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Southern News Group

A peek inside the new Quay sunglasses boutique at the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston.



Inside C2

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Tuesday, July 31, 2018

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Trump Threatens Shutdown Over Wall, Immigration

Washington (CNN)President Donald Trump threatened Sunday to push the government into a shutdown ahead of the coming spending deadline in September if Congress does not fund his border wall and change the nation's immigration laws.

"I would be willing to 'shut down' government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!" Trump tweeted.

Donald J. Trump

√@realDonaldTrump

I would be willing to "shut down" government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!

8:13 AM - Jul 29, 2018 Trump's Twitter threat introduced a fresh wild card for congressional negotiators to deal with as the remaining legislative days tick

down before government funding runs out -- an explosive prospect for both parties with just 100 days until the midterm elections.

Trump has previously floated the possibility of a government shutdown over border security and immigration, and on Sunday he made his threat explicit, saying he would do so unless Congress funds his proposed wall, which he promised Mexico would pay for, and puts in place his preferred immigration policies.

In May, Trump suggested "closing up the country for a while" if he did not get his wall.

"They don't want the wall," Trump said. "But we're going to get the wall, even if we have to think about closing up the country for a

However, a disruption in federal government operations could backfire on Trump if voters blame Republicans, who control Congress, for the interruption in services.

"I would be willing to 'shut down' government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!" Trump said on Twitter.



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Americans are divided along party lines on immigration, and 81 percent of Republicans approved Trump's handling of the issue, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released this

The Republican president

has threatened a shutdown several times since taking office in 2017 in a bid to get immigration priorities in congressional spending bills. especially funding for a wall along the southern U.S. border. Trump has asked for \$25 billion to build the wall.

"I don't think it would be helpful, so let's try to avoid it," Republican Senator Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Congress must agree on a spending measure to fund the government by a Sept. 30 deadline.

Although Republicans control both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, disagreements between moderates and conservatives in the party have impeded a speedy legislative fix.

Standoffs over spending levels and immigration led to a three-day government shutdown, mostly over a weekend, in January and an



GOP Plan to Avoid Another Shutdown: Delay the Fight over Trump's Wall.

hours-long shutdown in February.

The House in June rejected an immigration bill favored by conservative Republicans.

The Republican president has made tougher immigration laws a centerpiece of his administration, from the first ill-fated travel ban on people from predominantly Muslim nations to the current battle raging over the separation of illegal immigrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.



Sunday's shutdown threat from Trump also echoed a remark he made in February when he said "I'd love to see a shutdown" if the government did not agree to address immigration.

Congress ultimately passed a spending bill in March that funded the government through Sep-

tember. Trump threatened at the time to veto the spending agreement, but eventually signed the bill while expressing his displeasure with

"I said to Congress, I will never sign another bill like this again," Trump said in March.

A shutdown over Trump's wall at the September deadline would mark the third lapse in appropriations this year, following a shutdown in January as Democrats battled with the Trump administration and congressional Republicans on protections for "Dreamers" as well as a brief shutdown when Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky blocked

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced in June that he was canceling much of the Senate's August recess, saying the chamber needed the additional time to make progress on Trump's nominees and

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pass appropriations bills. And with the House out on August recess, there's not much time left before the deadline that both chambers will be in session

Both Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and McConnell met with Trump last week to discuss funding the government.

Asked about Trump's Twitter threat, a pair of Republican lawmakers said Sunday that they didn't think the government should or would shut down this September.



"Let's hope not," Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson said on CBS's "Face

Johnson added that he didn't think a shutdown would be "helpful" to Republicans in the November elections, "so let's try and avoid

Ohio Rep. Steve Stivers, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said on ABC's "This Week" said he did not think it would come to a shutdown.

"I don't think we're going to shut down the government," Stivers said. "You know, I think we're going to make sure we keep the government open, but we're going to get better policies on immigration." (Courtesy http://www.thefiscaltimes.com)

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LOCAL NEWS

"Clicks To Bricks"

Amazon, Online Retailers Open Physical Shops In The Galleria



Temporary walls surround the site of a new Amazon kiosk at the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston. Shopping centers like the Galleria have seen more e-commerce companies opening physical brick-and-mortar locations.

Amazon on Saturday will open a store in The Galleria, becoming the latest and largest online retailer to open a brick-and-mortar location in Houston's top-performing mall. The so-called Amazon Pop-Up shop, located on the first floor near Macy's, will offer shoppers the opportunity to test-drive smart-home devices, tablets and e-readers, and learn from Amazon employees about the Seattle-based company's online services. "We have a great website, but sometimes, people want to test our products out themselves and talk to a real human," said Cameron Janes, Amazon's vice president of Amazon Pop-Up stores. Online retailers are increasingly opening stores to capture consumers who still spend most of their money offline. Despite the rise of e-commerce, online sales account for less than 10 percent of total retail sales in the U.S. "A lot of these companies that just started on the internet have realized they can increase sales by opening these pop-up locations in malls," said Ed Wulfe, chairman and CEO of Wulfe & Co., a Houston-based retail

Eight e-commerce retailers, including Amazon, have recently staked out physical locations at the Galleria, the largest mall in Texas. They include Eloquii, a women's fashion retailer; Sugarfina, an upscale candy shop; and Untuckit, a menswear company. A shopper walks in front of the future location of Charles Tyrwhitt at the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston. Amazon, which opened its first Pop-Up store in 2014, now has 66 in 19 states, including in several Kohl's and Whole Foods Market locations. The e-commerce giant has eight Pop-Up stores in Texas,



Shopping centers like the Galleria have seen more e-commerce companies opening physical brickand-mortar locations.

including Baybrook Mall, The Galleria, The Woodlands Mall and Willowbrook Mall in the Houston region as well as North Star Mall in San Antonio.

Other online retailers, such as menswear retailer Bonobos, bedin-a-box company Casper and eyeglasses shop Warby Parker are opening physical stores across the country. At the same time, traditional retailers such as Walmart, Target and Best Buy are beefing up their online business.

It's all a push to create "omnichannel" shopping experience to woo the most shoppers in today's competitive retail environ-

"Retailers want to approach it from every possible angle to ensure they're reaching all the customers out there," Wulfe said. Simon, the nation's largest mall owner, three years ago created a business development team at its New York office dedicated solely to attracting e-commerce companies to its properties, which include the Galleria.



Sugarfina now occupies space at the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston. Shopping centers like the Galleria have seen more e-commerce companies opening physical brickand-mortar locations. Today, that team is one of the

most active leasing departments in the company, said Greg Vlahos, senior vice president of leasing at Simon's Dallas office. "We're seeing a slowdown in the expansion and growth of traditional retailers we've done business with for many, many years," he said. "Mature retailers are maxed out with their store counts. The real growth in the fashion and soft-goods side of retailing is newer concepts, most of which started online."

As a result, a significant portion of Simon's new retail leases today are e-tailers looking to get into brick-and-mortar retail, Vlahos said. Untuckit, which sells casual men's shirts, opened its first brick-and-mortar store in 2015. Since then, the company has grown its physical presence rapidly, opening more than three dozen locations including one at the Galleria.

The company, founded in 2011, has plans to open 100 stores over the next five years.

Simon, which has signed 12 leases with Untuckit, is working on

Eloquii sales associate Shara Campbell returns a blouse to its spot at the new Eloquii location inside the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston. Campbell graduated with a finance degree from the University of Houston and facing a slow job market, opted to work for the

retailer. Shopping centers like the Galleria have seen more e-commerce companies opening physical brick-andmortar locations.

six more, Vlahos said.

Most e-tailers are looking for smaller spaces and shorter leases to test out their brick-and-mortar concepts. An e-tailer opening a fashion boutique at a Simon mall typically takes a space of 800 to 1,500 square feet, and will sign a lease for one to three years, Vlahos said.

"As their brick-and-mortar concept evolves, their comfort level grows to expand their footprint and sign longer-term leases," he

Mariah Chase, the CEO of Eloquii, said she once scoffed at the idea of opening a physical location, wary of the fate befalling traditional retailers such as Sears and Toys R Us.

But today, the online fashion retailer for women sizes 14 and and up has five stores, including one in the Galleria. The company is set to open its sixth store next month in Miami.

"Our web customers wanted Eloquii in a store," Chase said. "They told me, 'I'd love to be able to try things on, shop with my group of friends and feel the fabric."



A peek inside the new Quay sunglasses boutique at the Galleria on Friday, July 27, 2018 in Houston. Shopping centers like the Galleria have seen more e-commerce companies opening physical brickand-mortar locations.

Chase and her team use both e-commerce data and multiple site visits to determine the best locations for their brick-and-mortar locations. "Where you have a large e-commerce market like Houston," Chase said, "you have to have a store footprint in that market, too." (Courtesy chron.com)

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DISCOVER NEW BUSINESS









Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Southern Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Trump threatens government shutdown over wall, immigration. President Donald Trump threatened to push the government into shutdown ahead of the coming appropriations deadline in September if Congress does not fund his border wall and change the nation's immigration laws. "I would be willing to 'shut down' government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall! Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc., and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT! We need great people coming into our Country!" Trump tweeted Sunday.



Civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis hospitalized. (CNN) Civil rights icon and Georgia congressman Rep. John Lewis has been hospitalized but is expected to be released Sunday, his spokeswoman says. Spokeswoman Brenda Jones told CNN that Lewis is under routine observation but she did not give details of the nature of his illness or where he is hospitalized. CNN affiliate WSB-TV reported that Lewis was being treated at a hospital in metro Atlanta, and the station quoted unnamed sources as saying Lewis became ill on a flight to Atlanta on Saturday. Lewis, 78, has represented Georgia's 5th Congressional District, which includes much of the city of Atlanta, since first being elected in 1986.



At least 3 dead, 7 injured in New Orleans shooting. (CNN)A manhunt is underway for two suspects accused of killing three people and injuring seven others in New Orleans, the city's police chief said. The suspects, who police say were wearing hoodies, fired a long rifle and a handgun Saturday night into a crowd outside a business three miles from the French Quarter. Police Chief Michael Harrison said the suspects approached the victims from behind and fired multiple rounds "indiscriminately." "This is an extremely tragic incident," he told reporters. Two men and a woman died at the scene, and several others were injured. The injured -- five men and two women -- were taken to several hospitals in the area, police said. One victim was in critical condition Sunday morning.



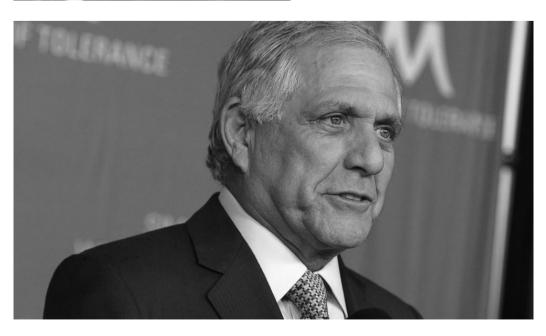
Trump Administration Moves To Roll Back Obama-Era Labor Department Rule. The Trump administration is taking steps to roll back an Obama-era Labor Department safety rule. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a notice Friday proposing to roll back the rule that requires companies with 250 workers or more to submit detailed logs on workplace injuries. Officials say the original rule violates workers privacy as the information could be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. The proposed changes will protect employee information and reduce the burden on employers. A worker (pictured above) cuts a piece from a steel coil at the Novolipetsk Steel PAO steel mill in Farrell, Pennsylvania, U.S., March 9, 2018. (Photo/REUTERS)



The NECCO Company has stopped making America's oldest candies. The NECCO plant in Massachusetts shut down suddenly last week, putting the future of Mary Janes, Mighty Malts, Sky Bars and Sweethearts products in limbo after the NECCO factory closing this past week. The NECCO plant in Revere, Massachusetts, was shut suddenly Tuesday by its owner, Round Hill Investments LLC. The investment company, owned by billionaire C. Dean Metropolous, bought NECCO out of bankruptcy in May for \$17.3 million. The news was first reported by The Boston Globe. "We are disappointed that Round Hill could not follow through on the enthusiasm it expressed when it acquired Necco barely two months ago," said Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo in a statement. Arrigo said he was disappointed that the city received no advance word about the plant's closing, but he was encouraged that six private food service companies have already expressed interest in interviewing the former NECCO factory workers.



Officials Investigating Pres. Nicolas Maduro In Money Laundering Plot. A Miami Herald report reveals that U.S. investigators are examining if Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro along with other Venezuelan government officials have ties to a suspected laundering plot. The alleged operation reportedly led to the theft of around \$1.2 billion from the nation's state-owned oil company. So far eight individuals have been named as defendants in a complaint over the suspected incident. Maduro announced on Wednesday, July 25, a monetary reform that will remove 5 zeros from the value of the Venezuelan currency. In the May 22, 2018, photo above, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greets guests after receiving from the National Electoral Council, CNE, a certificate declaring him the winner of the presidential election, during a ceremony at CNE headquarters in Caracas. Venezuela. (AP Photo)



CBS chief Les Moonves and CBS Face Allegations of Sexual Misconduct. The New Yorker magazine has published a bombshell investigation of the head of CBS Corporation that includes allegations of sexual misconduct. The article by Ronan Farrow alleges that CBS chairman and CEO Leslie Moonves engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior, including unwanted kissing and touching that occurred over 20 years ago. Representatives for Moonves did not immediately respond to ABC News' requests for comment Friday afternoon. The media company's stock fell by more than 5 percent Friday afternoon amid news of the impending investigation and the allegations.



Carr Fire Kills 5 People, Burns 80,000 Acres Near Redding, California. Five people are now confirmed dead, as the Carr fire continues to rage in Northern California. Earlier Saturday, a California family confirmed two young children and their great grandmother died from the fire. As of now, 500 structures have been destroyed and 80, acres have been charred from the Carr Fire, which is only 5% contained. Fire officials said high temperatures, and large amounts of dried brush are stoking the flames and causing massive amounts of smoke, making containment efforts difficult. Authorities also estimated around 38,000 people have been evacuated as of Friday. Meantime, authorities have released the name of the firefighter killed in the devastating fire. According to officials, Jeremy Stoke, a fire inspector with the Redding Fire Department, died fighting the deadly blaze Friday. The Carr Fire (pictured above) burns along Highway 299 in Redding, Calif., on Thursday, July 26, 2018. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)



COMMUNITY

After strong interest for several years, international buyers appear to be souring on the U.S. housing market.

The dollar volume of U.S. home sales to international buyers between April 2017 and March 2018 dropped 21 percent compared with the year-ago period, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Of the \$121 billion in sales to international buyers, those currently living in the U.S purchased \$67.9 billion in properties, while nonresident foreigners purchased \$53 billion, both marking a drop from the previous year. Foreign buyers accounted for 8 percent of the \$1.6 trillion in existing home sales, a drop from 10 percent the previous year.



"The decline is partly coming off high levels of the prior year, but also surely from the strong rhetoric coming out of Washington against foreigners," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the Realtors. "There has been a large drop-off in foreign students attending U.S. universities already. Chinese [buyers], in particular, purchase homes for their kids while attending college."

China still leads the pack for international buyers, as it has for six straight years, accounting for 15 percent of international sales. Chinese buyers also purchased the most expensive homes, with a median price of \$439,100.

Canada came in second, with a 10 percent share of international sales, but the Canadians' dollar volume dropped by 45 percent compared to the previous year. Not only are Canadians buying fewer U.S. properties, they are buying cheaper U.S. properties. The median price for Canadian buyers was \$292,000.

"The market here is softer, and I imagine that's why there are perhaps less Canadian buyers," said Elli Davis, a real estate agent

International Buyers Are Dropping Out Of The U.S. Housing Market

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



European model forecast highs for the next five days. (weathermodels.com modified by CWG)

based in Toronto. "That does surprise me, though, as I still know lots of people buying mostly in Florida!"



A real estate agent readies a house for viewing in Venice, Calif.

Buyers from China, Canada, India, Mexico and the United Kingdom accounted for nearly half of the dollar volume of sales to international buyers. Canadian buyers had been the market leaders by far during the U.S. recession. They dropped back significantly as U.S. home prices recovered, Chinese buying increased and U.S. investor purchases climbed.

"Inventory shortages continue to drive up prices and sustained job creation and historically low interest rates mean that foreign buyers are now competing with domestic residents for the same, limited supply of homes," Yun said.

High prices could certainly be a deterrent for buyers in Southern California. Chinese buyers have been very strong in the single-family market there, as they plan for their children to attend area universities. Irvine, especially, saw huge demand from Chinese buyers, particularly in newly built communities, with larger, multigenerational homes that they favor.

For international investors who are looking for condominiums in large cities as an investment, the supply theory doesn't really hold.

"I don't think it's the supply issue because these buyers are buying in the higher end and there is more supply there, particularly in the gateway cities like Miami and New York," said Sam Khater, chief economist at Freddie Mac. "It could be just that their appetite for U.S. real estate is waning." (Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com/)

NAR Reports A Decrease In International Home Sales



The housing market's low supply and high prices have been affecting residents across the nation for a while, but now experts are starting to see these trends harm international home purchases in the U.S. According to a news report, international sales from April 2017 to March 2018 dropped 21 percent. In that 12 month time frame, international sales totaled \$121 billion. "After a surge in 2017, we saw a decrease in foreign activity in the housing market in the latest year, bringing us closer to the levels seen in 2016," said the National Association of Realtors economist Lawrence Yun. Yun attributed the decrease to low inventory and high housing prices. In May of 2018, the U.S. saw the highest jump in housing prices since 2014. Experts predict the costs will only continue to rise, possibly over 5 percent, by next May. In the past, international buyers have purchased more expensive homes than the average home price. The average existing median home price was \$249,300, but the average international sale was \$292,000. As of now, the housing market's inventory is increasing, but not enough to take away form the competition for homes on the market. June saw a 5.2 percent increase in existing home inventory, but the amount of home sales that month still dropped.



For the international buyers who are purchasing homes in the U.S., most buy from China. For the sixth year straight, buyers from China make up \$30.4 billion in international sales. The other countries that topped international sales were Canada, India, Mexico and the United Kingdom. When it comes to where international buyers are most likely to purchase property, a lot of the international buying takes place in Florida with 19 percent of international purchases. California follows closely behind with 14 percent and Texas a little lower with 9 percent. International buyers are most likely to purchase a single-family home — about 66 percent of foreign buyers purchase a single-family home, while 14 percent buy a condo and 13 percent buy a townhouse. As for what this means for the real estate industry, Realtors are unsure. According to a NAR survey, only 23 percent of members worked with an international client in the last year. That number dropped 29 percent from last year. Almost half of the survey respondents, 44 percent, said they don't know what the future of international sales will look like, which Yun said was likely due to uncertainty surrounding future trade and immigration policy.

(Courtesy houstonagent.com)



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BUSINESS



London (CNN) Julian Assange walked into the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on June 19, 2012 to claim political asylum. He has been there ever since -- a total of 2,230 days -- rarely seeing daylight. But multiple sources say his situation is now untenable and he may soon leave, whether he wants to or not. The question is: what will happen to Assange as and when he does walk out of his bolthole around the corner from Harrods?

The recent indictments issued by US Special Counsel Robert Mueller imply that Assange and WikiLeaks were a conduit for Russian intelligence in distributing hacked Democratic Party emails in 2016.

According to the indictment document, "The conspirators (...) discussed the release of the stolen documents and the timing of those releases with Organisation 1 to heighten their impact."

CNN has established that Organization 1 is WikiLeaks, which published the emails in

Assange has always maintained that he did not receive them from the Russian government He told Fox News in January 2017: "Our source is not the Russian government, and it is not a state party."

A member of Assange's legal team, Jennifer Robinson, told CNN this week: "WikiLeaks has made very clear they were not engaged in any way with the Russian state with respect to that publication. There is no connection between WikiLeaks and any of those who have been indicted.'



His lawyers argue that all Assange did was publish the hacked emails, as did other media, after being in contact with a hacker

called Guccifer 2.0. The Special Counsel alleges that Guccifer 2.0 was a cover for Russian intelligence, saying in the indictment that on July 14th [2016], Guccifer 2.0 sent WikiLeaks an encrypted attachment that contained "instructions on how to access an online archive of stolen DNC documents."

Whether a sealed indictment awaits Assange in relation to the Russian hacking investigation is unknown. But according to US officials, charges have been drawn up relating to previous WikiLeaks disclosures of classified US documents.

Assange would face arrest if/when he leaves

EXCLUSIVE!!

Assange Has Been Granted Ecuadorian Citizenship

Julian Assange Looks For Deal To End His 'Diplomatic Isolation'

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

the embassy because he skipped bail in 2012 -- when Swedish authorities were seeking his extradition to face accusations of rape. Last year Sweden suspended the investigation, but Assange's lawyers fear his arrest would be swiftly followed by a US extradition request. Assange maintains his innocence.

'For us protecting him from US extradition is absolutely paramount, and the most important and fundamental principle that must be respected," Robinson told CNN this

BREAKING: WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange Granted Ecuadorian Citizenship (CNN) Ecuador has granted citizenship to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, Ecuador's Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa announced Thursday, July 26, 2018. Speaking at a news conference in Quito, Espinosa said Assange was granted naturalization on December 12.

She called the measure "one more ring of protection" for Assange, who has been holed up at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since 2012 in an effort to avoid a Swedish arrest warrant on rape allegations -- a charge he has always denied. Sweden dropped the charges in May 2017, but Assange remains the subject of a UK arrest warrant.

Assange, 46, has previously expressed concern that if he leaves the Ecuadorian embassy in London he could end up being extradited to the US, where he fears facing the death penalty over allegations of revealing government secrets through WikiLeaks.

Espinosa said that in December, the Ecuadorian government requested diplomatic status for Assange, pointing out that his Ecuadorian naturalization reinforces his status as "protected."

But the UK rebuffed the request.

"The Government of Ecuador recently requested diplomatic status for Mr. Assange here in the UK. The UK did not grant that request, nor are we in talks with Ecuador on this matter. Ecuador knows that the way to resolve this issue is for Julian Assange to leave the embassy to face justice," the UK Foreign Office said in a statement.



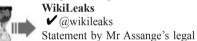
Ecuador's pres-Lenin Moreno traveled to London on Friday for the ostensible purpose

of speaking at the 2018 Global Disability Summit (Moreno has been using a wheelchair since being shot in a 1998 robberv attempt). The concealed actual purpose of the president's trip is to meet with British officials to finalize an agreement under which Ecuador will withdraw its asylum protection of Julian Assange, in place since 2012; eject him from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London; and then hand over the WikiLeaks founder to British authorities.

In a briefing Tuesday, Espinosa said Ecuador will continue to pursue a dialogue with the UK to eventually remove Assange from the embassy. She added that Ecuador was exploring the possibility of third-country mediation.

"We will continue to protect Julian Assange while his physical and psychological integrity are at risk," Espinosa said. "We are a country that defends human rights and additionally, a country that respects international

A 2016 United Nations report concluded that the WikiLeaks founder had been arbitrarily detained by Sweden and the United Kingdom. Awssange's legal team has called on UK and Swedish authorities to end his "deprivation of liberty, respect his physical integrity and freedom of movement, and afford him the right to compensation."



team responding to yesterday's news: "The UN ruling, issued almost two years ago, is crystal clear in its language, Mr Assange is unlawfully and arbitrarily detained by the UK authorities and must be released."

7:21 AM - Jan 10, 2018

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"The UN ruling, issued almost two years ago, is crystal clear in its language, Mr Assange is unlawfully and arbitrarily detained by the UK authorities and must be released," Assange's legal team said on Twitter.

"We believe Julian Assange's situation, from a human perspective, is not sustainable. A person cannot live in these conditions forever. And we are very respectively looking with the United Kingdom to find mechanisms that lead to a solution," Espinosa added.

"There should never be a situation where a publisher is sent to the US to face prosecution for that activity, so we will, if forced, fight his extradition in the British Courts" The Ecuadorean government wants the case

resolved. Ecuador's recently elected president, Lenín Moreno said in Madrid Friday that his government was in dialogue with the UK and wanted a solution that guaranteed Assange's life would not be in danger. He described Assange's long confinement as "against human rights."

Downing Street confirmed discussions were "ongoing."

Moreno has previously described Assange as an "inherited problem" (his predecessor Rafael Correa granted Assange asylum.) But in a statement last week, the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry said it saw no immediate or long-term solution to the situation.

Complicating the situation is the fact that Assange was granted Ecuadorean citizenship last December.

Assange's situation is also a dilemma for the British government, aware that he inspires both passionate support and visceral animos-

Assange

where



since June 19 2012

Foreign Office Minister Alan Duncan told the House of Commons last month: "We would like the assurance that if he were to step out of the embassy he will be treated humanely and properly. The first priority would be to look after his health, which we think is deteriorating."

On that issue, Assange's lawyers and Ecuadorean officials agree. Robinson says "the situation is untenable. His health is being irreparably damaged...This case cannot go on much longer."

Assange's isolation deepened in March. His access to the internet and phone was cut off -- in part because Ecuadorean officials said he had violated an agreement not to comment about the internal affairs of other countries. Assange has been, for example, a vocal supporter of the Catalan independence campaign in Spain.

The former consul at the embassy, Fidel Narvaez, says he saw Assange two weeks ago. "He is a very strong man but remember he lives in a small flat, without natural light, just with artificial light," Narvaez told CNN.

Narvaez doesn't believe Assange is about to give up. "He is made for a big fight and I think he faces difficult and adverse situations with strength.'

He also maintains that Assange has the right to live in Ecuador, if the British government allows him to leave the country.

On their own admission, Assange's legal team are in the dark about any negotiations that might be going on about Assange's fu-



is that Assange fears extradition to a countrv whose

President proclaimed himself a big fan of WikiLeaks when running for office. Donald Trump mentioned WikiLeak's hacking of Hillary Clinton's emails more than 100 times in the last month of the 2016 election campaign. At one point he said: "I'll tell you this Wikileaks stuff is unbelievable. It tells you the inner heart, you gotta read it." He even went so far as to say: "I love

WikiLeaks."

Trump's Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, and the US Justice Department appear to think very differently. They believe Julian Assange should be brought in front of a US court. When he was Director of the CIA, Pompeo said: "We can no longer allow Assange and his colleagues the latitude to use free speech values against us."

Pompeo said that WikiLeaks "walks like a hostile intelligence service and talks like a hostile intelligence service."

Whether Robert Mueller's team agrees -that's the tantalizing question. (Courtesy cnn.com)



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厉中律師







香港文匯報訊(記者 吳文釗)由古天樂、姜皓文(黑仔)、顏卓靈 (Cherry)、張繼聰等人主演的新片《犯罪現場》7月30日於佐敦店舖拍 攝警匪追捕場面,劇組斥資七位數,耗時兩個月搭建眞實3,000呎珠寶店 場景,劇組連日來在假珠寶店拍攝,由於環境逼真,有途人誤以為是眞珠

建珠寶店拍劫案重頭戲

的 以假亂真

分演悍匪的古天樂表示新片已開工一個月,7月30日拍的警匪追捕戲是電影的開場戲份,之後尚有大廝殺的重頭戲未拍,另外劇組租用店舗拍攝爆炸場面,落足工本製作認真。問到大熱天時拍追捕戲會否特別辛苦,古仔說:"在室內拍有冷氣還可以,因為新片中的時間是冬天,我還要穿大樓和皮樓,都幾辛苦。"

寶店入內選購,十分搞笑。

古仔稱現在有三部新片同時拍攝,日 前他在35、36度高溫下拍外景,曬得差點 要中暑,另一部新片又要拍飛車追逐場 面。問到三戲同時拍,會否混淆當中角色 時,古仔說:"都不會,因為幾日會拍一 組戲,自己調整到,開工前一晚也會做好 分析,到拍攝時就可以提醒自己是演什麼 角色。"

佘詩曼有潛質拍電影

有傳佘詩曼簽約古天樂旗下公司藝 人,問他是否看好對方在影壇有一番作 為,古仔一貫口吻表示要問回阿佘的經理 人公司,古仔説:"阿佘是電視台一姐, 我和她以前也合作過,她當然有潛質可以 拍電影。"至於廣告商以古仔跳《今期流 行》作招徠,但廣告片中卻不見他跳舞, 古仔笑道:"我跳過啦,可能剪走了,其 實只是動幾下,因為無排過舞,又不是以 前的舞步,我都是客串形式做。"

飾演警察的姜皓文和顏卓靈表示要在 假珠寶店拍攝6日,首次拍警匪片的Cher-



ry對拿槍大為興奮,不時問黑仔正確拿槍姿勢,她也想像不到槍械真的很重,要花很大氣力才能扣下扳機。黑仔也開心地表示可以再演警察,笑言大家誤以為他常演警察,其實他演的次數屈指可數。黑仔說:"最開心可以拿正牌開槍和飛車,甚至可以在馬路上逆線行車,但因為沒有申請封鎖全部行車線拍攝,所以在計算走位上要十分小心,將危險性降至最低。"

假珠寶店環境逼真,有途人誤以為是

真珠寶店入內選購。



確,心他。車沒算, 會要地常黑,有 有 是 。 車沒算,"



元彪赴日與"迷你李小龍"交手

香港文匯報訊元彪日前到日本東京出席為紀念李小龍逝世45周年的新錶發佈會,元彪穿上唐裝出席活動,更與"迷你版李小龍"今井竜惺同台交手。二人擺出對戰姿勢對峙,元彪大搞氣氛,向竜惺雙手合十、跪地求饒,場直惹笑。問到元彪是否首次與竜惺見面?他笑高自己早已在網上看過對方的短片:"我覺得佢將來一定會成才,成為武術、功夫界接班的日本人。"及後,元彪表演木人椿,一展身手,但他打了一下才驚覺手上戴着名錶,慌忙脱下手錶,繼續表演。

相隔二十多年沒到日本作公開活動的元彪, 人氣依舊不減,由落車到活動現場都被熱情粉絲 簇擁要求簽名合照,其中一名粉絲更親手畫了一 幅結集他曾演出的角色的畫作,令他非常感動。 是次來日工作4、5天,令他憶起年輕時踏上日本 武道館獻唱日文歌的難忘回憶。

另外,元彪透露現正忙於籌備《七小福》電 影: "因為下年係'七小福'60周年,其實我們 50周年時候已經想拍這部電影,同香港、中國,甚至全世界的人講我們小時候是怎樣學功夫,點樣刻苦。叫小朋友不好氣餒,要有信心同恒心。"而提到他年輕時與李小龍合作的點滴,他坦言對方是自己的偶像,有機會與他合作實在與有榮焉。他續說:"我同他一齊合作最幸運的是,第一是站在他旁邊,第二是被他踢一腳,被他一腳打到飛起。"



元彪受日本Fans歡迎

蔡興麟望出黑膠唱片

香港文匯報訊(記者 吴文釗) 80年代歌手蔡興麟7月30日接受電台訪問,他透露今年會推出新唱片及開演唱會,希望新唱片可以推出黑膠版,但因多年沒出唱片的關係,坦言已不熟悉現時的運作方式,打算將新碟盈利捐出去做慈善,幫助有需要的殘疾人士。

蔡興麟表示新歌會以他的人生 麗、彭家麗、李樂詩等,故事為主,也有歌曲會談及感情, 燕、肥媽都很支持他唱歌。

未知自己會投資多少。至於相隔25 年再開演唱會,他稱年底會在九展 舉行,他說:"現在好期待,沒有 緊張,要做就要做到最好,如果 沒有100%的準備是絕對不會開 的。"

蔡興麟表示已邀請當年同期出道的好朋友做嘉賓,如劉雅麗、彭家麗、李樂詩等,甚至薛家燕、肥媽都很支持他唱歌。



祖兒跟古仔拍廣告

大!

香港文匯報訊 樂壇天后容祖兒再次攜手創意單位 AllRightsReserved 拍攝電視廣告,今次祖兒化身高校教師與一眾港日女生 dancers 推介"幾時都流行"。祖兒化身高校教師帶領學生勁歌熱舞,故事圍繞青春校園生活,讓人重溫校園的青葱歲月。今次拍攝當然有彩蛋,網上別注版 MV



■容祖兒同古仔拍攝廣告《幾時都流行》。



寶兒寶欣"姊妹檔"出秀

香港文匯報訊(記者 李思穎) 張寶兒和妹妹張寶 欣7月30日首次以姊妹檔拍住搵錢出席首飾店活動,兩人均穿上露肩裙現身,問到"姊妹檔"酬勞是否更優厚,寶兒表示沒有問價錢,能夠跟妹妹一起工作已很開心,過去一年妹妹都有面對鏡頭經驗,所以無需特別指點她出席活動的秘訣。寶兒入行後認識現任圈中男友袁偉豪,問她可想妹妹跟她一樣?寶兒覺得要看緣分,也不用特別為妹妹介紹男仔,因妹妹好會看人。問到寶欣對未來姐夫袁偉豪印象,她大讚袁偉豪值很高分,笑說:"他們甜到漏,(有否羨慕家姐?)沒有,但有些妒忌,他搶走了我家姐,不過他對我和屋企人都很好,之前出書都有送給屋企所有人。"

實兒和寶欣希望有機會合作拍劇,寶欣笑說: "可以反過來我做姐姐,不是她平日欺負我想報復, 只是想演姐姐保護她。"真的姐妹情深。

寶兒和男友同時開拍新劇《鐵探》,兩人攞正牌拍拖,問她會否對到厭,寶兒笑説:"不會,日日對住劇本就真,他有指點我,亦有教其他後輩,一起開工好有團隊感覺。"她又指家人煲湯水時也會預男友一份。



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讓人難以置信的是,在丹澤爾 華盛頓超過四十年極其耀眼、充滿 提名和獎項的成功演藝生涯道路上 ,他從來都沒有拍過壹部續集電影 。而打破他這壹慣例的,則是2014 年在全球範圍內收獲1.92億美元, 由安東尼·福奎阿執導的《伸冤人》 。這部作品的成功告訴我們,就像 此前的連姆·尼森壹樣,還是有很多 觀眾願意花錢去看上了歲數的動作 英雄大顯身手。

《伸冤人》的第二部中國內地 定名爲《制裁特攻》,聽上去距離 "動作片"更近了壹步。丹澤爾在 片中再次飾演了退休再就業的CIA 秘密特工Robert McCall,在這個過 程中可沒少打折人的骨頭。影片壹 開始還算引人入勝,可惜在最後的 35分鐘崩掉了。

《制裁特攻》系列改編自上世紀 80年代美劇《伸冤人》,影片男主角 McCall在波士頓郊區住著簡單又出世 的生活。他被卷進了壹個復仇之局, 需要他"非常特別的技巧"

影片開篇時的壹幕發生在土耳 其的火車上,但McCall 的殘暴技能 不僅局限於全球旅行之中,打鬥地 點也從第壹部他工作的家居建材公 司,轉移到了第二部中他身爲司機 開的專車上。當在軟件上約了他車 的女孩兒被壹群人性侵時,McCall 把這幫壞人也打了個半死。

第壹部中的梅麗莎· 裏奧與比爾· 普爾曼,作爲Susan Plummer與丈夫 Brian均回歸出演《制裁特攻》,他 倆也可以說是McCall唯壹的朋友。 Susan被召喚到布魯塞爾,調查壹起 臥底CIA特工的自殺案,然而她自己 也被殺害了,McCall此時發現自己陷 入了危險又糾結的網中,而此前多年 他壹直活得悄無聲息,除了Susan以 外的大多數人都以爲他已經死了。

當McCall和前任搭檔Dave York "紅毒蛇"佩德羅·帕斯卡飾)聯 系上後,他意識到團隊的其他成員 都變成了自由職業殺手,而 Susan 變 成了他們的目標,因爲她懷疑到了 布魯塞爾的案子根本不是自殺,而 是殺手的出擊,最終會在他們身上 找到線索。毋庸置疑的是,McCall 因此也會與曾經的朋友和同事反目 成仇,血濺四處。

丹澤爾在《制裁特攻》中,又 壹次貢獻了冷靜又富有層次感的表 演,也讓他作爲電影演員的魅力展 露無遺。影片中最棒的部分,是當 McCall 教導 Miles (《月光男孩》中 的艾什頓·桑德斯)時,後者和Mc-Call住在同壹套公寓中,是個年輕想 藝術的學生,他被當地黑幫能掙快 錢這壹點誘惑著。這兩個角色間的 化學反應簡潔明了,當McCall深入 毒窩,拯救Miles於水火之中時,氣

氛簡直是達到了白熱化。

在這部沒什麽有辨識度和有深 度配角的電影中,壹個早已破碎的 男人,哄著威脅著壹個小孩兒要做 出明智的抉擇,少犯錯誤,這樣的 情節簡直是《制裁特攻》最接近有 感情的壹面了。

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

本次回歸的編劇理查德 溫克, 此前其實有過更優秀的作品,可在 《制裁特攻》裏面他好像已經放棄了 ,也許是因爲缺乏想象力吧。片中的 臺詞也充滿了說教,讓人聽上去非常 尷尬,還有個更加無厘頭的比喻-影片中隨著劇情張力的加強與死人的 增多,天氣也越來越陰郁。背景中有 風吹,壹會兒開始打雷,然後還下上 雨了。這都已經不是潛臺詞,而變成 額外的背景音效了。

這壹切的壹切都在影片的第三 幕中以壹種氣人的方式爆發,沒有 任何顯著的原因,故事幾乎是突然

發生在了颶風中。 McCall 就能把 York和壹些前搭檔從蠻荒之地的空 樓裏憑空召喚出來,然後在呼嘯的 風暴中來了壹場貓捉老鼠般的槍戰 ,這也太愚蠢了。

《制裁特攻》是丹澤爾與導演 福奎阿的第四次合作,後者給丹澤 爾帶來了2001年《訓練日》的奧斯 卡影帝桂冠。福奎阿在本片中首次 嘗試了大量運用音樂,還精通抓住 觀眾們的註意力,尤其是當故事並 不怎麽樣的條件下。包括上壹段說 的那場沙雕颶風戲,拍得還不錯, 沒顯得CGI特別過頭。

福奎阿也懂得怎樣給現年63歲 的丹澤爾打光,還能讓動作戲份更 符合他這個年齡應有的力量。可對 於我來說,2004年的《怒火救援》 依然是丹澤爾拍過的最好看、最有 趣、最讓人印象深刻的"憤怒丹澤 爾"式影片。

《的士速遞5》曝"馬賽傳說"飆車片段 麻煩警探搭配廢柴司機 如何駕馭逆天出租車?

飆車喜劇《的士速遞5》將於8月3 日全國上映,日前片方發布壹款"馬賽 傳說"片段,回顧了那輛傳奇出租車在 系列前作中的神勇表現。影片由弗蘭克· 蓋思堂彼得編劇、執導並主演,馬利克· 班澤拉、伯納爾: 法西等共同出演, 講述 麻煩警探西爾萬與廢柴司機埃迪接手貫 穿系列20年的逆天出租車,迎戰跨國犯 罪團夥的故事。

四部前作叫好叫座,用接地氣的喜 劇元素把熱血飆車戲裝點得男女通吃、 老少皆宜,尤其是那輛所向披靡的白色 出租車,系列中成為馬賽傳說,現實中 也是人人都愛的銀幕神車。

此次曝光的"馬賽傳說"片段,通 過警察局長艾倫的描述,向大家重現了 神車的種種"神跡"。其中壹鍵變形、 超速爆表、高空跳傘等前作中的經典鏡 頭,至今仍不過時,依舊閃耀著令人叫 絕的腦洞和炫酷感。

該片段不僅燃起觀眾對銀幕神車的 熱血記憶,也在麻煩警探西爾萬(弗蘭 克· 蓋思堂彼得 飾) 詢問 "它現在在哪 兒"之際,透露出"傳承"的涵義。這 部重啓之作由全新班底打造,集編、導 、演於壹身的弗蘭克和老搭檔馬利克: 班 澤拉都自稱是"看著《的士速遞》系列 長大的孩子"

在片中,兩人出演麻煩警探西爾萬 和廢柴司機埃迪這對烏龍CP,前者初到 馬賽,後者則從小聽著叔叔丹尼爾的飆 車傳說長大。所以戲裏戲外,他們都將 以"新人"的身份繼承前輩留下的逆天 出租車,貫徹系列20年不變的飆車與爆 笑齊飛的風格,續寫馬賽街頭速度與激 情的傳奇。

《的士速遞5》將於8月3日登陸全





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服務協會2018年8



1. 2018 第三季度慶生會: 謹定 於8月26日(星期日)下午1:30假僑 教中心大禮堂舉行。屆時備有精 彩歌唱、舞蹈節目表演、還有豐 富的獎品抽獎助興。入場券分有 三種: 7,8,9 生日的壽星券(含冤費 餐盒帶回家)、自費餐盒券(每張酌 收五元)、和冤費節目觀賞券。壽 星會員可憑有效會員証領取壽星 券。非壽星會員可憑有效會員証 自由選擇購買自費餐券或領取冤 費參加券。以上三種入場券皆可 參加抽獎。請於8月1日至8月21 日,每週一到週五上午十點到十 二點半到僑敎中心102室營養午餐 部登記領取或購買餐券。

Ⅱ. 2018年新舊會員換証:日 期定於每月的第二週。即8月11 星期六上午十點至十二點。須要 換証的新舊會員請到僑教中心108

III. iPad 和 iPhone 基礎班: 將 於 8/15 開班到 9/14。每週三和週 五上午 9:30 至 11:30 在僑敎中心 104室上課。逐步引導你認識設置 的基本功能、如何操控設置、協 助你迅速掌握訣竅。讓設置隨時 處於最新狀態、並純熟地使用你 的iPad和iPhone。包抱:無線上網 語言的轉換,電子郵件,…等。每 班人數有限,先到先得。有興趣 的會員請到僑教中心102室繳費報

Ⅳ. 休士頓全僑健康日:8月 25 日星期六上午 9 時至 12 時。地 點: 僑教中心大禮堂。 主題: 關節 炎。將邀請到專科医師們講解有 關關節炎各方面的症狀, 治療和預 防有: 冤疫系統, 以及化學相關的 關節炎, 還有骨關節炎(退行性關

,物理治和非藥物治療關節炎, 和飲食與關節炎各專題講解。並 為您做脊柱篩檢,身体檢查及各 科諮詢醫師為你解答疑問和提供

2018年8月18日星期六 一日遊。將於7月31日星期二 開始接受報名收費。名額有限、 請儘早報名。行程:上午7:20至下 午7:00。參觀當代藍星藝術館,在 這裏您可以看到有動態及意想不 到出奇創意的藝術作品。以及參 觀擁有徵集、典藏、陳列和硏究 代表自然和收藏人類文化遺產實 物的維特博物館。午餐中式自助 餐。本會所舉辦的旅遊、只限會 員參加。名額有限、請儘早報名

中國國台辦於2018年2月28日發佈實施「關 於促進兩岸經濟文化交流合作的若干措施」(以 下簡稱「對臺31項措施」),依其內容可歸納為 「臺商投資」、「土地及稅率優惠」、「銀行」 、「敎育」、「文化」、「影視產業」、「公益 及醫療」等七大類,目的是從臺灣引進技術、資 本及人才,協助解決其經濟發展所遭遇的困難 故其「名爲惠臺,實則利中」。

二、中華民國政府策略作為

中國磁吸我國各領域尖端人才,我們面對挑 戰,無須畏懼,我國政府將從「優化就學就業強 化留才攬才」、「維持臺灣在全球供應鏈的優勢 Ⅰ、「深化資本市場Ⅰ、「強化文化影視產業Ⅰ 等四大面向,推動八大強臺策略務實作爲如下(詳 如附表2):

策略一:「提升學硏人才獎勵」共有7點措施 ,重點如高教深耕計畫成立65個卓越研究中心, 政府將提供優質硏究資源,擴大延聘博士後硏究 人力;此外,政府也提出「輔導重點產業干人博 士就業方案」,近期將開始執行;爲提升硏究獎 勵,也將調高計畫主持人費,並將科研成果收入 優先獎勵科技人員。

策略二:「強化新創發展動能」共包含8項措 施。重點包含:將透過國發基金匡列1,000億元產 業創新轉型基金,與民間共同投資轉型事業及併 購案;行政院也已提出多元上市櫃條件,協助尚

未有獲利的新創事業進入資本市場。

策略三:「強化員工獎酬工具」共有5項措施 重點爲因應企業留才所需,提供員工漿酬工具 ,如庫藏股年限,課稅價格選擇權等規定,在不 違反國際會計準則 (IFRS) 下,政府將盡量放寬。

策略四:「優化醫事人員工作環境」包含3項 措施,重點為政府將檢討我國急重症科別人力配 置及健保支付標準,推動分級醫療,強化醫療體 系服務量能, 改善執業環境; 另也將推動立法 要求醫療機構應提撥年度盈餘5%,改善醫事人員 薪資給付及福利;並將完善醫療事故預防及處理 ,減輕醫療執業風險。

策略五:「加強保護營業秘密」,共4項具體 措施,重點包含硏擬修正營業秘密法、推動加速 妨害秘密罪的偵查及審理,並輔導企業建置管理 及保護機制。

策略六:「強化產業創新升級」,目標是維 持臺灣在世界產業供應鏈中之相對優勢,共有4項 措施,包含:補助企業購置智慧化機械設備及軟 、以AI加速5+2產業創新等。另將以小國大戰 略思維,積極協助產業與國際頂尖企業策略**聯**盟 ,擴大全球供應鏈優勢。

策略七:「擴大股市動能及國際能見度」 為提升IPO審查效率,未來將推動公司上市審查期 間由8週縮短至6週,簡化審查程序,同時提前派 員訪查,確保上市公司品質。此外,也將推動多 元上市方案,增列大型無獲利公司的上市條件

成立專責服務窗口輔導上市櫃;同時也將積極輔 導臺灣上市公司的海外子公司回臺掛牌,擴大資 本市場規模。政府也將推動30家公司納入MSCI成 分股,以吸引更多國際資金。

策略八:「加強發展影視產業」,包含4項 措施,重點爲提振我國文化內容產業之產製量 , 落實本國影視內容自製比例之規範, 擴大本 國自製節目播出平臺及通路;推動「獎補助/投 融資」雙軌制,國發基金在旣有40億元的文創 基金外,再匡列增加60億元投資文化內容產業 ,以百億元規模扮演點火功能,並建立文化金 融體系,引入民間資金活水,提升市場投融資 動能;行政院也將成立行政法人「文化內容策 進院 | ,以國家隊概念,整合政府及民間資源 ,加速原生文化內容及科技應用,跨域振興內 容產業,健全產業生態系;希望未來能拓展國 際通路,形塑國家文化品牌,建構臺灣文化國 際傳播話語權。

三、總結:

(一) 臺灣以自由、民主、法治作為核心價值 與優勢,這也是兩岸最大的差異。政府會致力 維護自由開放的經濟以及保障人權,因爲唯有 自由開放的環境,才能讓人才充份發揮能量。

(二) 兩岸交流及合作應對等互惠, 兩岸事務 均應循雙方協商程序,方能確實保障兩岸人民

(三) 人才的跨國移動與企業的全球佈局為國

際競爭的必然趨勢,這是衝擊也是機會。我國將 善用優勢,自信面對,同時積極行動,也請國人 團結一致, 壯大臺灣, 無畏挑戰。(休士頓僑敎中 心供稿)





(記者韋霓休斯敦報導) 三年前,一群熱愛音樂 的年輕孩子因爲志同道合,共同的理念聚在一起 ,成立了非盈利組織 Spread the Music Association (SMA)。每年的夏天,他們都舉行一場大型的慈善 音樂會,節目包括弦樂器、舞蹈、管弦樂、聲樂 、打擊樂、鋼琴和中國樂器等。他們募集善款, 捐給聯合國基金會 Girl Up 組織,幫助全球各地的 青少年女孩們。今年,他們不改初心,將舉辦第 三屆的愛心慈善音樂會,時間就在8月4日,熱情 邀請民衆參與,看看這場由休斯敦年輕音樂菁英 們所帶來的高質量演出。

音樂無國界

在過去的兩年中,愛心慈善音樂會吸引上千 名觀衆,籌集了超過16,000美元的善款,改善許多 非洲青少年的教育、與健康狀況,甚至改變她們 的人生命運。

SMA 的音樂總監吳長璐表示,歡迎大家來參 與這場慈善音樂會,能帶自己的小孩來觀摩更好 ,這是給孩子很好的典範(5歲以上的小孩子,可以 坐得住聽音樂的都歡迎)。每個人都可以加入自己 的力量,親自來看看這些孩子們的高水準演出, 只是出一點小小的捐款(門票\$10),既幫助遠方的 人,也匯集一股力量,讓正能量不斷傳遞散播。

的確,連續三年非常的不容易,更重要的是 , Spread the Music Association(SMA)整個組織都是 孩子們自動自發的行爲,成員大部分是華裔的孩 子,在他們身上,我們看到了希望,看到了年輕



的活力與善良,也看到新移民的新形象,他們是 用音樂與愛心來融入主流的。去年,聯合國組織 還專門派人來表揚SMA。同時,聯合國也提出邀 請,希望SMA參加明年的Girl Up會議,教導其他 的團體如何能夠組織這樣的活動

内容精彩 陣容强大

這次音樂會,將有50位以上的音樂新秀參加 演出,還有30多位義工在前前後後的幫忙著,他 們都認爲這是非常有意義的事情,不僅欣賞音樂 ,也幫助別人,提高了自身的價值、以及自信。 演出成員都是休士頓、凱蒂、與糖城傑出的年輕 音樂家,是同年齡中最頂尖的,並有拿過國際大 獎的好手,魔法音樂少年李瀚瑞(Henry Li)、王希 捷(Nicholas Wong)也參與演出,可以說是休士頓地 區最優異的青少年表演了。

音樂會將欣賞到 國際才藝大賽中奪冠 的組合,以及全美、 德州、和卡耐基音樂 廳上獲獎的優秀作品 、原唱的歌曲,以及 大家喜愛的舞蹈、和 最流行的 KPOP 等節

此外,今年SMA 特邀休士頓交響樂團 小提琴演奏家童顏女



士做爲音樂會的音樂顧問,相信演出會更加出色

Elizabeth Zhang是SMA的創始人,問她爲什麼 要組織SMA,她的回答很讓人感動,她表示:華人 的第二代在音樂方面有很好的天賦與環境,在努 力之下,都會有一定的成就,希望能夠把這些才 能作更好的發揮,能到更多的地方展示與分享。 所以,他們每個月都會去不同的地方演出,像是 圖書館、老人院、醫院、或者是藝術節,傳播音 樂的美好。

成員們都非常有熱情,爲了演出成功,不僅 努力排練,有的成員甚至騎自行車去幫忙貼海報 ,非常自動自發,這是音樂與愛的魅力,讓他們 如此投入,也因爲音樂的力量,讓他們在一起, 彼此有凝聚力,一群好朋友共同成就這件有意義





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演出時間: 8月4日 6:30PM , 地點在 Christ Church, 3300 Austin Parkway Sugar Land, TX 77479 °

