。

镇远古镇山水秀丽，景色迷人，旅游资源非常丰富。城内古街古巷曲径通幽，石桥城垣错落有致，碧水晨雾姿态万千，春江渔火诗意盎然，人文古迹众多，自然风光旖旎，被誉为“传统文化的迷宫”和“自然与文化的完美结合的胜地”。

夜晚的镇远跟白天有着不一样感觉，却仍扮演着“大家闺秀”的地方，便是因为有了这些灯而具有了古老却魅惑的气质。

镇远古镇也是一个多元化融合的古城，汉民族与侗族等20多个少数民族和睦相处。中原文化、荆楚文化、巴蜀文化、吴越文化、闽粤文化、土著文化与城外文化的融汇，使镇远成为多民族、多宗教、多社会的博物馆，被专家称为“世界文化保护圈”，“赛龙舟”还是镇远古镇的国家级非物质文化遗产。

青龙洞背倚青山，面临绿水，贴壁凌空，五步一楼，十步一阁，翘翼飞檐、雕梁画栋。这些古建筑依山因地，与悬崖、古木、藤萝、岩畔、溶洞天工。既有临江远眺的吊脚楼，也有恬静幽邃的寺院禅台，有朗朗书声的学子院，更有锣鼓喧天的



戏台，集天下山水楼阁荟萃为一方。

古民居 镇远古民居既有江南庭院的风貌，又有山地建筑的布局，这种江南与山地的完美结合，使镇远的名居成为中国建筑史上的奇迹。其中“歪门邪道”是镇远的民居建筑中独具特色之处。

古巷道 镇远古城古巷道狭长幽深，其结构错综复杂，有石牌坊巷、四方井巷、复兴巷、寿巷、冲子

巷、米码头巷、紫宝阁巷、陈家井巷。

这些交叉衔连、互相达通的巷子，组成了镇远古城生生不息的血脉。古井遍布全程、形状各异、有圆有方。有的形如猪槽，有清澈见地的自然浅井，也有深达余丈的吊井。较有名的四方井、猪槽井、琵琶井、陈家井、园觉井、南门沟味井等。古井春夏秋冬盛泽不涸。

镇远展览馆 镇远展览馆最是能够展现镇

远的古风，里面的陈列主要是小镇的发展、民族风情、民族节日、民居变迁等方面，原为家族祠堂，因而建造得也非常有风格。

镇远，是一处怎么用语言来描绘都显得苍白的地方。

它有着两千多年的历史沉淀；它有着繁华的过去；它有着用历史堆积起来的青石小巷和淳朴的人们。推开窗就是一幅画，关上门就是一首诗。如果你已经厌倦了喧嚣！镇远，也许正是我们寻找的地方。

四川茶馆:老茶馆里的杯盏浮生,感慨万千



在成都，闹市有茶楼，陋巷有茶摊，公园有茶座，大学有茶园，处处有茶馆。尤其是老街上，有一家老茶馆，坐落在杨柳河畔，它始建于明清时期，人们说它凝固着旧时光，保留着茶与人文之美。如今，老茶馆成了老人喝茶、聊天、休闲之地。同时，这间拍过电影、上过“舌尖”的老茶馆也吸引着全国各地甚至国外的很多摄影师光顾。

老茶馆是幢平房，占地约二、三百平米，没有店名，也没有招牌。茶馆两面临街，前后门口全是长长的木质旧铺板。

走进这家老茶馆，一幅幅刷的毛主席画像格外醒目，墙面的毛主席语录和屋檐下那闪闪红星，仿佛在诉说着那个年代的故事。总之，这里的每一处犄角旮旯，都沉淀着历史，等待着人们去细细品味。

老茶馆的客人也很“老”，他们偏爱老烟杆的敲打声和老哥子们的扯嗓子和“堂信”掺茶的吆喝交杂在一起，定格成了老茶馆一道百年不曾变过的靓丽风景。

这茶馆过去是一座庙宇，上世纪60年代被收为公有，成了一处茶馆。后来又被承包下来，使用至今。这里，84岁的周建根大爷从小就在这里喝茶，他是随着老茶馆墙上的红色标语和古色古香的老建筑长大的。平时，周大爷一早就习惯了步行3公里来到老茶馆，除了细细品茶，还会在茶馆里打盹，一坐就是一天。

午后的阳光，从屋檐“钻”进老茶馆，照射在一位老人皱巴巴的脸上，只见他顺手将读完的报纸夹在帽檐，把阳光挡在视线之外，然后闭上眼，享受着宁静与安详。

在老茶馆里，水蒸气、烟草味、茶味腾然升起，空气里弥漫着淡然的味道，时间仿佛被凝固一般，随着烟气的散去又回到现实中，形成独有的氛围和一段记忆的切片，在人们细细咀嚼中，历史就在杯盏间悄悄流走……

酷爱泡茶的爷爷曾告诉我，那时候，喝茶是连接友谊的纽带，谁家子女长大要出嫁时，媒人就把双方父母和子女带到茶馆，先泡一杯盖碗茶摆龙门阵，如果双方都很满意，喝完茶顺便就去餐馆吃

饭，并给见面礼金。但要是有一方不太满意，就推说还有事情另约时间，付完茶钱走人。这样一来，另一方也就知道这门亲事“黄了”。

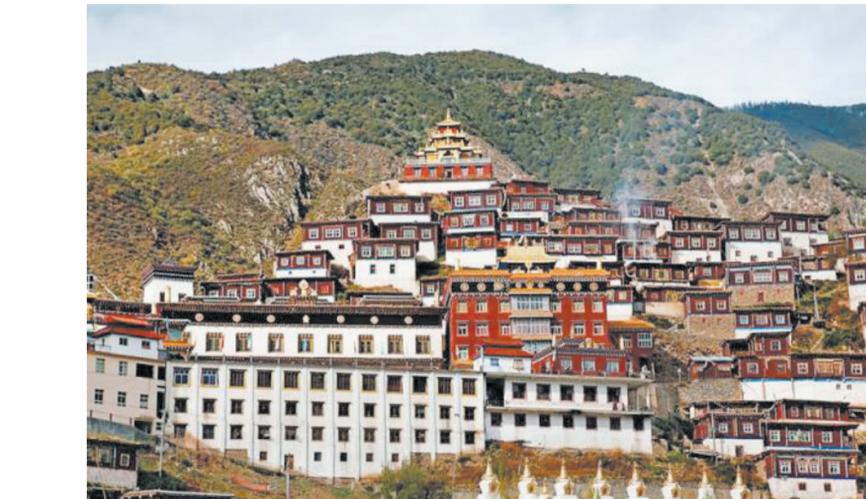
如今，取而代之的婚嫁除了电视台的各种“相亲栏目”外，自由恋爱成为了主体，让曾经的茶馆姻缘渐渐淡出人们视线中。

有趣的是，过去喝茶是重要的社交场所，有许多“约定俗成”。如把茶叶放进茶碗叫做“抓”，碗里茶叶多叫做“饱”，饮茶或喝茶叫做“吃茶”，把开水第一次冲进有茶叶的茶碗叫做“发叶子”或“泡茶”，开水温度不够，茶叶不沉底，一部分浮在水面上叫做“发不起”，被讽为“浮舟叶子”，开水放置稍久，温度已降低，叫做“疲”，或说“水疲了”，第二次向茶碗内冲开水，叫做“掺”或“冲”，顾客少的时候，叫“吊堂”，顾客多的时候叫“打拥堂”等等……

在人们追求享受奢华生活的今天，在彭镇老街上，一座历经百年的老茶馆，它未变，只是人，有些去了，有些又来了。坐在熙来攘往的老茶馆之中，就如我们遇见的很多生命，来来去去，最后静静守望岁月的，还是老茶馆，它记录着在岁月里，记录着一边品茶，一边海阔天空，谈笑风生的人们。它简单又不失特色，一把竹靠椅、小方桌安静地站在泥土土地上，等候每一位茶客的到来，构成了茶客们精彩的一天。



中国四个神奇有趣的地方有的简直是奇迹



沿着高铁去旅行

俗语说话不在多而在精，对于风景，小铁也是这么觉得，景色不在于多少，而在于是否美丽，而在于它所承载的意义。

今天小铁就删繁就简，只给大家介绍四个地方，小铁觉得这些地方相当独特有趣，有些是自然的造化，有些是人类与自然艰险对抗而体现出的智慧等。不管是哪一种，都是壮观而令人惊异的。

No1、白玉

甘孜州第二大冰川麻窝嘎、金沙江叶巴滩大峡谷、火龙沟、纳塔湖构成了白玉绝美的自然景观。当然这不是小铁提到白玉的主要原因。小小的白玉，一条街几乎就是它的全部，街上朴实的康巴人在这出入，你能在这体会到不一样的风俗民情。

No2、雅鲁藏布江的源头

关于雅鲁藏布江的源头，还真是一个有趣的地方，最开始对于这里的争议相当多，科学家几次考察都商议不定，后来中国科学院组织了青藏高原综合科学考察队再次进入河源区，终于探明杰马央宗曲为雅鲁藏布江的正源。

这里的景色相当稀奇，冰川退缩成大面

积冰砾物，谷地呈浅“U”形，而山丘就出现在草原上，而草原的边上就有河流。蓝天、白云、雪山、草原、湖泊、荒漠和沙丘出现在同一片天空下，简直让人怀疑这是真实还是梦幻了。

No3、伊犁杏花沟

小铁其实不太明白为什么大家都爱去西藏旅游，网上铺天盖地而来的也都是各种关于西藏穷游自驾游等等的信息。在小铁的心中，新疆是一点不输给西藏的地方，偌大的新疆，藏着你经年累月都走不完的美景。

伊犁的杏花沟不知道听过的人有几个，但是小铁绝对敢打包票，这里的景色绝对不输给别的地方。

杏花沟位于新疆伊犁县新源县吐尔根乡，伊犁河谷阿吾拉勒山南麓。因为伊犁盆地的气候湿润，加上来自天山充沛的冰川融水的滋润下，杏花沟上万亩原始杏花树，几百年来，野生生长，生生不息。

No4、库尔德宁

小铁最后说的这个也是新疆的一个地方，不知为何，在小铁心中，新疆是一个神秘而美丽的地方，所以这第四个说的，也是新疆的一个地方——库尔德宁。

库尔德宁位于巩留县东部山区，是南北走向的山间阔谷。独特之处是，通常的山沟多顺山势而下，唯独这条阔谷却与雪山平行。库尔德宁即是横沟之意。

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北休斯顿华人协会主办的2018NHCA春节联欢晚会集锦回顾(下)

2018年2月24日晚,由北休斯顿华人协会主办的2018NHCA春节联欢晚会在掌声和笑声中落下帷幕。中国驻休斯顿总领馆的卫修锋和顾海涌领事,德州财政官 Glenn Hegar 的代表 Kelvin Wu, Woodlands Township 的财政官 John Brown, 社区关系主任 Nick Wolda, 德州旅馆协会董事会以及 Montgomery 县选民意识委员会创立者 Grace Jacobson, LoneStar 成人教育课程的主管 Steven Gorman, 林城中国文化中心副主席 Don Stewart 等嘉宾应邀参加了晚会。



北休斯顿华人协会理事, Montgomery 县选民意识委员会创立者: 宋蕾 (Grace Jacobson 捐赠了她竞标得来的价值 1000 元的 IW 特别捐赠给协会)

容纳 400 人的宴会大厅座无虚席,来自北休斯顿地区的华人朋友和来宾们在享受中国美食的同时,欣赏了一场视觉盛宴,临场即兴发挥的奖品捐赠拍卖更是引爆了全场的气氛。大家纷纷表示“每年只有过完北休斯顿华人协会的春晚才叫过完年了!节目一如既往的精彩!”。



亲自热舞竞赛



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来自中国领事馆,德州政府以及北休斯顿华人协会理事成员集体合影



小提琴合奏《新疆之春》



儿童民族舞蹈《小小茉莉花》



众人齐唱《为祖国干杯》

美洲菩提中心舉辦 2018 年度敦親睦鄰活動



宏意法師以祥獅向大眾賀年。



出席演出的小朋友合影。



宏意法師(立者)與當地居民合影。

本報記者 秦鴻鈞報導



潮州會館青年朋友表演舞龍舞獅。



出席的大人、小孩重重包圍,觀看祥獅表演。



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休士頓傳統民族樂團的演奏。



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