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Deadline approaches for Red Cross

financial assistance count after

Inside C5

Southern Make Today Different

Monday, October 9, 2017 | www.today-america.com

Hurricane Nate targets U.S. Gulf Coast



A damaged boat is pictured on the shore of San Juan del Sur Bay

(Reuters) -

Hurricane Nate strengthened on Saturday as it churned through the Gulf of Mexico, threatening to power into the U.S. central Gulf Coast to the east of New Orleans as a Category 2 storm after killing at least 30 people in Central America.

Trump

reaches

out to

Demo-

crats

to do

'great'

health-

care bill

The center of the hurricane, the fourth major storm to hit the United States in less than two

(Reuters) -

gas production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, according to the latest U.S. government estimate. The storm, which is expect-

Hurricane Nate has shut

in 92 percent of oil output

and 77 percent of natural

ed to make landfall on the central U.S. Gulf Coast late on Saturday, has halted offshore production amounting to 1.61 million barrels per day of oil and 2.48 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, the Bureau of

with tropical storm-force winds

said on Saturday that he had

to probe interest in working

on a "great" healthcare bill

to replace Obamacare, after

his fellow Republicans' failed

attempts to roll back the law.

Senate Democratic Leader

Chuck Schumer said Trump

called the top Senate Democrat

al Hurricane spokesman Dennis Feltgen said. Nate's outer bands will likely reach the U.S. Gulf Coast

months,

to make

landfall

overnight

between

Slidell, Lou-

isiana, and

Alabama's

Mobile Bay,

U.S. Nation-

is forecast

on Saturday evening, it said. had told him during the phone call on Friday that he wanted to U.S. President Donald Trump try again to repeal and replace

> Affordable Care Act. "I told the president that's off the table," Schumer said in a statement. "If he wants to work together to improve the existing health care system, we Democrats are open to his sugges-

the law formally known as the

Republicans fell short several

Currently a Category 1 hurricane, Nate was 105 miles (170 km) south of the mouth of the Mississippi River on Saturday afternoon and moving at a rapid 25 mph, the NHC said. Maximum sustained winds hovered just below 90 miles (150 km) per hour, with gusts of up to 110 miles per hour.

The NHC issued a hurricane warning from Grand Isle, Louisiana, to the Alabama-Florida border. A state of emergency was declared for more than two dozen Florida counties and for the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

New Orleans, 30 miles (48 km) southwest of Slidell, evacuated some residents from areas

times this year in their drive

to repeal former President

Barack Obama's signature

domestic accomplishment, a

promise they had campaigned

on for seven years. Trump has

been frustrated by the failure,

openly taunting Republicans

as "total quitters" and "fools"

this summer over their inabil-

ity in the Senate to replace

Obamacare.

outside its levee system as the storm approached. The winds could cause significant power outages in the city, and bring storm surges of 6 to 9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 m) high, Mayor Mitch Landrieu said.

"We have been through this many, many times. There is no need to panic," Landrieu told a news conference, alluding in part to Hurricane Katrina, which triggered severe flooding in New Orleans and killed hundreds of people in August 2005.

But residents of the city known as the "Big Easy" were taking Nate in stride. At a Lowe's hardware store in the St. Roch area of New Orleans, there were short lineups around midday and plentiful supplies of propane, generators and plywood.

> yesterday to see if the Dems want to do a great HealthCare Bill," Trump wrote on Twitter on Saturday. "ObamaCare is badly broken, big premiums. Who knows!"

> Axios first reported Trump's call to Schumer on Friday. Schumer pointed to bipartisan efforts by Republican Senator Lamar Alexander and Democratic Senator Patty Murray to repair Obamacare as "a

Local News

Midtown building getting ready for its close-upCounty

By Katherine Feser

Developer plans 'iconic' makeover after removing crosseson St. Joseph building

Houston-based Boxer Property plans to give the recently purchased St. Joseph Professional Building a new look worthy of posting on Instagram and other social media as it energizes the building with new tenants and co-working spaces.

The 18-story building, at 2000 Crawford on the edge of Midtown near downtown, is recognizable from the Pierce Elevated for its large white crosses. It was purchased from a partnership led by Houston-based Mission

"We have two giant canvases that everybody sees," said Andrew Segal, chief executive officer of Boxer Property. "It's like a photo bomb in the entire downtown skyline. Boxer Property has commissioned artists to come up with ideas for the exterior of the building. The crosses will come down, Segal said, but what goes up is anyone's guess. The goal is to create something that people will want to photograph and share.

"I want something that's going to be iconic to Houston," Segal said. "It may be something that changes at night. It could involve

The 135,586-square-foot building, which is 55 percent occupied, will get the company's signature Boxer Workstyle treatment with collaborative work areas, shared lounges and conference facilities. The building, which connects with St. Joseph Medical Center across the Pierce Elevated by tunnel. will also get updates to the retail spaces on the ground floor. Current tenants include medical professionals and other types of companies.

The location, near two future apartment development sites, factored into the decision

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BUSINESS

Severe weather battered the U.S. economy in September, leading to the first job losses since 2010, the government reported on Friday.

The labor market lost 33,000 jobs last month, though the unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent, the lowest in 16 years.

Major hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria last month devastated parts of Texas and Florida and all of Puerto Rico, weighing heavily on jobs.

"Although the headline number for September is a loss of jobs, the first in seven years, the labor market remains in good shape," PNC chief economist Gus Faucher said in a statement.

"The job losses were due to disruptions from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, not underlying weakness in the economy," Faucher added.

Economists had expected a rough report because of the hurricanes, but the results were even weaker than predicted, though they could always be revised upwards in a future report.

"Job growth should resume in October as the impact of the storms fades, and in fact will get a boost through the rest of this year and into 2018 because of rebuilding efforts, supported by federal aid and insurance payments," Faucher said.

The economy grew at a faster-than-expected clip of 3.1 percent in the April-June quarter, according to recent data from the Commerce Department.

Top Republican and Democratic House leaders acknowledged the devastating effects of the hurricanes and used Friday's report to spar over GOP plans for tax reform.



Major hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria last month devastated parts of Texas and Florida and all of Puerto Rico, weighing heavily on

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) said "it's clear from this jobs report that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma not only devastated communities in Texas and Florida, they The U.S. Economy Report

Economy Posts First Job Losses In Seven Years

United States Census Divisions Economic Indices January 2017*



sample sizes. The reported Index number averages the current month with the previous 2 months.

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devastated their local economies as well." "By passing a budget that paves the way for tax reform, the House took a major step yesterday toward creating more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks," Brady

"In the weeks ahead, the Ways and Means Committee will move forward with progrowth, pro-middle-class tax reform legislation that Congress will ultimately send to the President's desk this year, for the first time in 31 years."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) said "the devastation of the hurricanes has laid bare the corrosive effect of the Republican Congress' total refusal to act on jobs and wages for working families.

"Republicans should abandon their job-killing giveaways for the richest and focus on raising wages and creating jobs for hard-working Americans," she said.

"Instead, the GOP is pushing a budget that would devastate America's investments in good-paying jobs, growing wages and dignified retirements — all to fast-track deficit-exploding, multi-trillion dollar tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent."

The September jobs report was a strange brew of bad and good data.

Job growth in August and July was revised January 2017 U.S. labor market at a glance

> 5,219,000 -10bp

(())JLE

5.522,000

down, to 38,000 less than previously re-

But, as opposed to payroll data, a survey of U.S. households showed that employment grew by a massive 906,000 in September, helping push down the jobless rate to the lowest level since February 2001.

The household survey is an estimate of employed Americans, not of total jobs, and covers those who wouldn't show

up on a payroll, such as the self-employed.

"I know the household survey is noisy, but even if you only put a little weight on a huge number, the big number is still good news," Justin Wolfers, an economist at the University of Michigan, said on Twitter. Wolfers said there has probably never been a divergence this large between the 33,000 payroll number and the 906,000 figure.

The economy has added an average of

172,000 jobs a month over the past year, but with the September figures, that has dropped to a 91,000 average over the past three months.

Restaurants and bars were hit hardest by September's storms, with a sharp 105,000job drop in the sector.

Mark Hamrick, Bankrate.com senior economic analyst, said "The Wizard of Oz" comes to mind when examining the latest report, specifically the "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain" line.

"Because of the impacts from hurricanes and flooding, the decline reported in September payrolls doesn't carry weight this time around," Hamrick said.



Mark Hamrick, Bankrate.com senior economic analyst, said "The Wizard of Oz" comes to mind when examining the latest employment report. Above, the cast of "The Wizard of Oz" motion picture.

"Case in point, the loss of more than 100K jobs in food and drinking establishments is surely only temporary," he added.

Average hourly earnings showed signs of life, rising 2.9 percent over the past 12 months, up from the recent trend of about 2.5 percent growth.

After the 2008 financial crisis wiped out jobs for several years, the labor market finally started to turn around in October 2010 Jason Furman, the former head of the

Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama administration, said on Twitter that it is "sad the 90-month streak of private sector jobs is over."

But he said the wage growth "might be real."

The expectation is that as the labor market continues to tighten, employers will pay workers more to stay on as it becomes harder to find new employees.

In other figures, construction firms added 8,000 jobs, while mining added 2,000. Manufacturing employment shed 1,000 jobs. (Courtesy thehill.com)











休斯敦中国人活动中心(华助中心)、美南报业集团、 中国驻休斯敦总领馆关于

ported.

2017年8月至9月,大休斯敦地区遭遇数百年不遇的"哈维"飓风侵袭,当地民众受灾严重。在抗洪救灾过程中,休斯 敦中国人社区涌现出一批先进典型个人和团体,为救助受困民众和开展灾后重建作出了贡献。为表彰先进,弘扬正气 ,休斯敦中国人活动中心(华助中心)、美南报业集团、中国驻休斯敦总领馆联合举办评选表彰休斯敦中国人社区抗 洪救灾先进。典型活动现就有关事项公告如下:

一、评选范围、名额和条件:

- (一) 评选范围: 在大休斯敦地区直接投入2017年8月至9月"哈维"飓风抗洪救灾抢险及灾后重建的华侨华人个人 和团体。
- (二) 评选名额:在推荐、自荐基础上,经三家主办单位评议,评选出抗洪救灾先进典型个人和团体总共20名(每 个团体作为一个评选名额)进行表彰。

(三) 评选条件:

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- 300-500)。表格可在休斯敦中国人活动中心(华助中心)网站下载:HTTP://chineseciviccenter.org/。
- (四) 自荐/推荐表填毕后,请以电子邮件方式,提交至休斯敦中国人活动中心(华助中心)或美南报业集团任何一个 报名邮箱即可:

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4,报名截止日期10月5日(星期四)。报名截止后,三家主办单位将对自荐/推荐材料进行审核,并开展必要的核实, 徵求意见工作,在此基础上确定入选对象。

三、表彰办法:

评选出的先进典型个人及团体,将受邀出席中国驻休斯敦总领馆10月中旬举行的表彰座谈会,由总领馆颁发奖杯。 评选出的先进典型个人及团体,还将受邀出席休斯敦国际区举办的"哈维飓风国际区救灾募资音乐会"由国际区予以 表彰。

> 休斯敦中国人活动中心(华助中心) 美南报业集团 中国驻休斯敦总领馆 2017年9月20日

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017



A Snapshot Of The World



People wait to get money at Bab Al-Mandab Exchange transfer money bureau in Khartoum, Sudan October 7,2017. REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah



A sign is pictured at a makeshift memorial set up for the victims of the Route 91 Harvest music festival mass shooting in Las Vegas



A Blackhawk helicopter flies above a parked A-29 Super Tucano aircraft, during a handover ceremony of Blackhawk helicopters from U.S. to the Afghan forces, at the Kandahar Air base



A forensics officer examines a black Toyota car near the Natural History Museum, after a car mounted the pavement, in London



A uniform of a member of Islamic State militants is pictured as it was displayed by the Syrian Democratic forces at their positions inside a building at the front-line in Raqqa



Birds are seen on a beach after Tropical Storm Nate in Cancun



A crashed minibus sits at the side of a road in Antalya, Turkey October 7, 2017. Dogan News Agency, DHA via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS



A Rohingya refugee carries an elderly man on their way to a refugee camp, in Teknaf



COMMUNITY

Opera Hong Kong's New Production Of "Aida" In October Will Feature

A Chinese Soprano Playing An African Princess Singing In Italian

Chinese Soprano He Hui Highlights The

Art's Focus On Ability, Not Nationality

of "Madama Butterfly" at the Metropoli-

tan -- is nevertheless still notable. Chinese

singers are still relatively rare, but this can

no longer be explained merely as a func-

China is -- in spite of having several

venerable operatic traditions of its own

-- proving increasingly fertile ground for

Western opera, both in terms of new opera

houses and performances, as well as in the

numbers of talented singers. New operas

-- notably a neo-Pucciniesque rendition of

the 18th-century Chinese classic "Dream

of the Red Chamber" -- are being commis-

sioned. China has the size and apparent

ambition to play an outsize role in opera,

But opera singers mature slowly, requir-

ing considerably more time to reach their

peak than it takes to build skyscrapers or

bring tech ventures to fruition. There has

not been time yet for China to realize this

BREAKING NEW GROUND He Hui

has been in many ways a trailblazer, which

can be put down to a combination of good

fortune (she calls it "miraculous"), talent

and effort. After a second-place finish in

Placido Domingo's Operalia competition

as it does in so many things.

particular potential.

tion of opera being a "foreign" art form.

Soprano He Hui, right, performs in Opera Hong Kong's "Tosca" in October 2015 with tenor Warren Mok. (Courtesy of Opera Hong Kong)

At a time when cultural appropriation, whitewashing and other actual or perceived artistic infractions are topics of often heated discussion, opera has largely been given a pass. "Madama Butterfly" endures the occasional charge of being Orientalist, yet remains a favorite in Asia as well as with Asian sopranos. Western opera, or rather its audiences, have long been largely blind to color and ethnicity, something all the more remarkable since opera singers are not musicians but also actors, playing parts in a drama with settings usually explicitly defined in time and place.

Yet few expect "Madama Butterfly" always to be sung by an Asian; the African-American soprano Leontyne Price was globally renowned for her portrayals of Cio-Cio-San. Nor is "Aida" usually or even often sung by a soprano of African descent. Perhaps it has something to do with opera itself, the combination of voice, music and lyrics communicating at a level that transcends superficial appearance.

Chinese soprano He Hui -- who is opening the Hong Kong production of "Aida" before flying to New York City for a run

in 2000, she was brought to Italy by an agent, picking up and leaving home, family and China behind. I can vouch for the result: I heard her Hong Kong debut as Butterfly and several times since. There is something otherworldly about someone Chinese singing Italian opera as if she were Italian.

He Hui now sings around the world at such houses as the Metropolitan, Milan's



La Scala and Vienna's Staatsoper -- a level few Chinese singers have yet reached and perhaps none with such consistency. She is a regular at the annual festival in the Arena in her adopted hometown of Verona, Italy. The world of opera has adopted her back: Far from considering He Hui as Chinese competition, her accomplish-

mente are welcome

This is a human story of cross-cultural artistic dedication and success -- but it is also much more than that. China can often seem at loggerheads with the West; the differences can at times seem inherent and insurmountable. It can sometimes even seem difficult to find common topics of conversation, to say nothing of approbation.

The opera house might not be the first place one might think to look for East-West harmony, but there it is, embodied in this Chinese singer who has become one with her Western art and who has been accepted and celebrated not as a Chinese singer, but as a singer.

(Courtesy https://asia.nikkei.com/)

With The Wortham Mothballed Through Mid-2018, HGO Is Moving Forward With Innovative "Plan B"

Houston Grand Opera Announces George R. Brown As Temporary Post-Harvey Venue



AFTER LAST WEEK'S NEWS that the Wortham Theater Center—home to the Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera—would be closed until at least mid-2018, the city's largest opera company was homeless. The ballet debuted its season opener, Mayerling, to great fanfare this weekend at the Hobby Center, but HGO had been mum about the venue for its own opener, La Traviata. Today, the company finally revealed its plan: a makeshift venue constructed in Exhibit Hall A3 of the George R. Brown Convention Center. In a statement, they described the experience with the (intentional?) pun of

"unconventional opera," featuring about 1,700 seats in a combination of floor and stadium seating that will be arranged so that no audience member will be more than 100 feet from the stage, creating an intimate scale. The watchword seems to be "flexibility," with the company able to adjust the venue to specific needs of the production, which will include La Traviata, Handel's Julius Caesar, and the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek's The House Without a Christmas

"Opera companies around the world are performing in new and unusual venues," said HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers in a statement. "While we are disappointed that we temporarily cannot perform in our creative home at the Wortham Theater Center, our artists and creative teams are excited to take advantage of the extraordinary possibilities at the George R. Brown. We are fortunate to have the freedom in this new venue to customize the space to fit our unique needs and to maintain the artistic integrity of the productions."

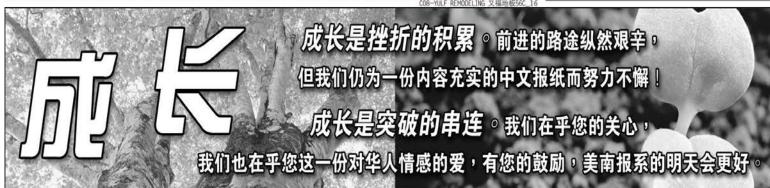
Some Houstonians might be clutching their pearls at the location change, but HGO softens that blow with a \$30 Lyft credit per ticket to get audience members to and from the new location. Previous ticket holders will receive an email with newly assigned seats in early October, well ahead of La Traviata's Oct. 20 debut. (Courtesy https://www.houstoniamag.











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COMMUNITY

Local Economy

Rig count falls as oil prices stagnate

The U.S. rig count fell by four this week as oil prices continued to stagnate.

Houston oilfield services company Baker Hughes reported Friday that oil rigs dropped two to 748, gas two to 187. The total has slipped to 936, 22 off its recent peak of 958, at the end of July.

Still, the count has risen 412 over this time last year, with oil rigs up 320, gas 93. The U.S. offshore count is unchanged from last week at 22, down one year over year. RELATED: Drillers choke off dollars to Permian Basin operations

Texas lost three rigs, Wyoming and Pennsylvania two, Louisiana one, Baker Hughes said. Colorado added a rig. Oklahoma added

U.S. oil prices have hovered at \$50 a barrel for days. They settled on Thursday up 81 cents or less than 2 percent to \$50.79.

Sports

Rockets' James Harden fires back at former coach: 'He's a clown'

Rockets guard James Harden, describing himself as "upset" at former Rockets coach Kevin McHale's comment that Harden is not a leader, hit back on Saturday and hit hard. "He's a clown. Honestly," Harden said. "I did anything and everything he asked me to do. I tried to lead this team since I stepped foot here in Houston. To go out there and downplay my name, honestly, he's never taught me anything to be a leader. But I've done a great job. The organization, my coaches. You can ask any of those guys how I worked extremely hard every single day to better, obviously, be a basketball player, but to be a leader as well, defensively as well."

McHale was fired 11 games into the 2015-16 seasons, the start of his fifth as Rockets coach. McHale said in an NBA-TV discussion released on Friday that it is not Harden's "personality" to be a leader.

Deadline approaches for Red Cross financial assistance count after Harvey



by Emily L. Mahoney

After Harvey, Tarhonda Bickley had to tear out the sheetrock, carpet and baseboards in her flooded Stafford home.

Now she needs help. And she's hoping to get it from the Red Cross.

Bickley applied two weeks ago for the Red Cross's Immediate Assistance Program, which provides \$400 to households "severely impacted" by Harvey.

The charity is facing criticism for the shaky rollout of the program and its application website, which crashed a day after it launched and stayed down for 10 days after a massive influx of people tried to sign up at once.

"I give to the Red Cross. I donate

when everything is going on, whenever they have food drives, I go give food, I volunteer, go give blood, clothes, the whole nine yards," said Bickley, whose application is still pending. "It shouldn't be a problem in a disaster area for you to offer (\$400) as a common courtesy."

The Red Cross said it has since increased its bandwidth and is working through close to a hundred thousand pending applications. The site has been back up since Sept. 21 and storm victims can apply until the deadline on Oct. 10.

"It hurts us that the system went down because it negated our ability to help the community," said Barbara Behling, a spokeswoman for the Red Cross. "We should have done a better job communicating during that time as to what was going to happen." To receive a check, the Red Cross

requires that each household meet three conditions: they must live in one of the 39 Texas counties affected by Harvey, have been displaced by the storm, and display a need for emergency financial assistance to replace items like food or clothes. So far, the Red Cross said it has authorized payment of more than \$150 million to more than 380,000 households.

While the charity has offered checks to disaster victims before, this was a new approach for the Red Cross. In prior disasters,

workers were required to go door to door to assess damage before people got financial assistance. The new process is done entirely online and is designed to distribute money more quickly to people who need it most.

"We wanted to give the most immediate possible assistance that we could to the most people that qualify," said Erica Mani, the Hurricane Harvey Immediate Assistance Lead. "There were so many people affected and we knew that the number of people needing this assistance was going to be large."

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2017年10月9日

慢游西递古村探寻花山迷窟

西递坐落于黄山南麓,因水西流,又因古代递送邮件的驿站而得名, 是黄山市最具代表性的古民居旅游景点。传说,始祖为唐昭宗李晔之子, 因遭变乱,逃匿民间,被胡姓善人收养,在此繁衍生息,形成了聚居村落。故西递有"真李假胡"、"胡李一家亲,胡李不通婚"一说。也许,因为是皇家之后,西递才文风昌盛、底蕴深厚吧。

而今的西递,当真是皖南第一座 保存完好、古朴典雅的古民居村落。 一几一椅觭角间,启承转合见鬼斧之 巧凿;廊窗立柱抚顺处,圆润温和不 失大家风范。随心所欲的漫步在青山 板铺就的小路上,远处的蓝天白云, 水波画舫,和远处的青山绿树完美的 融合成一幅皖南山水画卷。

西递村建房多用黑色大理石,两条清泉穿村而过,99条高墙深巷,各具特色的古民居,让人如置身迷宫。村头有座明万历六年,即公元1578建的三间四柱五楼的青石牌坊,峥嵘巍峨,结构精巧,是胡氏家族地位显赫的象征。村中有座康熙年间建造的"履福堂",陈设典雅,充满书香气息。

在西递,几乎每家每户都有形意兼备的楹联。这是一种深入浅出的文

化传播方式。文化在长辈们的教导下 ,在孩子们的日日吟诵中,代代相传

春雨蒙蒙,漫游在西递古镇中, 时光仿佛都慢了下来……

从西递古镇出来,来到花山石窟 ,感受瞬间截然不同。花山石窟所带 来的神秘感,让人兴奋不已。

花山谜窟不同于国内外其他著名石窟,它不是天然溶洞,而是古代人工开凿的规模宏大的地下宫殿群。它至今仍是一个扑朔迷离的不解之谜,这个由古代人开凿的地下宫殿群存在太多困惑和疑问,而石窟的魅力正是应在了一连串的"谜"上。

花山谜窟正坐落在宁静的新安江 之畔,左边青山,右边田园,中间绿 水。踏过吊索桥进到山里,才是石窟 的所在。

从外面看这座山体,与别山没有什么不同,可是你很难想象它已经是被完全掏空了的。现以探明的石窟有36处,其宏大壮阔、玄妙奇巧的石窟景象在全国实为罕见,其规模之恢弘,气势之壮观,独具特色,令人叹为观止,堪称中华一绝。被誉为"北纬30度神秘线上的第九大奇观"。

目前开放就只有2、35、24号洞窟,其他的都没有开放。2号石窟建

在半山腰里,如同地下长廊一般,洞口呈虎口张开之势,因此又称"环溪石窟"。石窟面积约4800平米,洞深146米,分有上下两层,一层大厅气势壮观,独有"擎天柱"支撑,二层大厅则有几十根石柱昂然挺立,组成一个宽大的地下长廊。

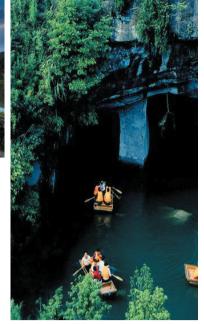
24号石窟又称"二十四柱"。其 为水上石窟,石窟面积约1500平方米 ,洞门面山路而开,呈扁长方形,宽 约50米,高约30米,洞内水深不见底 ,进深莫侧,气势恢宏。洞内有6根 巨大的方形石柱成两排阵势支撑窟顶 。如此四层,衍入地下,故有"二十 四柱"之名。

35 号石窟又称"地下宫殿"、"清凉宫"。石窟面积约12600平方米,洞深170米,空间落差25米,为目前全国范围内面积最大的人工石窟。洞窟中有26根石柱支撑,有帝王之相。环绕大殿有36间石房,最小者其面积仅2平方米;石房墙壁厚薄不一,最薄处仅10厘米厚。殿堂边有深潭数口,水呈绿色,清澈见底,经年不涸。

花山谜窟一行,依旧留给了我们 众多谜团,也带来了各种猜想,也为 花山谜窟增添了更多神奇。 期待有一 天,有人能解开这些谜团吧!









在香港西营盘散步感受老街的缓慢复苏

西营盘是香港最古老的街区 ,香港开埠之时,英军就在这一 带筑起军营,因此有西营盘之名 。这里是香港最早发展起来的教 育和住宅区域,所以也是多所香 港名校的发源地。般咸道官立分 学的前身就是孙中山曾经念过书 的拔萃男书室,而历史悠久的港 大其实就在附近,张爱玲肯定也 曾经在此流连。近来因为地铁的 开通,位于港岛西边的西营盘老 区,突然涌现了不少时髦店,昏 沉中的老区被注入了源源活水。

由政府来主导的老区活化, 往往策划痕迹太深,补太多的妆 ,只会沦为庸脂俗粉。但西营盘 的复苏完全由民间的商家主导, 因此在精致中,往往带有一些原 始的野性,这种新旧混搭风格才 是西营盘吸引人的原因。

一般的老区活化过程都有迹可循,它们往往是地处城市中心的边陲,有一定的历史厚度,有某某某看上了这里较为低廉的租金及朴质的氛围,开了一家优质的咖啡馆或餐厅或精品酒店,口碑好了,人潮来了,更多人加入了战局,媒体开始热烈报道,西营盘就这样由回忆深处被打捞起来了。

高街一带极为惬意,有个建造于1892年的国家医院外籍护士宿舍的原址,并同时兼任香港人口中著名的鬼屋。这栋扎实的老楼带有浓厚的英式殖民地风格,由于曾经被改造成神经病医院,后来遭到闲置,从此闹鬼的传说就在这栋雄伟的建筑上萦绕不散,现在它已经改造成西营盘社区综合大楼,大楼对面则是佐治五世纪念公园,公园内设有运动设施和足球场,外墙则垒以有了一定年月的岩石,陡峭的东边街上,一排细叶老榕树破格而出,紧





抓住石壁不放的老根和垂直而下的须根,生命力顽强。阳光透过密密麻麻的叶片,给东边街上撒上斑驳的碎影,这绝对是香港最漂亮的小街道之一。在附近街市买好菜的老人,和戴着耳机跑步的老外,在我身边擦肩而过,一快一慢的步履,都是生活。

离此不远有个西营盘街市, 生龙活虎的叫卖声夹杂着鱼腥味,一地的湿漉漉和脏兮兮,摊子 上摆卖了色彩缤纷的海鲜,在黄 色灯光的照耀下,静悄悄的透着 生气。我很喜欢逛香港的街市, 乱七八糟的,却也有一种毫不矫 情的生活气息。街市旁边则有一 家据说开业于1928年的关兴记, 专卖豆腐、豆花、豆浆和杂货, 毫不起眼的站稳了超过90年,味 道肯定不错。

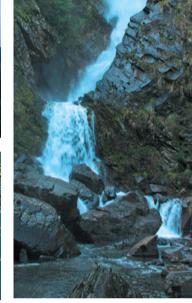
老区的街头巷尾近年来也混 入了不少漂亮的小店,在最老的 土地上恣意绽开,最古老和最时 兴,格格不入的并列,才显得有 趣。已经在亚洲打响知名度的巴 厘岛名店Potato Head也在西营盘 开设了新店,我一踏进去,就想 要喝杯咖啡再离开。周末早上已 经在播放妖娆的舞曲音乐,咖啡 因和跳跃的音符能轻易地把人唤 醒,由著名日本建筑师藤本壮介 所设计,延续了Potato Head一贯 的热带怀旧风格。店内摆满了老 家具, 天花板则吊满了盆栽, 由 南洋移植来到历来就华洋杂处的 西营盘,一点也没有水土不服的 症状。不远处还有一个 Speak easy 酒吧 Ping Pong 129,这种 "挂羊头卖狗肉"的酒吧蛮好玩 ,门面是兵乓球室,拾级而上, 推门而入, 浓厚的后工业设计 加上种类齐全的琴酒,让汶家酒 吧成了西营盘越夜越美丽的据点

有学校的地方就能容纳书店 ,精神书店是街区里颇具盛名的 二手书店。逼仄的空间里堆满了 文史书籍,喜欢淘旧书的人,或 许会在这里找到宝。书店创建于 1958年,年轻老板黄宝龙继承了 祖父的事业,为了鼓励阅读,甚 至购买了几部脚踏车,让文青骑 着车游览香港西部风光,让读万 卷书和行万里路有了完美结合。 这个帅气的老板,还是个童星呢 ,在经典港剧《大时代》里扮演 过童年方展博。自行车日和80港 币,老板却回赠40元,让客人在 店里购书。想想现在当书店老板 真不容易,卖书之余,还得贩卖 生活方式,所以我也就顺手挑了 几本书,然后继续在西营盘里游 荡。

风云牯牛降 美景写春秋







第一次听闻这个地名,不由的便好奇心大起,于是网络上一番搜索,原来关于牯牛降景区,有个故事:古代的牯牛降山中生活着一只名叫雀的怪鸟。《山海经》说这种鸟"状如鸡而白首,鼠足而虎爪",以各种飞禽走兽为食,连人也敢吃。 弄得方圆几百里的山中,鸟兽绝迹,不见人烟。话说春秋时期的老子为了传授教义,他辞官归隐,云游四方,到各地传经授道。一日,他骑着青牛,路过牯牛降山中。

便把这座山起名叫做"牯牛降"。 牯牛降位于皖南石台、祁门两县交界处 ,是黄山山脉向西延伸的主体,古称"西黄 山"。它雄伟绮丽的自然风光与黄山有一脉 相承的近似之点;而她原始的自然生态当属有异于黄山的独特之处;这里有华东地区最后一片原始森林之称,也是天然阔叶林的最北限。生态学家称其为生物种群的"基因库"、"绿色的自然博物院"。

前一天池州中雨,于是第二天早上格外 令人惊喜。穿过云层航拍,云雾覆盖整片景 区,分外妖娆壮美。

经过龙门潭大坝,眼前的两岸危崖高耸,碧流深潭横亘,浑如两军对垒,一触即发。因其形势险要,所以人们很自然地把这道景观叫着龙门。龙门,既是龙门景区名称的由来;同时,相对于中华民族历史长河来说,又似乎具有某种特殊的象征意义。它是整个明朝历史的最后一道门:——龙门以内深藏着朱明王朝最后的悲壮;龙门以外则完全是清世祖爱新觉罗的天下。

这是龙门景区最大的瀑布,上下分成四段,故名"四叠瀑"。其水来自牯牛降主峰和奇峰,水流终年不断,特别是雨后飞流直下,水珠飞溅,云雾茫茫,气势磅礴,十分壮观。我们来到瀑布旁,立即感到荫凉、清新气爽,精神愉悦。这是因为瀑布水流冲击拍打石崖时,致使水分子在雾化的过程中释放出大量负氧离子。负氧离子人称"空气维生素",又称"长寿素",对人体健康长寿以及对气管炎、心脑血管等慢性病治疗极为有利。

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大选:党派势力明显向右推移

当地时间9月24日举行的德国 大选结果显示,大选使德国党派势 力明显向右推移。德国联邦议会将 得到一个前所未有的新面貌。联盟 党、社民党、选项党、自民党、绿 党和左翼党这六个党派将坐镇议会 ,分享其631个席位。

自二战以来,联邦议会从未象 现在这样有这么多个党派。对老民 主党派来说,如何应对右翼民粹选 项党的异军突起,将是一个挑战。 德国电视二台称,24日的选举有如 一场地震,选举当晚的气氛也耐人

据报道,24日18时,德国电 视一台推出选举初步预测时,执政 党阵营联盟党和社民党全都没有欢 声笑语,而是沉默和错愕。两个最 大党合起来总共丢失了14个百分 点,都是输家,但毕竟都保住了老 大和老二的地位。

大选赢家显然是选项党和自民 党。这两党阵营全都立即爆发出欢 呼声。尤其是2013年才成立的选 项党,现在一举跃升为第三大党, 在东部甚至成为第二大党,其欢呼 声自然十分响亮。选项党首席候选 人高兰满面笑容地登上本党选举庆 祝会的主席台,肯定了本党选举的 胜利,并警告新政府要穿得暖和-点,因为"我们会追猎你们。"

但选项党的胜利当晚在柏林立 即引发了抗议。选项党在柏林亚历 山大广场附近租赁的选举庆祝会场 受到数百名抗议者的包围和呐喊。

第二大党社民党获二战以来最 差成绩。德国电视一台和二台马上 询问,社民党领袖舒尔茨是否该走 人。但社民党各位要人全都统一了 口径,说舒尔茨继续是本党的领袖 。舒尔茨也很快在电视上露面,承 认本党遭受了令人痛苦的损失,并 认为选民的投票是对大联盟的否认 。他表示, 社民党将退出大联盟, 但他不会辞职,而是会继续竞选社

损失百分点最多的其实是基民 盟。但当党主席默克尔登上基民盟 总部主席台时,会场上还是爆发了 热烈的掌声和欢呼声。满面春风的 默克尔几乎不提本党的损失,而是 突出本党的成绩:保住了第一大党 的地位,获得了组合政府的委托, 而且"没有我们,政府成立不了。 '针对选项党的胜利,她许诺说, 她将顾及公民的忧虑和恐惧,在未 来制订更好的政策。

分析称,2015年的难民危机是 大选最重要话题,默克尔处理危机 的政策给选民情绪带来了很大变化 。默克尔的民众支持率大大低于 2013年。默克尔虽然能够连任总理 ,但还是受到了打击。



再接纳5万难民!欧盟委员会提出新难民安置计划



为了减少非法移民来到欧 洲, 欧盟正在考虑出台新规, 为那些特别需要保护的难民开 通进入欧洲的合法渠道。该计 划旨在打击人口贩卖,同时又 满足欧洲劳动市场的需求。

欧委会提出了一项新的难 民安置计划,其中主要建议在 未来两年内,让那些特别需要 保护的难民从非洲和中东来到 欧盟,人数至少5万。针对的 国家包括利比亚、埃及、苏丹 、乍得等危机地区。

报道称, 欧盟委员会将 为此拨款50万欧元,也就是 说平均每个难民大约1万欧元 。该难民安置计划的第一个版 本今年7月份通过,当时宣布 的规模为4万人。德国和其他 欧洲国家可以自愿加入计划。 欧委会表示,到目前为止有 1.4万人的分派已有着落

据悉, 欧委会希望能出台 一个可以直接从第三国家接收 难民的框架。欧盟的难民事务 委员阿夫拉莫普洛斯(Dimitris Avramopoulos)认为应该出台一 个方案应对危险的难民非法入 境问题: "创造多个合法入境 渠道因此变得至关重要,不但 会保护难民,也会给数字统计 和就业市场带来益处。'

欧委会希望通过支持私人 团体和民间社会组织做监护人 ,来促进通过合法渠道让难民 来到欧洲。为此,该机构委托 欧洲庇护支援办公室(EASO)进 行了试点项目。

这个方案旨在破坏和拆 除人犯集团的非法通道,减 少难民冒生命危险偷渡的现 象。此外,欧盟想要引入经 济移民,以满足对劳动力的 需求。

FBI 报告:全美暴力犯罪 率连续第二年攀升

25日,美国联邦调查局(FBI)公 布"2016年暴力犯罪"统计,数据 显示,2016年,全美暴力犯罪率连 续第二年攀升,芝加哥谋杀案增长 则占全国谋杀率增长的五分之一。

调查显示,全美暴力犯罪率为 每10万人中就有386.3人犯罪,高 于去年同期的373.7人,是2012年 以来最高数字,谋杀率也增加至每 10万人有5.3人犯罪,是2008年以 来的最高。

不过,这个数字依旧接近历史 最低值,特别是与1990年代初相比 ,1991年的暴力犯罪为每10万人 758.2人犯罪,谋杀率高达9.8人。

FBI 认为,谋杀和非过失杀人 、抢劫、强奸和加重攻击(aggravated assault),是涉及武力或武力威胁 的四种暴力犯罪,纽约大学法学院 布瑞南司法中心指,谋杀率的增长 是因大城市的杀人事件增加所致, 其中,被称作"暴力城市"的芝加 哥,占去年全国谋杀率增长的五分 之一以上。

根据统计,2016年全国财产相 关犯罪下降了1.3%,是连续第14年 减少,强奸及加重攻击案则均有增 加。

布瑞南司法中心法律顾问格劳 伟妥(Ames Grawert)指出,根据FBI 数据,2016年的犯罪率接近历史低 点,像纽约这样的大城市犯罪率也 在降低,但谋杀和暴力事件则有所

司法部长塞申斯则认为,暴力 犯罪的增加也逐渐破坏了对警员的 尊重,他并引用芝加哥警方近期的 探讨重点,将芝城增长的犯罪率归 咎于无证移民的相关政策

FBI局长雷伊对此表示,该局 未来将着重提高透明度,特别是近 年来民众高度关注的警方如何使用 武力问题,他指出,FBI创建了一 个数据库统计强制执法执法,包括 导致死亡的严重受伤或枪案。目标 是通过数据透明化,让小区和媒体 做出明智和准确的讨论,同时改善 警民关系。

安倍宣布提前大选 本内政仍将面临四大难题

日本首相安倍晋三宣布,将于28 日解散众议院提前举行大选,想藉由 反对党陷入混乱的良机出击, 第四度 成为日本领导人。分析称,无论谁赢 得这次选举,都将面临各种难题。

对日本国内来说,最急迫问题是 正在滴答作响的人口定时炸弹,这也 影响了从经济到社会的日本各个领域 。日本正迈向全球首个"超高龄"国 家之路,意味28%以上人口将超过65

极低的生育率和不断扩大的老年 人口意味着劳动力萎缩,而萎缩的劳 动力必须负担大幅膨胀的社会福利支

尽管劳动力短缺,但薪资却未合 理成长以及国内消费不振, 迫使决策 当局祭出大手笔振兴方案来维护脆弱

日本最近连续6个季度维持经济成 长局面,是近10年来的最好表现,但

成长步调远远落后 于亚洲竞争对手。最 新的经济年成长率仅 1.3%,与安倍就任首 相时的0.9%相比, 仅些许改善。

安倍藉由俗称 "安倍经济学" 的高调作法来寻求 提振日本经济,包 括增加政府支出和 日本央行推出超级 宽松货币政策。

日本政府负债 情况在工业化国家中

最糟,为经济规模(GDP)的两倍以上。 专家长期以来一直警告,日本必 须缩小债务规模,否则将面临借贷成 本急速攀升,甚至违约风险。

日本一直竭力想跟上全球化和不 断改变时代的脚步,尤其是曾经无比



风光的大企业,它们目前在创新上已 落后于国外竞争对手。日本企业迟迟 不愿任用女性担任高阶主管,且很难 整合高龄人力。

安倍试图消除官僚作风并鼓励创 新,但批评人士指称改革步调太过缓 慢。

美南報業電視傳媒集團與光聲電信集團(Phonoscope Global)聯手成立美南光聲電信傳媒集團



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Daily News

星期一

哈维飓风国际区敦灾募资音乐会,紧锣密鼓展开 侨界我团及商界热烈响应,著名音乐人张江专程前来演唱

(休士顿/秦鸿钧报导) 由美 南新闻及休士顿各族裔上百个社团 共同主办的「哈维飓风国际区救灾 顿国际区可容 1500 人的越南寺庙

募资音乐会 」 将于10月14日(星期六) 下午五时至八时,在休士

> Lien Hoa Buddhist Temple 」 (地址:6709 Howell Sugar Land Rd. Houston TX 77083) 举行 。欢迎各界共襄盛举,加 入我们的行列去帮助那些 受到哈维飓风影响的人。

这场「哈维 风国 际区救灾募资音乐会」, 顾名思义,它是属于全休 士顿各族裔人士的一场「 国际区」救灾募资音乐会 。休市市长及国会议员都 将与会。在主办人国际区 区长、美南报业传媒集团 董事长 李蔚华先生致开场 词后,市长等嘉宾将莅会 致词,并表扬评选出来的 中、外社区抗洪救灾先进 典型代表各20人。由市长 等贵宾主持颁奖。

目前这场救灾募资音 乐会已得到国际佛光会休 士顿协会、国际阳光行青 少年义工站、德州佛教会玉佛寺、 袁国鹏纪念基金、李蔚华先生、美 南山东同乡会、冠军地产、「花见 花开一企业家团队孙婷、东北总商 会、德州观音堂文化中心、 Tara Energy、双椒集团、美美地产、刘 妍、邹艾伦---- 等多家单位、企 业、社团、个人的大力赞助。使大 家对这场音乐会更具信心。

在播放这次休市令人感动的抗 洪救灾,发挥人间真爱的影片之后 ,由该晚节目的总策划高晓慧,吴 晓萍所精心策划的音乐,表演节目 正式登场。包括:J&H 舞蹈学校的 开场舞「仰望」,刘良子女声独唱 ; The Medley by North America Youth Orchestra 的民乐表演-- 名 曲联奏;印度,巴基斯坦的舞蹈, 及由「国际阳光行青少年义工站」 站长,年仅十六岁的刘相志,他刚 刚结束暑假期间和交响乐团在中国 巡演,他演奏的拉赫马尼诺夫第二 钢琴协奏曲,受到业内人士的称赞 ,这次他将代表国际阳光行社团钢 琴演奏李斯特的「侏儒之舞 | 及 「匈牙利狂想曲第六号」 两首曲

在樊玉珍工作室表演歌唱及舞 蹈演出之后,当晚的压轴主秀、著 名音乐人张江登台演唱二首作品, 一首是由曲朝阳作词,吴晓萍作曲

的「大爱无疆」,另一首「 祈祷」则由陈祖幸,曲朝阳 ,吴晓萍作词,吴晓萍作曲, 这首作品是词曲作者专门为这 次洪灾改编的,此作品表现了 三天三夜洪灾的日子里休斯敦 的人们站在窗前看著狂风暴雨 ,祈求上帝保守家园,保守我 们的城市。歌中开始四句歌词 唱到:祈祷在风里,祈祷在雨 中,祈祷在夜晚,祈祷在黎 明----这四句唱出了当时 人们的心情,特别是张江细腻 ,真挚的演唱,相信在场的观 众都将深受感动。

「哈维飓风国际区救灾 募资音乐会」 前半场将由「 美南电视 | 主播,名主持人张 同艳,马健主持。后半场则由 侨界著名主持人陆峻,刘良子 主持。入场券分\$100,\$50, \$20 三种,现正在各社团发售 中,所有收益将用于帮助受飓 风哈维影响的组织。节目或入场券 详情请电 281-498-4310



图为刘相志 7-16岁 7国际阳光行青少年 义工站站长,钢琴演奏成就惊人。

光辉的十月,国恩家庆,庆典与晚宴不断 王朝珍珠古董 | 让您出落的光艳照人



图为著名音乐制作人,作曲,编曲,演唱家

现为孙楠 Studio 音乐总监张江。

(本报记者秦鸿钧) 光辉的十月,庆典与晚宴不断,两岸的华人都在欢 庆国庆。无论参加庆典或晚宴,配戴一付珍珠项链,马上有画龙点睛之妙, 令您出落不凡,光艳照人。 [王朝珍珠古董] 有中、西式项链任选,配合 您的衣著和气质,令您—见就爱上它!

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图为「王朝珍珠古董」负责人罗荣华摄宇该店。(记者)



中国歌剧舞剧院赴休斯敦参加由亚美舞蹈团举办的第十二届"舞舞篇中事事"舞蹈晚会

中国歌剧舞剧院赴休斯敦参加由亚美舞蹈团举办的第十二届"锦绣中华"舞蹈晚会(演出于十月二 十,二十一日,晚 7:30: Miller Outdoor Theater, 敬请光临)



舞剧中令人惊艳赞叹的一支舞蹈《采薇》



中国歌剧舞剧的主要演员杨思宇和高 雯倩表演双人舞《月下柔情》



Tiffany Yan 创作的舞蹈《墨》,用身体表 现中国书法的如龙腾飞,似凤飞舞。

本報記者

秦鴻鈞報導



亚美舞蹈团团员 Chloo Trinh, Clarise Trinh, Erika Zhou, Isabella Mao, Jenny X, Sylvia Ngo 表演的《傣家的女儿傣家的雨》展现了 傣族姑娘优美动人的舞姿和对美好生活的向往。





