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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Tuesday, December 07 2021

The trials of Aung San Suu Kyi, from heroine to villain to convict



Myanmar's National League for Democracy Party leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at a news conference at her home in Yangon November 5, 2015.

Dec 6 (Reuters) - Put on trial by the generals who overthrew her elected government in a coup that cut short democratic reforms she had fought for decades to bring about, Myanmar's ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced on Monday to four years in prison. The 76-year-old's sentence was later reduced to two years' detention in an undisclosed location after she was convicted of incitement and violations of a law on natural disasters in the first verdicts in more than a dozen criminal cases filed against her since the Feb. 1 military takeover. Just 14 months before the coup, she had travelled to the U.N. International Court of Justice in the Hague to defend those same generals against charges of genocide over a 2017 military offensive that drove ethnic Rohingya Muslims out of Myanmar.

Suu Kyi's long struggle for democracy made her a heroine in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, and the mostly Western criticism she faced over the plight of the Rohingya had no negative impact on her popularity at home. Known as "the Lady", Suu Kyi had

fulfilled the dreams of millions when her party first won a landslide election in 2015 that established Myanmar's first civilian government in half a century.

She spent 15 years under house arrest in the struggle for democracy, but her administration had to cohabit with the generals who retained control of defence and security.

That hybrid government failed to unite Myanmar's many ethnic groups or end its decades-long civil wars, and Suu Kyi also oversaw tightening restrictions on the press and civil society while falling out with some former allies.

But her second election victory in November unnerved the military - and it seized power on Feb. 1, alleging voter fraud by her National League for Democracy party despite rejection of the army's claims by the election commission and monitors.

The first criminal cases filed against Suu Kyi included breaching coronavirus restrictions and possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies. read more

More serious charges were to follow,

including incitement, corruption and breaching the Official Secrets Act. She now faces a dozen cases with combined maximum sentences of more 100 years. read more

Protesters have taken to the streets in her name, calling for the release of "Mother Suu" despite hundreds of killings and thousands of detentions since the coup.

LADY BY THE LAKE

The daughter of independence hero Aung San, who was assassinated in 1947 when she was 2 years old, Suu Kyi spent much of her young life overseas. She attended Oxford University, met her husband, the British academic Michael Aris, and had two sons.

Before they married, she asked Aris to promise he would not stop her if she needed to return home. In 1988, she got the phone call that changed their lives: her mother was dying.

In the capital Yangon, then known as Rangoon, she was swept up in a student-led revolution against the then junta that had plunged the country into a ruinous isolation.

New York City mandates shots for all private businesses amid Omicron spread

NEW YORK, Dec 6 (Reuters) - New York City declared on Monday that all private-sector employers must implement COVID-19 vaccine mandates for their workers, as the highly transmissible Omicron variant has spread to at least one-third of U.S. states.

The biggest U.S. city set a Dec. 27 deadline for all 184,000 businesses within its limits to make their employees show proof that they have been vaccinated. In addition, children 5 to 11 years old must get at least one vaccine dose by Dec. 14 to enter restaurants and to participate in extracurricular school activities, such as sports, band, orchestra and dance, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

"Vaccination is the way out of this pandemic, and these are bold, first-in-the-nation measures to encourage New Yorkers to keep themselves and their communities safe," de Blasio, who leaves office next month, said in a statement.

De Blasio's successor, Eric Adams, "will evaluate this mandate and other COVID strategies when he is in office and make determinations based on science, efficacy and the advice of health professionals," said his spokesperson Evan Thies.

About 27% of children ages 5 to 12 have gotten at least one dose and 15% are fully vaccinated, according to the city's website.

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The Greater New York Chamber of Commerce said it supported the expanded mandate.

The requirements come at a time when new coronavirus infections are accelerating nationwide, especially in northern states, as colder weather has encouraged more mingling and socializing indoors.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/06/2021

ITC Community Leaders Meeting



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Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Many Texas community leaders were invited to the Houston International Trade Center on Saturday to discuss how to promote the local economy through financial institutions.

In the last ten years more than four million people have moved to Texas. We are becoming one of the most important economic powers in the nation, especially in Harris County and the greater Houston area. More than one million Asians and other immigrants have come to this region.

Over fifteen years ago we created the Houston International District with the

assistance from our state representative Hubert Vo. We changed this thirteen-square-mile-area from a depressed area to one of the most prosperous districts.

Our community meeting tonight included a very diverse group including business leaders from

the Chinese, Korean, Indian, Japanese, Latino and Nepalese communities. We all agreed that we need more financial institutions to help more small businesses.

Judge Robert Eckels also attended the meeting. He is working on building the bullet train between Houston and Dallas. This project will make a big impact on the Texas economy.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Trucks covered by volcanic ash which is spewed out of Mount Semeru are seen in Sumber Wuluh Village, Lumajang, East Java province, Indonesia. Antara Foto/Zabur Karuru



Skiers dressed as Santa Claus ride the lifts to participate in the charity Santa Sunday at Sunday River ski resort in Bethel, Maine. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



An anti-abortion activist attends a protest outside the Supreme Court building, ahead of arguments in the Mississippi abortion rights case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, in Washington, December 1. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



Rocena, a five-month pregnant migrant, touches her forehead as she lies on the floor, saying she has a fever and has been waiting in line for several days to obtain a humanitarian visa to transit through Mexico territory, in Tapachula, Mexico. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez



People smoke marijuana at the annual Expo Cannabis in Montevideo, Uruguay. REUTERS/Mariana Greif



A passenger tries to find a flight as several airlines stopped flying out of South Africa, amidst the spread of the new coronavirus variant Omicron, at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, November 28. REUTERS/Sumaya Hisham

Omicron Covid Variant In At Least 17 States — Cases Are Likely To Rise, CDC Chief Says

Omicron Now in 17 U.S. States

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



Key Points

At least 15 states have detected the omicron coronavirus variant. That number of cases is expected to rise, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told ABC News on Sunday.

At least 17 states have detected the omicron coronavirus variant and that number is expected to rise, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told ABC News on Sunday. “We know we have several dozen cases and we’re following them closely. And we are every day hearing about more and more probable cases so that number is likely to rise,” Walensky said on “This Week.”

The variant, first discovered in South Africa, has several mutations to the spike protein that allows the virus to enter the body, and some of those mutations could lead to increased antibody resistance and transmissibility. Scientists are still collecting data on the virus and the effectiveness of current Covid-19 vaccines.



Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testifies during the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing titled Next Steps: The Road Ahead for the COVID-19 Response, in Dirksen Building on Thursday, November 4, 2021. (Photo/Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc. / Getty Images)

After being detected in several other countries, the U.S. reported its first omicron case on Dec. 1. While some patients had recently traveled to southern Africa, others had no travel history. That suggests that community transmission is underway. In an effort to prevent the virus from seeding itself in the U.S., officials had at first restricted travel for non-U.S. citizens from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia,

Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease official, said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union” that he hopes that ban can be lifted in a “reasonable period of time.”

Still, the vast majority of cases in the U.S. are still caused by the delta variant.

“We have about 90 to 100,000 cases a day right now in the United States, and 99.9% of them are the delta variant,” Walensky said. (CNBC.com)

Related



Fauci Says Early Reports Encouraging About Omicron Variant

Dr. Anthony Fauci

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. U.S. health officials said Sunday, Dec. 5 that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations. President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN’s “State of the Union” that scientists need more information before drawing conclusion’s about omicron’s severity. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

U.S. health officials said Sunday that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations. President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN’s “State of the Union” that scientists need more information before drawing conclusions about omicron’s severity. Reports from South Africa, where it emerged and is becoming the dominant strain, suggest that hospitalization rates have not increased alarmingly.

“Thus far, it does not look like there’s a great degree of severity to it,” Fauci said. “But we have really got to be careful before we make any determinations that it is less severe or it really doesn’t cause any severe illness, comparable to delta.” Fauci said the Biden administration is considering

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lifting travel restrictions against noncitizens entering the United States from several African countries. They were imposed as the omicron variant exploded in the region, but U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has blasted such measures as “travel apartheid.”



“Hopefully we’ll be able to lift that ban in a quite reasonable period of time,” Fauci said. “We all feel very badly about the hardship that has been put on not only on South Africa but the other African countries.”

Omicron had been detected in about a third of U.S. states by Sunday, including in the Northeast, the South, the Great Plains and the West Coast. Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana were among the latest states to confirm cases. But delta remains the dominant variant, making up more than 99% of cases and driving a surge of hospitalizations in the north. National Guard teams have been sent to help overwhelmed hospitals in western New York, and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring any hospitals facing limited patient capacity to reduce scheduled procedures that are not urgent.

U.S. officials continued urging people to get vaccinated and to receive booster shots, as well as take precautions such as wearing masks when among strangers indoors, saying anything that helps protect against delta will also help protect against other variants. Even if omicron proves less dangerous than delta, it remains problematic, World Health Organization epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove told CBS’ “Face The Nation.” “Even if we have a large number of cases that are mild, some of those individuals will need hospitalizations,” she said. “They will need to go into ICU and some people will die. ... We don’t want to see that happen on top of an already difficult situation with delta circulating globally.”

Two years into the outbreak, COVID-19 has killed over 780,000 Americans, and deaths are running at about 860 per day.



More than 6,600 new hospital admissions are being reported daily, according to tracking data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COVID-19 cases and deaths in the U.S. have dropped by about half since the delta peak in August and September, but at more than 86,000 new infections per day, the numbers are still high, especially heading into the holidays, when people travel and gather with family. (Courtesy apnews.com)

Businesses Brace For Omicron

The omicron variant poses a new threat to businesses that were already struggling to recover from the economic damage done by previous strains of the virus. Gyms, concert venues, restaurants, airlines and other industries that have been battered by the pandemic are bracing for another COVID-19 wave that could curb demand and prompt renewed government restrictions.

Several states have detected cases of the omicron variant, which health experts say could be more contagious than the delta variant. Shortly after scientists in South Africa discovered the omicron variant, the country’s COVID-19 cases spiked dramatically.

Thanks to the prevalence of vaccines, U.S. officials don’t foresee a return to the early days of the pandemic, when entire sectors of the economy were forced to shut down. But experts still worry that many businesses that barely overcame the delta variant might not survive another outbreak.



“We’re all on our toes right now, thinking, ‘Oh God, what’s going to happen next,’” said Brett Ever, head of government affairs at CrossFit. “The uncertainty really does not help, especially when so many gym owners are almost entirely bled out.” Fitness facilities have taken a huge hit from customers staying home and COVID-19 restrictions that limit capacity or require masks. If omicron spreads rapidly, the wave would likely run into January and February, when gyms typically get a substantial revenue bump from short-lived New Year’s resolutions.

“This is going to be a critical time and if there is a new variant spreading around and there are new restrictions, that’s going to affect any chance that a small gym owner might have to try to stay viable,” Ever said.

By the end of the year, the pandemic will have forced 25 to 30 percent of fitness facilities to close permanently, according to the Community Gyms Coalition and the Global Health and Fitness Association, which on Thursday urged Congress to provide federal aid to gyms in light of the omicron threat.

“Aid is desperately needed to address the damage already done to these vulnerable businesses and to bolster them,” the groups wrote in a letter to congressional leaders.

Another COVID-19 outbreak could also spell trouble for restaurants, which lost customers in droves at the peak of the delta variant wave. Restaurant owners say that they still haven’t recovered, and their operations are continually being disrupted by the ongoing supply chain crunch, worker shortages

and rising food prices.



The U.S. has lost more than 90,000 restaurants since the start of the pandemic. Restaurant groups are pushing Congress to authorize more federal aid after its \$28.6 billion rescue fund quickly ran out of

money, with two-thirds of restaurants that applied for aid ultimately missing out.

“Until Congress moves to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, every new variant that could impact how consumers use restaurants threatens to push thousands closer to closing permanently,” said Sean Kennedy, executive vice president of public affairs at the National Restaurant Association.

The delta-driven outbreak this summer also flattened demand for concerts and other in-person events. Venue operators, who successfully lobbied Congress for a \$16 billion grant program that they say saved around 90 percent of the industry from going under, are gearing up for another wave. Upticks in cases prompt more customers to skip shows they previously booked, depriving operators of crucial income from the sale of food, drinks and merchandise.

“As humans, most of us crave certainty. In a pandemic, we don’t get that. We have to expect that things will change and we have to recognize that we have to adapt based on what’s new,” said Audrey Fix Schaefer, vice president of the board of directors at the National Independent Venue Association, which launched during the pandemic.



President Biden said Thursday that he plans to fight a winter COVID-19 wave with vaccines, booster shots and testing, not “shutdowns or lockdowns,” signaling that the federal government won’t require businesses to close their doors in the event of another outbreak. The Biden administration this week, however, did enact tighter testing requirements on international travelers entering the country. That’s after it banned international travel from eight southern African nations located near the first detected omicron outbreak.

The U.S. Travel Association said that it hopes the new testing restrictions will be temporary, while Airlines for America, an airline industry trade group, said it supports the Biden administration’s framework for international travel. (Courtesy the.hill.com)

BUSINESS

Japan’s Attack on Pearl Harbor – 80 Years Ago Today

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

“Day of Infamy” Shaped the Course of History

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

The attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941, occurred 80 years ago today and the vast majority of people reading this article more than likely were not even born at that time, and those of later generations may even lack a basic understanding of the impact this event had on history. But along with being the over-riding action that

forced the United States into World War II, the attack on Pearl Harbor shaped the structure of future relationships between the U.S. and other countries for years to come, right up to the present day.

With a single, carefully-planned and well-executed stroke, the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, one of the great defining moments of history, removed the United States Navy’s battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire’s southward expansion. America, completely unprepared and considerably weakened by the surprise strike, was abruptly brought into the Second World War as a full combatant.



On the following day, December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking before the United States Congress, stated that, “Yesterday, December 7, 1941 --- a date which will live in infamy --- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

Continuing his address, the President announced that at the same time the Japanese had simultaneously also attacked Malaysia, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, Wake Island and Midway Island.



“Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area,” the President explained. In conclusion, Roosevelt said, “I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

Eighteen months earlier, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had transferred the United States Fleet to Pearl Harbor as a presumed deterrent to Japanese aggression. The Japanese military, deeply engaged in the seemingly endless war it had started against China in mid-1937, badly needed oil and other raw materials. Commercial access to these was gradually curtailed as the conquests continued. In July 1941 the Western powers effectively halted trade with Japan. From then on, as the desperate Japanese schemed to seize the oil and mineral-rich East Indies and Southeast Asia, a Pacific war was virtually inevitable. By late November 1941, with peace negotiations clearly approaching an end, informed U.S. officials (and they were well-informed, they believed, through an ability to read Japan’s diplomatic codes) fully expected a Japanese attack into the Indies, Malaya and probably the Philippines. Completely unanticipated was the prospect that Japan would attack east, as well.



The U.S. Fleet’s Pearl Harbor base was reachable by an aircraft carrier force, and the Japanese Navy secretly sent one

across the Pacific with greater aerial striking power than had ever been seen on the World’s oceans. Its planes hit just before 8AM on December 7th. Within a short time, five of eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, with the rest damaged. Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also knocked out and over 2400 Americans were dead. Soon after, Japanese planes eliminated much of the American air force in the Philippines, and a Japanese Army was ashore in Malaya.

These great Japanese successes, achieved without any prior diplomatic formalities, shocked and enraged the previously divided American people into a level of purposeful unity hardly seen before or since. For the next five months, until the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, Japan’s far-reaching offensives proceeded untroubled by fruitful opposition. American and Allied morale suffered accordingly. Under normal political circumstances, an accommodation might have been considered. However, the memory of the “sneak attack” on Pearl Harbor fueled a determination to fight on. Once the Battle of Midway in early June 1942 had eliminated much of Japan’s striking power, that same memory stoked a relentless war to reverse her conquests and remove her, and her German and Italian allies, as future threats to World peace.



The USS Arizona Memorial presents the ship’s deck six feet below the water line. The 184-foot memorial was completed in 1961 and a flag is flown from

the destroyed mast. Visitors can see a historic short film recapping the events and explore the Pearl Harbor Museum, complete with wartime memorabilia. The Pearl Harbor Memorial is one of the top Oahu attractions attracting more than a million tourists each year. Numerous Pearl Harbor tours arrive in the afternoon making the morning hours the best time to go. The USS Arizona Memorial can be toured from 7:30am to 5:00pm daily and is closed on all major holidays.

Today, the USS Arizona Memorial pays tribute to those moored at Battleship Row. They were the initial targets of the first wave of attacks on the Americans. The first stop on a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial is the Visitor Center where the Pearl Harbor Museum, dual theaters, restrooms, a snack bar and Pearl Harbor Memorial exhibits are located. Those driving from Waikiki Beach or Honolulu can expect an hour’s trip before arriving at the Pearl Harbor tribute. The memorial is also easily reached from the North Shore.

~Photo Essay Pearl Harbor Today~



WWII Valor in the Pacific Battleship Missouri Memorial



National Monument



USS Bowfin Submarine



Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Museum & Park



Presenting the colors



Honoring the survivors



Saluting the past today

做好生前計畫 免受通貨膨脹影響

Memorial Oaks 墓園明年將大幅調漲



(本報休斯頓報導) 日昇日落，人生也是如此，在人生的旅途之中，死亡是每個人必須面臨的大課題，有上車也有下車的時候，不同站有不同的風景。無論貧富貴賤、種族、職業，上至總統下至庶民，都有不得不面對之時。如何面對終點做好生前計畫、以及該怎麼準備身後之事，似乎變得更正面、也更需要趁早計畫。

以豁達的心態面對
以往，華人對於生死大事比較忌諱，然而，隨著時代演變，更多人會以豁達的心態面對，去年的疫情，更改變了許多人對生死的態度。疫情的肆虐下，美國因為新冠疫情而死亡的人數超過67萬人，甚至，在疫情嚴重時期，有些地方還傳出醫院太平間不夠、或是墓地滿員的狀況，所謂的「身後事」，並不意

味著應該等到年紀大了才考慮，其實現在就可以開始部署。
Dignity Memorial(尊嚴紀念館)是休士頓最具規模的殯儀館兼紀念墓園，我們請到其中的陳專員來為民衆談話，為什麼生前計畫如此重要? 可以幫我們降低哪些方面的負擔?
對生死越想得開，會越沒有壓力
陳先生表示，傳統觀念中，「身後事」對於華人來說相當重要，許多人都希望找到一個風水寶地安葬，並且庇佑後代子孫，這種觀念深植人心。
以往「生死大事」對於中國人來說是個禁忌話題，但對於殯葬業而言是每天都在面對的，死亡也天天都在不同地方上演著，民衆對死亡抱持越想得開的態度，自己會越沒有壓力，在生前就做好身後的規畫，會幫自己以及家人帶來

安寧與平和。對墓地和葬禮進行預先計畫極為重要，這樣的生前預先計畫將可以幫助到家庭，以下將為大家分析說明。
生前預先計畫減輕親人的負擔
當選擇生前預先計畫時，不僅可以按照自己的想法來規畫，還可以減輕家人的情感壓力與經濟負擔。
生前預先計畫自己的葬禮，可以仔細考慮自己喜歡的選擇，確保是自己想要的方式。有些人有宗教信仰，但與子孫之間有差異，即使告訴家人自己的臨終願望，家人也有可能不記得或不同意。要確定葬禮是自己所希望的，唯一方法是提前計畫。
一位民衆林先生表示，自己的父母多年前做生前預先計畫，購買了預付的喪葬費。經過這些年來，當父母親去世

，去使用這些服務時，才知道省下許多費用，減輕很大的負擔。
父母親的生前預先計畫，使子孫在遭受喪親之痛時，幫助他們不必同時擔心喪葬費的金錢來源。一般來說，在人死後的幾天裡，他的資產可能無法使用，人壽保險可能需要六至八週的時間才能支付。如果沒有適當的預付計畫，則家人將被要求在葬儀服務之前支付所有的費用。預先計畫和預付款意味著減輕了家人的巨大負擔。
生前計畫鎖定現今的價格並省錢
生前預先計畫葬禮的一個實際好處之一是省錢，隨著生活成本的上升，喪葬費的成本也不斷上升。當您計畫並提前付款時，實際上就是鎖定了價格保證。例如，如果今天計畫並選擇一個價格為2,000美元的棺材，即使未來價格上漲了許多，也不必為再多付錢。以當前價格購買商品，可以保護您和子孫免受通貨膨脹的影響。
休斯頓的劉女士表示，“我的父母在多年購買了預付的喪葬計畫，到使用時已經有很大的差額，這為我們節省大筆金錢。”
生前規劃讓家人不用擔心會出錯
若是突然遭逢意外，子女往往會面臨很多意想不到的抉擇，例如像：爸爸想要手工雕刻的堅固紅木棺材嗎？媽媽會希望她教會的朋友都參加葬禮嗎？如果事先沒有準備好計畫，親人會有很多猜測，擔心會不會弄錯了。通過生前預先計畫，使家人免於產生疑問和焦慮。
家人不必面對倉促的決定
在需要時，葬禮安排通常在幾天之內進行。即使在遺囑中表達自己的意願

，您的孩子也有可能會爭執不休，因為葬禮通常是在遺囑確定或宣讀之前舉行的。為了保護您的親人在困難的時期內避免匆忙做出決定，提前計畫自己的葬禮，以書面形式寫下詳細內容，不僅可以確保自己的意願得到遵守，而且可以使家人不必代你做出判斷。
親人可以專注於回憶和康復
親人死亡後的一段日子中，家人會經歷情感上的困難階段。生前預先計畫自己的葬禮，無論是土葬或是火葬，葬禮應如何安排，都能記錄您的意願，並支付安排費用，這可為您的親人提供他們所需要的情感與精神恢復時間，而不用做出一個又一個的葬禮細節決定。家人們可把時間用在與親友間共度中，回憶過世親人的點點滴滴，並逐漸恢復難受的心情。
明年將大幅調漲 優惠只到本月底為止
在休斯頓，許多家庭給予橡林紀念園殯儀館和墓園(Memorial Oaks) 很高評價，是最受華裔人士中意的風水寶地，也是既有墓地、又有殯儀館的複合型服務，能包辦追悼會到葬禮一條龍式服務。
由於物價不斷上漲，明年 Memorial Oaks 墓園亦將調漲價格， Memorial Oaks 在 12 月對大眾推出優惠，包括高達 10% OFF 生前計畫墓產優惠，60 個月 0% 利率，無需信用評估，還有身前契約高達 10% Off，只在本月底之前有效。
電話：832-913-5888。 Memorial Oaks 地址: 13001 Katy Freeway | Houston。



陳奕芳主任在「松年學院」主講

「認識法國的民俗風情」



陳奕芳主任的精彩演講，造成「松年學院」全教室客滿，座無虛席。(記者秦鴻鈞攝)

(休士頓/秦鴻鈞報導) 在休市以長者「學習樂園」著稱的「松年學院」，本周三上午11時邀請僑教中心陳奕芳主任在他們的「社會新知」課堂，以「認識法國的民俗風情」發表演講。陳主任曾兩度奉派法國服務，合計待了9年3個月，對法國民情風俗瞭如指掌。
> 提起法國近期發展，陳主任說，當年她要離開時，馬克龍剛選上總統，時年不到40歲，而

且他的老婆大他25歲；法國人對兩性關係勇於嘗試，政治人物也不例外。
談到「巴黎印象」，她說：一般人覺得巴黎治安不佳街道髒！巴黎的治安的確很糟糕，她在治安相對良好的15區住家大門口也被搶。大部分遊客面對的是扒手，例如假裝問路，實則趁機扒竊，往往遇強則弱，遇弱則強，看到柔弱的女人，乾脆直接搶了。這些歹徒大多為非法移民，沒有證件，警方也無從逮捕。
巴黎名不虛傳是「花都」，因為到處是「精品」，遊客不得不「花錢」；雖然有人嫌巴黎髒，但稱為「花都」的另外一個原因，來自巴黎街頭繁花似錦。
巴黎沒有外界常說的「左岸咖啡」，但到處都賣咖啡，價格可從每杯1.5到15歐元，如名人雅士常造訪的「和平咖啡館」自然貴一點！賣的是典故和氣氛。
陳主任又提到巴黎鐵塔，早期巴黎市內沒有一個建築物比它高，目前仍然是全世界經濟價值最高的人為建築物。另一個地標凱旋門是拿破崙模倣羅馬「凱旋門」興建；但他生前來

不及去觀賞，只有遺物通過，令人不勝唏噓。凱旋門處在12條道路的交會處，彷彿太陽對外放射12道光芒！
陳主任又提到法國禮儀：貼臉動作：「二貼」或「四貼」，「二貼」是表示交情好，而「四貼」是非常好。而法國有「三水遍世界」，實的是香水（跟精品走）、礦泉水（全世界最貴的氣泡水）及酒：法國五大酒莊出產的頂級紅酒全球馳名。而香檳酒，只有法國東北邊香檳省出的酒才叫「香檳」，其他地方出產的只能算氣泡酒。
陳主任又提到優雅的真相及浪漫的陷阱。所謂「優雅」的二要件：小、慢，法國牛排小小的放在大盤上，絕不會出現狼吞虎嚥的畫面；而「慢」指上菜慢，吃一頓飯要花三小時，有足夠的時間讓情侶談心，氣氛自然浪漫。法國男人很溫柔，他會幫你穿外套、拉椅子、夾菜、倒酒、倒水、開車門；上菜時也是Lady first。雖然很多留學生因此成為「臺灣媳婦」



僑教中心陳奕芳主任(中)到「松年學院」演講，受到「松年學院」董事長陳美芬(左)及許勝弘院長(右)贈送插花禮物。(記者秦鴻鈞攝)

，其中也有陷阱；有位台灣女生在線上談戀愛，認識一位「酒莊」老闆，幫他生了二個小孩，每天早上五、六點起床，做飯給採葡萄的工人吃，這時才發現城堡不一定只住公主和王子...

美國最嚴重的問題不是新冠疫情而是槍枝暴力和搶劫犯罪

大型百貨公司使用在線交易服務客戶是一種不可避免的趨勢

(休士頓/秦鴻鈞報導) 民調顯示，美國面臨的最嚴重的問題已經不是新冠疫情而是槍枝暴力沉澱和搶劫犯罪。美國已逐步擺脫新冠疫情，隨著疫苗接種的增加，許多州已恢復正常狀態，但2021年犯罪率仍遠高於2020年。疫情發生以來，美國經濟下滑和失業問題情況變得非常嚴重。美國的嚴重疫情讓許多的人失去工作，也使入室盜竊案大大增加，讓居民和商家損失許多的財物。川普政府和拜登政府都已經為失業業者提供了足夠的失業補償金，讓其中一些人決定留在家裡領取福利金比回去工作更好。例如，許多卡車司機決定留在家裡領取福利，而不想重返工作崗位。
近日，一名15歲密歇根州的牛津高中學生，帶著槍去學校然後向高中同學開槍，造成三名學生死亡，傷害其他至少其他8名學生，是一起明顯的槍支暴力案件。他的父母因給了孩子一把槍作為他的聖誕禮物，並誤導教育孩子而被捕。
上週二，一名15歲的學生在密歇根州的牛津高中，向高中同學開槍，造成三名學生死亡，其中一名16歲的男孩在去醫院的路上死於一輛警車。
此外，加州港口因堆積數月的大量滯留貨櫃而陷入癱瘓，數百艘船隻正在港口外等待卸下貨物集裝箱。貨櫃延誤是缺乏卡車司機，這是導致美國過去幾個月高通脹的部分原因。最近幾十家大型百貨公司關閉了他們的實體店，使用在線交易來服務他們的客戶。例如，休斯頓地區的大型連鎖零售商沃爾瑪最近已經關閉了幾個商店，沃爾瑪將通過網上交易和送貨的方式為客戶提供服務。很明顯線上交易將成為替代實體店購物的趨勢。
加州港口因堆積數月的大量滯留貨櫃而陷入癱瘓，數百艘船隻正在港口外等待卸下貨物集裝箱。貨櫃延誤是缺乏卡車司機，這是導致美國過去幾個月高通脹的部分原因。
安全專家認為疫情的大流行，公共安全惡化以及不合理的輕罪法律導致全國盜竊搶劫案件層

出不窮。在加州偷盜950美元以下是輕罪，輕罪在美國絕大部分州不能判刑超過1年。因此，劫匪不在乎盜竊罪，有些劫匪甚至不在乎搶劫時殺人。零售盜竊在美國飆升，BestBuy和Walgreens等大型連鎖店受到越來越肆無忌憚和普遍存在的入店行竊事件的困擾。主要城市發生大量的砸搶事件，成群結隊的小偷搶劫首飾、手機、電子產品、衣服和鞋類。據報道，一連串的砸搶搶劫案一直困擾著加州，其中大部分事件發生在舊金山和洛杉磯附近的商店。特別是舊金山，某些類型的盜竊幾乎已被合法化。貿易協會執法與零售聯盟估計，有組織的零售犯罪每年給零售業造成約450億美元的損失。
主要城市發生大量的砸搶事件，成群結隊的小偷搶劫首飾、手機、電子產品、衣服和鞋類。據報道，一連串的砸搶搶劫案一直困擾著加州，其中大部分事件發生在舊金山和洛杉磯附近的商店。
Walgreens宣布10月關閉舊金山的幾個門店，因為有組織的零售盜竊激增。在加州有9人在一系列入店行竊事件中被指控犯有大規模搶奪事件的重罪，至少有40人參與了這些事件。在過去的幾個月裡，舊金山地區盜竊案激增了100%。舊金山的一家Safeway超市，為此原因宣布縮短營業時間，改為早上6時到晚上9時，此舉歸因於該市小偷猖狂的盜竊行為，這間店過去是24小時全日營業。很多零售商，都深受該市氾濫的盜竊行為、財產犯罪所擾。與此同時，靠近舊金山的奧克蘭也遭受了多起盜竊案，目前奧克蘭頻傳盜竊團伙的洗劫案、大麻藥局搶劫案和槍擊案。這些盜竊搶匪使用社交媒體進行溝通，一些幫派正在參與這些暴力搶劫案。人們需要政府和警察部門剷除歹徒，讓人們重新獲得和平穩定的生活環境