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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

LOCAL NEWS

Gasoline prices fall again in Houston, but savings could end in February

Marissa Luck, Houston Chronicle

Houstonians enjoyed another week of savings at the pump with gasoline prices falling nearly 4 cents in the past week to $1.87 per a gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy, a gasoline tracking website.

And the gift of low-gas prices will keep giving, at least for now. Analysts at GasBuddy say the cheap gasoline prices will begin getting more expensive by mid-February.

In Houston, gasoline prices Sunday were 34 cents lower than a year ago and nearly 19 cents lower than a month ago.

The national average dipped nearly 19 cents in the past month and 3 cents in the past week to $2.22 per a gallon Sunday. That is 26 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"After a brief hiccup that saw the nation's average gas price rise for two days last week, the overall trend remains in favor of lower gas prices, even as oil prices have rallied," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy ."The window for cheap gas prices continues to close, however, and by mid-February will likely be completely closed- so do take advantage of the low prices while they last."

This compares with the national average that has fallen 3.0 cents per gallon versus last week to $2.22/g, according to GasBuddy.

But take advantage of those lower prices now: GasBuddy predicts drivers could be paying $1 a gallon more by May, pushing average prices above $3 a gallon in most of the nation's biggest metropolitan areas. GasBuddy analysts expect crude prices to rise as production cuts by OPEC and its allies take effect and refiners switch to higher-cost summer fuel blends in the spring.



Houston area frac sand company buys ceramics plant in Georgia

Houston-area frac sand company U.S. Silica has closed on a $23 million deal to buy a Georgia plant that was used to make ceramics proppants for the hydraulic fracturing process.

U.S. Silica Holdings Inc. announced on Monday morning that it closed the deal to buy the Carbo Ceramics plant in Millen, Ga.

Headquartered in Katy, U.S. Silica reported that it plans to convert the facility into a manufacturing plant to make high-end products for the company's industrial and specialties products business.

'"Extreme' demand: Permian Basin driving 'extreme' demand for frac sand

Traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SLCA, U.S. Silica reported that the Houston-area frac sand company is already in the initial stages of customer trials and expects to begin full production at the Georgia plant in the second half of this year.

"Adding this new capability will accelerate new product launches, improve product quality and facilitate important product customizations required by our industrial customers," U.S. Silica President and CEO Bryan Shinn said in a statement.

Carbo Ceramics CEO Gary Kolstad reported that $21 million in proceeds from the plant sale will be used to pay down the company's debt.

Katy-based U.S. Silica has bought the Carbo Ceramics plant in Millen, Georgia facility for $23 million. The plant makes ceramics used as a proppants in the hydraulic fracturing process.



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美南報業電視傳媒集團王鑫生國際藝術中心于2018年7月正式成立。藝術中心設在美南國際貿易中心二樓，主要爲大休斯頓地區藝術愛好者提供教育和拓展平臺，同時成列王鑫生老師在不同年代創作，不同風格的國畫、油畫作品，集創作、展覽、培訓、收藏、研究、交流爲一體，搭建東西方藝術交流平臺。王鑫生的大量作品被多個國家博物館、美術館、收藏家、企業家、名人收藏。
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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

2019 Golden Globes



FILE PHOTO: 76th Golden Globe Awards - Photo Room - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 - Rami Malek (C) poses backstage with his award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture Drama for "Bohemian Rhapsody" along with Queen's Brian May (L) and Roger Taylor. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni/File Photo



FILE PHOTO: 76th Golden Globe Awards - Photo Room - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 Lady Gaga poses backstage with her Best Original Song - Motion Picture award for "Shallow"? from "A Star is Born" REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni/File Photo



76th Golden Globe Awards - Photo Room - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 Patricia Arquette poses backstage with her trophy for Best Performance by an Actress in a Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television for "Ecape at Dannemora"?. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



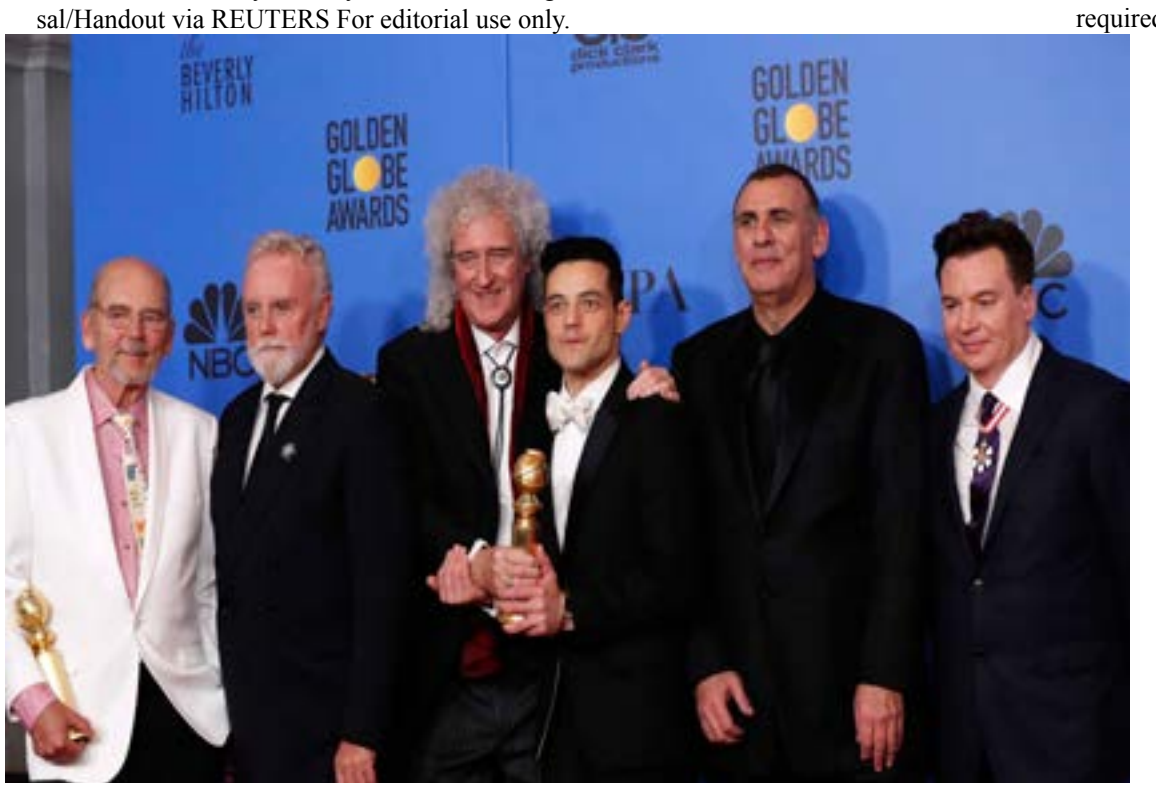
76th Golden Globe Awards - Photo Room - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 - Darren Criss poses backstage with his award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television for "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."



76th Golden Globe Awards - Show - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 - Presenters Justin Hartley, Chrissy Metz and Sterling K. Brown. Paul Drinkwater/NBC Universal/Handout via REUTERS For editorial use only.



76th Golden Globe Awards - Show - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 - Jim Beach (R) accepts the award for Bohemian Rhapsody, winner of Best Motion Picture, Drama. Paul Drinkwater/NBC Universal/Handout via REUTERS For editorial use only. Additional clearance required for commercial or promotional use, contact your local office for assistance.



76th Golden Globe Awards - Photo Room - Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 (L-R) Jim Beach, Roger Taylor, Brian May, Rami Malek with his Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama, Graham King and Mike Meyers pose backstage with their Best Motion Picture - Drama for "Bohemian Rhapsody" REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



76th Golden Globe Awards – Show – Beverly Hills, California, U.S., January 6, 2019 - Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg host.Paul Drinkwater/NBC Universal/Handout via REUTERS For editorial use only. Additional clearance required for commercial or promotional use, contact your local office for assistance.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Chinatown Crime Continues To Worry Residents And Businesses

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



Kevin Khong, who own's Don's Cafe and Sandwiches in the Chinatown area, said some of his customers have been reluctant to contact police after robberies. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

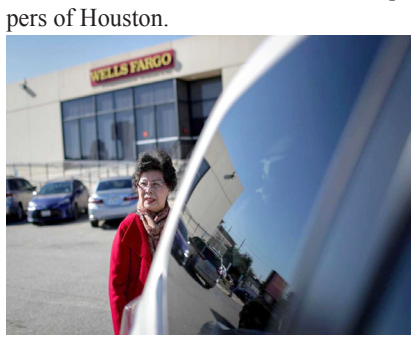
Li-Shen Kline remembers the buzz around the attempted robbery in September. How a man broke the passenger window of a car. How he then slammed a woman to the ground. How it all happened just outside Chinatown's 85C Bakery Café.

Before that night, Kline, a real estate broker, knew the bakery would regularly have long lines for the lunch rush. When she stopped by around noon earlier this month, the store and its parking lot were near empty.

"I hate to see people losing business," Kline said.

Though crime statistics along the Bellaire corridor of Houston's Chinatown have gone down within the last year, the predominantly Asian community in the area continues to reel from a spike in robberies and burglaries of motor vehicles over the last few years. Word about local crime continues to spread across social media, and customers are choosing to avoid the area altogether, which hurts eateries and other merchants, Kline said.

In an effort to support law enforcement and get the community involved in crime prevention, the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women in Southern U.S.A. held a community fundraiser earlier this year. Through donations and the group's own contributions, $3,000 in total was given to three Houston nonprofits: the Houston Police Foundation, The 100 Club, and Assist the Officer. Another $1,500 has been set aside for Crime Stoppers of Houston.



Shen Kline, a real-estate broker who is working to increase safety and security in the Chinatown area, looks over her shoulder in the parking lot of a bank where her car was previously broken into. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

The organization, where Kline serves as chairwoman of the charity committee, is one of the first independent groups to contribute funds for safety efforts in Chinatown. Their hope, Kline said, is that it will spur others to strengthen work with law enforcement, an effort that kicked off last year.

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg, along with Houston Police Department officials and other leaders, met in August 2017 with more than 300 concerned residents at the Chinese Community Center. The residents were seeking a stronger push from law enforcement to address the crime sprees.

In 2017, robberies along the Chinatown Bellaire corridor numbered 40, with burglaries of motor vehicles at 93. By the end of November this year, robberies fell 45 percent to 22 and burglaries dropped by 16 percent to 78, according to HPD.

Lock, take, hide

Michael Faulhaber, HPD Commander of the Westside division, said he's happy to see the numbers go down, but that burglaries in particular remain a concern in Chinatown.



Kenneth Li (right), chairman of the Southwest Management District, talks to Ying Lai, a former president of the Global President of Chinese Business Women, after a meeting about security in the Chinatown area, at a restaurant belonging to Dezhong Ding. (Photo/housonchronicle.com)

"We try to tell people to be aware of their surroundings," Faulhaber said.

He added that residents must ensure they lock their vehicles, not place any valuable belongings in plain view like on the passenger seat, and to stay vigilant and not distracted on their phones.

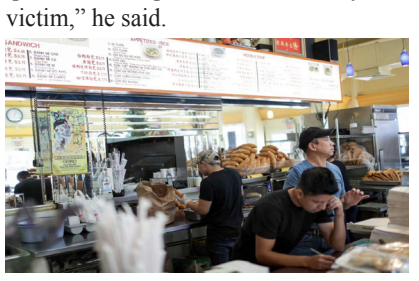
Signs at businesses across Houston, including in Chinatown, urge drivers to "Lock your car. Take your keys. Hide your belongings."

Yet, some of the more common prevailing crimes in the area include when someone enters a car through the passenger door and steals a purse or phone while the car owner is pumping gas, or when a team of burglars track when a potential victim goes to the bank and then steals belongings when the person stops at another location.

Past cases have also included men snatching purses from women putting away groceries in broad daylight.

Even as HPD continues to patrol the area and officers work overtime during the holiday season, Faulhaber said he's concerned about burglaries going unreported.

"Generally people don't want to participate in crime prevention until they're a victim," he said.



Kevin Khong, owner of Don Café Sandwich, said he recently had a customer coming in from the airport who left her bags in her parked car. Within a few moments of being inside the store, a vehicle pulled up to her car and passengers made off with her bags.

Kevin Khong (right), who owns Don's Cafe and Sandwiches in the Chinatown area, said some of his customers have been reluctant to contact police after robberies. Khong keeps an eye on his parking lot. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

Khong, who saw it happen through his store's large windows offered to call police for the woman. She declined, he said.

The time involved in reporting and following through with a burglary case can dissuade victims from coming forward, Faulhaber said. There's also the concern over what some residents consider to be lenient consequences for burglary cases.

The Texas Legislature changed car burglary from a third degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor in 1994. Where burglars would face two to 10 years in prison, they now could face a fine of no more than $4,000 and up to a year of jail time.

Yet both HPD and the Southwest Management District that oversees the Chinatown area urge all victims and bystanders to speak up.

The management district spends about $350,000 a year on safety issues, said Kenneth Li, chairman of the district. They've hired S.E.A.L. Security Solutions to patrol the Bellaire corridor of Chinatown. They've also invited HPD commanders and other officials to regular community safety meetings.

Yet attendance from residents, and especially from local business owners could improve, Li said.



Businessmen and women who live and work in the Chinatown area arrange for a photo with a large check, for $3000, which they gave to a police-related organization Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

"The voice has to come from the community," he said.

Karen Hsieh, former president and current adviser to the Chinese women business group, said crime has always been present in Chinatown, though it used to be concentrated near the Chinese Community Center.

"I think we noticed an increase in crime in the Southwest Chinatown area as the Asian community grew," Hsieh said.

She and Kline both lament the damage done to Chinatown's reputation as talk of crime in the area continues online.

"There is a saying that crime has no address but people magnify it," she said.

As HPD works to develop partnerships with local business owners to better tap into their stores' security cameras, Kline and Hsieh are urging groups like theirs to get more residents engaged in crime prevention, even meeting with business owners and police officers themselves.

"We don't want the robbers to take control of the streets," Hsieh said. (Courtesy houstonchronicle.com)



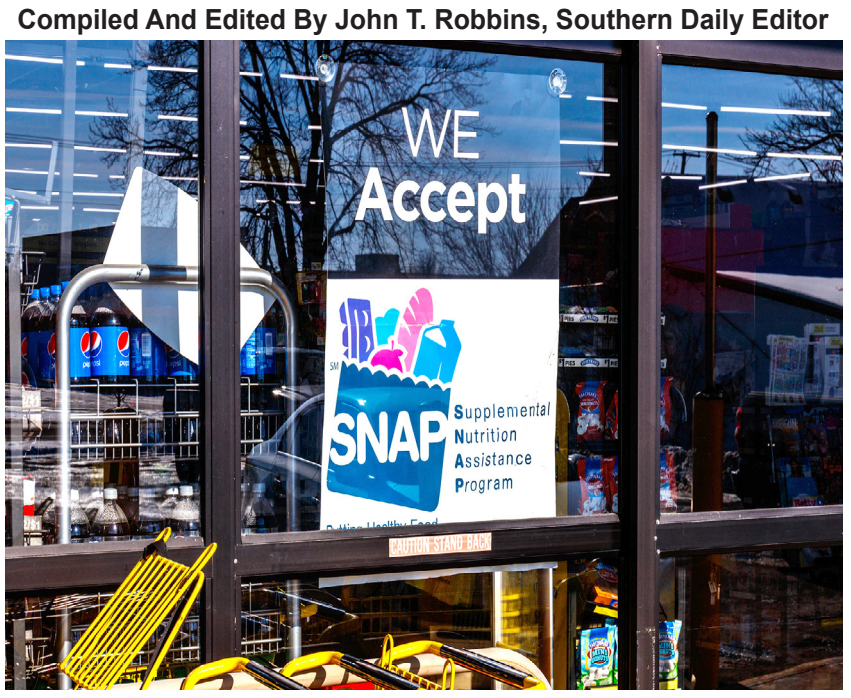
Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

The Trump Administration Has Been Mostly Quiet About The Threat To Food Assistance

Millions Could Lose Food Assistance If Government Shutdown Continues

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



WASHINGTON — If the federal government remains partially shut down for several more months, as President Donald Trump suggested last Friday, millions of people could lose food assistance. The president signaled that the shutdown of the federal government could last "months or even years." If that happens, the people who stand to lose the most are America's poorest families who rely on government assistance to get by.

More than 38 million Americans receive monthly food benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which is often known as food stamps and is arguably the federal government's most important anti-poverty program. If Trump keeps the government shut down through February, benefits could stop.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture runs the program and is one of the federal agencies that shut down last month as part of Trump's strategy to force Congress to pay for a giant wall on the Mexican border. It's just one of dozens of programs — including tax credit refunds for the working poor — that will be disrupted if the shutdown continues.



While the U.S. Department of Agriculture says it has enough funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for the month of January, it does not have sufficient funds to cover all of February. That means some 38 million families who rely on SNAP could go entirely without assistance that month. Additionally, other programs that help feed the elderly as well as mothers and children could be affected.

Its reserve fund amounts to less than the total projected cost of February's benefits. After February, it's possible there would be nothing. Other food programs that serve seniors, mothers and children could also be affected.

Spokespeople for the USDA did not respond to requests for comment last Saturday.

It is possible these benefits could continue during a prolonged shutdown because SNAP has been authorized through the farm bill for the next five years. But the Trump administration doesn't even want to discuss potential effects on SNAP because, according to a USDA employee who spoke to HuffPost, "doing so would highlight the shutdown's harm to struggling Americans instead of furloughed government employees."

But losing SNAP benefits is not the only way America's working poor are being affected by the shutdown. People who rely on public housing could also suffer because the Department of Housing and Urban Development has suspended routine enforcement activities such as mandatory health and safety inspections of housing for low-income families, seniors, and the disabled, NBC News reports. And rental assistance payments could cease if the shutdown continues into February.



"Some of the money goes to housing for the most vulnerable households in this country," one California HUD employee told NBC News. "If there is the smallest glitch in the process, there's going to be a problem. We work day in and day out to resolve these problems."

With 95 percent of HUD employees furloughed, emergency services, including housing for the homeless are also not functioning. And there has been little guidance from the Trump administration on how the agency should be functioning during the shutdown.

"Previous administrations have had calls with industry stakeholders, saying, 'Here's what's going to happen,'" said Ellen Lurie Hoffman, federal policy director of the nonprofit National Housing Trust, told NBC. "None of that happened before this shutdown."

Another way the working poor could be hard hit is through their tax refund. During a shutdown, the Wall Street Journal reports, the IRS will accept payments, but refunds are not typically given. Considering a tax refund is many Americans' biggest financial windfall of the year, that could mean serious consequences.

The Trump administration has kept relatively quiet about the threat to food assistance.

A shutdown lasting many months or a year would be a massive policy experiment. Yanking food benefits from millions of people would probably result in a lot more hunger. Outright starvation hasn't been a public health problem in the U.S. since the food stamp program expanded in the 1960s and 1970s — what happens if food stamps suddenly disappear? There is a far more robust network of food banks than in the 1960s, but there's no way charity could make up the difference between a huge national program and no program at all.



The Trump administration has kept relatively quiet about the threat to food assistance. When a funding lapse approached in 2015, the Obama administration's USDA warned lawmakers that there wasn't enough money for the following month's benefits.

The present situation is slightly different than 2015 since the agency seems to have a larger funding reserve this time around. But a USDA employee who is not authorized to speak publicly told HuffPost some within the agency suspected current leadership didn't want to talk about the possible negative effect on SNAP because doing so would highlight the shutdown's harm to struggling Americans instead of furloughed government employees. Trump has vilified federal workers and claimed they're all Democrats.

One option to prevent the benefit cutoff would be for the USDA to adopt a new legal interpretation and say that SNAP recipients are entitled to benefits even if Congress hasn't appropriated annual funds for the program, since SNAP has been authorized for the next five years by the farm bill.



There's no doubt that even a partial reduction in benefits in February would have a big effect on individual beneficiaries and the economy. When Democrats cut SNAP benefit amounts by about 13 percent in 2013, to pay for improvements to the National School Lunch Program, the impact reverberated through both low-income households and corporate boardrooms.

There's no doubt that even a partial reduction in benefits in February would have a big effect on individual beneficiaries and the economy.

The way SNAP works is the government distributes food benefits on debit cards that program enrollees then redeem for food items at grocery stores — meaning retailers benefit substantially from the program, which costs more than $60 billion annually. When the benefit cut occurred in 2013, chains like Walmart and Target cut their earnings forecasts. Dollar General stockholders have claimed in a lawsuit the firm had failed to notify them how badly business would be harmed by other SNAP reductions.

Local media has been covering the shutdown's possible threat to food assistance since last week. More than a million low-income Georgians could lose their benefits in February, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported Thursday. An official with Alabama's food aid program told a local TV station they expected more guidance from the USDA at the end of the month. Arizona food banks are worried about a surge in demand if the government shutdown continues into February.



The possibility of lost food assistance caught the White House by surprise, the Washington Post reported Friday. Administration spokespeople did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Saturday.

(Courtesy the huffingtonpost.com and (Courtesy rollingstone.com)

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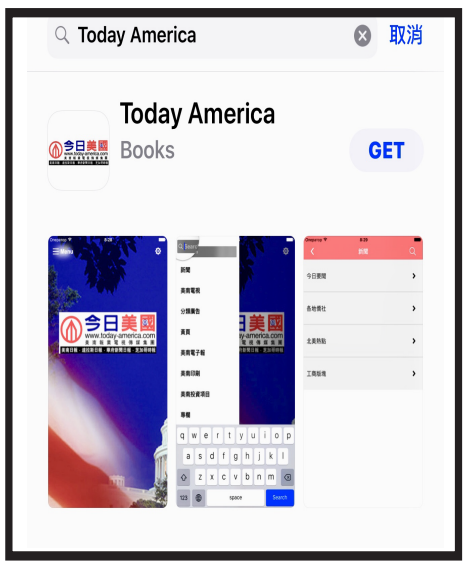
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■阿信表示：“五月天在這趟旅行過得很滿足。”

■阿信感謝歌迷一路相伴。

122场“人生无限公司”落幕

核心內外圍逼爆 五月天勁滿足

香港文匯報訊 台灣天團五月天“人生無限公司”演唱會自2017年3月起跑，歷經644天、122場演出，6日晚在台中舉行最終場，畫下句點。來到最後一場，超過2萬名歌迷場內“打卡”，場外亦聚集逾千人參與，加上線上直播共約50萬人齊聚。主唱阿信感謝歌迷一路相伴，表示：“五月天在這趟旅行過得很滿足。”

■瑪莎手拿印有冠佑樣子的紙牌開玩笑。

■現場歌迷令五月天相當感動。

五月天“人生無限公司”巡演一共造訪高雄、桃園、台中，還到了北京鳥巢、日本武道館及世界各大指標性舞台，包括紐約Barclays Center、聖荷西SAP Center、英國倫敦O2體育館、法國巴黎Accorhotels Arena、香港迪士尼樂園幻想道露天舞台等地，唱出3,904首歌。

6日晚，5子在台中開唱，也是“人生無限公司”最終場，超過2萬名歌迷“打卡”上班，場外更聚集逾千人參與“最後上班日”，加上線上直播共約50萬人齊聚。阿信感傷地說：“歡迎大家來到人生無限公司！今天晚上是最後一次說這句話了。”而五月天也用盡全力地跟社員打招呼，石頭一改溫柔問候，大聲吶喊：“大家晚安！大家晚安！”瑪莎笑指石頭喝了酒，接着瑪莎以他一貫地嘶喊方式打招呼，“台中晚安！我不像他（石頭），我沒有喝，我每天都這樣子，今天很特別，所以我們話都不要說太多，準備的歌有點多，今天晚上加班是真正加班。”冠佑也為今個演唱會下註解：“今天是倒數最後一場，這個演唱會叫做一石二鳥、一箭雙鵰，今天就是要把歌單裡面有的唱完，歌單裡面沒有的都要唱完。”

4月大阪開唱

唱到《知足》時，全場歌迷打開手機燈光，如像“星空”般，場面震撼，阿信感性說：“不知要多久才能看到滿片星空，如此動人神奇場面永遠放在心中，寫在神奇自傳中，謝謝你們，五月天在這趟旅行過得很滿足。”

“人生無限公司”演唱會雖然結束，但五月天透露會以電影影像方式延續這份感動。此外，五月天將於今年4月赴日本大阪開唱，舉辦“Mayday 2019 Just Rock It!!!‘藍｜BLUE’”，蘊含五月天“回歸原點”的精神，“BLUE”正是剛出道時發行的藍色三部曲所設定的專輯封面顏色，以及歌迷製造的“藍色熒光海洋”，一起迎接精彩未完的未來。


■超過2萬名歌迷“打卡”上班。

雨僑人妻絕密生活大公開

■雨僑與老公在家的生活曝光。

香港文匯報訊 久未公開演唱的雨僑（Ava），早前獲邀到酒店獻唱，包括歌曲《陪着你走》、《小幸運》、《晴空塔》及《The Greatest Love Of All》，台下觀眾聽得非常入迷，更興奮到要上台與Ava合唱，Ava親民地與觀眾一起高歌。

不少人都很好奇藝人的私下生活，Ava的同事就跟她玩踢爆，為她拍攝了“闖入雨僑屋企”短片，直擊Ava出show前師奶的一面，在家素顏執屋。原來Ava工作前無論多麼趕時間都要煲飯食，而且師奶仔上身，介紹自己喜歡的日本米和飯素，可是飯素倒極也倒不出來，在旁的老公羅力威取笑她說：“買了好多年了吧！”

此外，Ava在家中有獨特的練歌方法，短片所見，Ava執屋期間忽然不見了，原來就是蓋着被，沉浸在被窩中練歌，真是有趣，Ava笑說：“這個是我老公介紹的練歌方法！”有化妝達人之稱的Ava，雖然邊罵同事阻礙她化妝，但同時忍不住blogger上身，介紹好用的眼線產品。

被批豬年運程不錯 家燕姐催旺大女姻緣


■同姓三分親，家燕姐與Fiona以“姐妹”相稱。

香港文匯報訊（記者 李思穎） 薛家燕、黃致豪主持的《新春開運王》7日邀得嘉賓薛凱琪（Fiona）、李丞責、傅嘉莉進行錄影。家燕姐表示跟Fiona同姓三分親，加上豬年旺“木”，薛的“草花頭”乃草木之意，故特地找來同姓的“妹妹”Fiona做嘉賓，可以旺一旺自己，兩人更親切地以姐妹相稱。

家燕姐得到師父李丞責指點迷津，指屬虎的她在豬年運程不錯，比去年更旺，驛馬星動，家燕姐笑說：“今年會展開巡唱，分別到內地、星馬、美加等地，還有非洲在接洽中，是去做義工。”家燕姐有否問師父何時抱孫？她謂：“不會今年，應該沒那麼快，可能再隔多年，阿仔同新抱都好忙，他叫我不好這麼多事。（催他們快些生寶寶？）不會催，催不來，自然生態。（最想請教師傅催旺大女石祐珊的姻緣？）有呀，不用買桃花樹，最重要是減少她的工作，不過不關我事，王梓軒也忙，她是梓軒經理人。”

爆Fiona今年桃花旺

家燕姐又爆Fiona今年桃花好旺，Fiona即說：“桃花旺是代表人緣好，有觀眾緣，不過姻緣一個就夠。”家燕姐半信半疑說：“你未遇到？這麼靚女。”Fiona笑說：“同你們一樣，要順其自然，催不得。”家燕姐提醒Fiona眼角不要太高，OK就得，不要要求太高。Fiona認同說：“最緊要專一、誠實。”過來人的家燕姐和應說：“是呀，要負責任，好似我這樣帶三個小朋友很辛苦。”Fiona指家燕姐和其爸爸所說的一樣，找另一半一定要對所有事情都有責任感。

談到工作，Fiona表示早前忙着拍內地真人秀，稍後會籌備新歌出碟，希望廣東和國語碟可以同步推出，迎合不同粉絲口味，之前花很多時間去拍真人秀和拍戲，人愈大愈覺得工作除了滿足藝術方面，也希望把快樂帶給人，這是很大功德，但開心完就要重投音樂。家燕姐笑說：“說得好，帶歡樂給大家非常好，所以我功德無量，哈哈。”


■林憶蓮

憶蓮3.5小時完成一首MV

香港文匯報訊 林憶蓮睽違6年推出全新國語大碟《0》。專輯第二首推薦曲《纖維》MV和黃中平導演合作。拍攝MV當天，憶蓮見到好久不見的黃中平導演，給彼此大大的溫暖擁抱。憶蓮表示跟導演認識很久，多年前的專輯封面就是由中平導演拍攝，當時他是攝影師，現在則是非常棒的MV導演。在專輯的企劃期，林憶蓮也特地赴台，5天的時間內兩支MV《沙文》、《纖維》也於其間完成。而《纖維》更是只花了3.5小時拍攝，即便一段時間沒有拍MV，憶蓮依然是那樣優雅從容地掌握着每個導演想要營造的氛圍。

學友否認封麥之說

香港文匯報訊 “學友・經典世界巡迴演唱會－2019 高雄站”6日晚舉行，是巡演第218場，也是香港以外的最後一場，代表此次巡演即將邁入尾聲。

張學友在台上簡單自我介紹，唱歌34年了，1986年來台出專輯，他自己還上網查，據說開演唱會八百多場，更表示，“不瞞大家說，本人今年57歲，網上流傳張學友的演唱會以後沒得看了，看一場少一場，我來闢謠一下，本人會繼續唱的，如果可以唱、可以跳的話，不管我是60、70歲！”隨後表示自己有點抱恙，但保證大家看到的不會比前兩天少，也不會降key，他也說明因為換了新衣服，褲子太緊，沒辦法劈一字馬，因為怕衣服會爆，希望60歲辦演唱會還可以劈給大家看！


■學友清唱江蕙的《家後》。

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運動喜劇《德魯大叔》 奧尼爾領銜跨界出演





好萊塢喜劇《德魯大叔》即將於1月11日在國內院線吹響歡樂哨音，影片匯聚了凱裏·歐文、沙奎爾·奧尼爾、克裏斯·韋伯、雷吉·米勒、內特·羅賓遜、麗莎·萊斯利等壹眾NBA巨星跨界出演。今日片方曝光了本片的終極海報與終極預告。

今日發布的終極預告從主角——籃球教練達克斯的童年視角切入，達克斯在少年時因被人“蓋帽”而失去了征戰籃球的夢想。長大後達克斯好不容易組建了球隊，但辛苦培養的明星球員卻被死對頭挖走。

處在人生谷底的達克斯遇見了功成身退的德魯大叔，感到了久違的希望。達克斯爲了奪冠，孤註壹擲地說服德魯大叔重新出山，兩人踏上了英雄集結的旅途，找回德魯大叔以前的隊友，欲征戰洛克公園街球聯賽。

然而這支“老幹部”球隊首次出山就被高中生就打了個落花流水，奧尼爾更是在片中輸球後調侃道“傳球啊，科比！”。

輸掉比賽後，達克斯道出了新球隊的背景：“大塊頭”（沙奎爾·奧尼爾飾）雖然人高馬壯，但已轉行冥想與空手道行業、“阿光”（雷吉·米勒 飾）是壹個“看不見籃筐”的萌叔、還有坐在輪椅上的“鞋子”（內特·羅賓遜 飾）.....達克斯在賽場再遇舊日敵手，兩人的搞笑鬥嘴也激發出達克斯身上的激昂鬥誌，這支被對手嘲笑是“帶著生命體征監測手環的球隊”最後將何去何從？上映後將給大家壹個答案。

運動喜劇《德魯大叔》，由凱裏·歐文領銜主演，集結了這群籃球界名人堂級傳奇巨星，加上《逃出絕命鎮》裏爾·萊爾·哈瓦瑞、《閨蜜假期》蒂芬妮·哈迪什等笑點擔當，影片即將於1月11日上映。

卡神新作《阿麗塔》角色海報大曝光

阿麗塔驚艷亮相氣場足 反派角色悉數出場

由二十世紀福斯出品，科幻電影大師詹姆斯·卡梅隆編劇及羅伯特·羅德裏格茲執導的科幻動作視效巨制《阿麗塔：戰鬥天使》已確定引進內地。近日官方發布了壹組電影角色卡，影片中的主要角色悉數登場，不同的造型和人物設定使得角色充滿故事性，更有神秘人物剪影引發眾多粉絲猜想討論。

《阿麗塔：戰鬥天使》將背景設定在了26世紀，人體與機械的交相融合已經不足爲奇。在天墜之戰後，鋼鐵城成爲了名副其實的“混噸之城”，廢土氣息與科幻感相融合，生活在這裏的人們也在末日焦慮與世界秩序中艱難地維持著平衡。

在最新曝光的角色卡中，阿麗塔換上了狂戰士身體、手持大馬士革刀堅毅的看向遠方。影片中，阿麗塔被依德醫生發現時只剩完好的大腦和頭顱，而換上機甲後的阿麗塔發現自己擁有超強的戰鬥能力，並在接連不斷的戰鬥中迅速成長。

依德醫生則是帶著標誌性的帽子，表情若有所思，影片中他不僅是心善業務好的醫生，還有壹個反差極大的隱藏身份—賞金獵人。少年雨果則騎著單輪摩托，形象十分帥氣，在預告中可以看出雨果與阿麗塔互生情愫，這份戀情將會如何發展也讓眾多影迷充滿期待。

反派陣營同樣氣勢十足，有鋼鐵城“食物鏈”頂端的工廠老板維克特、與依德醫生有過壹段隱情的醫生綺蓮、高傲狡猾的賞金獵人紮潘、跋扈霸道的改造人格魯依什卡、妮西亞等。

在目前曝光的預告片中可以看到，格魯依什卡的機械手已經升級成能夠自由伸縮、殺傷力極大的金屬爪鐮，而在對戰中靈巧的阿麗塔借力騰空壹躍從格魯依什卡手上極速飛出的金屬鏈條中穿過的場景也是預告中最驚艷的鏡頭之壹。反派陣營中還有壹個神秘人物剪影諾瓦，而他的真實身份至今還未公布，這也將是電影的壹大伏筆。

影片《阿麗塔：戰鬥天使》根據日本漫畫家木城雪戶的漫畫《銃夢》改編，影片將於2月14日北美上映，國內上映指日可待。



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慶祝中華民國108年升旗典禮 達福僑胞踴躍參加支持中華民國





中華民國開國108年元旦升旗典禮於1月1日上午十時在達拉斯華人活動中心前廣場舉行愛國僑胞一早就聚集在達拉斯華人活動中心前，高唱中華民國國歌

中華民國開國108年元旦升旗典禮於1月1日上午十時在達拉斯華人活動中心前廣場舉行，由達福中華社團聯誼會主辦，達福榮光聯誼會協辦，駐休士頓辦事處林副處長映佐、休士頓僑教中心莊主任雅淑專程前往參加，雖然當天氣溫只有零度，但愛國僑胞一早就聚集在達拉斯華人活動中心前，高唱中華民國國歌，當青天白日滿地紅國旗緩緩升空，許多僑胞眼眶閃著感動淚光，紛紛拿起手搖國旗，現場一片旗海飄揚!

主辦單位聯誼會張志榮會長在升旗儀式後致歡迎詞並祝賀達福地區僑胞新年快樂,林映佐說明目前政府推動許多創新改革，希望讓中華民國台灣未來更好，期許僑胞繼續給予中華民國台灣支持。莊雅淑代表僑委會吳新興委員長感謝達福僑胞對中華民國台灣的愛護與支持，並表示中華民國與僑胞有密不可分情感，僑教中心將繼續提供優質服務，希望凝聚僑心，團結力量，僑務委員孟敏寬表示達拉斯全僑必定繼熱愛的中華民國台灣。

升旗典禮後，達福中華社團聯誼會於活動中心大禮堂舉行慶祝茶會，林映佐、莊雅淑、張志榮會長、孟敏寬僑務委員共切蛋糕祝願國慶昌隆，並進行中華社團聯誼會新舊會長交接典禮，由張志榮會長交接予新屆會長黃甫泉先生，同時也為該會所屬各社團之新舊任會長進行交接儀式，林映佐、莊雅淑代表僑委會吳新興委員長頒發賀狀及感謝狀嘉勉新卸任會長，同時代表政府頒發僑務委員詹正治任命狀以及多位僑務榮譽職人員聘書、107年僑界舉辦雙十國慶有功僑團及個人獎狀、推動臺灣參與聯合國活動獎狀及海外華裔青年文化志工大使(FASCA)美國總統志工服務獎等多項獎勵，主辦單位亦準備表演節目及點心招待與會僑胞，活動圓滿成功!



元旦慶祝茶會各僑務榮譽職人員、僑團代表以及海外華裔青年文化志工大使(FASCA)美國總統志工服務獎受贈青年志工合影



林映佐、莊雅淑、張志榮會長、孟敏寬僑務委員共切蛋糕祝願國慶昌隆



林映佐(左3)、莊雅淑(左1)代表頒發僑委會吳新興委員長頒發賀狀以及感謝狀給中華社團聯誼會新任會長黃甫泉(右1)卸任會長張志榮(左2)



林映佐、莊雅淑代表政府頒發僑務委員詹正治任命狀以及多位僑務榮譽職人員聘書以及107年僑界舉辦雙十國慶有功僑團及個人獎狀、推動臺灣參與聯合國活動獎狀

澳大利亚人对吃袋鼠居然这么狂热







去澳大利亚旅游的人经常怀揣着一个美丽的梦想——吃一口袋鼠肉。

这种被标记在澳大利亚国徽上的动物，在很多人的印象中基本就是澳大利亚国家的代表。然而澳大利亚人基本上都能没什么负罪感地大口吃这种作为国家标记的动物肉，这实在是非常吊诡的一幕。其实何止是没有负罪感，澳大利亚农民在吃袋鼠的时候还觉得自己是相当正义的呢。

这是怎么回事？

澳大利亚岛上的居民吃袋鼠已经不是一天两天了，早在殖民者到来之前，澳大利亚的土著居民就已经和袋鼠开始了相爱相杀的生活，并且把袋鼠纳入了自己的日常饮食当中。这一点其实也很好理解，在荒芜的澳洲，除了袋鼠这种大型动物以外，能供土著居民食用的生物也并不多。除了澳洲东南部的少数地区，澳大利亚土著居民连农业时代都还没有到达。

所以当欧洲殖民者到来的时候，把土著居民屠宰袋鼠和烹饪袋鼠的过程当成了一种类似民俗景观的东西，饶有兴味地观察起来：

“在狩猎袋鼠的时候，人们会用长矛刺穿它们，在放倒袋鼠以后把它们的内脏拉出来，再用木钎把敞开的腹腔封上。然后土著人会把袋鼠扛到火堆上简单地燎烤，把烧焦的毛刮净，紧接着放进用热炭加热好的地洞里，盖上土烘烤。袋鼠的尾巴和双足是要在烤制之前剁掉和内脏收在一起的。对于每天都能看到漫山遍野袋鼠的土著来说，这种难以烹饪和啃食的部位没有认真处理的价值。

不过袋鼠的一腔热血倒是土著们喜欢的饮料，而研究已经证明这是一种无害的液体。

烤熟的袋鼠要切碎，以便分享给很多人，切割的方法也和其他动物的屠宰不一样。刀子要按照两条大腿、两片臀部、两边肋排、腹肉、背部和下背部的顺序切割。在澳洲中部的阿尔恩特人（Arrernte）部落里，到处都能见到这么屠宰袋鼠的人。”

对于中国人来说，看到土著的袋鼠烹饪方法是在泥土里烘烤，难免会让人联想起美味的江苏常熟特产叫花鸡。在缺乏锅具的地区，这种以大地为锅的烹饪方法是很常见的，能够用最简单的方法加热食物，并保持食物的水分，比架在火上的烧烤显得养生一些。

而在锅具传到澳大利亚之后，袋鼠肉的烹饪方法又变得高级了起来。上世纪30年代，食用袋鼠肉已经广为远道而来的殖民者所熟悉，澳大利亚本土的烹饪书上频频出现袋鼠肉的身影，其中最受欢迎的是袋鼠肉汤。

而且这种袋鼠肉汤的烹饪方法又一次和江苏的食物迷之相似。在煮汤时，需要用到咸猪肉和新鲜袋鼠肉一起煮汤，对于西方人来说口味还是比较重的。用咸肉和鲜肉一同炖煮的汤，让人想起苏南著名的腌笃鲜。

就这样在土著居民和殖民者的传承之下，袋鼠肉菜有了自己的师承和套路，变成了澳洲美食里不可或缺的一份子。

没有吃过袋鼠肉的人恐怕很难想象袋鼠肉的本味。而真的尝过以后，你又会觉得这种肉类的滋味一言难尽。

在口感上，有人形容袋鼠肉像是鹿肉和水牛肉的混合，比鹿肉水分更足，比水牛肉更精瘦，是一种口感比较温润的肉类。在气味上，袋鼠肉又比其他的红肉更腥气，处理不当容易倒人胃口。在口味上，袋鼠肉则有一种特殊的草的味道，能够让食客体会到袋鼠活着的时候在草原上蹦跳的鲜活气息。

对于现在的澳大利亚人和游客来说，在餐厅能吃到的最常见的袋鼠肉做法是煎肉排。切碎的袋鼠肉捏成的汉堡排，可以和正品牛肉汉堡排相媲美。在制作时，建议使用葵花籽油或是橄榄油和少量盐腌制肉排15分钟，然后在高温下快速烹饪。随后配上水果酱、大蒜、迷迭香、杜松子、胡椒粉等装饰物和香料，就可以吃了。

和养殖肉类相比，袋鼠肉含有的苏氨酸，异亮氨酸和缬氨酸含量较高，精氨酸和蛋氨酸 - 胱氨酸含量较低，这可能正是造成袋鼠肉的风味特殊的原因。对于日常食用养殖肉类的现代人来说，袋鼠肉也可以作为特殊外源性氨基酸的补充剂，用以补充在其他肉类里少见的苏氨酸，异亮氨酸和缬氨酸。

另外，袋鼠肉的来源往往是野生袋鼠，比起规模饲养的牲畜，脂肪含量较低（只有2%），并含有高浓度的共轭亚油酸（CLA）。根据澳大利亚科学组织CSIRO的研究成果，这种物质有助于减少肥胖和动脉粥样硬化，甚至还有一部分抗癌和抗糖尿病功能。但很难判断这些神乎其神的功效究竟是确实有临床证据还是部分为了宣传澳大利亚旅游而夸张出来的。

总之，在品尝这些煎制的肉制品时，还是怀揣着事后减肥的品美食之心，不要把健康期望寄托在食物本身上面吧。

不过真正的澳洲老饕最喜欢的，还是小袋鼠肉。小袋鼠肉的口味更加特殊，甚至略带一些甜味。根据澳大利亚名厨Colin Fassnidge的建议，小袋鼠肉排只需要简单地加热就可以食用了，负责翻面的钳子一定要下手勤快，不能让手掌大小的肉排在火上单面烤制2分钟以上，否则肉质就会变老，不好吃了。

为了满足越来越多游客的需要、适应出口的需求（澳洲70%的袋鼠肉是会出口到德国、法国、英国、俄罗斯、美国等国家的创外汇产品），澳大利亚人也找到了腌制袋鼠肉干的方法，能卖到每公斤200元人民币的价格。

这么看来，吃袋鼠肉似乎是澳洲人民的日常生活，从古到今大家都已经习以为常了。但其实不是这样的，一直到1980年之前，澳大利亚政府也没有允许民众合法地食用袋鼠肉，只是在法律上没有明确地禁止。

让袋鼠合法走上餐桌的，是澳大利亚的农民。

袋鼠是草食性动物，而且领地意识和攻击性都很强，是食草动物里的战斗机，有足够的能力和殖民者带来的绵羊争夺食物空间。势单力薄的个人和牧羊犬，有时候甚至都不是袋鼠的对手。澳大利亚的农民在上世纪中前期可是恨死了烦人的袋鼠。于是他们自发地组织起来，猎杀袋鼠，吃它们的肉，鞣制它们的皮革（真正做到了食肉寝皮）。时至今日，用袋鼠睾丸皮制作的小囊袋还是象征着好运的纪念品（有点恶心），在澳大利亚的纪念品店里经常能买到。