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Houston's most ridiculous HOA rules



Inside C2

Southern News Group

U.S. teachers face tough choice: Love of the job or living wage



Teachers rally outside the state Capitol on the second day of a teacher walkout to demand higher pay and more funding for education in Oklahoma City

(Reuters) - John-David Bowman, Arizona's 2015 "Teacher of the Year," considers himself lucky: he can do the job he loves without worrying about supporting his family because he relies on his wife's salary. Things are harder for third-year Oklahoma teacher Jenny Vargas. The divorced mother of a 6-year-old girl is leaving her home state to take a job in Coffeyville, Kansas, where she can earn \$8,000 a year more and be able to make ends meet. Stories like theirs have sparked a wave of strikes and threats of more across the country over the past month as teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky have walked off the job to protest long-stagnant teacher pay and school budgets. Teachers in Arizona have threatened similar action if lawmakers do not meet their demands for more spending on schools. Vargas, who teaches second grade in a Tulsa school, joined thousands of Oklahoma teachers who crammed into the state Capitol in Oklahoma City this week and others held sympathy rallies around the state. They demanded lawmakers pass a tax package that would raise another \$200 million for the state school budget to provide up-to-date books and other classroom materials. The protests continued on Wednesday. "It was never my intention to leave the state of Oklahoma," Vargas said in a phone interview. Despite her love for her students, she laments that she made more per year

working at Walmart as a student than she does teaching, and said she is moving to give her daughter a better life. "Most days I have to ask myself, 'Today am I going to be a good mom or am I going to be a good teacher?'" Vargas said. "It's really hard to do both." The walk-outs have shone a light on states where largely Republican-controlled legislatures have slashed funding for public schools. Oklahoma ranked 47th in spending per student, according to National Education Association data, and its average salary for a high school teacher is \$42,460, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data. Bowman, who teaches social studies, is better off, earning slightly over \$50,000 a year at his Mesa, Arizona, high school, having boosted his pay over the years with extracurricular assignments including coaching baseball. That puts him above the \$48,020 mean for the state, but still below the \$58,030 national median, according to the BLS. But over his 11 years of teaching, pay raises have not kept pace with the cost of living in the fast-growing Phoenix area, Bowman said. Many of his colleagues wait tables, mow lawns or drive for ride-share services to make ends meet, he added. "I decided to teach because I felt it would be a job I could do for a couple of years

and I could give back to my community," Bowman said. "But I fell in love with the profession and here I am eleven years later." He's been able to stay because his wife, a designer, earns considerably more. As Bowman and Vargas struggle financially, education union leaders warn that the cuts in school spending across the country are scaring away future teachers. "We are at a crisis now where if you go to the colleges of education, every single one of them will tell you they are seeing a drop in the number of applicants," said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association union. Realizing that low wages will make it difficult for teachers to pay for the advanced degrees that the field requires, she added, "parents are telling their sons and daughters, 'Don't become a teacher.'"



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LOCAL NEWS

Houston's most ridiculous HOA rules

With home ownership comes neighbors, and it seems you can't trust your neighbors not to turn the place into a junkyard or an overgrown suburban jungle.

Luckily there are homeowners associations, to make sure Joe on the left doesn't paint his house Longhorn orange, and Marie on the right doesn't park seven cars on her front lawn.

When home buyers move into a neighborhood, they are asked to review the neighborhood's rules and agree to abide by them. So, one could argue that the people who shared the ridiculous rules above should not complain.

Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer Gary Singer answers a reader's question about the speaking rules and regulations during an HOA meeting.

But the history of the homeowners association has demonstrated that when small groups of people attain a position of power over their neighbors, things sometimes get out of hand.

For instance, we imagine no one in Houston meant to add to their flood-stricken neighbors' post-Harvey misery by sending them warnings about tall grass, but this was a common occurrence in early September, according to our readers.

We also assume no reasonable person would expect a homeowner to come home from work at lunch

to avoid leaving a trash can at the curb on trash day. But again, trash cans out on trash day seems to be grounds for certified mail in some Houston-area neighborhoods.

We asked readers to tell us about the most ridiculous HOA rules they've ever encountered, and the results did not disappoint. of local governments, which found that nearly all that money would go to cover the costs of employee benefits and pensions and bonuses for executives. Since 2011, CenterPoint has sought and received approval for five gas rate increases.



"(We received) a certified letter because our porch light was off."



"No home improvement work on Saturdays or Sundays."

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital sets plans for \$25 million expansion

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital, a \$168 million facility, is planning to expand just as the hospital nears its one-year anniversary in the Cypress community.

The recently approved expansion will cost nearly \$25 million and develop empty space already built on the Cypress campus. Expansion additions will include 24 licensed beds, including intensive care unit beds, as well as an additional catheterization lab for heart procedures and endoscopy suite for gastrointestinal procedures.

"Our intentions are to continue to grow and meet the needs of the Cypress community. We are lucky in serving a community that has a projected growth of about 11 percent in the next five years," said Heath Rushing, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Cypress. "We know it is our responsibility to keep pace of that growth. In order to do that, we need to expand the current offerings that we have at the facility. Luckily, the forethought was put into the design of the building to

have some space, so we can expand into what is already built into the current infrastructure." The hospital includes medical specialists, board certified physicians, and other health care professionals. The 81-bed hospital addresses the community's health care needs with online routine outpatient visits to inpatient procedures. It serves the Cypress community as a full-service, acute-care hospital and sits on 32 acres on the northeast side of U.S. 290 and the Grand Parkway between Mason Road and Mueschke Road. Gallo Winery Plans to expand and move into an area near Lodi in San Joaquin County, but it won't happen without a fight. People in the Acampo area say the winery is just too big and will bring in traffic and other issues. The plan is

to build the new facility on east Acampo Road. Watch the video above for the full story.

The facility includes an endoscopy and bronchoscopy suite, 16-bed intensive care unit, a cardiac catheterization lab, a neonatal intensive care unit, and a Memorial Hermann Life Flight helicopter pad.

The 24-hour emergency center, staffed by affiliated board-certified emergency medicine physicians and emergency-trained nurses, offers digital x-ray, computed tomography and ultrasound, an onsite laboratory, online appointment scheduling, and access to care from the hospital system's air ambulance transport.

The facility's birthing center features a high-risk pregnancy clinic, OB emergency center, nurses who are trained breastfeeding experts, a "couple care" model so that mother and baby are cared for together, a level II nursery providing 24-hour neonatal coverage, childbirth and parenting education classes.

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Thursday, April 5, 2018

A Snapshot Of The World



Briefing on border security at the White House in Washington



Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara and Liberia's President George Weah are seen at the Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport in Abidjan



Tiger Woods of the U.S. walks up the 8th fairway during the final day of practice for the 2018 Masters golf tournament in Augusta



Civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson arrives to speak at the "End Racism Rally" on the National Mall on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of civil rights leader Rev. Martin



Chinese police officers escort Taiwanese nationals who were arrested in the Philippines on suspicion of telecoms fraud, at an airport in Tianjin



High school teacher Bowman poses for a portrait in a classroom in Mesa



Demonstrators hold placards opposite Parliament during a protest in London



Syrian street musicians perform at the main shopping and pedestrian street of Istiklal in central Istanbul



A folk music guitarist and singer perform during the traditional feast of St Gregory in Marsaxlokk

COMMUNITY

Robots May Steal As Many As 800 Million Jobs In The Next 13 Years

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



of the automated and automating worlds instead.

Economic think tank McKinsey Global Institute forecast changes in demand for different kinds of labor across 45 countries as technologies improve to perform physical or office tasks. One key result: Robots pose a more immediate and disruptive threat to the US middle class than they do to middle-income workers in less developed countries like India.

The report warns that in the US technology will crimp demand for many types of work, such as office administration and operating construction equipment. That would add to the existing squeeze on middle-class incomes by displacing some workers, and likely push down wages for those still employed in less-in-demand work. Meanwhile, automation is forecast to be less marked in countries such as India, where the relative cost of new technology is much higher and labor much cheaper. That will allow devel-

oping-world incomes and the ranks of the middle class to keep growing healthily, the report says.

Overall, the MGI report guesses that automation will displace the jobs of 400 million to 800 million people between now and 2030. But it also looked at potential sources of new demand for labor and came up with good news. Plenty of new jobs should be created by things like companies spending the additional earnings unlocked by deploying automation, and the healthcare demands from aging populations. "There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," says Susan Lund, a co-author of the report. MGI mapped possible futures for three rich, and three poor countries in particular detail—the US, Germany, Japan, Mexico, India, and China. In the most-likely scenario, 9 percent of work in India, 13 percent in Mexico, and 16 percent in China will be automated by 2030. In the US, Japan, and Germany, that figure will be closer to 25 percent.

The analysis suggests the prospects of traditionally middle-class occupations will differ markedly between rich and poorer countries in the next decade or so. In the three more prosperous countries, demand for office administrators is seen contracting 25 percent or

more as software takes on more of that work, for example. But demand for such work will increase in the three poorer countries, the analysis finds, as incomes and consumer and business spending continue to grow.



China, which is more heavily industrialized than other emerging economies, sometimes occupies a middle ground in McKinsey's view of the road ahead. It has automation causing demand for crane operators to decline by between 15 and 24 percent in the US, Germany, and Japan, and by 5 to 14 percent in China, while booming 25 percent or more in India and Mexico. Lund, the report co-author, says matching displaced workers to newly created jobs is the biggest challenge facing policymakers in America and elsewhere. In the US, MGI

projects that the number of jobs requiring a college degree or more will grow, while jobs requiring less education will shrink.



But government and corporate spending on worker training has declined over the past two decades, and a recent report by the Brookings Institution found that the country has a severe and immediate problem with workers lacking relatively basic digital skills, such as familiarity with spreadsheets. A recent pledge by Google to give \$1 billion to projects that help workers with their digital skillsets appears well-aimed, but is unlikely to solve the problem alone.

Developing economies have their own version of that retraining problem. Lund says India will face increased demand for workers with all levels of education between now and 2030, but particularly for people with high school diplomas. That will challenge the vast country's school system.

Although the short-term disruption from automation may be smaller in developing countries than in richer countries, the developing nations face more difficult challenges in the longer term.



China has shown how low-cost manufacturing can provide a kind of step ladder that helps a country gradually climb into more complex and lucrative sectors, says Brad DeLong, an economics professor at University of California, Berkeley, who worked in the Clinton administration.

But as automation technology gets cheaper and more capable, more manufacturing likely will migrate back to countries like the US. "The fear is that China is the last country for which this will be a successful strategy," DeLong says. Governments need to think not just about how automation affects workers, but their entire economic underpinnings. (Courtesy wired.com)



"There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," report co-author Susan Lund said, according to Wired. (Courtesy http://fortune.com)

RELATED

COMMENTARY AND OVERVIEW: ROBOTS THREATEN BIGGER SLICE OF JOBS IN US, OTHER RICH NATIONS

Automation will reduce demand for crane operators in the US, Germany, and Japan, while demand for similar work is projected to boom in India and Mexico, according to a new report.

The world is commonly divided into industrialized and emerging economies. A new study of how technology will transform demand for workers suggests we might talk



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Medical Marijuana Makes Texas Debut Amid Access Concerns

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



Morris Denton, CEO of Compassionate Cultivation, poses with one of the low THC cannabis plants used to make cannabidiol medication for patients with intractable epilepsy in Texas.



Compassionate Cultivation, a medical marijuana dispensary in Austin, will be processing its first orders for low THC medication this month.

Even if Micah were to qualify, Jensen, unlike Carricker, would need to either drive a longer distance or rely on a delivery service to physically get the medicine.

Last year, DPS licensed only three dispensaries in the state which can grow, process and sell medical marijuana. Two are in Austin; the other is in Schulenburg, 80 miles west of Houston.

Further restricting access, just 17 physicians - none in West Texas or south of San Antonio - were registered to prescribe cannabis as of Feb. 1.

The death of both dispensaries and physicians concerns advocates and patients alike.

"We simply can't go forward with three dispensaries for a state this size," Frank Snyder, a Texas A&M University law professor who studies the legal marijuana industry.

When asked of the possibility of opening more in the future, a DPS spokesman pointed to the law enforcement agency's website where it states that "a decision to increase the number will be made if and when it is determined that more licenses

are required in order to ensure reasonable statewide access."



Potted marijuana plants ready for distribution from Compassionate Cultivation in Austin.

Health-care providers worry about patients' access to the consultations needed for a prescription in the first place.

Under the program's regulations, an eligible patient must seek consultation from a doctor registered in the program, then acquire a second opinion. Only then can the registered doctor input the patient's information into a registry and prescribe low-THC cannabis.

Since there isn't sufficient data regarding proper dosage amounts, doctors will want to monitor their patients carefully on a regular basis, said Valerie Coffman, coordinator at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic's Epilepsy Support Group.

This could lead to costly trips out of town for families who don't live near a registered doctor, Coffman said.

Kelsey-Seybold in Houston has two doctors registered with the program. There are six doctors total in the greater Houston region, including Katy and The Woodlands.

While acknowledging concerns over lack of federally approved studies on the drug, Coffman noted that preliminary research points to some benefits with little down-

sides.
"If it improves their quality of life in any way, that's the goal here," she said.



**Kelsey
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Kelsey-Seybold is already getting calls from new patients seeking consultation. Coffman knows of at least 10 current adult patients who would qualify for the program.

The clinic's Dr. Michael Newmark said he's not concerned about the possibility of losing his medical license for prescribing what is still a federally illegal drug. He noted that DPS is strictly monitoring the program, and that the level of THC allowed in the medicine is too low to serve any hallucinogenic purpose.

Yet Heather Fazio of the lobbying group Marijuana Leadership Campaign warned that doctors could face an issue with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Unlike other states with medical marijuana programs, Texas requires doctors to prescribe, not recommend, the drug. In light of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' actions and rhetoric, seen by some as part of a larger effort to curtail marijuana legalization, Fazio and others worry about the DEA removing doctors' registration to prescribe all drugs.

Though the Texas program defines prescription differently than the DEA, it's still leaving doctors with only a technicality as protection, Fazio and others said.

Despite their concerns, Fazio and other advocates see the Compassionate Use Program as a success.



"There are legal marijuana plants growing in Texas. It's history," said Patrick Moran, co-founder of the Texas Cannabis Industry Association. He added that he sees no chance of the program being undone at the federal level.

Moran points to the existing economic investment. Each of the three licensed dispensaries has invested a minimum of \$4 million in building out their facilities and personnel, Moran said. The two-year renewable license alone costs \$488,520.

During the bidding process for the licenses, 40 other companies applied, marking at least \$32 million of investment in the application process overall, Moran added.

The licensed dispensaries are already shipping orders or soon will be, further adding to the program's economic impact.

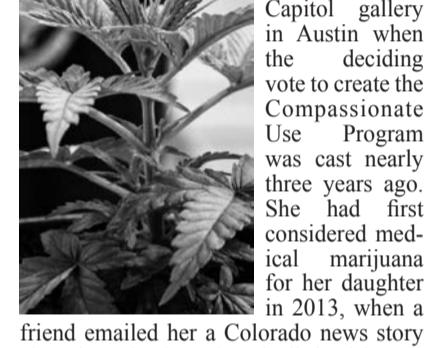
Consortium Texas in Schulenburg delivered its first prescription to a 6-year-old girl in Central Texas on Thursday. The company charges \$90 for 600 milligrams of its low-THC medication, and \$135 for 900 milligrams. There is no delivery fee for orders above \$250.

Consortium Texas is owned by Knox Medical, a Florida company with operations in Florida, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico. CEO Jose Hidalgo said Texas was its next big target, with California on the agenda as well.

On Thursday, Compassionate Cultivation in Austin, the only Texas-based dispensary of the three, will begin sales, said CEO Morris Denton. There, 750 milligrams will go for \$105 and 1,500 milligrams will go for \$200. Orders above \$250 will be charged a flat \$25 delivery fee.

The other dispensary, Surterra Texas in Austin, did not respond to requests for comment.

As orders continue to go through, and patients like Carricker's daughter at last get the medicine they've been waiting for, advocacy efforts will continue to push for an expansion to the program to include patients with more conditions such as other forms of epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and cancer. A bipartisan bill requesting such an expansion managed to exit committee in the Texas legislature last year and advocates hope to revive it during the next session.



Carricker recalls being in the Capitol gallery in Austin when the deciding vote to create the Compassionate Use Program was cast nearly three years ago. She had first considered medical marijuana for her daughter in 2013, when a friend emailed her a Colorado news story about how the drug abated a little girl's seizures without the often-severe side-effects most other drugs tend to create.

Now, Carricker hopes Jensen and other families currently excluded from the program can soon participate and judge it for themselves. (Courtesy houstonchronicle.com)

The family's story highlights the hope of a new option for a devastating medical condition, but advocates worry about limited access to Texas' program. Because the Carrickers live in Austin, for example, their daughter won't have to leave her hometown to get care. But with just three dispensaries in a state as large as Texas, families in farther-flung locales could have a much more difficult time, they say.

Signed into law in 2015, and overseen by the Department of Public Safety, Texas' Compassionate Use Program is limited to helping only patients diagnosed with intractable epilepsy who have exhausted all other medicinal options and can prove no negative side effects from the drug. This means the program excludes the son of Carricker's friend, Bonnie Jensen of League City. While 12-year-old Micah Jensen has epilepsy, his specific type and the frequency of his seizures disqualify him for medical cannabis under the program's narrow scope.

"He would be close to qualifying, but it's hard to get a diagnosis for intractable epilepsy," said Jensen, who would like to try medical marijuana.

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澳大利亚移民涌入造成拥挤？ 专家吁政府合理规划

澳大利亚统计局(ABS)近日发布的最新数据显示，受移民增长的驱动，澳大利亚在截至2017年9月的12个月内增加了39.56万人口，达到2470万人。在27日于墨尔本举行的澳大利亚城市发展协会(Urban Development Institute of Australia，以下简称UDIA)全国大会上，澳大利亚多名专家、前政客就移民与人口增长的问题展开讨论。

前联邦财长科斯特洛(Peter Costello)指出，澳大利亚在讨论移民引入这一议题时应足够成熟。但另一名专家表示，澳大利亚的人口压力可能会给一些政治投机分子提供“搅局”的机会，他建议政客及政策制定者应对移民的可持续增长进行合理的规划。

移民带动澳大利亚人口增长

据《先驱太阳报》报道，ABS数据显示，澳大利亚人口在截至去年9月的1年里增长了39.5万人，相当于此前总人口的1.63%。而在去年9月一季度，澳大利亚人口就增长了10.39万人。同在这段时间内，澳大利亚的净移民人口增长了25.01万人，

占据了所有增长人口的63.2%。这一数字也比2016年9月同期增长了3.34万人(15.4%)。

就各州及领地来说，ABS表示，大部分的人口增长集中在东部沿海地区。ABS人口主管格拉布(Anthony Grubb)表示：维州继续缩小与新州的人口差距，也是全国人口增长最快的州或领地，增速达2.37%。紧随其后的是首领地(ACT)，增速为1.77%。

前资深政客忧澳大利亚更拥挤

尽管更强劲的人口增长帮助促进了全球金融危机(GFC)以来澳大利亚的就业水平和经济发展，有担忧称澳大利亚人口增长过快将使现有的基础设施发展，导致学校、医院、公共交通过度拥挤，住房成本更高，薪资增长变慢。在27日举行的UDIA全国大会上，自由党资深政客、前财长科斯特洛认为，澳大利亚的高人口增长率正在造成拥挤，但澳大利亚仍需要更多住房来满足需求。“在下一个10年结束时，墨尔本将可能成为澳大利亚最大的城市。”科

斯特洛还表示，移民是澳大利亚应该成熟到已经可以讨论的问题，任何事务都不应该超出界限。

他还表示，大多数移民在墨尔本和悉尼等沿海城市定居，这是一大主要问题，澳大利亚缺乏一个像美国芝加哥或英国曼彻斯特那样的内陆大城市。

专家吁政府制定合理规划

对此，UDIA全国主席库珀(Darren Cooper)表示，就拥挤和住房短缺问题埋怨到移民身上是“避重就轻、逃避责任”。他说，我们国家是依靠移民建立起来的，这是我们的核心价值之一。库珀认为，澳大利亚必须更好地管理人口增长，并呼吁政府设置一个重大的人口、就业、安置战略，提供更多可负担住房。

出席大会的人口学家麦克林德尔(Mark McCrindle)也表示，澳大利亚政客领导人及政策制定者必须为移民的可持续增长制定合理的计划，否则澳大利亚将会出现社会分裂，出现倒退，也会给予政治投机分子机会进行搅局。



澳IT行业将创造8万岗位 专家吁改善签证制度

据德勤(Deloitte Access Economics)和澳大利亚计算机协会(Australian Computer Society)的研究报告，《澳大利亚的数字脉冲》(Australia's Digital Pulse)数据显示，到2022年，澳大利亚的IT部门将额外创造出81000个就业机会。对此，专家呼吁加强IT人才的培养，改善签证制度。

文章摘编如下：

近日，澳大利亚政府决定宣布一项新签证计划，该计划将取代去年被取消的457签证类别，允许雇主从7月份开始进口高技能的外国人才。

虽然这是迈向与现实联系更紧密以及必要的外国雇用政策正确方向的一步，但实际情况是，签证申请需要数月时间才能批准，而这一类别仅适用于高薪职位。仅仅解决技术技能的差距是不够的，它无法对科技企业雇用优秀人才的能力造成太大影响。

业内人士指出，事实是，IT行业唯一最大的问题不在于聘用外籍人才的能力；

而是教育，没有足够的新人才进入科技行业。由于每年只有3000至4000名IT毕业生进入劳动力队伍，因此澳大利亚IT产业处于人才供不应求的状态。

根据澳大利亚就业部进行的劳动力市场调查，只有53%的计算机科学毕业生能够在该领域找到工作；另外47%的人对缺乏入门级工作感到失望，然后就把自己的天分投入到其他事情上。

业内人士呼吁把重点从填补职位空缺的短期方式，转移到投资培养下一代人才上。而这就需要大大小小的公司愿意雇佣和培训毕业生，来缩小学习和就业之间的差距，为学生提供有意义的实习机会，并更清楚地展示IT行业可以带来的令人难以置信的未来。

IT企业Zendesk的工程部门副总裁、澳盛银行(ANZ)的执行董事亚当(Brett Adam)表示，他常常听说科技企业把实习生当成免费劳动力。本月早些时候，一家招

聘公司被发现向墨尔本的一家软件公司收取每人1000澳元的无薪实习费用，每年雇佣60名实习生在该公司总部以外的另一个地点工作。

但亚当认为，科技企业应该把实习机会视为解决方案的关键部分，因为培养年轻人能够使整个公司受益。实习单位需要为实习生提供在真实工作环境中的经验——既有挑战又有回报。

与此同时，实习生通常会促使现有员工解释工作流程并解构他们的决策，从而带来新鲜的视角，并且暴露出任何无意的错误或偏见。如果企业能够把提供实习机会视为组织的核心发展职能，而不只是附加功能，这些好处对整个企业中都具有真正重要的意义。

亚当表示，作为一个行业，IT界可以继续抱怨IT毕业生人才短缺和供应不足，但问题不会消失。如果澳大利亚要继续发展成功的科技公司，就需要投资培养下一代。

海关人员：持绿卡入关被拒华人属极少数

特朗普政府收紧移民政策让很多华人感到到美国入关变得更难了，更有传言称不少持绿卡入关的华人被取消绿卡，一时间让华人社区紧张不已。洛杉矶的美国海关边境保护局(CBP)的官员26日称，其实洛杉矶国际机场每天受到海关调查的入境人士只有不到1%，其中华人只有几个。

总统特朗普的移民政策比起上届政府收紧了不少，一时间传言四起，不少人称持有绿卡入关被盘问，有的甚至被调查和遣返。洛杉矶国际机场(LAX)的CBP发言人克鲁兹(Jaimie Cruz)26日在接受采访时说，其实人们对被调查的入关人士数字有很多错误的认识，被调查的入关人士的比例只有不到1%。LAX平均每天有35000名国际乘客入关，其中大约有20到30人被调查和拒绝入关，这些人来自各个国家，其中中国人只有1个到3个，所以海关的政策并非针对华人。

在谈起持绿卡华人中被拒绝入境的主要原因时，他指出，绝大部分是因为他们

持有绿卡却并不居住在美国。其它原因还有通过欺诈获得绿卡的情况以及犯重罪等。持有绿卡者必须每年要在美国居住6个月以上，如果在入关的时候被官员盘问，而你不能证明自己长期住在美国，海关会要求你放弃绿卡。克鲁兹说，很多华人认为自己有绿卡所以想什么时候回来都可以。

华人律师张军说，移民律师遇到最多的也是长期居住在海外不回美国在海关被拒绝入境的案例。虽然边境移民官员没有权利没收绿卡，但如果入境者没有满足绿卡持有人的要求，官员可以要求持绿卡者自动放弃绿卡，但可以获得临时许可进入美国，料理事情后离开，以后可以用旅行签证进来。

他指出，如果持绿卡者表示坚决不放弃，边境移民官可以将其送到移民法官那里，当事人可以向移民法官解释原因，例如虽然自己在海外时间长，但是有很多原因，例如人道原因、工作原因和家庭原因等，如果法官被说服当事人还可以保留绿卡，但如果法官认定当事人没有尽到永久

居民的责任，仍然可以取消其绿卡。

此外，克鲁兹指出，海关收到的申诉案有很多，来自各个国家，如果遇到入关时被调查的情况，他建议一定要讲真话，同时海关认为当事人撒谎，官员有权利检查你的手机，如果拒绝提供手机信息，海关也有权利拒绝当事人入境。如果当事人认为自己受到不公平对待可以要求见海关官员的上级，同时可以到网站上填写申诉表格。他强调，海关部门对于每个申诉都会认真对待进行调查，并最终解决。

针对其它入境者被调查甚至遣返的情况。克鲁兹说，一些入境者的文件有问题，有的持有错误的签证，有的逾期居留，有的没有申报自己所带的超额现金和违禁食品，还有人持有学生签证但被发现在打工。针对华人的具体情况，他指出，因为华人的姓名比较复杂，有的时候会有名字写错的情况，还有人来了之后没有足够原因解释自己会回到中国，也有人触犯了法律被拒入境的情况。

H-1B申请攻略： 提交文件有技巧 注意标记和签名



近年来申请美国高技能外籍劳工的工作签证者众多，即使幸运中签后，通过审核也越发困难；移民律师王振邦表示，提交申请文件有技巧，甚至包括用什么颜色的标记和签名，可以让申请通过率高一些，都有讲究。

他说，申请者要使用正确的I-129表格；移民局2014年10月发布了一份修订后的I-129表格，其中H补充文件在第13页和第14页，H-1B数据收集在第19页。在I-129表格上边清楚地标出所有H-1B上限案，最好用红色标记，标记时使用专门的代码。

在向移民局提交H-1B申请时，还必须包括一个原始签名认证的劳工纸ETA 9035。申请者须确保每份表格都有原始签名，且最好用黑色笔。

早几年曾有过雇主为雇员提交多份申请，希望提高中签率。美国公民及移民服务局(USCIS)提醒雇主，在同一会计年度，如果同一位H-1B申请人提出多重或重复申请，且是同一个雇主，申请将被视为提交重复申请被拒，且不退申请费用。

律师许俊良表示，增加中签机率的方法基本没有，多提交案子要非常小心，以往不同公司在不同地址给同一个受益人申请，但移民局现在想要堵住这个漏洞，会认定是同一个公司。

许俊良表示，申请者不如花心思确保自己身份不要出麻烦。通常申请者们都认为，中签者有“cap gap”保护，合法身份可维持到9月底，但其实这项政策只针对持有OPT的人。有些学生并未在OPT期间就参加抽签，即使抽中，身份也是不能维持到9月底。

他提醒毕业生不要觉得抽中了，就不管学校那边的OPT申请，否则会出现有一段时间身份“黑掉”。

许俊良也提醒学生要做好H-1B抽中后被拒的准备：如果被拒绝后，原先合法身份到几月就得在当月离开，也可能获得两个月的宽限期，但在宽限期不能再转换身份，申请回学生签证，也不能再做其他任何事。因此申请者最好9月底“cap gap”过期之前，先找好接手的学校，才能维持学生身份。

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大瓦山：上帝遗留在中国的“餐桌”



蜿蜒起伏是人们对山的固有印象，但还有一种形态的山并不多见，它四壁悬崖陡峭、顶面平展如桌，被称为“桌山”，四川乐山金口河的大瓦山便是此类代表。海拔3236米的大瓦山，就像一艘巨大的诺亚方舟，高耸在四川盆地西南边缘的群山之中。它由火山喷发堆积而成的玄武岩构成，与峨眉山、瓦屋山的地质结构相同，因此有“蜀中三绝”之说。奇特的地质地貌，吸引了诸多外国探险家和科学家。第一位登上大瓦山的外国人是美国探险家、植物学家巴贝尔，他于1878年6月5日登上大瓦山后，被这里壮丽景色深深震撼，他赞叹这是“世间最具魔力的天然公园”。

有“植物猎人”之称的英国探险家、植物学家威尔逊，从1899年至1918年之间，19年时间

从位于山麓洼地的大天池的村庄看去，瓦山顶呈异乎寻常的方形，山项与四周的绝壁几近垂直相交。”巴贝尔在游记中写到：“这座最壮观的山的上部，是一系列的大约有12个到14个绝壁，一个绝壁之上又是另一个绝壁，每一个绝壁都不小于200英尺高，每一个绝壁与它之下的绝壁比较，其后退都是很微小的。每一个绝壁都是很有规律的连续地围绕在山的四周。或者它可以被看作是13级阶梯，每一级有180英尺高30英尺宽。再或者它可以被描述为十三块方形的或近长方形的石灰岩岩板，每一岩板有180英尺厚，边长1英里，它被整齐地准确地平放堆叠在一个8000英尺高的基础上。或者，它可以被比喻成被粘合起来的一串立方晶体的宝石。”

大瓦山距成都258公里，车程约3个半小时。从金口河区县城出发，可以沿省道306线横穿大渡河峡谷，也可以沿乐西公路环绕大瓦山行进，形成一个环线。我多次沿乐西公路行驶至永胜乡建设村的香花岗，这里是正面观赏大瓦山的绝佳地方。近距离看去，“瓦山是由一层层垂直的石灰岩峭壁构成，仅在一个地方存在缺口，瓦山具有一个奇特的平台状峰顶。”山脚下是花茨村和民主村。阴雨天，大瓦山云雾缭绕。山下民居寥寥炊烟，如同水墨画。继续沿乐西公路行驶至165道班至173道班的公路沿

线，也非常适合正面和正侧面欣赏大瓦山。雨后的大瓦山，一层轻纱缠绕，俨然洁白的哈达献给神山。4—9月，从大天池至蓑衣岭的五大湖畔，山腰山脊，鲜花烂漫。置身在花丛中拍摄，大瓦山犹如漂浮花海中的游轮，邀游四方。

从大天池沿过去的矿山公路，盘旋上山，是瓦山坪。这里是登大瓦山的一个天然中途站，海拔约2500米左右。由瓦山坪上大瓦山的植物异常丰富多彩，但道路极为艰险。第一段是莲花崖，攀上莲花崖后便是一段段窄窄的山脊，名叫滚龙岗，这里离大瓦山顶大约还有300米的高差，而这里是登山途中视觉感受最让人震撼的地方。滚龙岗宽不过几米，最窄处仅一米左右，两侧是不见底的深渊，前方是耸立的大瓦山顶及其西面和北东面的绝壁。威尔逊这样描写道：“穿过瓦山坪，沿着滚龙岗一条狭窄的、石质的、弯曲的小径向上攀登，穿过茂密的混生的灌木丛，当到达海拔10000英尺的狭窄悬崖处时，灌木丛就逐渐为杜鹃所代替……这里，杜鹃花的灿烂美丽是无法形容的。那里的杜鹃花数不胜数，杜鹃灌丛大小各异，许多杜鹃高达30英尺，直径粗大。

大瓦山顶是一个平坦的略有起伏的平面，面积约1.6平方公里。威尔逊写道：“这里被高大的杜鹃灌丛所装饰，还有残余的



冷杉及其幼树，那些曾经覆盖这个宏伟高山的许多参天冷杉已被林间的空地所替代，空地上生长着秋牡丹和樱花等。山顶有小溪蜿蜒而行。一百多年以后，山顶的景象仍然如威尔逊描绘的那样。但威尔逊看到的那所供奉普贤菩萨的寺庙早已不存，只有一座由山民在寺庙原址上重修的木屋。大瓦山顶部由玄武岩组成，覆

盖在二叠纪灰岩之上。

玄武岩的直

立节理经过外营力的侵蚀改造，从

而形成桌状的孤山。它兀立在川西

南群山之中，犹如鹤立鸡群。三面

直立的陡壁，犹如三片覆瓦，故形

象地称之为大瓦山。若天气晴好

的话，站在大瓦山可远眺四方，

峨眉山、瓦屋山、甚至西方更远

的贡嘎雪山（海拔5556米）都历

历在目，尽收眼底。



浙江私藏了个 江南诗意图还有最美秋色的小城

浙江，就像一位永远看不透的女子，

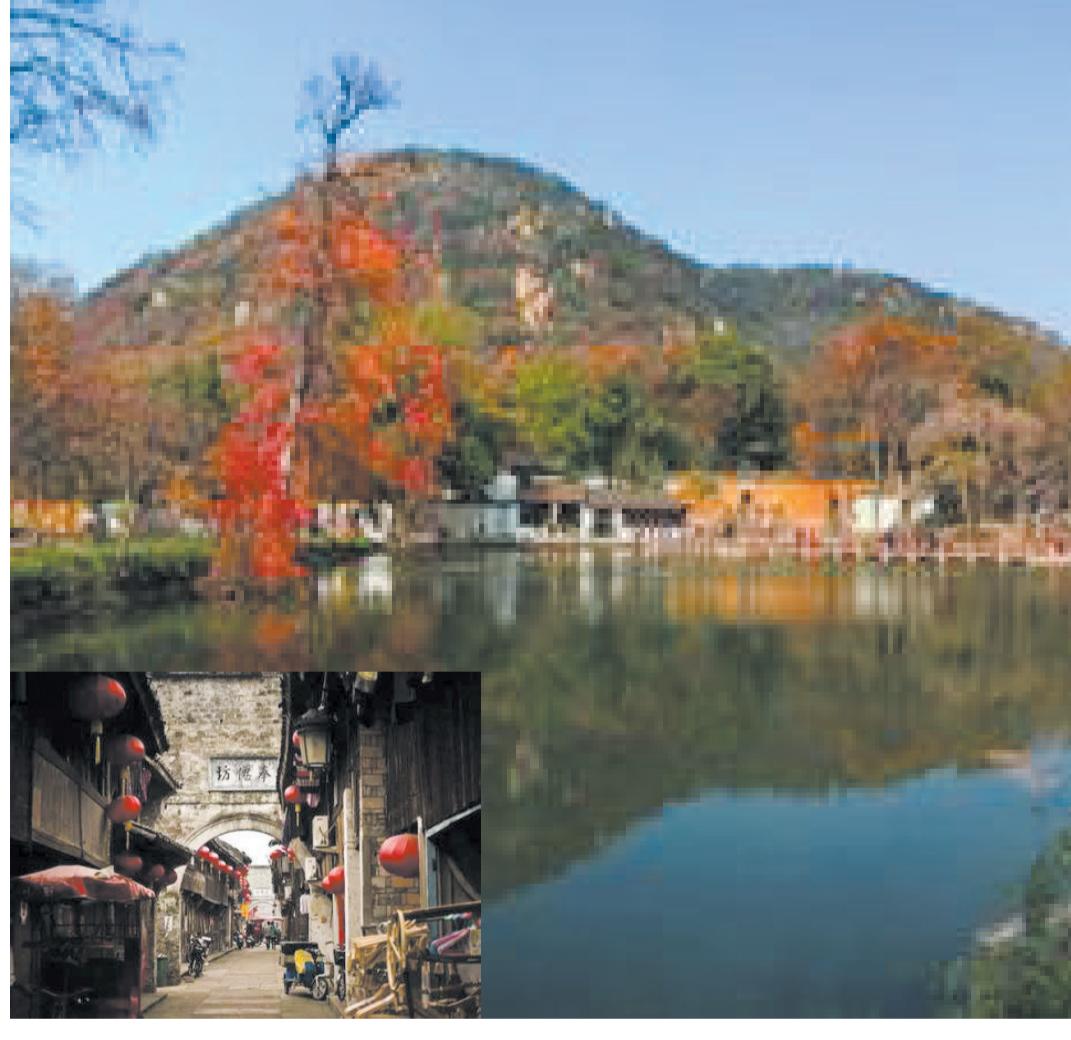
她有山峦叠翠的空灵、有东海海岸线的渔家风情、有江南小桥流水的温柔……有时候，真觉得，旅行不必跑远，在浙江家门口，就能把世间所有令人向往的美景看遍。

如果这个秋天，你想就在浙江找个小小的地方好好放松一番，Feekr推荐你这么一个地方：

它既有海边浓浓的渔家风情，又有江南的诗意图，还有不输温州的小吃美食，几乎集全了浙江

所有令人向往的美景，却一直被游人遗忘在旅行清单里。

这座城市就是台州，一到了10月，秋风吹过，层层叠叠的梯田、渔港夜市的蟹肥膏黄、层林尽染的山色都迷醉着每一个到访的人。



翠苑餐厅 天天特价

\$22.99 \$9.99
特价双龙虾 蒸海参
10%
Get 10% cash coupon for the total bill amount, minimum consumption amount of \$20 is required. (Special price dishes, seafood and beverages are not included.)



每款“海鲜特价菜”须订两款正价菜，特价方可生效，特价海鲜仅限堂食。

Ordering special price seafood requires minimum purchase of two dishes with original price, and for dine-in only.

特价双龙虾 蒸海参

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中台禪寺清明孝親報恩法會 在德州寶塔禪寺舉行

法會由見昱法師主持

清明時節野花開
緬懷先亡到郊外
隨眾高頌地藏經
盼親高上蓮花臺
止惡行善助人
心似虛空豈擁塞
如何明得自己事
一家哪分內與外

4月1日，一年一度的中台禪寺清明孝親報恩法會在德州寶塔禪寺舉行，頌地藏經，蒙山施食等經。約100人參加法會，法會早上九點半開始，四點半結束。中午素齋供衆。

照片由見昱法師與傳黠師兄提供

**本報記者
秦鴻鈞報導**



2018休斯顿中国联合校友会二十周年暨 迎新春大型联欢晚会集锦回顾（下）

2018年三月三日由休斯顿中国联合校友会主办的休斯顿中国联合校友会二十周年暨迎新春大型联欢晚会于在休斯顿的大学演出剧院隆重举行。中国驻休斯顿总领事馆王昱副总领事、科技组龙杰参赞以及大休斯顿地区留学生、学者、校友及侨学界代表约500余人出席,好评如潮。当天参与晚会的联合校友会荣誉主席包括了李蔚华、李步鹏、郑长祥。高龙、邓隆隆、James Luo为联合校友会顾问。新任会长何巧莎发表了上任感言表示衷心感谢理事会的信任,一定努力与各中国学生会、校友会密切配合,更加努力的为大休斯顿地区广大留学生和校友服务。当晚节目内容丰富多彩,精彩非凡,有歌唱,舞蹈,时装走秀,小品,武术及民俗音乐等,来宾们掌声连连不断。一起为大休斯顿地区华人侨胞们送上一个高质量的歌舞盛宴共同庆祝农历中国新年。休斯顿联合校友会有48个成员协会,包括本地区各大学的中国学生学者联谊会和中国著名高校在休斯顿和美南地区的校友会。涵盖德州大学休斯顿健康科学中心、休斯顿大学、德州南方大学、休斯顿社区大学、清华大学、北京大学、中山大学、华中科技大学、东南大学、上海交通大学、武汉大学、中国科技大学、北京交通大学、复旦大学、浙江大学等48个校友会、十多年来,经过历届理事会和各校友会、学生会的共同努力,已经成为休斯顿最大的社团之一,共有7000多成员,积极参与社区活动,具有极大的向心影响力。



联合校友会新任副会长,演员吴凯俊(Kevin Wu)带来的刘德华模仿歌唱表演



联合校友会新任会长何巧莎(图左二)在中国驻休斯顿领事馆副总领事王昱(图右二)及联合校友会荣誉主席谢忠(图左一),乔风祥(图右一),前任会长黄华(图右三)主持的交接典礼下发表对于未来发展的感言



休斯顿社区大学表演歌曲串烧



跆拳道表演



民俗乐曲表演



陈函琳演唱青春流行音乐组曲