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Houston society turns out to raise funds for good causes



Inside C2

Thursday, November 15, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

California wildfire victims sue utility PG&E alleging negligence

(Reuters) - Victims of California's deadliest wildfire have filed a lawsuit against PG&E Corp alleging negligence and health and safety code violations by the utility company in the blaze that has killed at least 48 people. The lawsuit seeking damages against California's largest public utility was filed on Tuesday in San Francisco County Superior Court by three law firms, which refer to themselves as Northern California Fire Lawyers. PG&E shares and bonds plunge as California wildfire risks mount

"It's important to remember that the cause (of the "Camp Fire") has yet to be determined," PG&E said in a statement. "Right now, our primary focus is on the communities, supporting first responders and getting our crews positioned and ready to respond when we get access, so that we can safely restore gas and electricity to our customers."

The Camp Fire, which began last Thursday, has all but wiped out the Sierra foothills town of Paradise in Butte County, about 175 miles (280 km) north of San Francisco, that was overrun by flames and largely incinerated.

But both PG&E and Southern California Edison have reported to regulators that they experienced problems with transmission lines or substations in areas around the time the blazes were first reported.

The lawsuit alleged that PG&E failed to properly maintain, repair and replace its equipment and that "its inexcusable behavior contributed to the cause of the 'Camp Fire.'"

The lawsuit alleges that prior to the Camp Fire, PG&E began warning customers it might turn off power because of the high risk of wildfires.

"Despite its own recognition of these impending hazardous conditions, on the day of the Camp Fire's ignition, PG&E ultimately made the decision not to proceed with its plans for a power shutoff," the lawsuit stated.

Last month PG&E cut off electric power to about 60,000 customers to prevent wildfires as high winds threatened to topple trees and power lines. Searchers looking for the remains of victims in the charred ruins of Paradise were set to expand their operation on Wednesday as firefighters stepped up efforts to contain the blaze.

The origins of the "Camp Fire" and the "Woolsey Fire" that has ravaged parts of southern California are still under investigation.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey told KRCR television on Wednesday that attributing the fire to PG&E at this point was "speculative."

But he added that officials from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) arrived in the area immediately after the fire



FILE PHOTO: Damaged power pole following the deadly Camp Fire blocks a path in Paradise

began to ensure that any equipment or other evidence would be preserved for an investigation. PG&E stock slid 21.8 percent to close at \$25.59. PG&E's bonds have weakened broadly after the California electric utility said late Tuesday it had borrowed more than \$3 billion from its credit facilities. It also warned it might face liabilities stemming from the Camp Fire that could exceed its insurance coverage.

Florida law mandates recounts in elections where the margin of victory is less than 0.5 percent. The result of Arizona's closely fought U.S. Senate race emerged on Monday night when U.S. Representative Kyrsten Sinema declared victory and Republican opponent Martha McSally conceded, after multiple media outlets called the closely contested Arizona race for the Democrat.

Sinema will succeed Republican Senator Jeff Flake, a frequent Trump critic, who did not seek reelection.

Florida reprises role as recount problem child

Texas Regional Health & Wellness

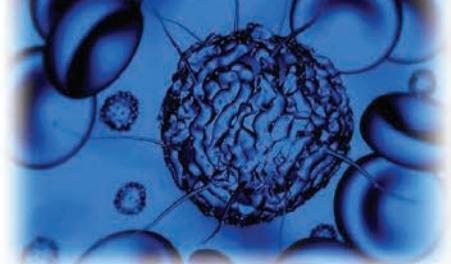
幹細胞療法

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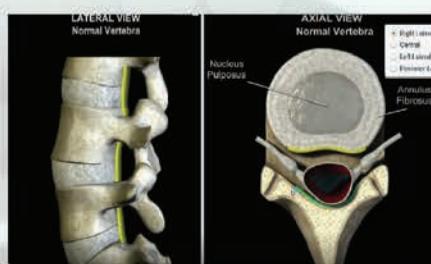
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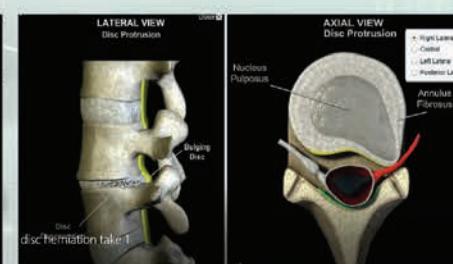


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LOCAL NEWS

Houston society turns out to raise funds for good causes

Houston society turned out in droves earlier this month to raise funds for a number of good causes.

On Thursday, Nov. 8, Buffalo Bayou Park's annual gala dinner raised \$600,000 for future projects. Some 550 guests entered the soiree via the Water Works before venturing underground to tour Carlos Cruz-Diez's art installation inside the Buffalo Bayou Cistern. The "casually A-list throng" including Lynn Wyatt, Susie Criner, Soraya McClelland, Cathy and Jo Cleary, and Anne Whitlock and Michael Skelly happily dug into their beef tenderloin and vanilla panna cotta.

Then the no frills biannual Constellation Gala raised an astronomical \$10.1 million for the University of Texas Health Science Center. No speeches, no gowns, no problem.

More than 550 supporters arrived at the Marriott Marquis Houston in cocktail attire; a few even self-

parked their vehicles in an adjacent George R. Brown Convention Center garage and entered the party via a same-level Sky Bridge. Aerialists and dancers from Elan Artists hung and spun from six elevated platforms surrounding the central stage.

Monday night, Nov. 5, sports fans and local foodies sampled dishes from 25 Houston-area restaurants for Taste of the Texans, which raised \$350,000 for Houston Food Bank, Houston Methodist and Houston Texans Foundation.

NRG Stadium transformed into a food hall of sorts. More than 750 event-goers and members of the Texans rookie class feted the Verizon West Club for the annual eat-a-thon.

Earlier in the month, the annual "Body as a Work of Art" gala raised an undisclosed amount for community-focused programming at the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science.



Klein-area nurse arrested for injecting fillers without a license

Patients go to Savvy Chic Medspa to look better, but the recent arrest of a nurse might make the clinic look less than its best.

Michelle Bogle, 43, was arrested on Thursday and charged with practicing medicine without a license, which is a third degree offense.

According to court documents, an undercover officer with the Houston Police Department arrived at the clinic to obtain a consultation with a medical doctor and Bogle.

After a video consultation, Bogle then gave the officer a filler treatment recommendations such as Botox and signed her name as a "practitioner" on record.

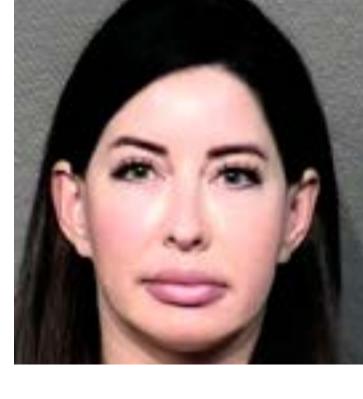
Bogle, who is also the owner of the spa, was not a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant or advanced practice registered nurse and therefore "not authorized to diagnosis or recommend treatment of nonsurgical medical cosmetic procedures such as Juvederm injections," according to court documents.

The Texas Administrative Code states physicians or midlevel practitioners must be trained in nonsurgical procedures, including injectable fillers.

The Texas Board of Nursing has Bogle listed as a licensed vocational nurse.

The board defines licensed vocational nursing as a "directed scope of practice and requires appropriate supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, physician, dentist, or podiatrist."

According to county records, Bogle met her \$2,500 bail and is expected to be back in court in January.



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Meet Dr. Beth Yip



Beth Yip, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Pediatrics
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Pearland Clinic

"I consider it a privilege to be allowed to help take care of patients and their families and make a difference in the life of a child. I view myself as a partner with the parents and patient and derive great satisfaction through our interactions. I love working with kids, a simple smile or hug will brighten my day."

~Beth Yip, M.D., co-managing physician, Pearland Clinic

Dr. Yip is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her medical degree, internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Harris County Medical Society and Texas Pediatric Society.

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Editor's Choice



A car destroyed by the Camp Fire is seen in Paradise



Moutard searches for human remains with her cadaver dog in a truck destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise



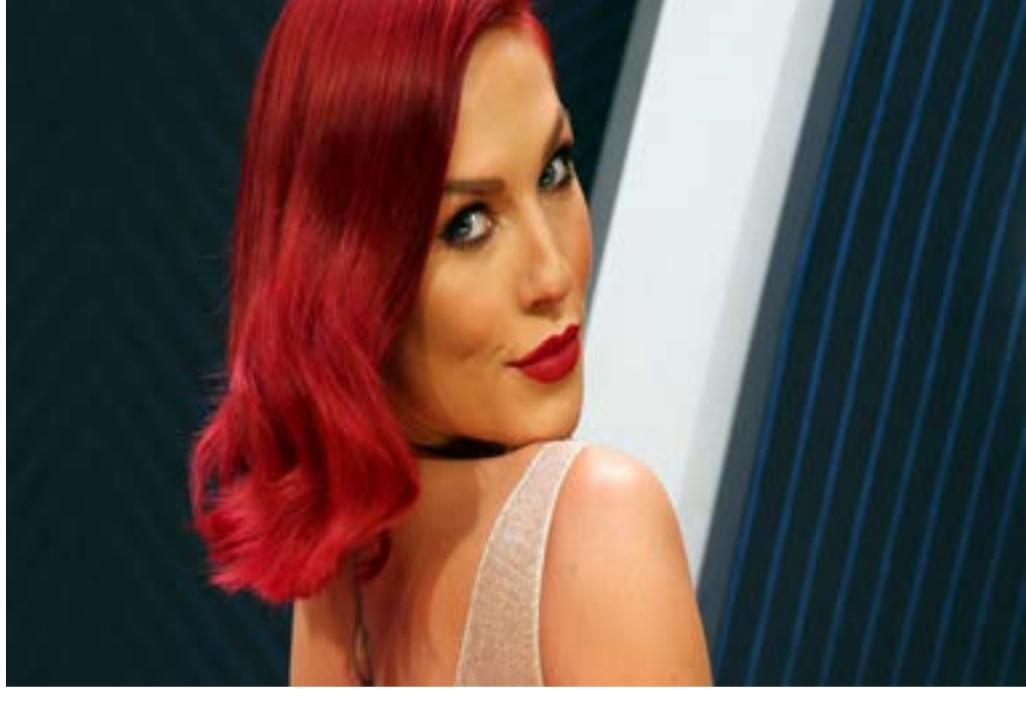
Trucks destroyed by the Camp Fire are seen in Paradise, California, U.S., November 14, 2018.
REUTERS/Terray Sylvester



Firefighters inspect a property destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise



A cadaver dog searches for human remains in a house destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise



Country Music Association Awards - Arrivals - Nashville, Tennessee, U.S., 14/11/2018 - Sharna Burgess. REUTERS/Jamie Gilliam



Argentine filmmaker Martel poses during an interview with Reuters at the 33rd Mar del Plata Film Festival in Mar del Plata



FILE PHOTO: Toothbrushes are seen during an organic market in Lisbon, Portugal, November 5, 2016. REUTERS/Rafael Marchante/File Photo

In 1895, in his early 20s, Wong Kim Ark returned to the United States, the place of his birth.

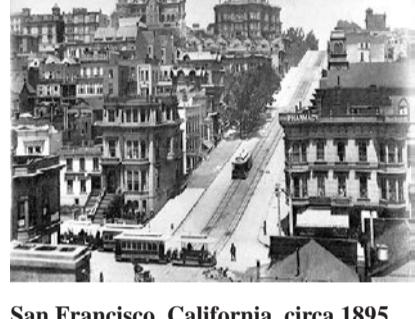
He'd grown up in San Francisco, the son of Chinese immigrants, and was a cook by trade. His parents had returned to their own homeland in 1890, and he'd gone with them — but in the time since he'd established a transnational lifestyle.

He'd started a family in China, but repeatedly made trips back to the US to work. In fact, he'd just met his first child, conceived on an earlier trip, and gotten his wife pregnant with a second.

Such arrangements were not uncommon for Chinese-American men, as the Chinese population in the US was overwhelmingly male.

The US was in the grips of intense anti-Chinese sentiment, and Chinese immigration had been cut off in 1882. But since he'd been born in the US, he was able to return by showing the documents required by local customs officials, including testimony from white people that he was a US citizen.

Or at least that's how it had worked for him before. In 1895, it was different.



San Francisco, California, circa 1895.

Wong was denied entry by a stridently anti-Chinese customs collector, on the grounds that he was not in fact a US citizen, owing to his parents' status as Chinese immigrants at the time of his birth. Then he was held on ships for months as he fought the case — with legal help from the "Six Companies," a Chinese-American organization that had made a point of standing up for Chinese civil rights in thousands of court cases.

Eventually it was decided, on the basis of an earlier appeals-court precedent, that his US birth made him a citizen. But the US attorney general decided to push the issue further, and his case ended up at the Supreme Court.

That court's ultimate decision is back

in the spotlight now. In an interview released early this week, President Trump announced a plan to take on "birthright citizenship" via executive order.

This is the rule under which just about everyone born in the USA — including the children of illegal immigrants — is automatically granted citizenship, and the rule that Wong helped make US law.

It's important to understand the situation Wong was born into. Between 1860 and 1880, the Chinese-American population tripled, topping 100,000 by the end of that period and concentrated largely in California. In 1868 a treaty explicitly welcomed these migrants — though they were not eligible for naturalization. And while Chinese-Americans made up small percentage of the overall American population, the tide shifted after repeated economic recessions, fueling a racist backlash.

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So, what does all of this actually mean for Trump's planned order? If Congress passed a new law ending birthright citizenship, the courts would immediately hear challenges rooted in the 14th Amendment, with Wong Kim Ark a key precedent.

Wong Kim Ark eventually returned to China for good. His legacy will remain a part of America for far, far longer. (Courtesy newyorkpost.com)

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

Chinese Man Is the Reason America Grants Birthright Citizenship

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



Wong Kim Ark. (Courtesy Records of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service)

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CDC Confirms More Cases Of Rare, Paralyzing Illness AFM In Kids

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



A total of 90 people in 27 states have come down with the rare, polio-like neurological condition acute flaccid myelitis, also known as AFM, so far this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday. That's up from 72 cases reported last week. The CDC is investigating an additional 162 cases for potential AFM.

Almost all of the patients are children under the age of 18. Officials still do not know what causes the illness and what is behind the recent spike in cases.

AFM is an illness that affects the nervous system, specifically the area of spinal cord called gray matter. It causes the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak or even paralyzed. Cases of AFM are characterized by a sudden onset of arm or leg weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes. In extreme cases, patients may need a ventilator to breathe.

Its symptoms are likened to those caused by polio, which was eradicated in the U.S. thanks to the polio vaccine. However, the CDC has stressed that none of the children who developed these symptoms had the polio virus.

Health officials saw the first wave of AFM cases in 2014, when 120 cases were confirmed in the United States. Another 149 were reported in 2016. Case counts were far lower in 2015 and 2017, and experts don't know why it seems to follow an every-other-year pattern. In years where more cases have been reported, peaks are seen in the late summer and fall.

How to Spot Symptoms of Acute Flaccid Myelitis in Your Child
Acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, is a rare but serious condition that affects the nervous system.
Symptoms of AFM
Difficulty moving the eyes or drooping eyelids
Facial drop
The Nervous System
Brain
Spinal cord
Nerves

The CDC knows of one death in a child who had AFM in 2017. No deaths from the illness have been reported in 2018.

She says parents who are concerned about

Questions also remain over what causes the illness itself. In 2014, the first wave of the mystery disease coincided with an outbreak of a specific type of virus, an enterovirus called EV-D68, leading the CDC to study a possible connection between the two.

However, this year officials have tested for EV-D68 in about three-quarters of the confirmed AFM cases and detected it in the spinal fluid of just one patient. Another type of enterovirus called EV-A71 was found in another patient.

Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, told reporters during a press briefing Tuesday that the CDC has created a task force of specialists to better understand AFM. She said the CDC is "broadening our hypotheses" for what may cause AFM.

For example, if the illness is caused by a virus, Messonnier said, it is possible that the currently available tests are unable to pick it up, or perhaps the germ has already cleared the spinal fluid by the time the testing was conducted, or that it is hidden elsewhere in the body.

Another theory is that there's something in certain individuals that predisposes their immune system to react so severely that it triggers paralysis.

All things considered, AFM is extremely rare, with the CDC estimating that less than one in a million people in the United States will get AFM every year.



"As a mom myself I can certainly understand why parents are worried," Messonnier said. "But it's important for parents to realize it still is a relatively rare condition."

She says parents who are concerned about

AFM or think their child has symptoms of the illness should speak to their pediatrician.

Related

Georgia toddler paralyzed overnight as AFM fears grow nationwide

ATLANTA - A Georgia mother said her toddler went to bed sick and woke up paralyzed from the neck down.

It's the latest in a series of mysterious illnesses that are baffling doctors. Two young patients were recently treated at Scottish Rite after they fell ill and then woke up partially paralyzed.

Doctors are still working to figure out what causes acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, but they tell Channel 2 Action News the rare condition is similar to polio, in that it can cause muscle weakness or partial paralysis.

And like polio, doctors believe AFM is caused by a virus, but they don't know which virus.

That was the case for a 2-year-old Abigail. Her mother said one moment she was a healthy child who came down with a double ear infection and fever. Then a few days later, she woke up paralyzed from the neck down.



Doctors diagnosed Abigail with AFM. She's now in rehab making great progress. "It's a rare occurrence its one in a million, in a million," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director.

Across the country, the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 62 confirmed cases of AFM in 22 states, and 93 possible cases.

"It's really heartbreaking. No parent should ever have to experience that and

what makes it worse, it's not the tubes, it's not the treatments, what makes it worse is not knowing what caused it," said Abigail's mother, Erica Palacios.

There were 5 cases reported in Georgia in 2016.

Doctors said the West Nile Virus may be the cause in some of the cases.

"It's a very frustrating situation we do not know definitively what it is, although there is a suspicion, a strong suspicion that it is associated with a particular type of virus that we recognize," Fauci said.



What CDC Doesn't Know

Among the people who were diagnosed with AFM since August 2014:

The cause of most of the AFM cases remains unknown.

We don't know what caused the increase in AFM cases starting in 2014.

We have not yet determined who is at higher risk for developing AFM, or the reasons why they may be at higher risk.

We do not yet know the long-term effects of AFM. We know that some patients diagnosed with AFM have recovered quickly, and some continue to have paralysis and require ongoing care.

What CDC Is Doing

CDC is actively investigating AFM cases and monitoring disease activity. We are working closely with healthcare providers and state and local health departments to increase awareness for AFM. We are encouraging healthcare providers to recognize and report suspected cases of AFM to their health departments, and for health departments to send this information to CDC to help us understand the nationwide burden of AFM. CDC is also actively looking for risk factors and possible causes of this condition.



CDC Activities Include:

Urging healthcare providers to be vigilant for AFM among their patients, and to send information about suspected cases to their health departments

Verifying clinical information of suspected AFM cases submitted by health departments, and working with health departments and neurologists to classify cases using a case definition adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)

Testing specimens, including stool, blood, and cerebrospinal fluid, from suspected AFM cases

Working with healthcare providers, experts, and state and local health departments to investigate and better understand the AFM cases, including potential causes and how often the condition occurs

Providing new and updated information to healthcare providers, health departments, policymakers, the public, and partners in various formats, such as scientific journals and meetings, and CDC's AFM website and social media

Using multiple research methods to further explore the potential association of AFM with possible causes as well as risk factors for AFM. This includes collaborating with experts to review MRI scans of people from the past 10 years to determine how many AFM cases occurred before 2014, updating treatment and management protocols, and engaging with several academic centers to conduct active surveillance simultaneously for both AFM and respiratory viruses. (Courtesy https://www.wsbtv.com/news/)

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美移民局拟提升高学历者H1B中签概率 或推电子注册

依据美国总统特朗普颁布的“买美国货、雇美国人”(“Buy American and Hire American”)行政令，美国公民及移民服务局(USCIS)近日公布一项提案，计划改变H-1b工作签证的抽签方式，提高拥有硕士及以上学历的申请人的中签概率。

律师表示，根据USCIS的统计，H-1b的收件数量自2009年以来每年均呈上升趋势，2014年，收件数量首次超过名额限制数量。USCIS从当年起开始实行抽签，将申请人的数量控制在名额限制数量范围内。

按照当前规定，每个新财年的H-1b名额均从每年4月1日起收件，申请人须递交完整的申请材料。

USCIS在收件结束之后，一般在4

月中下旬开始采用两轮抽签。第一轮的2万个名额面向所有学历在硕士及以上学历的申请人进行抽签，第二轮的6.5万个面向本科学历的申请人和在第一轮中没有抽中的硕士及以上学历申请人抽签，最终抽出8.5万个名额。

反转两轮抽签方式

USCIS的新提案在不改变8.5万个名额限制数量的情况下，将对上述两轮抽签进行调整，即第一轮放出6.5万个名额供本科学历的申请人和硕士及以上学历的申请人抽签，第二轮放出2万个专门面向在第一轮中没抽中的硕士及以上学历的申请人。

律师黄唯表示，USCIS此举旨在增加硕士及以上学位申请人的中签概率，

对学位较高的申请人而言是个相对而言的“利好”消息。不过，该举措在一定程度上可能会增加雇主的负担。

她说，如果新提案生效，雇主按照硕士及以上学位的类别为申请人申请H-1b将提高其中签概率，而一旦申请成功，也需要付更高的工资。简而言之，对雇主而言，新规定将是一把双刃剑。

“电子注册”简化抽签过程

除了改变两轮抽签规则之外，USCIS也提出了“电子注册项目”(electronic registration program)，以简化抽签过程。USCIS指出，该项目将不再要求所有H-1b的申请人在递件时提交所有申请材料和相关信息，而只需要雇主通过电子注册的方式，向USCIS提交申请人的

H-1b申请意向。USCIS将根据收到的电子注册信息进行抽签，抽中的申请人在得到中签通知后，再由律师准备和递交所有申请材料和相关信息即可。

USCIS表示，此举旨在减轻雇主和申请人的经济负担。

律师刘汝华表示，根据USCIS当前公布的信息，电子注册的确可能大大减少USCIS工作人员在收件之后准备抽签的工作量，但是能否对雇主和申请人带来实际益处，目前还言之过早。例如，电子注册的起始和截止时间、等到收到中签通知再联系律师准备申请材料是否会延后整个申请的审件时间等。

他认为，电子注册项目的实际操作性还有很多细节有待探讨，有意申请H-1b的人士仍先按照当前规定准备自己

的申请材料，无需过分担忧。

计划明年4月抽签之前通过新提案

USCIS局长西斯纳(L. Francis Cisneros)表示，新提案已向白宫管理与预算办公室(White House Office of Management and Budget)递交审核，计划在明年4月新一财年H-1b工作签证名额收完件之后、开始抽签之前得到通过和实施。

根据美国公民及移民服务局公布的数据显示，截至今年4月6日，2019财年的H-1b共计收到94213份常规名额(Regular Cap)和95885份硕士及以上(Master's Exemption)名额，上述两种名额类型的实际收件数量均分别超过了6.5万和2万个名额限制。

中国买家接踵而至领跑希腊购房移民



现今，每周都有数百名来自中国的投资者抵达雅典国际机场，在机场等候他们的是希腊当地的房产经纪人。这些房产经纪人将刚下飞机的中国投资者直接带到市区，开启他们的“看房之旅”。

这些投资者大多是奔着2013年出台的“黄金签证”而来。希腊在2013年推出一项“黄金签证”计划，只要投资当地25万欧元以上房产或建筑，就能申请希腊居留许可。不少投资者以25万欧元的价格购买到了位于雅典市相当不错的公寓。

“黄金签证”政策的出台，也使得希腊经济危机出现了一线曙光，靠着外国投资者的资金注入，希腊房地产开始慢慢复苏。尽管，目前希腊的房价对比经济危机爆发前仍旧十分低廉。

去年，当一位名叫瓦西里斯的雅典居民由于找不到合适的买家，正准备放弃出售房屋时，一户中国家庭在看完房屋后的第二天便向他表示他们决定买下房产。他说：“那户中国家庭只看过一次房子，他们很快就做出了付定金的决定。”

2007年，瓦西里斯以32万欧元的价格在Gerakas郊区买了这套房子，此后他决定将房产出售，最终他以22万欧元的价格将房产出售给了一户四口之家的中国家庭。

希腊银行的数据显示，去年希腊房地产投资领域中外资直接投资同比2016年增长了91%，达到2.87亿欧元。

同时，希腊独立公共收入管理局(AADE)的数据也显示，截至今年7月，希腊房地产销售的税额也有大幅度的增长。

拥有3000名房产经纪人的雅典房地产协会负责人Lefteris Potamianos说：“我们接到的咨询电话越来越多了。在这些咨询电话中，其中希腊人只占了一小部分，绝大多数是外国人，尤其以中国人居多。”Potamianos预计，今年和明年，雅典地区的房价还将以每年5%至7%的幅度上涨。

29岁的连文敏(音译)此前在北京从事会计师工作，目前她也成为潜在的希腊“黄金签证”投资者。她计划投资25万欧元在雅典市中心购入一套或两套公寓，用于短租房出租。未来，她可能还打算在雅典南郊为自己另行购买一套房产。

葡萄牙在2012年推出的“黄金签证”吸引了不少来自中国、法国和英国投资者的兴趣，其条件是在葡萄牙投资价值50万欧元的房地产。

希腊承租人协会PASYPE的负责人Angelos Skidas说，许多购房者的心理都是推高房屋租金。据希腊最新的一项调查显示，从去年9月到今年9月，希腊各地的租金同比上涨了8.4%。Skidas说：“从去年开始，这一问题就凸显出来，那些在雅典寻找租房的人将面临更加昂贵的租金。”

希腊企业局的数据显示，自2013年“黄金签证”计划启动以来，中国家庭获得这一签证的占比相当大。

研究生申请工签被拒 新西兰想要什么人？

一名拿到硕士学位的女研究生在找到工作后，信心满满地提出了工签申请，却没想收到了移民局的拒绝。她对于这个结果感到万分困惑：到底什么样的人才能获准留在新西兰呢？

Shyamal Patel在Palmerston North的IPU就读，她完成了关于超市和买家行为研究的毕业论文后，拿到了国际研究专业的硕士学位，顺利毕业了。

毕业后，Patel在惠灵顿的Alamir Bakery找到了一份办公室经理的工作。这家食品公司为新西兰全国300多家超市和餐厅供应产品，同时还有国际贸易业务，要从黎巴嫩、约旦和美国等地进口原料和设备。

在读研究生之前，Patel曾担任过一家超市的管理者，具备从业资质，现在又有一份工作offer在手，她对自己获批毕业生工签胸有成竹，“对于拿到签证我信心满满，我想找这样一份工作，让自己的知识和过去两年学到的东西都有用武之地”。

Patel的日常工作内容包括管理海外

进口事宜，就贸易定价进行谈判，与客户打交道，以及每天对22名员工的工作情况进行考核。她的首要任务之一就是与印度达成贸易协议，将那里的香料进口到新西兰来。

她的研究生课程大纲指出，在“专业成果”范畴内，毕业生有望在监督和管理层展开职业生涯，需要具备对国际商贸、政治和环境、社会与文化等领域的敏感性。Patel说，“我认为我的工作就属于这个范畴，但不知道为什么移民局并不认同这一点。”

新西兰移民局签证服务助理总经理Peter Elms表示，该部门对Patel的签证申请进行了4次审核，结论是工作offer与从业资质不太匹配，申请人从业资质的主要适用领域是国际商贸、国际关系和可持续发展，而面包房办公室经理一职显然与这些并不相符。

Patel的老板、Alamir Bakery公司的总经理Hassan Alimir对于移民局的结论很有意见，他认为这是“瞧不起”公

司和公司职位。“在相信中，移民局说通过Google搜索发现我们公司生产烤肉和披萨。没错，我们的餐厅是有这些产品，但我们不是一家小公司，我们是全国超市和餐厅的供应商。”

在帮Patel申请工签的时候，Alimir还向移民局提交了公司最近两年的财务报表、员工记录和对Patel职位的详细描述。他说，“我以前从没遇到过这样的事情。我们公司都开了20年了，雇佣了数百名员工，过去也帮很多人申请过签证。”

Elms表示，移民局已经对Patel的工签申请进行过彻底审查，拒签的决定没有任何问题，如果Patel能够在一家国际业务更丰富的大公司找到工作的话，那她的签证还是有希望获批的。他还指出，雇主刊登招聘广告时的岗位职责描述与后来Patel申请工签时提交的信息有较大出入。

工签被拒后，Patel正收拾行李准备离开新西兰，而Alimir表示他还得登广告招一位新的办公室经理。

日本政府拟给外籍工人永久居留权

日本内阁2日通过一项法案，拟新设两种针对外籍劳动者的签证类型，符合条件者可获得永久居留权。日本政府希望以这项政策吸引更多外籍劳动者，应对部分行业劳动力短缺的现状。

日本内阁2日上午召开会议，通过《出入境管理及难民认定法》修正案。根据这一修正案，日本将新设两种针对外籍劳动者的签证类型，吸引更多外籍劳动者，以应对建筑业、农业、护理等行业劳动力紧缺。

两种新签证均要求申请者熟练掌握日语。第一种名为“特定技能1号”，要求申请者在特定领域具有一定程度的知识和技能，有效期5年。获签者不得携配偶和子女一同赴日。

第二种新签证名为“特定技能2号”，申请者需在特定领域有较高水平技能。获签者可携配偶和子女一同赴日。这种签证可无限次续签，获签者实际等同于得到永久居留权。

两种新签证均要求申请者熟练掌握日语。第一种名为“特定技能1号”，

“特定技能1号”获签者有机会转为第二种。日本政府承诺，这些外籍劳动者将与日本人获得同等薪资待遇。外务省下属的入国管理局将升级为“出入国在留管理厅”，专门处理相关事务。

长期以来，“移民”在日本属于禁忌话题。先前，日本接纳的外国工作者仅限医生、教授等高度专业人才。随着人口老龄化和劳动力减少，接纳外籍劳动者，以应对建筑业、农业、护理等行业劳动力紧缺。

日本政府希望国会在今年12月通过这项法案，明年4月生效。按共同社的说法，安倍政府这一举措显然是为迎合工业界要求，为明年春季的统一地方选举和夏季举行的国会参议院选举拉票。

首相官邸一名消息人士说，日本一些地区急需劳动力，新政策将吸引当地选民，有助于执政联盟赢得选举。

法案遭到执政党和在野党一些议员质疑。一些人认为，法案没有设定接纳

外籍劳动者的总数以及所属行业。另一些人认为，虽然政府极力否认，但这一法案实际就是移民政策。

在野党阵营提出，内阁匆忙通过法案，没有充分考虑如何确保外籍劳动者的权益。另有人担忧，大量外籍劳动者进入日本，将对社会治安和薪资水平造成负面影响。

法务大臣山下贵司说，政府准备接纳14个行业的外籍劳动者，但不会在法案中明确列出这些行业。就外籍劳动者的总量，政府不考虑设限。

日本厚生劳动省发布的数据显示，截至今年10月，在日工作的外籍劳动者总数达创纪录的128万人，比2012年的68万人增加近一倍。其中，中国籍劳动者大约37万人，占比最高，其次为越南籍和菲律宾籍。

日本媒体估计，新法案生效后，外籍劳动者将增加大约50万人，增幅有望达到40%。

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千华古村，一座仿古又不失传统的古村

在江苏镇江与南京的交界处，有一座完全仿古复建的村落，村里没有原住民，但有着明清建筑风格的街坊，街上布匹坊、粮油铺、钱庄、酒肆、戏台、博彩坊、杂要区、镖局等店铺应有尽有。传说济公和尚的原型曾在此传经，清朝的乾隆皇帝也曾六次到过这里。它的名字叫“千华古村”。

千华古村坐落于镇江句容市的宝华山下，宝华山，是苏南镇山脉中的第二高峰，山上有一座千年隆昌寺，它是佛教律宗的祖庭，因此宝华山也就有了“律宗第一名山”之称。而隆昌寺的也叫“千华寺”。因从前山下有一座古村叫“千华村”，寺随村名，周边的百姓也都这么称呼。

宝华山原名叫“花山”，因春季时黄花漫山遍野而得名，后因南北朝时梁代高僧宝志来此结庵讲经，遂易名叫宝华山。高僧宝志，便是传说中的济公和尚。现今，去到新建的千华古村，还能见到济公和尚的雕像在。

千华古村，原本一直是个江南清秀之地。因紧紧依靠着江南的名刹，村子里一直是个人来人往的地方。人们远道而来烧香拜佛，往往下榻的地方，就是这个隆昌寺下的古村。直到有一天来了一位皇帝，“千华”这一名字却从此不再提起了。

相传，清朝的“大旅行家”乾隆皇帝第一次到隆昌寺，也下榻于千华古村。一天清晨，乾隆陪皇太后在古

村散步，太后是北方人，第一次见到山清水秀的古村落，禁不住大声赞叹。乾隆也来了兴致，手指着村里一处小湖泊问手下陪同的官僚：此处叫何名？官僚回答说：皇上，因为这湖边有蝴蝶飞舞，所以我们叫它为“蝶泉”。

乾隆听了随即皱下眉头，心想，这“蝶”字跟“跌”同音，不吉利吧。于是乾隆手一挥，说：我看这古村到处杨柳依依，就叫它“杨柳泉”吧。皇帝的话，就是金口啊。于是“蝶泉”立马改成“杨柳泉”，千华村，从此也更名为“杨柳泉村”。

据说乾隆皇帝先后六次下江南，六次都到达了隆昌寺，还每次都是下榻于“杨柳泉村”。皇帝诗兴大发时，还为宝华山留下了这样的诗作：“水流石不动，山静云自飞”。宝华山的意境是有，只是民间再也听不到宝华山下那个叫“千华村”地方了。

千华古村的重修，也是近几年的事。这座占地达四万平方米的新建古村，清一色的明清建筑，它依托宝华山的山水风景，以及隆昌寺的禅文化，展示了中国清朝时期的民俗文化和古代市井生活。可以说就是昔日“杨柳泉村”的翻版。

虽说是个仿建的古村，但古村的街坊倒是修得有模有样。店铺沿街一字排开，门头都是古体字撰写的匾额，锦旗制作成的店招牌随风舞动，当

然还有房前屋后挂满的红灯笼，以及悠长的青石板路面，这也跟国内的其它古镇大体相同。

只是在千华古村，走进任何一家店铺，都会看到一张醒目的告示：我们只收铜板。原来，这里的买卖都是用古钱币进行结算的。古村里有钱庄，可以用人民币兑换古钱，然后游客凭古钱在村里消费结算，真的让游客误以为一脚穿越到过去了。

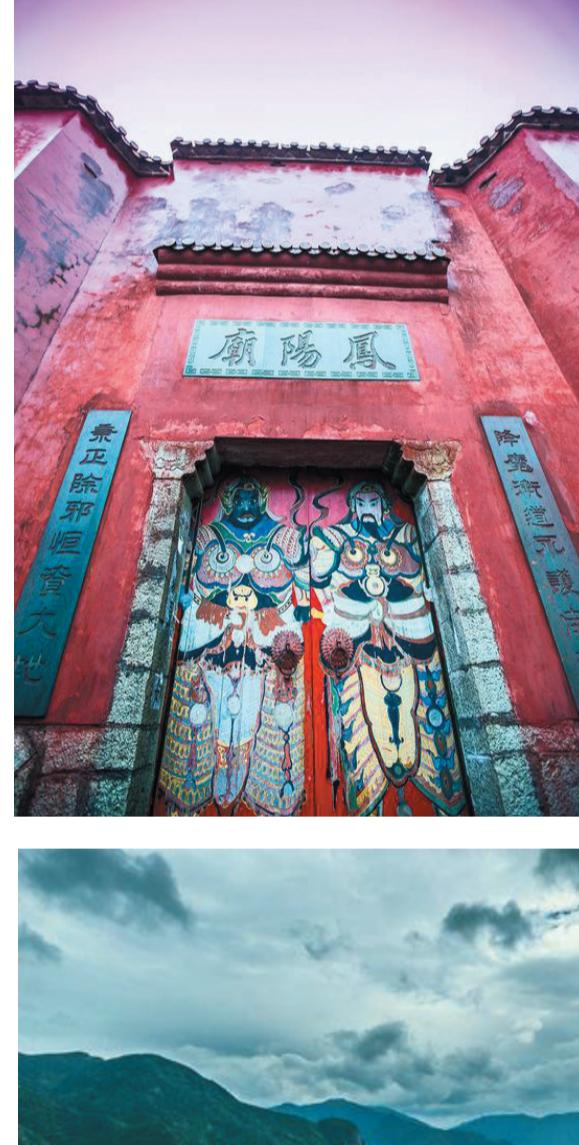
千华古村的范围很大。古色古香的小街小巷相互交错，稍不留神，便会迷路。好在每一条小巷的口头上，都树有指路牌，只要记住小巷的名称，也就不会多走冤枉路。古村里除了明清建筑之外，村里还有一条河流，据说是南京秦淮河的发源地之一，游客可以乘坐小船游览古村。

古村里还聚集了传统非物质文化传承人。在千华古村民俗表演广场，游客可以领略中国古代民俗技艺的魅力，可以观看江湖绝活、中幡、变脸、喷火、爬刀山、街头驯猴、驯老鼠、木偶戏、古彩戏法等传统的民俗节目。古村街头那些活灵活现的雕像，也是游客喜欢留影的地方。

新建一座古村也许不难，但古村的人文、古村的传统却是要有传承的，否则游客也就只能看一些仿古建筑而已。去千华古村，除了让你沉浸在昔日的市井生活之中，还能让人重温一段历史。



江浙之巅龙泉山 深藏在浙南的人间秘境



“上有天堂，下有苏杭”，自古以来，江南美景就被无数人赞美与向往。尤其浙江，历来是旅游的热门地，每到节假日，国内外的人都蜂拥而至。但在浙江丽水龙泉市南部，约45公里的地方，有一处还未被完全开发，鲜为人知的人间秘境，它就是龙泉山，拥有中国长三角地区最高的山峰，被誉为“锦绣江南第一峰”。

龙泉山的主峰“黄茅尖”，海拔高度1929米，这里年平均气温约12度，夏季平均温度也才20摄氏度，当城市热浪滚滚之时，龙泉山却依然是一个清凉世界。不得不说是龙泉山的神奇之处，虽地处浙江丽水，但地形却与云贵高原相似，拥有高原湖泊、高山草甸、云海雾凇等众多高原才有的自然奇观，这在“小桥流水人家”的烟雨江南，可以说十分神奇。

在龙泉山，至今保持着神秘的原始森林的风貌，20万亩原始森林，是中国南方可以说绝无仅有。而且空气中的负氧离子每平方米超过10万，随意吸口气，都是一次洗肺“森林浴”，所以也被称为“江浙之巅，难得之净土”。森林里动植物资源丰富到，你随处可见各种野生动物在这里栖息，被誉为“亚热带动植物宝库”。

而峡山间声势浩大的瀑布流水，是龙泉山带给人们的惊喜。龙泉大峡谷景区总面积达942亩，峡谷长2500多米，最宽处30多米，溪水蜿蜒其间，因水位落差大，形成许多激流险滩和飞瀑。据说，景区峡谷内奔流直下的大瀑布落差最高可达60米以上。如图中，在丰沛雨季，龙泉山飞流而下的瀑布流水，如万马奔腾般泻入

万丈山谷，让人震撼，无比壮观。

龙泉山景区的面积很大，除了上面说到的龙泉大峡谷，目前还有五处景点对外开放，分别是荒野山庄、绝壁奇松、七星潭、黄毛尖和瓯江源。每个景点都特色十足，但如果一定要选一个，必不能错过的景点，那绝对是绝壁奇松。用三字来概括，它就是惊、险、奇，丝毫不逊于大名鼎鼎的黄山。绝壁千仞，耸立苍穹；苍松万棵，缘壁而生，真可谓步步有惊险，处处有奇景。

远观绝壁之上，有一条窄窄的栈道，这条约1000米长人行栈道，是观赏龙泉山云雾、雪松的最佳所在。而此栈道还连接着上天马峰的唯一通道，石壕天街，头顶危石悬立，尽头是沿峭壁而筑的石阶，真是一人当关，万夫莫敌。如在夏秋之际，行走在栈道上，周围古木翠杉之中，传来声声鸟鸣，让人犹如置身虚幻之境。

而龙泉山的松树，最精华的部分也在绝壁奇松景区。在似经过刀锋劈过的峭壁上，那些郁郁葱葱的松树造型各异，有的像迎客的主人，有的似俯首的仆从；有的合抱而生，有的迎风独立。这些长在石壁上的奇松，虽经历千年而依然生命力旺盛，棵棵傲立于山石间，令人叹为观止。

而当真的走上这个栈道，你会发现整个山林间看不到一家商店，也绝没有黄山景区那般人头攒动，有的只是山风掠过的呼啸声，和青松吐出的淡淡清香的气味。这里山谷幽静，山间小道上没有喧哗，甚至听不到行人的脚步声。安静，加上松林的深邃，给人一种与世隔绝的感觉。

龙泉山，在当地还被称为“凤

阳山”，名字大概是取自于山上的“凤阳庙”。群山翠绿包围下的凤阳庙里，供奉的是当地栽培香菇的始祖吴三公。因为是山区，这里的村民以前大多依靠香菇等食用菌为生，所以这个为香菇发展做出巨大贡献的古人是备受尊崇的。这座凤阳庙位于龙泉主峰黄茅尖脚下，四周古木苍天、竹林密布，终年云雾缭绕，很有仙意。

再说这龙泉山主峰，黄茅尖，历来人们都说“不到黄茅尖，不能算是到龙泉山”。我们一行人在攀爬黄茅尖时体会到了一种探险的味道。穿梭在山林中，茂密的树木把登山的路遮盖成了一条林荫路，只能偶尔从树缝中看到几束阳光射在潮湿的路上。一路上伴随不同的鸟叫声，还有一条清澈的山泉小溪流淌在登山路的一旁，透明的溪水，在偶尔阳光的照耀下，十分令人心动。

走上黄茅尖山巅，周围地势较为开阔平坦，是一片莽莽苍苍的茅草地，一些低矮灌木丛杂生其间，春天到来是漫山遍野的映山红，煞是好看。当代著名书法家姜东舒题写的“江浙第一高峰”石碑矗立在峰顶。站在这里观日出云海，绚丽壮观，登上黄茅尖，可以真切体会到那种登上江浙第一峰“不畏浮云遮望眼，只缘身在最高层”的心境。

在龙泉景区，还有一处同样显得寂静的绿野山庄，就像《绿野仙踪》童话里面一样，古朴的山庄很像中世纪欧洲的城堡。尤其在山雾弥漫时，来到这里，如同要走进梦幻的童话世界，让人既欣喜又憧憬。游览完龙泉山间秘境，再住在这童话山庄里，做一个彩色瑰丽的梦，梦中依旧是人间秘境龙泉山。

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亚美舞蹈团、上海青年舞蹈团、 亚美舞蹈学校第十三届“锦绣中华”舞蹈晚会



休斯顿大学中国学生学者联谊会 2018年中秋国庆年终晚会集锦回顾



休斯顿大学中国学生学者联谊会 (UHCSSA) 学生会主席崔广钰 (图左二) 带领团队包括各大学生会, 莱斯, UT Medical 和 HCC 等及干部成员们共同接受美南国际电视主持人吴凯俊 (Kevin Wu, 图左三) 的电视专访强调了各大学生会的未来展望及活动策划等项目



在校生们学期已到了中段，在忙完期中考之后，休斯顿大学中国学生学者联谊会 (UHCSSA) 成功主办年度 2018 年中秋国庆年终晚会。晚会日前于 Student Center South, Houston Room 圆满落幕。师生和休斯顿社区华人将近 600 多人欢聚校园品尝美味以及暖人温流的晚餐。除了各项精彩动人表演包括歌唱, 舞蹈, 脱口秀等等。晚会中也精心策划了多个游戏, 加上主持人台上台下风趣幽默的主持风格, 晚会现场各大赞助商提供丰厚礼品, 更为晚会增添亮点和热闹气氛。以及观众们积极响应的参与。欢庆佳节, 让学生们在海外都能感受到家人的温暖。不仅借此机会弘扬了中国文化, 更深深寄托了海外学子华人的浓厚的中华情。



休斯顿大学中国学生学者联谊会 (UHCSSA) 学生会主席崔广钰介绍了理事会及工作人员在学期之申辛苦的努力付出

