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Southern News Group

**President:** Catherine Lee Editor: John Robbins. Jun Gai Business Manager: Jennifer Lopez Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd.,

Inside C2

Houston home sales fall

for third straight month

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Wary of shutdown, Trump inches toward support for funding deal

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday edged toward backing a deal in Congress on government funding that would not meet his demand for \$5.7 billion for a wall on the Mexican border but would avert a partial government shutdown.

Trump, widely blamed for a five-week shutdown that ended in January, said he did not want to see federal agencies close again because of fighting over funds for the wall, one of his signature campaign promises in the 2016 election.

Senator Graham says Trump is inclined to sign funding deal Senator Graham says Trump is inclined to sign funding deal Trump says will look for 'land mines' in funding bill House to vote on government funding bill late Thursday: law-

The Republican president did not commit himself to backing the government funding agreement struck between Democratic and Republican lawmakers this week. But two sources and a Republican senator close to the White House said he would likely sign

"I don't want to see a shutdown. A shutdown would be a terrible thing. I think a point was made with the last shutdown," Trump told reporters. "People realized how bad the border is, how unsafe the border is, and I think a lot of good points were made."

Trump said he would hold off on a decision until he sees actual legislation about the issue. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said Trump was "inclined to take the deal and move on."

Graham told reporters that Trump would then look elsewhere to find more money to build a wall along the U.S. southern border and was "very inclined" to declare a national emergency to secure the funds.

With a Friday night deadline looming before a shutdown, there is little time for the White House and the political parties in Congress to agree on funding.

U.S. President Donald Trump listens next to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross during a Cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington, U.S., February 12, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos

Funding is due to expire for the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department and several other federal agencies.

#### LESS MONEY

maker

The congressional agreement reached on Monday falls far short of giving Trump all the money he wants to help build the wall. Instead, congressional sources say, it includes \$1.37 billion for new barriers - about the same as last year - along 55 miles (90 km) of the border.

Details of the legislation were still being written, but the full billcould be made public as early as Wednesday evening, according to lawmakers and congressional aides.

The accord must be passed by the House of Representatives, dominated by Democrats, and the Republican-controlled Senate, then signed by Trump by midnight on Friday to prevent a shut-

The measure's fate in the House was far from certain given the risk that some conservatives and liberals will oppose the compromise for different reasons.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a Cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington, U.S., February 12, 2019. Like Trump, congressional Republicans have little appetite for a repeat of the 35-day partial shutdown in December and January - the longest in U.S. history -



Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) speaks to the media at the U.S. Capitol in Washington

### Johnson & Johnson supplier seeks bankruptcy over talc lawsuits

W(Reuters) - A key supplier of talc used in Johnson & Johnson's baby powder filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Wednesday in the wake of multibillion-dollar lawsuits alleging its products caused ovarian cancer and asbestos-related mesothelioma.

Imerys Talc America, the U.S. unit of French group Imerys SA, said it filed for bankruptcy because it lacks the financial clout to defend against nearly 15,000 lawsuits over its talc mineral product.

Imerys said that while it continued to believe the lawsuits are without merit, the prospect of rising settlement and defense costs over the next few years prompted the decision to file for bankruptcy. They also cite a multibillion-dollar verdict against Johnson & Johnson and the ensuing media attention as factors that led to the Chapter 11 filing.

In July, a Missouri jury ordered J&J to pay a record\$4.69 billion to 22 women who said asbestos in talc caused ovarian cancer. The healthcare conglomerate has said it is appealing that verdict. Imerys settled for an undisclosed amount prior to the trial.

Imerys and J&J have repeatedly denied the allegations, saying numerous studies and tests by regulators worldwide have shown their talc to be safe.



Bottles of Johnson's baby powder and Johnson's baby shampoo are displayed in a store in New York



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## **WORLD NEWS**

## Houston home sales fall for third straight

month

By Nancy Sarnoff

Home sales fell for the third straight month in January, as buyers closed on 362 fewer homes than they did last year at the same time, according to a monthly report from the Houston Association of Realtors.

The median price of a single-family home was \$222,000, up 1.4 percent from last year, the smallest year-over-year increase since October. "January appears to have delivered a perfect economic storm of sorts, with some consumers focused on paying off holiday credit card bills, others concerned about the recent bump in mortgage rates and still others that may have felt the squeeze from the partial government shutdown," Shannon Cobb Evans, the association's chair, said in a statement.

The slower pace of deals comes on the heels of a record year for the local housing market when home sales shattered sales and price records.

Sales volumes fell in all segments of the market, from entry-level to luxury, which saw its first decline in 12 months, according to the association, which tracks sales handled through the Multiple Listing Service primarily in Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties.

Buyers closed on 4,100 single-family homes in January, an 8.1 percent drop over last year.

Sales of townhomes and condominiums also fell in January, declining for the fifth consecutive month. Rental activity, however, rose dramatically for both single-family homes and townhomes and condominiums, spiking 16.5 and 16.4 percent, respectively -- volumes not seen since November 2017.



# Nearly one-third of Americans have more credit card debt than savings

Despite a thriving economy with historic low unemployment, an increasing number of Americans – 74 million, or nearly one-third of the population – have more credit card debt than savings.

The number of American households with more emergency savings than credit card debt, 44 percent, is the lowest since 2011 when an annual survey of financial health by Bankrate. com began. The survey found that 29 percent of Americans have more credit card debt than emergency savings, the highest in the history of the survey.

Of those surveyed, 18 percent have neither credit card debt nor emergency savings, up sharply from 12 percent last year.

The deterioration in American households'

emergency savings relative to credit card debt extends across both genders; all age, education, and income brackets; and political party affiliations.

Forty-one percent of Americans are focused on paying down debt. But there was a notable decline in those focused on boosting emergency savings, from 53 percent to 43 percent.

"Now is the time – with unemployment low and wages rising – to right-size the equation by paying off high cost credit card debt and adding to emergency savings. Sadly, it looks like we're collectively moving in the wrong direction," says Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate.com.



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Dr. Jeanie Ling completed her medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine and her residency in Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. She also completed her Fellowship in glaucoma at The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center at Houston. Her

The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center at Houston. Her special clinic interests include diagnosing glaucoma, glaucoma surgery, eyelid and laser surgery.

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## **Editor's Choice**



Demonstrators attend a protest against the increase of public rates, in Buenos Aires



A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest against recent utility rate hikes in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires



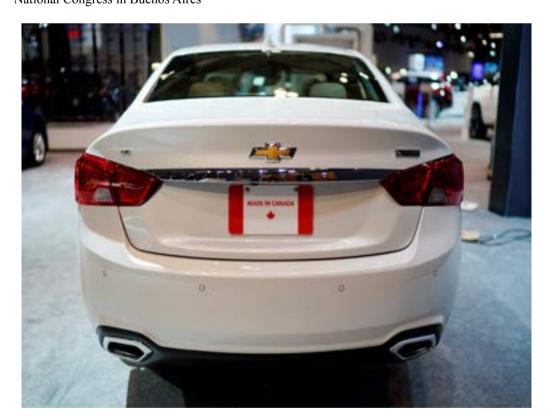
Demonstrators burn paper bills during a protest against recent utility rate hikes in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires



A demonstrator burns paper bills during a protest against recent utility rate hikes in front of the National Congress in Buenos Aires



Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge attends 100 Women in Finance Gala Dinner in London



A Chevrolet Impala vehicle with a sign reading "Made in Canada", is seen on display at the Canadian International AutoShow in Toronto



FILE PHOTO: Opening of the new Alphabet's Google Berlin office in Germany



A demonstrator waves an Argentinian flag during a protest against the increase of public rates, in Buenos Aires



## COMMUNITY

## THE BENEFITS OF RED LIGHT THERAP (PHOTOBIOMODULATION)

#### What is Red Therapy Light?

Red light therapy is also known as photobiomodulation (PBM), low level light therapy (LLLT), biostimulation, photonic stimulation or light box therapy. Light affects many aspects of our biology. Certain wavelengths of red light increase mitochondria function in the body.

Studies have shown that different wavelengths affect the body in different ways. The most effective wavelengths of red light seem to be in the ranges of 630-670 and 810-880.

#### **How Does Red Light Therapy Work?**

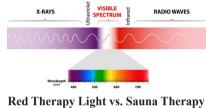
These specific wavelengths of red light create a biochemical affect in our cells that serves to increase mitochondrial function. This improves ATP (adenosine triphosphate) production in the body.

#### Why is this important? ATP is the source of energy for every cell

in the body. Without it, we don't function at all. Without enough of it, we don't function well.

It's wavelengths range between 630-880nm and are used to treat the skin's surface. Red therapy light penetrates about 8-10 millimeters into the skin. Depending on which area of the body the red light is used, this can easily affect all skin layers, reaching into blood vessels, lymph pathways, nerves, and hair follicles.

**VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE LIGHT** 



Many people wonder if RLT is similar to sauna therapy or the benefits of sunlight. All of these therapies are beneficial, but they are different and provide different results. I've been a big fan of sauna use for years, but I've also added red light therapy to my daily practice for different reasons.

The purpose of a sauna is to raise the

## Your Health: Red Light Therapy Gaining Popularity

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

temperature of the body. This can be accomplished through simple heat exposure by raising the temperature of the air, as is popular in Finland and other parts of Europe. It can also be accomplished through infrared exposure. This heats the body from the inside out in a sense and is said to provide more beneficial effects in less time and at lower heat.

Both sauna methods increase heart rate, perspiration, heat shock proteins and improve the body in other ways. Unlike red light therapy, infrared light from a sauna is invisible, and penetrates much deeper into the body with wavelengths at 700-1200 nanometers.

Red therapy light or photobiomodulation is not designed to increase perspiration or improve cardiovascular function. It impacts cells on the cellular level and increases mitochondrial function and ATP production. It essentially "feeds" your cells to increase energy.

Both have their uses, depending on the desired results.



Infrared light sauna

The History of Red Therapy Light Use Red light therapy has been around the block. In 1903 physician Niels Ryberg Finsen won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his successful treatment of smallpox and lupus with red light. Russia uses low level laser therapy in their standard medical care (and they have since the 1970s). The Russians also published hundreds of studies over the decades on the benefits of red therapy light. Unfortunately, very few of these studies have been translated into

Red light therapy has largely been ignored by the US and western Europe until recently. However it's been used in a clinical setting since the 1980s in Japan, China, America, and Eastern Europe.

#### The Benefits of Red Therapy Light

Even though the western world is behind the times with red therapy light, strong evidence supports its health benefits. It is FDA approved for chronic joint pain, slow to heal wounds, wrinkles, hair loss and acne. Many others have used it successfully for other issues, like psoriasis, improved circulation and better immune function.

#### Here's a partial list of the evidence based uses of red therapy light:

- · It helps rejuvenate facial skin and smooths skin tone.
- Red light builds collagen in the skin to reduce wrinkles.
- It helps to repair sun damage.
- Red light activates the lymphatic system for potentially improved detoxification.
- Decreases inflammation in the skin. • Helps fade scars and stretch marks.
- Improves hair growth to reverse balding.
- · Stimulates slow healing wounds.
- · Can prevent recurring cold sores, or herpes simplex.
- Helpful in the short term for carpal tunnel syndrome.
- · Beneficial for skin to reduce eczema, ro-

#### sacea and acne. 1. Better Circulation and Collagen Pro-

When the light penetrates through the epidermal and dermal skin layers, it increases circulation to help form new capillaries. It also increases collagen production and fibroblasts. Red therapy light improves collagen levels naturally by triggering the body to produce more of its own. Since collagen comprises about 70% of the protein in our skin, it's a big deal!



just give the skin a wrinkle free glow, but its ability to improve joint health makes

it great for arthritis sufferers. It can be helpful for those with a variety of painful musculoskeletal issues. The increased

Canada, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, Latin circulation and anti-inflammatory effects that red therapy light provides also help reduce pain and heal the body.

#### 2. Wound Healing with Red Light Therapy

Fibroblasts in our skin synthesize collagen, maintain connective tissue and are integral to wound healing. Red therapy light stimulates fibroblasts to do their job, and increases circulation for faster wound repair time. People have also used this therapy for burns, amputation injuries, skin grafts and infected wounds. It's been successfully used for skin damage caused by cancer treatments, including those in the mouth and mucus membranes.

In a 2014 study, researchers found that red light therapy significantly improved colitis symptoms in mice. The light therapy aided in their mucosal healing. Dentists have also successfully used red therapy lights to heal sores and abrasions in the mucus membranes of the mouth. It's also been found to prevent recurring cold sores that occur along the mouth.

3. A Remedy for Hair Loss



A 24-week study demonstrated that red therapy light significantly improved hair density and hair thickness without any serious reactions. Participants wore a helmet that emitted red therapy light to achieve this effect.

#### 4. Recover Faster from Injury and Ill-

Red light therapy increases circulation and ATP production throughout the body which may help speed healing during times of illness. It also stimulates lymph system activity and phagocytosis, the process of cells cleaning house.

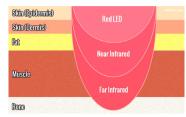
Although red therapy light helps to modulate the immune system, a 2006 study with mice found that over treatment actually resulted in immune suppression. Since not a

lot of research has been done in this area, it's unclear just how beneficial it is for the immune system.

#### 5. Help for the Thyroid

There are several compelling studies that look at the benefits of red light and near infrared therapy for thyroid health.

One randomized, placebo-controlled clinical study from 2013 looked at the benefits of light therapy on chronic autoimmune thyroiditis. This study showed an overall improvement in thyroid health from near infrared and light therapy. Many participants were able to reduce or eliminate their thyroid medication. In fact, a startling 47 percent of the participants no longer needed medication during the entire nine-month follow-up after the light therapy treatment. This is shocking as most people are told that they will need thyroid medication for the rest of their lives.



When looking at Hashimoto's (autoimmune thyroid problems) specifically, the study found a reduction in thyroid peroxidase (TPOAb) antibodies. These antibodies indicate the presence of an autoimmune thyroid condition.

#### Other studies have shown:

• a 2010 study from Russia found that red light therapy helped 38% of participants reduce thyroid medication dosage (17% stopped medication completely)

• A 2003 study on postsurgical thyroid patients found that red light therapy reduced the need for medication by up to 75%

#### 6. A Promising Therapy for Psoriasis

A small scale study published in the journal of Photomedicine and Laser Surgery found benefits for psoriasis sufferers. Skin plaques improved by 60-100% when treated with both red therapy light and infrared light, like that used in a sauna. The infrared light helped to calm inflammation, while the shorter red wavelengths helped heal the skins surface.

#### 7. Help for Acne, Rosacea and Eczema

The collagen and ATP stimulating benefits of red light therapy make it a promising solution for skin problems like acne, rosacea and eczema. Benefits include reduction of stretch marks and wrinkles as well as new hair growth. (Courtesy https://wellnessmama.com.)



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## **BUSINESS**

### Billionaire Musk Releases All Tesla Patents To Help Save The Earth

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



Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Shanghai's Mayor Ying Yong attend the Tesla Shanghai Gigafactory groundbreaking ceremony in Shanghai, China Jan. 7, 2019. Aly Song, Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO - Elon Musk announced Thursday he had released all of the electric carmaker Tesla's patents, as part of an effort to fight climate change.

In a blog post, the colorful billionaire founder of Tesla promised the company "will not initiate patent lawsuits against anyone who, in good faith, wants to use our technology." It was a remarkable move in an industry where the smallest idea or seed of invention is carefully guarded to protect its monetary value.

And it in fact came on the same day US prosecutors charged a Chinese national with stealing secrets from Apple's self-driving vehicle project.

"Tesla Motors was created to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport," Musk said. "If we clear a path to the creation of compelling electric vehicles, but then lay intellectual property landmines behind us to inhibit others, we are acting in a manner contrary to that goal."

In fact Musk said he was now skeptical of patents which too often only served "to stifle progress" and helped enrich giant corporations and lawyers rather than inventors.



He said he had earlier felt compelled to file patents for Tesla to prevent big car companies from copying the technology and using the

huge marketing and sales apparatus to take over the market.

"We couldn't have been more wrong. The unfortunate reality is the opposite," he said, noting that electric or clean-fuel cars "at the major manufacturers are small to non-existent."

But with car production continuing at 100 million a year "it is impossible for Tesla to build electric cars fast enough to address the carbon crisis," Musk said.

Have other companies making electric cars and the world would benefit from rapid advances in technology.

"We believe that applying the open-source philosophy to our patents will strengthen rather than diminish Tesla's position," and ability to attract talented engineers, he said. Shares of Tesla declined again Thursday after dropping Wednesday following mixed results for 2018. (Courtesy https://news.abscbn.com)

Why Elon Musk reminded the world about Tesla's patents being available for good use Overview

Elon Musk released Tesla's patents four years ago for the world to speed up electric vehicle technology. Last week, he reiterated that mankind should be able to share knowledge and not hide it behind the walls of large corporations. There was a reason he

came out on social media about protecting the environment.



Tesla Founder and CEO Elon Musk. (Image: Flickr) This past week, the polar vortex saw temperatures plummet across the northern hemisphere. Several parts of the US were reportedly colder than Antarctica. Eight people were killed as a result and flights across northern and western America were cancelled. It prompted Tesla Founder Elon Musk to tweet a reminder about the need to look hard at sustainable energy in a bid to save the planet.

Elon Musk √ @elonmusk

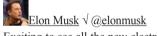
Our true competition is not the small trickle of non-Tesla electric cars being produced, but rather the enormous flood of gasoline cars pouring out of the world's factories every day All our patent are belong to youhttps://www. tesla.com/blog/all-our-patent-are-belong-vou ... pic.twitter.com/t99riofeCI

20.1K

3:07 PM - Jan 31, 2019

All of this has a back story. Musk warned everyone of the changes happening thanks to gasoline cars way back in 2014. Back then he only wanted to ensure that the world understands the value of sharing patents and why the world could be a better place if one opened up patents that were otherwise locked in corporate vaults for years.

Now here is why only Elon Musk can make the world think of how to make our planet a better place. Tesla finished 2018 with an 83 percent share of the U.S. battery-electric vehicle market, Musk told reporters this week. The last time this happened was when when the Ford Model T was launched 100 years



Exciting to see all the new electric vehicles coming to market! We created Tesla to accelerate a sustainable future & it's happening!https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/31/ automakers-flood-market-with-electric-vehicles--potentially-creating-pile-up-of-epic-proportions.html ...

34.8K 2:56 PM - Jan 31, 2019



Tesla now plans to increase production of the Model 3 and also plan the launch of three new product lines in 2019. However there are serious contenders. Automaker like Zotye and Acura are plugging into electric vehicles, with industry analysts expecting to see nearly a dozen new all-electric

2019, with dozens more coming to market in 2020. Jaguar, Mercedes and Volkswagen are working on cars that can give Tesla a real run for their money. But for Musk, market share is secondary. He wants the world to use his technology and

build solutions that can save the planet. To

vehicles in U.S. showrooms by the end of

know more one must go back to the blog he put out in 2014, where he said: "Yesterday, there was a wall of Tesla patents in the lobby of our Palo Alto headquarters. That is no longer the case. They have been removed, in the spirit of the open source

movement, for the advancement of electric

vehicle technology. His blog post also said, "Tesla Motors was created to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport. If we clear a path to the creation of compelling electric vehicles, but then lay intellectual property landmines behind us to inhibit others, we are acting in a manner contrary to that goal. Tesla will not initiate patent lawsuits against anyone who, in good faith, wants to use our technology." In an age where technology is patented as soon as it is invented, Elon Musk's philosophy seems formidable - and thought pro-

voking. TESLA'S PATENTS BY CATEGORY

He had said that when he started out with his first company, Zip2, he thought patents were a good thing and worked

hard to obtain them. "And maybe they were good long ago, but too often these days they serve merely to stifle progress, entrench the positions of giant corporations, and enrich those in the legal profession, rather than the

actual inventors. After Zip2, when I realized that receiving a patent really just meant that you bought a lottery ticket to a lawsuit, I avoided them whenever possible," he wrote. In fact, the early Tesla was all about patents as Musk went after them to protect himself from large corporations.

"At Tesla, we felt compelled to create patents out of concern that big car companies would copy our technology and then use their massive manufacturing, sales, and marketing power to overwhelm Tesla. We couldn't have been more wrong. The unfortunate reality is the opposite; electric car programmes (or programmes for any vehicle that doesn't burn hydrocarbons) at major manufacturers are small to non-existent, constituting an average of far less than 1 percent of their total vehicle sales," he added on the blog.

Musk took a dig at conventional automakers for producing electric cars with limited range and volume. The electric vehicle technology and business is huge. Unfortunately, pointed out Musk, with annual new vehicle production at 100 million per year, "it is impossible for Tesla to build electric cars fast enough to address the carbon crisis".

"We believe that Tesla, other companies making electric cars, and the world would all benefit from a common, rapidly-evolving technology platform," Musk had written.



Clearly, to Musk, life is about making big changes around us. "Technology leadership is not defined by patents, which history has repeatedly shown to be small protection indeed against a determined competitor, but rather by the ability of a company to attract and motivate the world's most talented engineers. We believe that applying the open-source philosophy to our patents will strengthen rather than diminish Tesla's position in this regard," he stated on his blog. The serial entrepreneur has set a precedent, but will others follow suit and change the way companies function? (Courtesy yourstory.com)



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## 美国H-1B签证申办障碍越筑越高 强调以美国人优先

虽然美国总统特朗普日前表示, "在美国拿H-1B的人可以放心,改变很 快就会来临。""我们希望鼓励有才干 和高等技能人员在美国追求事业发展。

'但H-1B工作签证是特朗普兑现选民承 诺的众矢之的,改革方向不仅更倾向于 硕士以上的高学历外国人,且雇主必须 要证明努力寻找本国人才未果,才能为 外籍员工申请 H-1B 签证。即使拿到 H-1B也不是安枕无忧,如拿到H-1B回 国时,将接受行政审查。

美国国土安全部要求,所有的雇用

方都必须要证明,已经做出很大努力要 招美国本地人, 遍寻不获, 之后才能提 出替员工申请H-1B, 因为要保证工作 签证不会伤及美国合乎条件的劳动力。 而那些工作签证的获得者,必须是最棒 最聪明的外国人,以及拥有合理的薪资 水平才能获得各种签证。

律师许俊良表示,以前只有在申请 绿卡时,才需要证明该职位找不到美国 人,必须雇用外籍人士,相比工作签证 并不强调这点。但是特朗普上台通过一 些行政权力,逐步增加H-1B签证的申请

难度,让雇主和申请者都要经历很多波 国家,却把大家的移民路都堵死,如今 折,目的是让大家知难而退。移民局虽 还未明确讲明必须高学历和美国稀缺人 才,才能申请工作签证,但是在申请时 要尽量将薪水值提高一些,专业要对口 , 且公司规模要够大。

对于所谓以美国人为优先的申请原 则,毕业生楚同学颇有微词,他说,如 果真要计较,那什么技术是美国人找不 到的?如果真有美国人都不会的特殊技 术,早就去申请杰出人才,干嘛还和千 军万马挤在H-1B?美国明明是一个移民

H-1B抽签增加不确定性,审核标准提高 增加难度,EB-5投资移民则是前途漫漫 ,除了和美国人结婚,就只有申请特殊 人才,或中国企业外派美国申请L-1等 方法,但这都不是普通人能走的移民路

律师蔡玟慧表示,特朗普从上任到 现在一直都在呼应其竞选口号,尽量以 美国人优先,职业移民签证必然会更加 严格。建议申请者提早做准备,且准备 内容更严谨和加强。同时,雇主的意愿

也很重要,因为有些雇主若觉得给外籍 员工办工作签证难度增加,可能会退而 求其次找美国人,因此在选择雇主时, 也要明确雇主是否有很强的意愿替员工 办理工作签证。

律师刘龙珠指出,对于是否是美 国员工无法胜任工作的界定,之前只 是理论要求,但实际操作比较笼统。 现在则要求更加详细深入,必然会将 一些经不起考验的申请者挡在门外。 而且现在抽查和行政审查的机率也提

## 英公布脫欧后 移民政策白皮书 欧盟公民无入英优先权

当地时间12月19日,英国内政大臣 贾维德(Sajid Javid)公布英国脱欧后移民 政策白皮书,定下对欧盟27国公民移居 英国的基本要求。包括他们要在英国确 定已取得工作,目年薪不少干3万英镑

文件草案在18日晚上仍在英国政 府部门间传阅,但可以肯定的是,英国 政府不会赋予欧盟公民进入英国劳工市 场的优先权。至于这个新移民系统如何 运作,仍有待商榷

据报道,英国内政部将计划于脱欧 后,大副削减80%欧盟移民配额。贾维 德表示,计划将大幅削减欧盟移民配额 ,并于2025年,从现在的7.5万人次降 至1万人次。分析认为,提高移民门槛 较有利国家整体发展。

"这是英国 40 多年来,在移民制 度上的最大改革。"贾维德指出,总体 而言,英国脱欧后将计划在2025年前 ,把从欧盟到英国的移民人数限制在1 万至2.5万人左右,远比目前7.4万人少 80%。据报道,限制措施也包括,企业 需向中等技术工人提供3万英镑的最低 年资要求,低技能工人也需符合来自 "滥用移民风险低"国家的审查条件 最高12个月居留期限。"

根据该白皮书所提出的建议,在新 门槛下,进入英国的中等技术工人人数 将可从18500人骤降至约4500人,而大 多数技能较低的工人也只被允许短暂居 留一年,因此不会造成长期居留的问题

英媒引述消息人士称, "在新的移 民政策下,政府将能完全掌控谁可以到 英国,优先考虑发放居留权给那些具备 英国所需技能的移民者,而不是根据他 们是来自哪个(欧盟)国家。"这意味着 英国脱欧后,将可不再理会欧盟以强制 配额的方式,要求欧盟成员国接受部分 移民申请的要求。在新的移民政策下, 英国将能省下大笔为欧盟移民在公共服 务和福利方面的巨额补助。

至于备受外界关注的白皮书里涉及 留学生的条款,白皮书中指出, "无论 欧洲经济区还是欧洲经济区以外的学生

,只要学习硕士研究生课程或者有学位 提供能力的教育机构的本科课程,将会 得到课程结束后最高6个月的居留期限 ,用于积累工作经验或者在英国境内寻 找高技能工作,获得博士学位的将得到

## 日本新《入管法》正式通过 具体接纳措施亟待完善

作为日本临时国会最大焦点的修改 后的《出入境管理及难民认定法》等于 8日凌晨正式获得通过,成为法律。新 设在留资格从而扩大接纳外籍劳动者。

法律修改后,日本政府将在年内制 定决定预计接纳人数的不同领域运用方 针,此外到明年4月1日实施前将加紧 完善省令,规定新资格在留期限、雇用 合同标准、剔除恶性中介等。实施前将 把制度全貌向国会汇报,但具体内容涉 及多方面,短时间内能否构建完善的接 纳态势成为课题

年内制定反映跨行业整体方向性的 基本方针、在制度启用前完善为获资格 的不同行业技能考试也有必要。由于新 制度的重要项目中有不少通过运用方针 或省令等决定,不仅是在野党,执政党 中也有人担忧"很难审核"。政府计划 通过汇报全貌来否认轻视国会的质疑声 ,但能否拿出有说服力的依据和具实效 性的担保将受到考验。

国会审议中,有关政府预计很多会 转为新资格的现行"技能实习生",长 时间劳动和拖欠工资成为了问题。法相 山下贵司表示将在明年3月底前公布对 接纳方的调查结果,若存在违法行为则 给予处分,但迈向改善劳动环境之路仍

新制度的基本方针将由法相制作草 案,在内阁会议上决定。不同领域的运 用方针将依此决定未来5年各行业预计 接纳人数等。

澳大利亚联邦政府推移民新政

地区性签证申请将提速

然模糊不清。

年内汇总的环境完善综合应对措施 正由政府讨论会推进协调内容。不仅是 新接纳的外国人,拟写入包括现已生活 在日本的外国人及其家人在内的支援政 策,提出实现"共生社会"。

修改后的法律新设了从事需要一定 技能业务的"特定技能1号"和从事需 要熟练技能业务的"特定技能2号"两 项在留资格。法务省的入国管理局将升 级为出入国在留管理厅。

对于加紧让法案获得通过的执政党 ,反对的在野党强烈批评该法"存在尚 未完善之处"。7日,在野党提交针对 首相安倍晋三以及法相山下贵司的问责 决议案等加以抵抗,但均在参院全体会 议上被执政党凭借多数予以了否决。

### 加拿大颁新移民政策 鼓励新移民到"小小区"

励新移民前往北部和乡村地区安家。新 的《乡村及北部地区移民试点》计划 (RNIP),规划在未来五年内,与部分省 及地区政府合作,帮助他们为新移民安 家提供支持,鼓励新移民到"小小区" ,繁荣当地经济,创造更多的中产就业 机会

此前,加拿大联邦移民部已经开始 省份和小区的欢迎,在2018年,吸收了 2500名符合当地劳动力市场的人才。

此次进一步扩展试点,在《大西洋 省份移民计划》的成功基础上,向有兴 地区,有很多地方已经出现严重的劳动 趣的安大略省、西部省份及各个特区招 标。按照新的计划规定,所谓的"小小 区"需要为在大都市75公里以外、具有 5万人口以下的市镇,或者是远离大城 市、人口不超过20万的地区,并具有就 业机会及经济发展规划,并与当地的经 25%的加拿大人口将面临退休。当前, 济发展机构合作。

符合参与资格的小区,还需要具备 帮助新移民定居的一些基本条件,比如 与移民服务机构有关联、有能力帮助新 拿大更加需要移民

当地时间1月24日,加拿大联邦移 来者与当地已经定居人士建立联系,并 服务。

> 加拿大联邦政府希望开创一种以 "小小区"的经济需求为驱动力的移民 方式。根据"小小区"的特殊劳动力市 场需求,吸收当地需要的人才。这样的 一个新的移民计划案,为有专才的移民 ,提供了新的途径。

据移民部长胡森介绍,按照现有的 了《大西洋省份移民计划》,受到当地 联邦经济移民计划,大约78%的新移民 抵加之后,定居在多伦多、满地可和温 哥华等大城市。

> 但另一方面,加拿大的北部和乡村 力短缺,地方当局长期盼望有新的移民 前往,振兴本地经济。很多北部的领导 人都意识到,移民是解决当地经济问题 的关键,而不是障碍。

据数据显示,从2019年到2035年, 劳动人口与退休人口的比例是4比1。随 着人口老龄化日趋严重,2035年,这个 比例将达到2比1。在如今的形势下,加

亚联邦政府宣布一项新的移民计 划,澳边远地区的技术移民签证 申请将得到更快速地处理。与此 同时,联邦财长弗莱登伯格 (Josh Fredenberg)与澳大利亚各 州和地区财政厅长在堪培拉举行 会议,共同讨论澳大利亚潜在的 人口增长和交通拥堵问题,旨在

当地时间2月8日,澳大利

解决城市的过分拥挤。 加快边远地区签证申请处理

据澳大利亚SBS 报道,根 据联邦政府公布的一项1940万 澳元的计划,如果技术移民移居 到澳大利亚边远地区,他们的签 证申请将会加快。

澳大利亚联邦移民部长科尔 曼(David Coleman)宣布这一计划。据悉 ,这笔资金将在未来4年内使用,联邦 内政部(Department of Home Affairs)官 员将前往澳边远地区,帮助当地企业培 训更多的技术移民。

根据该计划,澳大利亚联邦政府将 优先处理由地区雇主资助的技术移民签 证和地方议会从海外招聘工人的协议。 科尔曼说: "我们的官员将实地与地区 雇主和社区讨论地区移民机会,并亲自 听取他们面临的就业问题。"

与此同时,澳大利亚州和地区财政 部长将在堪培拉开会,讨论人口增长和 交通拥堵问题。

此前,总理莫里森(Scott Morrison) 称,由于澳大利亚人口拥挤,需要减少 主要城市的移民数量,如果技术移民想



获得永久居留权,可能会被要求在一个 地区居住5年。

#### 财政会议讨论人口问题

与此同时,弗莱登伯格在堪培拉与 各州和地区财政厅长会面,讨论澳大利 亚各区域该如何分担人口变化的责任, 重点是缓解基础设施方面的拥堵。他此 到达2500万人。 前接受采访时表示,澳大利亚的人口增 长率在经合组织(OECD)中排名第5,且 主要集中在大城市。现在重要的任务是 把人们送到更多的需要工作岗位的边远 地区,这需要跨州和跨地区的合作。

同时,澳大利亚每年的永久移民人 数上限为19万人,但在过去几年里只 达到了16万人左右。但弗莱登伯格对 于是否应该降低移民上限含糊其辞。他

说: "让我们看看澳大利亚所有社区的 需求是什么,但人口压力肯定是造成主 要城市交通拥堵的原因。我们2/3的移 民都去了墨尔本、悉尼和昆州东南部, 但基础设施没有跟上这些需求。"弗莱 登伯格也在会议上承认澳大利亚没有很 好的规划人口框架,因人口比预期提前

#### 新州要求更多联邦拨款

此外,新州财政厅长佩罗特(Dominic Perrottet)在联邦财政高层会议上提 出为新州争取更多资金。他表示,新州 在联邦基础设施拨款方面得到了不公平 的待遇,应该在联邦基础设施的分配方 面得到更多的投入,因为新州是澳大利 亚人口最多的州。



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记得小时候特别爱"离家出走", 只要父母凶了我,我就会有模有样的拿 出自己最喜欢的铁盒子,装上几样当时 我认为有用的东西就出门了。父母看到 也不来阻止,因为他们并不担心,知道 我跑不出二里地,无非是到要好的同学 家里住一晚,等到第二天饭点的时候我 就默默地回来了。我童年生活的地方就 是一座这样朴实无华、无压力,无危机 感的小县城。长大了生活在了大一些的 城市里生活,很多小时候不敢想的事情 也在慢慢地实现着。但生活的压力也随 之而来,遇到烦心的时候我也还是喜欢

"离家出走"。只是开着车 走到周边安逸的地方去呆上 两天,放轻松了再回到城市 里面去奋斗,而这种面对压 力的调剂的方式其实就是周 边游啦!这次的目的地是我 很喜欢的一个小众目的地 -江山市!可能它和我小 时候所生活的小县城很像吧

算上这一次我已经是第 三次来到江山市了,它是隶 属于衢州市的县级市。正如 我这次在市区饭馆里和老板 聊的一样,他说江山是座外 来人口很少的城市,因此知 名度在浙江整体来说并不算 高,因而来这里的游客也不 算太多。其实这也是我喜欢 来江山的原因,其实这座小 城的旅游资源极其丰富,首 当其冲的就数江郎山。廿八 都这座国家5A级景区了, 另外还有清漾毛氏祖居地、 戴笠故居、仙霞关等等。因 此在节假日朋友问我哪里人 少好玩的时候,通常我都会 推荐江山。上面这些景点我 都有去过,有的还不止一次 ,但是这次我就是想找个地 方静一静,因此我找到的是 江山最好的名宿之一,位于 和睦彩陶文化村的和睦大院 。两天一夜,住在民宿,在 村子里转一转也是极好的。

江山火车站有车可以直 接到江郎山、廿八都等地,但是这次来 到的和睦彩陶村并没有直达的旅游大巴 。不过整个浙江省的路况都非常的好, 江山市也基本上不会堵车,所以我也是 选择自驾过来的。这次是从杭州出发, 到达目的地和睦大院大约282km,用时 3.5小时左右,高速收费115元,往返 的成本价格约在460元。对比往返高铁 价格246元,自驾车多了便捷性和机动 性,虽然高铁快一些,到了车站再打车 过去,金钱和时间的成本加起来也就和 自驾差不多了。因此推荐自驾前来,如 果自驾车里有两到五人那就更划算多了 呢。和睦村的游客接待中心有宽敞的停 车位,民宿也有自己的停车场,而且也 都是免费的。

我是上午从杭州出发,中午在江山 市区随意找了一家饭馆吃的午饭,接着 来和睦村也是一处国家 3A 级景区呀。 从路口一直往里走到河边的三岔路口就 到了景区的游客中心。我也好奇的去了 一番和睦村的历史,发现和睦并不 简单,它的历史相当悠久,还是一座历 史文化古村落。据说,早在新石器晚期 的时候如今的和睦村就已经有了人类活 动。也有相关的考古学家给出了证明, 在和睦乌里山发现商周了商周时期印纹 的陶片遗址。这也难怪我在进群的这一 路上发现了许许多多的彩陶罐,原来这 些都是现在的和睦村在传承着古代的历 史文化。

在刚刚那个河边三岔口有明显的标 识牌指向和睦大院,紧接着我沿着只是 路线走了约200米就来到了目的地。原 本我只是以为和睦大院和我住过的近百 家民宿没有什么两样吧?但是结果我仔 细的搜寻着记忆,也没有在以前的印象 中找到一家比和睦大院面积还要大的民 宿了。里里外外好几座院子,也对得起 它"大院"的称号



民宿的老板视乎对老物件情有独钟 ,在我入住的那栋古宅里,就看到了许 许多多80后小时候的回忆,一些饼干糖 果铁皮盒子以及一些收音机,大座钟之 类的东西,虽然他们都不算是什么值钱 的古董,现在也没有了太多价值,但是 现在还能收集到也实属难得,做回生活 中的回忆也是极好的

但你也可别以为民宿主收藏的这些 个老物件就只是这些,其实我入住的这 个老宅它本身就是一个有价值的老物件。 它是一栋典型的徽派老楼,有着木质的大 梁和开阔的天井,当然也看的出来老房子 被后期加固改良过的,天井也被加了天窗 ,雨水不会再流下来,但阳光依然可以毫 不吝啬的铺满院子的每一个角落。我也在 书架上随意地翻到一本江山旅游攻略,静 下心来看一看我知道的和不知道的江山景 点。我很喜欢这种感觉,可以短暂的忘记 生活中的鸡毛蒜皮

我选的房间是在一楼,因为我记得 以前参观的徽州古宅,从正门进入后正 对着的二楼房间应该是小姐的闺房。当 然也可能是我比较懒,不想踩着吱吱的 木楼梯上下楼罢了。

人们常说民宿相比于酒店是有温度 的,是注入了民宿主的喜好和感情的。

于是,稍微在房间里面休整了一会,就 绍说,民宿的女主人祝姐本身就是-满院子的跑了起来,想看看这么大的院 子里到底都藏了些什么宝贝。没想到看 似差不多的房子,细化到每块区域的功 丕是蛮鲜明的

首先我发现,对于普通的游客,选 择性最多的就数制陶了。对于没有怎么 接触过制陶的我来说,有些是一头雾水 。但仔细看了墙上的制陶步骤,就看懂 了那么一点门道,每到工序环环相扣, 不能取巧,也不能急功近利,如果能够 坐下来定定心心的做上一个算是一个放 松身心的绝佳方式。因为我是一个大男 人,自己坐在哪里难免有些奇怪,还是 接着去寻找适合我的地方吧!

紧接着我就发现了这样一座茶室, 它有个很好听的名字叫做"善庆堂", 说是茶室其实也是一个文化交流的场所 。工作人员告诉我,每周在和睦大院都 会举办一场文化沙龙,可能是古诗词欣 赏、也可能是民谣音乐会等等, 反正是 以茶会友,交流的都是积极正能量的东 西。我也很好奇届时会是怎样的场景, 如果放在古代或者近代,应该是当天全 村最大的事了吧?也很好奇老板到底有 着怎样的号召力,才能让这些参与者驱 车从外地赶来和睦村?工作人员给我介

文化爱好者,很多东西都是亲力亲为, 在自己的朋友圈子有着较强的影响力 就拿修补瓷器来说,祝姐的作品曾经在北 京工美博物馆展出过。民宿里也看到了 个橱窗里可以买到修补好的瓷器。我们的 世界就是这样好坏掺杂,有的人心怀叵测 会把古董人为破坏成好几份,以便多去卖 钱;但也不乏祝姐这样让好的东西重获新 生,积极传播正能量的人。

刚刚的善庆堂内也很适合商务洽谈 ,小团队的会晤等。在民宿刚进门的左 手边还有一间同样面积很大的书房,在 这里则要轻松许多,随意的躺在沙发上 都行。也很适合与家人和朋友在一起, 看看书,练练字都蛮好。

晚饭我也是在和睦大院吃的,而且 村子周边实在看不到哪里有饭馆,基本 上来住这里都会在大院里吃饭的。但独 家生意也并没有降低食物的质量,反倒 是给了我一些惊喜。我点了一个主菜, 是江山的豆腐煲,因为江山的水好,这 里的豆腐自然也好。我的老家在安徽淮 南,豆腐的发源地,豆腐的品质我还是 有一些分辨能力的。用的这种豆腐就是 那种我小时候可以在村子里见到的,挑 着担子吆喝着卖的老豆腐。豆腐煲里还

有排骨,毕竟我是无肉不欢的,光吃豆 腐也显得浪费了这个炉子的资源。如果 我没有看错的话,这种炉子应该叫做 "风炉"吧?在遂昌是很流行、很出名 的一种当地火锅。也有听闻去遂昌做客 吃饭,主人家给你用风炉,也是对客人 所表示尊重。江山市和遂昌县的直线距 离不足100公里,因此在这里出现风炉 我也并不感觉到奇怪,毕竟在秋冬季节 围炉而坐,也算是一种很实用的吃法。

除了风炉豆腐煲,我还点了一份农

喝。小炒肉并不算特别稀奇,猕猴桃大 家也都有吃过,但是江山的猕猴桃不-定所有人都吃过吧?如果问我第一次知 道江山是什么原因的话,其实就是猕猴 桃,是过年的时候在丈母娘的家里吃到 ·次特意从江山带回来的徐香猕猴桃 甘甜爽口,是我吃过最好吃的猕猴桃, 因此印象就特别深刻。因此江山的土地 碱性条件好,所以对种植猕猴桃十分有 利,在多年的积累下,江山也早已经成 为了国内知名的猕猴桃之乡。因此这回 没能吃到猕猴桃,喝一罐当地特色的猕 猴桃汁也是极好的。

随后和工作人员聊起来,才知道和 睦大院的"食堂"也并非是普通的农家 菜。因为早在2015年10月的时候,这里

就被选为CCTV7的一档记录 节目——《美丽中国乡村行》 的走进江山生态美食的直播现 场。这里自行开发的"和睦碳 锅白鹅"也是江山十大名菜之 一,除了CCTV7,还上过央 视二套、四套等,十分霸气。

现在的和睦大院也是一家 浙江省银宿级名宿,虽然我第 一次见,还没有去考究过这张 证书的含金量。但和睦大院里 里外外给我的感觉是用心经营 ,内涵丰富。甚至让我觉得可 以在此呆上十天半个月,休养 生息。就像民宿门口的一句话 特别应景, "我们终究离不开 城市,但可以在这里暂避红尘 ,找到内心的宁静……"

第二天清晨我醒的很早, 可能是因为在村子里这安逸的 氛围,我前一晚睡得很早的缘 故吧。其实我也特别喜欢清晨 的时候去村子里面转悠,特别 是古村落,这个时候才是它们 最美的模样。和睦村沿河而建 ,这和大多数的古村落是相似 的,毕竟在古代,取水用水没 有现在这么方便,更显得重要 。这个时候才早上六点钟,河 边就已经有人洗衣、散步了。 若是平常,我还睡得正香。

河里还有一台正在转动的 大水车,观察了一下它在现在 可能没有什么大用途了,但车 轮不息,吱吱呀呀地转动着, 似乎在象征着和睦彩陶村的风生水起吧!

水车旁边的石碇桥已经不在使用了 ,再往村子里面走一走就会看到一座新 桥。这座新桥也并不是很宽大,正好够 村民们一辆电动三轮车的宽度再富裕一 些,我也在这里拿出无人机航拍了一下 。路过的村民也好奇的观望了一下,用 着难懂地当地话和我客套了两句就走开 了。一般来说飞无人机,没有被问到能 飞多远,飞多高,多少钱?这类问题实 属难得。我也特别喜欢下面那张我和村 民往相反方向走的竖图,他是我一生当 中遇见的无数人中的其中之一。也许这 一次插肩而过并没有经历过前世的五百 次回眸,但就此别过,可能也很难再次 遇见。我们本就过着不一样的生活,偶 尔的交集实属难得。就让我们去珍惜自 己身边的人和物,做一个热爱生活的人

飞机再飞远点,飞高点,就能把整 个和睦村给拍下来了。果然叫做彩陶村 没有错,这里的房子也是五颜六色,非 常应景的。这个吉祥的村名字也是有所 典故的,它始于陆姓村民,原名下睦, 后来以陆氏后裔十代同居,和睦成风, 后更名为和睦

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## 【春藤課後學校】熱熱鬧鬧迎新春!

#### 爆竹聲中一歲除,春風送暖入屠蘇。 千門萬戶曈曈日,總把新桃換舊符。

一首耳熟能詳的古詩描繪出了春節爆竹聲聲, 張燈結彩的景象,怎麽使海外的孩子們也感受到這 種歡樂祥和,萬象更新的氣氛呢?春藤課後學校特 意安排了豐富多彩的活動,讓孩子們更深地了解這 個中國最重要的傳統節日。

有人說春節是福、是喜,有人說春節是詩、是畫,有人說春節是歡聚、是團圓。無論人們怎麽說,春節從未停下過腳步,總是一如既往地匆匆走來。2019年的春節也於2月5日如期而至。節日的春藤課後學校張燈結彩,處處洋溢著紅紅火火的過年氣息。老師們帶領孩子們唱歡快喜慶的春節歌曲,

走進上周五晚的春藤課後學校,紅紅火火的新春氣息撲面而來,桌上擺著精美的春節飾品,墙上 貼著精巧的福字剪紙,走道裏掛滿繽紛的彩鏈,孩 子們穿上了節日的盛裝。各班中文老師特意安排了豐富多彩的春節活動,講傳統習俗,聽年獸傳說,唱新年兒歌。老師們拍下了張張笑臉,孩子們收到了學校準備的祝福滿滿的紅包!大家度過了一個春意濃濃,快樂充實的夜晚!

在這辭舊迎新的日子裏,春藤課後學校向所有 老師們,家長朋友們,孩子們祝賀春節愉快!安康 幸福!豬年順利!豬事順意!

春節過後,正月十五元宵節便如期而至。這個星期中文課主題將是元宵節。老師們精心安排了一系列鬧元宵活動。孩子們一塊唱兒歌、做花燈、猜燈謎、吃元宵,讓孩子們盡享傳統中國年的快樂,同時感受傳統文化的魅力。

感謝關註春藤! 選擇春藤課後學校, 我們將陪伴孩子們走向未來!













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