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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Biden cracks down on ‘ghost guns’ with new rule to tackle gun violence

WASHINGTON, April 11 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden unveiled a new rule to rein in so-called ghost guns and ban the manufacturing of the untraceable firearms on Monday as the administration faces growing pressure to crack down on gun deaths and violent crime in the United States.

Ghost guns are privately made firearms that are not marked with a serial number and are difficult for law enforcement to trace when used to commit a crime.

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The Department of Justice's final rule has been making its way through the federal regulation process for nearly a year and is likely to draw opposition and litigation from gun advocates in the coming weeks.

"These guns are weapons of choice for many criminals," Biden said during an event in the White House Rose Garden. "We're going to do everything we can to deprive them of that choice."

The rule would make it illegal for businesses to manufacture such kits without a serial number and for a licensed gun dealer to sell them without a background check, Biden said.

The rule is part of a series of measures announced by Biden and the Justice Department in April last year to tackle growing gun violence in the United States and curb mass shootings.

In 2021, there were about 20,000 suspected ghost guns reported to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as having been recovered by law enforcement in criminal investigations – a tenfold increase from 2016, according to statistics shared by the White House.

The Justice Department rule bans unserialized "buy build shoot" kits that individuals can buy online or at a store without a background check and can readily assemble into a working firearm



in as little as 30 minutes with equipment they have at home. It also turns some ghost guns already in circulation into serialized firearms.

Gun deaths increased in 2021 over 2020, according to the nonprofit Gun Violence Archive.

In 2021 there were 20,726 gun deaths in the United States, not counting suicides by gun, the group reported. This included 693 mass shootings, defined by four or more people being shot, and claimed 702 lives and injured more than 2,800 people, the group reported.

Biden also nominated Steve Dettelbach, a former U.S. attorney from Ohio, to run ATF.

Ukraine expects Russian assault soon in east

LVIV, Ukraine, April 11 (Reuters) - Ukraine said on Monday it expected Russia to launch a huge new offensive soon, as Moscow shifts its focus to seizing territory in the east after its invasion force was driven from the gates of Kyiv this month.

The first EU leader to meet Vladimir Putin face-to-face since the war began, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, gave a grim account of his talks with the Russian leader, held at a residence outside Moscow.

"I generally have no optimistic impression that I can report to you from this conversation with President Putin," he said. "The offensive (in eastern Ukraine) is evidently being prepared on a massive scale."

After withdrawing forces from northern Ukraine, including suburbs of Kyiv laid to waste under its occupation, Russia now says its main objective is eastern Ukraine. It is demanding Kyiv cede control of swathes of territory there, known as the Donbas, to separatist fighters. Kyiv says it is girding for a new battle.

"We forecast that active combat will begin in these areas in the nearest time," Ukraine's defence ministry spokesman Oleksandr Motuzyanyk said.

A U.S. official said Washington believed Russia was trying to reinforce and resupply its troops in the Donbas.

The biggest prize Russia aims to capture in the Donbas is Mariupol, the main eastern port, where thousands of people are believed to have died under a near-seven week siege. If Russia finally captures it, it could better link troops advancing from the east with those from Crimea, and shift their focus to a new attempt to encircle the main Ukrainian force in the east. In his latest plea for international support, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told South Korea's parliament there were tens of thousands of dead in Mariupol, a figure that has not been confirmed independently. "But even despite this, the Russians are not stopping their offensive", he said.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

04/11/2022



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We Are Very Proud Of This Group Of Chinese Americans Students

Thirteen high school students at Bellaire High School were named Valedictorians of their class with 5.0 GPA. Nine of them are Chinese students. We would like to express our sincere congratulations on their achievement.

Bellaire High School has been recognized as one of the best high schools in the greater Houston area. Over the past several years, the school has cultivated and produced countless outstanding

young students. Many families have moved to the City of Bellaire because of the reputation of Bellaire High School.

For more than two years, because of the pandemic, most of the students have been taking their classes online. It is very special and noteworthy that this group of students could achieve such extraordinary results under the added pressures caused by today's challenging health situation.



Many Chinese immigrants have moved to America in recent years. No matter whether they came here as students or as legal immigrants, their first goal is to seek a better education for the next generation. They want their kids to go to better schools so they search for and select the best school districts they can find.

learn that all these young students also have joined many social service groups to serve the community. We hope that they will not only strive to enrich their future excellence in their respective fields of study, but will also give honor and respect to their parents and contribute to society.

We are so grateful to



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Scottie Scheffler of the U.S. celebrates on the 18th green after winning The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia. REUTERS/Mike Blake



A couple hugs while walking past a building that was heavily damaged by shelling, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Kharkiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis



A girl walks outside a migrant camp near the El Chaparral border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico November 8, 2021. REUTERS/Toya Sarno Jordan



A young Oro wari indigenous man sits in his tent at the Terra Livre (Free Land) camp, a protest-camp to defend indigenous rights, land demarcation and against mining in indigenous lands in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli



A tiger from "Life of Pi" arrives at the Olivier Awards in the Royal Albert Hall in London, Britain. REUTERS/May James



Ukrainians seeking asylum in the United States are transported in a bus to the El Chaparral port of entry to wait their turn to enter the U.S., in Tijuana, Mexico. REUTERS/Toya Sarno Jordan

A Chewing Gum That Could Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission?



Key Points

In experiments using saliva samples from COVID-19 patients, the gum, which contains the ACE2 protein, neutralized the virus, according to research led by School of Dental Medicine scientists.

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

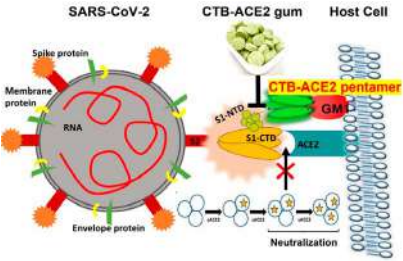
A chewing gum laced with a plant-grown protein serves as a “trap” for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, reducing viral load in saliva and potentially tamping down transmission, according to a new study.

The work, led by Henry Daniell at Penn’s School of Dental Medicine and performed in collaboration with scientists at the Perelman School of Medicine and School of Veterinary Medicine, as well as at The Wistar Institute and Fraunhofer USA, could lead to a low-cost tool in the arsenal against the COVID-19 pandemic. Their study was published in the journal Molecular Therapy.

“SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the salivary glands, and we know that when someone who is infected sneezes, coughs, or speaks some of that virus can be expelled and reach others,” says Daniell. “This gum offers an opportunity to neutralize the virus in the saliva, giving us a simple way to possibly cut down on a source of disease transmission.”

Vaccinations for COVID-19 have helped change the course of the pandemic but haven’t stamped out transmission. Even people who are fully vaccinated can still become infected with SARS-CoV-2 and, according to recent research, can carry a viral load similar to those

who are unvaccinated.

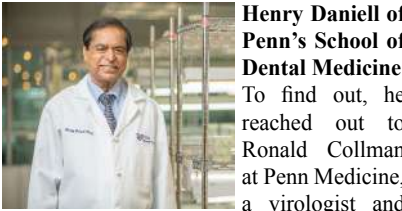


Penn Dental Medicine’s Henry Daniell and colleagues used a plant-based protein drug production platform to grow the ACE2 protein, which was then infused in chewing gum. By either blocking the ACE2 receptor or binding to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, the ACE2 in the gum appears to be able to reduce viral entry into cells. (Image: Courtesy of the researchers)

Prior to the pandemic, Daniell had been studying the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) protein in the context of treating hypertension. His lab had grown this protein, as well as many others that may have therapeutic potential, using a patented plant-based production system. By bombarding

plant material with the DNA of target proteins, they coax plant chloroplasts to take up the DNA and begin growing the proteins. The plant material, freeze-dried and ground-up, could be used as a means of delivering the protein. This system has the potential to avoid the usual obstacles to protein drug synthesis: namely, an expensive production and purification process.

Daniell’s past work on ACE2 proved fortuitous in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The receptor for ACE2 on human cells also happens to bind the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Other research groups have shown that injections of ACE2 can reduce viral load in people with severe infections. Meanwhile, another line of work by Daniell and Penn Dental Medicine colleague Hyun (Michel) Koo has involved research to develop a chewing gum infused with plant-grown proteins to disrupt dental plaque. Pairing his insights about ACE2 with this technology, Daniell wondered if such a gum, infused with plant-grown ACE2 proteins, could neutralize SARS-CoV-2 in the oral cavity.



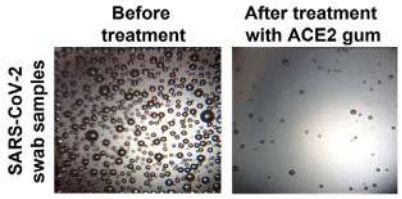
Henry Daniell of Penn’s School of Dental Medicine

To find out, he reached out to Ronald Collman at Penn Medicine, a virologist and pulmonary and critical care doctor whose team, since the early stages of the pandemic, had been collecting blood, nasal swabs, saliva, and other biospecimens from COVID patients for scientific research.

“Henry contacted me and asked if we had samples to test his approach, what kind of samples would be appropriate to test, and whether we could internally validate the level of SARS-CoV-2 virus in the saliva samples,” Collman says. “That led to a cross-school collaboration building on our microbiome studies.”

To test the chewing gum, the team grew ACE2 in plants, paired with another compound that enables the protein to cross mucosal barriers and facilitates binding, and incorporated the resulting plant material into cinnamon-flavored gum tablets. Incubating samples obtained from nasopharyngeal swabs from COVID-positive patients with the gum, they showed that the ACE2 present could neutralize SARS-CoV-2 viruses. Those initial investigations were followed by others at The Wistar Institute and Penn Vet, in which viruses, less-pathogenic than SARS-CoV-2, were modified to express the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The scientists observed that the gum largely prevented the viruses or viral particles from entering cells, either by blocking the ACE2 receptor on the

cells or by binding directly to the spike protein.



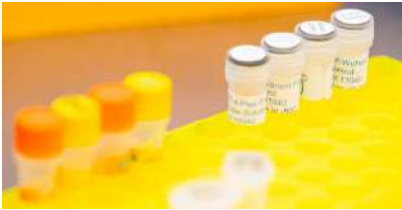
Finally, the team exposed saliva samples from COVID-19 patients to the ACE2 gum and found that levels of viral RNA fell so dramatically to be almost undetectable. The research team is currently working toward obtaining permission to conduct a clinical trial to evaluate whether the approach is safe and effective when tested in people infected with SARS-CoV-2.

“Henry’s approach of making the proteins in plants and using them orally is inexpensive, hopefully scalable; it really is clever,” Collman says.

Though the research is still in early stages of development, if the clinical trials prove the gum is safe and effective, it could be given to patients whose infection status is unknown or even for a dental check-ups when masks must be removed, to reduce the likelihood of passing the virus to caregivers.

“We are already using masks and other physical barriers to reduce the chance of transmission,” says Daniell. “This gum could be used as an additional tool in that fight.” (Courtesy <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news>)

Related COVID-19 Omicron Variant Detected In Houston Wastewater



‘Omicron in Houston is cause for concern but not panic,’ Houston’s chief medical officer said. (Photo/Godofredo A. Vázquez, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer)

The Stadler lab at Rice University’s Brown School processes approximately 200 samples of waste water to figure out which variant and what amount of the COVID-19 virus is found. Health authorities say a sample from Houston’s wastewater system tested positive for the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on Monday, the same day a woman separately tested positive for the variant in northwest Harris County.

In Houston, there’s no confirmed case just yet — but the positive wastewater indicates one could crop up soon. Mayor Sylvester Turner in a press release Monday said the

news is an important reminder to schedule a booster shot for the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Vaccines help protect us, our loved ones, friends, and colleagues in the work environment,” Turner said. “As the holidays approach, I encourage everyone to remain vigilant about their health and safety.”

Facilitating omicron here in Texas: Our abysmal vaccination rates. Only 55% 2 shots, but in Central Texas or East Texas only 40%, many counties 30%. Booster shots? You can imagine...Since the 2010s Texas has been the epicenter of the anti-vaccine movement <https://t.co/ml2mz3B-CY9>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) December 7, 2021

In Harris County, only 56 percent of the county’s 4.6 million people are considered fully vaccinated, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The Omicron finding came during routine sweeps of the city’s wastewater for the virus that causes COVID-19, according to the Houston Health Department. That testing includes several variants of the virus, as traces of it can be found in feces of those who are infected. City health officials were also testing wastewater outside a few elementary schools across Houston, according to KHOU’s Ugochi Iloka.

HAPPENING NOW: Crews with @HoustonHealth are testing waste water at local schools for Covid-19 variants like Omicron and Delta. They plan to test near 30 schools in the Houston area today @KHOU pic.twitter.com/veKMRfPnBt — Ugochi Iloka KHOU (@UgochiKHOU) December 7, 2021

The consensus on the Omicron variant’s potential impact remains unsettled. Health authorities in the federal government are working to determine if it is any more transmissible or lethal than other strains, according to the Houston Health Department.



“Omicron in Houston is cause for concern but not panic,” said Dr. David Perse, Houston’s chief medical officer. “It’s important to remember that vaccination is our best tool to reduce cases, prevent serious illness and death, and slow the emergence of new variants.”

The city of Houston provides free COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, to anyone 5 and older. A list of vaccination sites can be found on the city’s website. (Courtesy The Houston Chronicle)

Scientists Around The World Are Now Fighting The Next Pandemic



By improving water sanitation, we can reduce the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Image: Riccardo Mayer/Shutterstock.com

KEY POINTS

Children in developing countries are acquiring an anti-biotic-resistant infection due to their regular contact with poor sanitation and limited clean water.

This means, when they do fall ill, there is more than a 50% chance an antibiotic treatment will fail.

The practice known as WASH is vital to reduce the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

It is also crucial countries do more to treat sewage, improve sanitation and develop sufficient infrastructure.

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

If a two-year-old child living in poverty in India or Bangladesh gets sick with a common bacterial infection, there is more than a 50% chance an antibiotic treatment will fail. Somehow the child has acquired an antibiotic resistant infection – even to drugs to which they may never have been exposed. How? Unfortunately, this child also lives in a place with limited clean water and less waste management, bringing them into frequent contact with faecal matter. This means they are regularly exposed to millions of resistant genes and bacteria, including potentially untreatable superbugs. This sad story is shockingly common, especially in places where pollution is rampant and clean water is limited.

For many years, people believed antibiotic resistance in bacteria was primarily driven by imprudent use of antibiotics in clinical and veterinary settings. But growing evidence suggests that environmental factors may be of equal or greater importance to the spread of antibiotic resistance, especially in the de-

veloping world.



This article focuses on antibiotic resistant bacteria, but drug resistance also occurs in types of other microorganisms – such as resistance in pathogenic viruses, fungi, and protozoa (called antimicrobial resistance or AMR). This means that our ability to treat all sorts of infectious disease is increasingly hampered by resistance, potentially including coronaviruses like SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. Overall, use of antibiotics, antivirals, and antifungals clearly

must be reduced, but in most of the world, improving water, sanitation, and hygiene practice – a practice known as WASH – is also critically important. If we can ensure cleaner water and safer food everywhere, the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria will be reduced across the environment, including within and between people and animals. As recent recommendations on AMR from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and World Health Organization (WHO) suggest that the “superbug problem” will not be solved by more prudent antibiotic use alone. It also requires global improvements in water quality, sanitation, and hygiene. Otherwise, the next pandemic might be worse than COVID-19.

Bacteria under stress

Over 70% of the world has no community wastewater treatment or even sewers; and most faecal matter, containing resistant genes and bacteria, goes directly into surface and groundwater, often via open drains. This means that people who live in places without faecal waste management are regularly exposed to antibiotic resistance in many ways. Exposure is even possible of people who may not have taken antibiotics, like our child in South Asia.



How antibiotic resistance spreadsImage: WHO Antibiotic resistance is everywhere, but it is not surprising that resistance is greatest in places with poor sanitation because factors other than use are important. For example, a fragmented civil infrastructure, political corruption, and a lack of centralized healthcare also play key roles. As an example of antibiotic resistance, the “superbug” gene, blaNDM-1, was first detected in India in 2007 (although it was probably present in other regional countries). But soon thereafter, it was found in a hospital patient in Sweden and then in Germany. It was ultimately detected in 2013 in Svalbard in the High Arctic. In parallel, variants of this gene

appeared locally, but have evolved as they move. Similar evolution has occurred as the COVID-19 virus has spread. Relative to antibiotic resistance, humans are not the only “travellers” that can carry resistance. Wildlife, such as migratory birds, can also acquire resistant bacteria and genes from contaminated water or soils and then fly great distances carrying resistance in their gut from places with poor water quality to places with good water quality. During travel, they defecate along their path, potentially planting resistance almost anywhere. The global trade of foods also facilitates spread of resistance from country to country and across the globe.

Resistant bacteria are not the only infectious agents that might be spread by environmental contamination. SARS-CoV-2 has been found in faeces and inactive virus debris found in sewage, but all evidence suggests water is not a major route of COVID-19 spread – although there are limited data from places with poor sanitation and each case differs. But there are common roots to disease spread – pollution, poor water quality, and inadequate hygiene. Using fewer antibiotics is critical to reducing resistance. However, without also providing safer sanitation and improved water quality at global scales, resistance will continue to increase, potentially creating the next pandemic. Such a combined approach is central to the new WHO/FAO/OIE recommendations on AMR.



Simple steps

It is clear we must use a holistic approach (what is now called “One Health”) to reduce the spread of resistance across people, animals, and the environment. But how do we do this in a world that is so unequal? It is now accepted that clean water is a human right embedded in the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But how can we achieve affordable “clean water for all” in a world where geopolitics often outweigh local needs and realities?

Simple is more sustainable. As an obvious example, we need to reduce open defecation in a cheap and socially acceptable manner. This is the best immediate solution in places with limited or un-

used sanitation infrastructure, such as rural India. Innovation is without doubt important, but it needs to be tailored to local realities to stand a chance of being sustained into the future. Strong leadership and governance is also critical. Antibiotic resistance is much lower in places with less corruption and strong governance. Resistance also is lower in places with greater public health expenditure, which implies social policy, community action, and local leadership can be as important as technical infrastructure.



Richer countries must work with poorer ones. But, actions against resistance should focus on local needs and plans because each country is different. We need to remember that resistance is everyone’s problem and all countries have a role in solving the problem. This is evident from the COVID-19 pandemic, where some countries have displayed commendable cooperation. Richer countries should invest in helping to provide locally suitable waste management options for poorer ones – ones that can be maintained and sustained. This would have a more immediate impact than any “toilet of the future” technology. Antibiotic resistance will also impact on the fight against COVID-19. As an example, secondary bacterial infections are common in seriously ill patients with COVID-19, especially when admitted to an ICU. So if such pathogens are resistant to critical antibiotic therapies, they will not work and result in higher death rates. Regardless of context, improved water, sanitation, and hygiene must be the backbone of stemming the spread of AMR, including antibiotic resistance, to avoid the next pandemic. Some progress is being made in terms of global cooperation, but efforts are still too fragmented. Some countries are making progress, whereas others are not.

Resistance needs to be seen in a similar light to other global challenges – something that threatens human existence and the planet. As with addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, or COVID-19, global cooperation is needed to reduce the evolution and spread of resistance. Cleaner water and improved hygiene are the key. If we do not work together now, we all will pay an even greater price in the future. (Courtesy weforum.org)

俞斌號召華人支持哈里斯縣區長候選人周浩恩 華人後代日後在美政界爭一席之地就在此一役



周浩恩 (Ben Chou) (右) 在會上回答俞斌 (左) 的提問。
(記者秦鴻鈞攝)

(休士頓/秦鴻鈞報導) 今年角逐Harris County 第四區縣區長的周浩恩 (Ben Chou)在今年三月一日的民主黨初選中，以近7500票的成績僅次於最高票1500票左右，換言之，周浩恩這次決選，只需扳回二千票，便穩操勝券。也因為如此，過去從未到過中國城的現任區長及周浩恩的競爭對手，最近頻頻造訪中國城，還放出了將在百利大道與八號公路交口的公園中，建造價值一、二百萬美元的華人牌樓地標，足見周浩恩的得票及影響力已不容小覷！

這次民主黨初選，周浩恩在父母及中國城幾位商家及社團領袖的助力下，在該區應有近6000票的華人選票，而最後開出來華人選票僅200百餘張。為此，亞商會的前會長、現美福藥局負責人俞斌於4月5日晚在「老四川」作東，邀集20多位僑界社團領袖，大家共商大計，希望在5月24日的民主黨決選 (Runoff)

中扳回一城。

周浩恩在會上回答俞斌提出的各種問題。他首先介紹自己是休士頓土生土長，為Dulles High School, Rice 大學畢業，為Northwestern 執業律師及MBA，曾擔任美國國會裴洛西、趙美心的助手，及馬里蘭州州長助理等職。他並表示：他在哈里斯縣選委會任職期間，率領團隊開全國之例，首創免下車投票，成功催出了數萬張選票。他充分了解，目前第二輪選舉，按照以往經驗，選民投票率將只是前次的六成，所以華人的投票率至關重要，他呼籲選區內的所有華同胞踴躍出來投票，最好能催出中國城一帶的選民。

周浩恩介紹縣區長的責任：包括他能運用的年度預算每年在三億-五億美元。這些錢用在治安、道路、防災、亞洲藝術、及總體規劃發展。他的權力用在：Harris Health, METRO, Housing Authority 及 Permits 上，目前僅有一位亞裔 (印度人) 有此權力。

周浩恩感謝大家出錢出力為助選，他說目前哈里斯縣公共工程款，得標者多半是白人，占了總數約九成以上，而亞裔、非裔、墨裔皆為個位數，並未照人口普查的結果執行，是非常不公平，他承諾當選後，會為亞裔商家提供免費申請投標的機會。

俞斌表示：中國城華人僅有200多人出來投票，實在太低了。他的選區 (第四區) 是華人比例最高的選區，包括：10號公路北邊的Harris County, Katy, Cypress 南部 (有華人5000票) Memorial 區,8號公路以西；以及Alief 區有3000至4000多票，如果這次有一千多華人出來投票，Ben就贏定了。俞斌說：為什麼華人專業人士、知識份子不投票？反而50歲以上的人投票率高。我們應監督他，他做不好，下次不選他。我們這次如果錯過，她可再作30年。我們華人需要在選舉公共議題上再教育。大家一定要團結起來支持周浩恩，要鞏固他，華人以後才會出來。為了支持周浩恩，著名心臟科醫師豐建偉帶著他的助理出席餐會。豐醫師表示：除了捐款，他還讓其醫院內的助理向他們的親友拉票，他當面承諾，他將利用醫療系統人脈，為周浩恩拉出50票。他希望華人朋友團結起來，大家一起支持這位全身散發希望



休士頓華人社團代表，在俞斌會長 (左六) 號召下，4月5日晚齊聚「老四川」，共商支持周浩恩 (Ben Chou) (左七) 競選良策。(記者秦鴻鈞攝)

世華美南分會第27屆中文演講比賽報名截止日期延期

(本報訊) 世界華人工商婦女企管協會美南分會所舉辦一年一度的中文演講比賽，疫情兩年以來首次恢復賽事，即將於2022年4月23日(星期六)在休士頓華僑文教服務中心舉行，地址為：10303Westoffice Dr. Houston, TX 77042。

今年是第27屆中文演講比賽，演講題目為：華裔6~7歲 / 非華裔6~9歲：「我最喜歡的……」以及其餘各組：「Covid-19疫情對我的影響」，歡迎中文學校學生、公立學校中文班及各界對華語文有興趣學習者踴躍報名。

為提高華裔青少年及非華裔人士學習中文的興趣及表達能力，主辦單位力求比賽公平及公正，茲說明比賽規則如下：

資格：凡就讀於中文學校或美國學校中文班，或對學習中文有興趣者，比賽時年齡滿六歲以上，而且未曾曾在亞洲唸過一年以上中文者均可報名。

組別：華裔子弟依年齡分為以下四組：
1.6歲至7歲 (華裔子弟)。
2.8歲至10歲 (華裔子弟)。
3.11歲至14歲 (華裔子弟)。
4.15歲至17歲 (華裔子弟)。
非華裔，分為以下三組
5.6至9歲 (父母兩位都是非華裔)。
6.10歲至14歲 (父母兩位都是非華裔)。
7.15歲以上 (父母兩位都是非華裔)。
註明：各組報名人數不足五人則取消該組

扣分)
評審標準：內容、發音 (注音符號)、語調 (抑揚頓挫)、表情儀容，各佔百分之二十五。
錄取方法：每組取冠軍、亞軍、季軍各一名。
獎勵辦法：比賽後立即頒發給所有參賽者獎杯一座，前三名再加發獎狀：
冠軍：冠軍獎杯一座和獎金一百元／亞軍：亞軍獎杯一座和獎金七十五元／季軍：季軍獎杯一座和獎金五十元。
報名辦法：
即日起開始接受報名，報名表請前往 www.gfcbw-houston.org 查詢並下載表格，或向主辦單位連

絡，報名截止日期為2022年4月15日。中文學校敬請集體報名，郵寄至地址：3536 Highway 6 #168, Sugar Land, TX 77478, 收件人Christi Yao (請將報名表連同報名費\$20.00支票(抬頭請寫GFCEBW)報名截止日期：4/15/2022 (以郵戳為憑)，逾期恕不接受報名。
報到時間：所有組別請在十時報到，報到後請到分配的教室及座位聽取比賽規則。
比賽時間：上午十時準時開始比賽。頒獎典禮時間視報名人數決定。
(年齡及組別的決定以比賽日四月二十三日為準)
詳情請洽詢：
會長：何真，電話：832-866-3333 或 Email: yaochristi@yahoo.com
副會長：李瑞芬，電話：832-818-1199 或 Email: juifenli@gmail.com

知性的薰染 休斯頓九大博物館 您去過幾個?



(本報休斯頓報導) 還記得每次逛過博物館之後，總是有股充實與寧靜感，彷彿心靈與不同時空的藝術家或是發明者有著交流互動，內在被隱隱的沖激著。休斯頓有不少適合全家活動的室內場所，而博物館就是其中的首選之一，不僅為親子間尋找知性樂趣，增加知識教育，擴大生活體驗，同時薰染藝術美學、培養靈感與興趣，讓孩子的聯想力與創造力更豐富，休斯頓的博物館林林總總，更是九家不可錯過的博物館，您去過幾個了？

休斯頓自然科學博物館(Houston Museum of Natural Science)
開放時間：星期一至星期六上午9:00至下午5:00。網站：hmns.org。電話：(713) 639-4629。地址：5555 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030。
門票：成人25美元。兒童15美元。兩歲以下免費。
自然科學博物館的展出極為豐富，不僅能增長個人對自然科學的知識與喜愛，同時，帶領觀眾探索生命的奧妙領域。這個博物館是北美參加人數最多的博物館之一，也是休斯頓最受歡迎的博物館之一，包括伯克貝克天文館、沃特漢姆巨型屏幕劇院、科克雷爾蝴蝶中心、以及一系列引人入勝的永久展覽區、太空科學、美洲原住民文化、古生物學、能源、化學、寶石和礦物、貝殼、德州野生動物等等，美不勝收。此外，博物館經常舉辦關於各種主題的巡迴展覽，絕對是必看的博物館。

休斯頓兒童博物館(Children's Museum of Houston)
開放時間：星期二至星期六上午10時至下午6時，星期四上午10時至下午8時，週日中午到下午6:00。地址：1500 Binz St, Houston, TX 77004。網站：cm-houston.org。電話：(713) 522-1138。
門票：\$12
休斯頓地區的兒童人數是全美最多的地區之一，休斯頓兒童博物館每年為100多萬的小朋友與家庭提供服務，有大量的展品，充滿動感的樂趣，讓孩子們體驗學習的樂趣，激發孩子們的探索經驗，蘊含豐富的成長機會。

休斯頓美術館(The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
開放時間：週二和週三：上午10點-下午5點。星期四：上午10時至下午9時。星期五和星期六：上午10點至下午7點。星期日：下午12點15分至下午7時。網站：mfah.org。
門票：\$15 (網上購買為\$14)。
休斯頓美術館擁有全美最大的藝術博物館之一，有超過30萬平方英尺的藝術空間，收藏超過63,000件藝術品，來自世界各地豐富而璀璨的藝術作品匯集此處，包含了全球不同時代的展品。最近也有奧巴馬總統的肖像展，休斯頓是美國少數幾個在巡迴展示的城市之一，展覽將展出至5月30日。

休斯頓攝影中心(Houston Center

for Photography)
開放時間：週三和週四：上午11點-晚上9點。星期五上午11點至下午5點。週六和週日上午11點至晚上7點。週一和週二不開。地址：1441 W. Alabama, Houston, TX 77006。電話：(713) 529-4755。
門票：免費
休斯敦攝影中心是個致力於攝影藝術的團體，其展覽館免費展示當代攝影界一些最好的作品，同時全年提供300多個攝影班和講習班，開授程度不同的課程，都由受人敬重的攝影師和講師授課。歡迎對攝影感興趣的朋友參與，與休斯頓其他攝影愛好者互相交流砥礪。

梅尼爾藝術品收藏中心(The Menil Collection)
開放時間：星期三至星期日上午11時至下午7時。週一和週二關閉。網站：menil.org。電話：(713) 525-9400。地址：1533 Sul Ross St, Houston, TX 77006。
門票：免費！
梅尼爾藝術品收藏中心是以20世紀最偉大的藝術收藏家之一Dominik de Menil的名字來命名。這原本是私人收藏品，後來公開給所有民眾分享藝術之美。由於收藏品數量龐大，中心還得輪流展出，包括梅尼爾在20世紀40年代到90年代所收藏的各式藝術品，最有名的是超現實主義和其他現代歐洲繪畫和雕塑，同時包括拜庭和中世紀的藝術和文物、非洲、太平洋島嶼和太平洋西北地區的本土藝術、古美洲的藝術品、和古代地中海與近東藝術品。

休斯頓現代工藝中心(Houston Center for Contemporary Craft)
開放時間：週二至週六，上午10點至下午5點，週日中午至下午5:00 (7月4日至勞動節間的周日不開)。地址：4848 Main St, Houston, TX 77002。網站：crafthouston.org。電話：(713) 529-4848。
門票：免費
位於休斯頓的博物館區，致力於鼓勵各種手工藝術品創作。創作品包括纖維、金屬、玻璃、粘土、和木質製成的物品。中心不時有各種展覽，展示休斯頓和全美藝術家的創意工藝品。

健康博物館(The Health Museum)
開放時間：星期一至星期六上午9:



00至下午5:00。“星期四家庭免費”：每週四下午2點到7點免費。週日中午-下午5:00。網站：thehealthmuseum.org。電話：(713) 521-1515。地址：1515 Hermann Dr, Houston, TX 77004。
門票：大人\$10。老人\$8。兒童3-12歲：\$8。2歲以下免費。
健康博物館是個不錯的互動科學學習中心，是世界知名的德州醫學中心底下的機構之一。這個博物館位提供有關健康和醫學科學的創新展品和互動計劃，同時具有教育性和娛樂性。有興趣多了解健康、醫學、和人體的奇妙者，不妨一探。

水牛士兵國家博物館(Buffalo soldiers National Museum)
開放時間：週一至週五，上午10點至下午5點。星期六上午10時至下午4時。星期天關閉。網站：buffalosoldiers-museum.com。電話：(713) 942-8920。地址：3816 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004。
門票：\$10

這個博物館幫助民眾了解更多關於歷史上非裔美軍的事蹟。從十八世紀來，非裔美軍曾參加許多戰役，包括與印地安人一百七十多次的交戰，他們勇敢而頑強，因此在戰場上，印地安人稱他們為水牛士兵，象徵對水牛士兵的敬重。同時，水牛士兵也參加了許多其他的軍事活動：包括美西戰爭、美墨戰爭、第一次世界大戰、第二次世界大戰等。

Lawndale 藝術中心(Lawndale Art Center)
開放時間：星期三中午至下午6點，星期四中午至晚上八點，星期五中午至下午6點。星期六至星期日中午到下午5點。週一和週二休息。網站：<http://lawndaleartcenter.org/>。地址：4912 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002。電話：713.528.5858。
門票：免費。
Lawndale 藝術中心專門展示休斯頓地區藝術家的當代作品。中心以展覽、演出、講座、電影放映、和各式活動，在休斯頓提供多元化的創意交流。

