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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Tuesday, March 28 2023|

## Woman shoots dead 3 children, 3 adults at Christian school in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, March 27 (Reuters) - A 28-year-old woman armed with several guns opened fire on Monday at a private Christian school she once attended in Tennessee's capital city, killing three children and three adult staffers before police killed her, authorities said.

There was no immediate official word on a possible motive for the gun violence, which unfolded on a warm spring morning not long after classes began at The Convent School, whose students consist mostly of elementary school-age children.

The woman was carrying at least two semi-automatic rifles and a handgun, police said.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department began receiving calls at 10:13 a.m. of a shooter at the school, and arriving officers reported hearing gunfire coming from the building's second floor, police spokesperson Don Aaron told reporters.

Two officers from a five-member team shot the assailant in a lobby area, and she was pronounced dead by 10:27 a.m..

"The police department response was swift," Aaron said. Police Chief John Drake later described the suspect as a 28-year-old woman from the Nashville area who "at one point was a student at this school." But her identity was not immediately made public.

Deadly mass shootings have become commonplace in the United States in recent years, but a female attacker is highly unusual. Only four of 191 mass shootings cataloged since 1966 by The Violence Project, a nonprofit research center, were carried out by a female attacker.

Law enforcement officers and members of the U.S. marshalls work at a family reunification center after a mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville



Law enforcement officers and members of the U.S. marshalls work at a family reunification center after a mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. March 27, 2023. REUTERS/ Kevin Wurm

Reacting to the shooting in Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden urged Congress again to pass more gun reform legislation.

"It's sick," he said, addressing the issue during an event at the White House. "We have to do more to protect our schools so they aren't turned into prisons ... I call on Congress again to pass my assault weapons ban. Three students were pronounced dead after arriving at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt with gunshot wounds, John Howser, a hospital spokesperson, said in a statement. Three adult staff members were killed by the shooter, police said.

Besides the deceased, no one else was shot, Aaron said. Students' parents were told to gather at the nearby Woodmont Baptist Church to be reunited with their children. Parents trickled out of the building with their youngsters in tow. One woman was visibly distraught as she was

escorted alone out of the church to an awaiting squad car by police officers.

The Covenant School, founded in 2001, is a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville with about 200 students, according to the school's website. The school serves preschool through sixth graders and held an active shooter training program in 2022, WTVF-TV reported.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper expressed sympathy for the victims and wrote on social media that his city "joined the dreaded, long list of communities to experience a school shooting."

There have been 89 school shootings – defined as anytime a gun is discharged on school property – in the U.S. so far in 2023, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database, a website founded by researcher David Riedman. Last year saw 303 such incidents, the highest of any year in the database, which goes back to 1970

## U.S. backstops Silicon Valley Bank sale to First Citizens

March 27 (Reuters) - U.S. regulators said on Monday they would backstop a deal for regional lender First Citizens BancShares to acquire failed Silicon Valley Bank, triggering an estimated \$20 billion hit to a government-run insurance fund.

The deal comes after the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) took over Silicon Valley Bank on March 10 after depositors rushed to pull out their money in a bank run that also brought down Signature Bank and wiped out more than half the market value of several other U.S. regional lenders. The deal was "momentous" for First Citizens, CEO Frank Holding told investors on a conference call Monday. "We believe this transaction is a great outcome for depositors."

The Raleigh, North Caroli-

na-based lender has completed 21 such government-assisted deals, including 14 since 2009 when CEO Holding was made chairman, according to a Piper Sandler note on Monday.

The FDIC fund does not take U.S. taxpayer money and is instead replenished by a levy on member banks. "The FDIC's sale of SVB helps show business can go on as usual for the banking industry," a team of Wells Fargo analysts led by Mike Mayo said in a note on Monday.

First Citizens will not pay cash upfront for the deal. Instead, it said it granted equity appreciation rights in its stock to the FDIC that could be worth up to \$500 million -- a fraction of what Silicon Valley Bank was worth before it failed.



# 美南電視15.3

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/25/2023

## The Ethnic Alliance is Being Organized

Leaders of the Houston community led by Congressman Al Green will continue to hold a preparation meeting to actively communicate on how to effectively form a united front. We all fully support this event to jointly carry forward the spirit of unity.

Over the decades, we all took root in this land. This is the period of time that our ethnic Asian community has unfortunately suffered the most obvious discrimination, which plainly means that a wave of anti-immigrants is forming in our society. This growing and unhealthy trend, if unchallenged, will affect many of our generations to come.

To be honest, most of us of this generation came here to pursue our studies and settle down as



professionals in all kinds of businesses. Today, we are considered to be good citizens.

Today the political ecology of our nation has dramatically and sadly changed. Consider the high-ranking officials and our representatives in the U.S. capitol. They were elected to govern the nation on our behalf, but their recent behavior has become divisive and shameful.



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### Southern DAILY Make Today Different

### Editor's Choice



A Chinese student who calls herself Evie makes a video for her followers on Douyin, a Chinese social media network similar to Tiktok, on Tower Bridge in London, Britain. REUTERS/Kevin Coombs



Members of the gendarmerie run during a demonstration called by the collective “Bas-sines Non Merci” against the “basins” on the construction site of new water storage infrastructure for agricultural irrigation in western France, in Sainte-Soline, France. REUTERS/Yves Herman



Visitors fly kites during the annual Cherry Blossoms Kite Fest near the U.S. Capitol building on the National Mall, in Washington. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



KeUntey Ousley tries to salvage what he can from his mother's boyfriend's vehicle, as his mother LaShata Ousley and his girlfriend Mikita Davis watch, after a tornado cut through their small Delta town the night before in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Barbara Gauntt/USA Today Network.



Security forces operate as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/ Adriano Machado



People reach out to touch Pope Francis' hand during his meeting with the faithful of parishes from Rho at the Vatican. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



## The Return Of Polio? Hundreds Of People Could Already Be Infected With Polio Virus

# N.Y. Health Department Confirms First U.S. Polio Case Since 2013

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



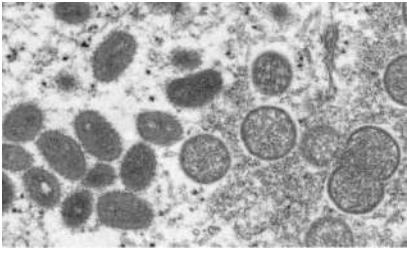
Dr. Jonas Salk studies slides in his laboratory following the invention of his pioneering polio vaccine, circa 1957. (Photo/Three Lions-Hulton Archive/Getty Images/TNS)

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

New York state health officials have found indications of additional cases of polio virus in wastewater samples from two different counties, leading them to warn that hundreds of people may be infected with the potentially serious virus.

Just two weeks ago, the New York Health Department reported the nation's first case of polio in almost a decade, in Rockland County, north of New York City. Officials said that case occurred in a previously healthy young adult who was unvaccinated and developed paralysis in their legs. Since then, three positive wastewater samples from Rockland County and four from neighboring Orange County were discovered and genetically linked to the first case, the health department said in a press release on Thursday, suggesting that the polio virus is being spread within local communities. The newest samples were taken from two locations in Orange County in June and July and one location in Rockland County in July.

"Based on earlier polio outbreaks, New Yorkers should know that for every one case of paralytic polio observed, there may be hundreds of other people infected," State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said. "Coupled with the latest wastewater findings, the Department is treating the single case of polio as just the tip of the iceberg of much greater potential spread. As we learn more, what we do know is clear: the danger of polio is present in New York today."



The health department reiterated that it is still investi-

gating the virus' origin, and said that it is not yet clear whether the infected person in Rockland County was linked to the other cases.

Polio is "a serious and life-threatening disease," the state health department said. It is highly contagious and can be spread by people who aren't yet symptomatic. Symptoms usually appear within 30 days of infection, and can be mild or flu-like. Some people who are infected may become paralyzed or die.

Before the polio vaccine was introduced in the 1950s, thousands of Americans died in polio outbreaks and tens of thousands, many of them children, were left with paralysis. After a successful vaccination campaign, polio was officially declared eradicated in the U.S. in 1979.

Unvaccinated New Yorkers are encouraged to get immunized right away, the health department said. Unvaccinated people who live, work or spend time in Rockland County, Orange County and the greater New York metropolitan area are at the greatest risk.



Most school-aged children have received the polio vaccine, which is a four-dose course, started between 6 weeks and 2 months of age and followed by one shot at 4 months, one at 6 to 12 months, and one between the ages of 4 and 6. According to the health department, about 60% of children in Rockland County have received three polio shots before their second birthday, as have about 59% in Orange County — both below the 79% statewide figure. According to the CDC's most recent childhood vaccination data, about 93% of 2-year-olds in the U.S. had received at least three doses of polio vaccine. Meanwhile, adults who are not vaccinated would receive a three-dose immunization, and those who are vaccinated but at high risk can receive a lifetime booster shot, according to the health department. The vaccine is 99% effective in children who receive the full four-dose regime, health officials said.

"It is concerning that polio, a disease that has been largely eradicated through vaccination, is now circulating in our community, especially given the low rates of vaccination for this debilitating disease in certain areas of our County," Orange County Health Commissioner Dr. Irina Gelman said. "I urge all unvaccinated Orange County residents to get vaccinated as soon as medically feasible."



Rockland County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert issued a similar

statement, calling on people who are not vaccinated to get the shots "immediately."

Polio has rarely appeared in the U.S. since it was declared eradicated over 40 years ago. The last reported case was brought by a traveler in 2013, according to The Associated Press. (Courtesy cbsnews.com)

### Related

**Bill Gates Warns That Polio Found In New York Is 'A Threat To Us All'**

A once-eradicated disease has reemerged in New York, and it's spooking health officials and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates.

On Aug. 4, New York health authorities announced they had detected polio in wastewater samples from two counties north of New York City. Officials called the results, along with a confirmed case of polio in New York's Rockland County in July, the "tip of the iceberg" for a wider polio outbreak of the disease that can cause paralysis.



**Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been a vocal advocate for stamping out polio for years.**

**LEON NEAL—POO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES** Gates—a longtime champion of polio eradication—weighed in Monday, calling the news an "urgent reminder" that "until we #EndPolio for good, it remains a threat to us all," on Twitter.

"The global eradication strategy must be fully supported to protect people everywhere," wrote Gates, a Microsoft cofounder and the world's fifth-richest man with a net worth of \$118 billion.

**TWEET**

**Bill Gates**

@BillGates

News that polio has been detected in New York wastewater samples is an urgent reminder: until we #EndPolio for good, it remains a threat to us all. The global eradication strategy must be fully supported to protect people everywhere.



Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been a vocal advocate for eradicating polio for years. The foundation is one of several partners in the Polio Global Eradication Initiative (PGEI), alongside organizations like the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). The PGEI hopes to eradicate polio in the wild by 2026. The Gates Foundation has donated \$4.2 billion to the GPEI, and in 2020 alone provided about 47% of

the initiative's total funds, making it the largest donor ahead of the U.S. government.

Despite new evidence of polio in New York, the campaign to eradicate the disease has been one of the world's most successful public health initiatives. There were 350,000 cases of polio in 1988, when the GPEI was founded. That total has fallen to 688 in 2021. Two of polio's three strains have been eradicated.



The World Health Organization considers polio to be endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan, meaning that the poliovirus still exists in the wild. Outbreaks in other countries are either sparked by imported cases, or spread by an individual who received the oral polio vaccine, which uses a weakened, but not inactivated, poliovirus that can then infect unvaccinated individuals.

According to the CDC, many carriers of the poliovirus are asymptomatic, and one in four will get flu-like symptoms. However, somewhere between one and five in a thousand cases can suffer from serious and life-threatening symptoms, like paralysis. Even those who recover can have symptoms like muscle weakness and paralysis return years later in a long-lasting condition known as post-polio syndrome.

Rockland County has some of the lowest overall vaccination rates in New York State, including for polio, with only about 60% of young children getting the required three doses for full protection. In 2019 the county was hit by a severe measles outbreak that forced the government to remove thousands of unvaccinated children from schools.



Efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic may be diverting resources away from public health campaigns like polio eradication. Global vaccination coverage for polio fell to 80% in 2021, down from 86% in 2019. On July 22, Gates called the drop in vaccination rates "heartbreaking" on Twitter, saying that "there's a lot of work ahead to get back to, and eventually exceed, pre-pandemic vaccination levels." (Courtesy https://fortune.com/)

### Related

**Strongly Urging Immunization, New York State Department of Health Updates Citizens On**

### Polio Samples That Have Been Detected



### Key Points

**Following the Identification of a Paralytic Polio Case in Rockland County, More Virus Found in Environmental Samples in Rockland and Orange Counties - Evidence of Local Transmission To Keep New Yorkers and Children Polio-Free, Unvaccinated New Yorkers Should Get Immunized Right Away**

Vaccines became available starting in 1955, and a national vaccination campaign cut the annual number of U.S. cases to less than 100 in the 1960s and fewer than 10 in the 1970s, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1979, polio was declared eliminated in the U.S., meaning there was no longer routine spread. Rarely, travelers with polio have brought infections into the U.S., with the last such case in 2013.

U.S. children are still routinely vaccinated against polio. Federal officials recommend four doses: to be given at 2 months of age; 4 months; at 6 to 18 months; and at age 4 through 6 years. Some states require only three doses.

According to the CDC's most recent childhood vaccination data, about 93% of 2-year-olds had received at least three doses of polio vaccine.

Polio spreads mostly from person to person or through contaminated water. It can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis and possibly permanent disability and death. The disease mostly affects children.



Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the Salk polio vaccine, with vaccine vials in the mid 1950's.

Polio is endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, although numerous countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia have also reported cases in recent years. Rockland County, in New York City's northern suburbs, has been a center of vaccine resistance in recent years. A 2018-2019 measles outbreak there infected 312 people.

Last month, health officials in Britain warned parents to make sure children have been vaccinated because the polio virus had been found in London sewage samples. No cases of paralysis were reported. (Courtesy apa-az)

Southern

DAILY

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# COMMUNITY

## Health Officials Say They Are Being Forced To Suspend Their Mass Immunization Efforts Amid The Surging Coronavirus Pandemic

# The World Health Organization Suspends Polio Immunization Efforts Due To COVID-19 Crisis



Child receives oral polio immunization.

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

LONDON -- Health officials attempting to eradicate polio say they are being forced to suspend their mass immunization efforts amid the surging coronavirus pandemic.

The World Health Organization and partners decided that for the next six months, all polio activities including national vaccination campaigns and house-to-house surveillance "should be suspended to avoid placing communities and frontline workers at unnecessary risk."

The announcement came after a meeting last week of the Polio Oversight Board, an expert body coordinated by WHO and partners.

The experts noted that while halting efforts to stop polio is necessary given the speed at which COVID-19 is infecting people globally, it will undoubtedly result in the increased spread of the paralytic disease and the numbers of children paralyzed by the virus.

The mass vaccination campaigns — which occur as frequently as every month — are critical to stopping polio, as eradication requires that more than 95% of children under 5 be immunized.



### The polio epidemic of the 1950's.

The global effort to wipe out polio began in 1988 and was intended to eliminate the disease by 2000. But the initiative has been hobbled by numerous problems including resistance to the vaccines, outbreaks in some instances caused by the vaccines themselves and little access to conflict areas in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

It will be up to individual countries to decide whether to suspend their vaccination campaigns, according to a note released after the polio meeting. Officials warned that stopping polio efforts will require scaled-up work once immunization activities can resume.

Polio is endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan and continues to be a problem in about 10 other countries worldwide. (Courtesy https://abcnews.go.com/)

### Related

**Polio, Measles And Other Diseases Set To Surge As COVID-19 Forces Suspension Of Vaccination Campaigns**

"A devil's choice." That's how Seth Berkley, head of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, describes the dilemma facing global health organizations in the past few weeks. They could either continue to support mass vaccination campaigns in poor countries and risk inadvertently helping to spread COVID-19—or recommend their suspension, inevitably triggering an upsurge of many other infectious diseases. In the end, they chose the latter. As Science reported last week, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on 24 March recommended suspending polio vaccination campaigns until the second half of the year.



**Door-to-door campaigns against polio, such as this one in Kenya in 2018, could help spread COVID-19.**

Two days later, the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) issued a broader call, recommending that all preventive mass vaccination campaigns for other diseases be postponed. "Any mass campaigns would go against the idea of social distancing," says Alejandro Cravioto of the National Autonomous University of Mexico's faculty of medicine, who chairs SAGE.

### Related

But experts say the fallout from the wrenching decision will be huge and may last long after the pandemic subsides. It comes on top of the damage COVID-19 will do to the fragile health systems in many countries.

Mass vaccination campaigns against a host of diseases are already grinding to a halt in many countries. For many children, these campaigns are the only chance to get vaccines. Some 13.5 million have already missed out on vaccinations for polio, measles, human papillomavirus, yellow fever, cholera, and meningitis since the suspensions began, Berkley says. "I tell you those

numbers will be much larger than what we see today."

In the case of polio, more children will be paralyzed in countries where polio is still circulating, and the virus will likely spread to countries that are now polio-free. The decision couldn't come at a worse time. The polio eradication effort is already reeling from setbacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the wild virus is surging, and in Africa, where outbreaks caused by the live polio vaccine itself are spiraling out of control. The program will reassess the decision every 2 weeks.



Twenty-three countries have already suspended their measles campaigns, and as a result, 78 million children will miss out on the vaccine, says Robb Linkins, a measles expert in the Global Immunization Division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sixteen other countries are still deciding. Linkins foresees "tragic" consequences. In poor countries, the virus can kill 3% to 6% of those it infects, WHO says, with malnourished children especially at risk. Measles infected an estimated 10 million and killed 140,000 in 2018, the last year for which numbers are complete. And because measles is incredibly contagious, case numbers could quickly surge following the suspensions.

Unlike the polio initiative, SAGE stopped short of recommending that countries halt campaigns to quell ongoing measles outbreaks, but it said they should carefully weigh the risk of an immediate response against that of a delayed one. For now, campaigns are continuing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the world's biggest outbreak has so far killed an estimated 6500 children—far more than the ongoing Ebola outbreak in that country—and sickened more than 340,000.

WHO, GAVI, and other health organizations stress that routine immunization of individual children at clinics must continue as much

as possible during the coronavirus pandemic.

But health systems in many countries were already stretched thin, and protective gear is often lacking. Berkley fears severe disruptions of routine immunization if health workers are diverted to COVID-19 or become sick or die, or if parents are afraid to bring their children to a clinic. Vaccines may run out as well. Some countries are already experiencing shortages as flights are grounded and borders close, Berkley says.



Other essential health services will also be disrupted, says Augustin Augier, executive director of the Alliance for International Medical Action. Every year, ALIMA trains about 500,000 African mothers to diagnose acute, potentially fatal malnutrition in their children; those programs have been suspended. The knock-on consequences of the pandemic "will be much stronger and more lethal for the world's most vulnerable populations," Augier says.

Across all these programs, the goal is to regain lost ground quickly once the pandemic is over. In the meantime, WHO says, countries should continue surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases to figure out where pathogens are circulating and which children are most at risk. But that, too, is a challenge amid the fear and disruption from COVID-19.

Berkley sees some hope in the experience in West Africa after the 2014–15 Ebola outbreak. "There was an unprecedented flow of finance and goodwill," he says. "We did campaigns once Ebola was over and strengthened routine immunization. We not only recovered coverage levels, but exceeded them." But that epidemic was largely confined to three countries with a combined population of fewer than 25 million people. This time, the entire world is affected. (Courtesy https://www.sciencemag.org/)




# 休士頓台灣同鄉聯誼會年度兒童繪畫比賽開始徵件

(休士頓/秦鴻鈞報導)全美台灣同鄉聯誼會慶祝四十五周年會，舉辦2023年全美兒童繪畫比賽，由休士頓台灣同鄉聯誼會(簡稱台聯會)先行舉辦兒童繪畫比賽，選出前三名後，再送至全美繪畫比賽組決賽。凡十五歲以下(年齡以8月31日為分界日)，分幼兒組(5至7歲)、兒童組(8至11歲)和少年組(12至15歲)，各組取前三名，均可獲得獎金與獎狀，所有參賽者皆獲頒發獎狀，以茲獎勵。主題是「疫後回春 The day after Pandemic」。藉由參賽者筆下發揮無限的想像力，讓小朋友將心中感觸疫情大流行後，透過筆尖，充分發揮自己心中的無限想像。

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繪畫比賽參賽者所提供之畫作其內容及圖像，全美台灣同鄉聯誼會保留使用權，其權利包含：刊物印製、提供報章及電子媒體刊載、各項與台灣同鄉聯誼會相關活動展示之用。

## 世界華人工商婦女企管協會美南分會第28屆中文演講比賽開始受理報名

(本報訊)世界華人工商婦女企管協會美南分會定於2023年4月30日(星期日)在休士頓華僑文教服務中心(10303 Westoffice Dr. Houston, TX 77042)舉行第二十八屆中文演講比賽。

今年的演講比賽題目為：華裔初級組6~9歲及非華裔初級組6~9歲：「我最喜歡的……」。其餘各組：「如果有超能力」。歡迎中文學校學生、公立學校中文班及各界對華語文有興趣學習者踴躍報名。

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

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

組別：華裔子弟依年齡分為以下三組：  
1、華裔初級組6歲至9歲。  
2、華裔中級組10至13歲。  
3、華裔高級組14歲至18歲。  
非華裔(父母皆為非華裔)，分為以下三組  
1、非華裔初級組6歲至9歲。  
2、非華裔中級組10至13歲。  
3、非華裔高級組14歲至18歲。

註明：各組報名人數不足五人則取消該組比賽。

時間規定：每人二分鐘至三分鐘(超時或不足均須扣分)

評審標準：內容、發音(注音符號)、語調(抑揚頓挫)、表情儀容，各佔百分之二十五。

錄取方法：每組取三名。

獎勵辦法：比賽後立即頒發給所有參賽者獎杯一座，前三名再加發獎狀：  
第一名：獎杯一座和獎金一百廿五元／第二名：獎杯一座和獎金一百元／第三名：獎杯一座和獎金七十五元。

報名辦法：  
即日起開始接受報名，報名表請前往 www.gfcbw-houston.org 查詢並下載表格，或向主辦單位連絡，報名截止日期為2023年4月15日。中文學校敬請集體報名，郵寄至地址：3536

Highway 6 #168, Sugar Land, TX 77478, 收件人 Christi Yao (請將報名表連同報名費\$20.00支票(抬頭請寫 GFcbw) 報名截止日期：4/15/2023 (以郵戳為憑)，逾期恕不接受報名。

報到時間：所有組別請在九時卅分報到，報到後請到分配的教室及座位聽取比賽規則。

比賽時間：上午十時準時開始比賽。頒獎典禮時間視報名人數決定。(年齡及組別的決定以比賽日四月卅日為準)

詳情請洽詢：  
會長：何真，電話：832-866-333 或 Email: yaochristi@yahoo.com。  
副會長：張瓊文，電話：361-652-0649 或 email: annie7227@gmail.com

## (美南人語) 習普相會可成功停戰嗎？楊楚楓

3月下旬，中國習總提前飛往俄羅斯，跟獨裁狂夫亭丁會面，意圖創造和平之旅。當今世上億萬民衆都在猜測，習總此行會有機會成功嗎？

對於習總之訪問，中國外交部稱，這是和平之旅，目的當然是想促使俄烏和談，令俄烏之間的糾紛可以透過非戰爭手段去解決。

俄烏戰爭已打了超過一年，戰情如何，雙方都各自吹噓，局外人不易真正掌握；但大體的局勢世人還是可以看得到的。應該可以這樣說：打到今天，都沒有一方有把握在短期裏憑軍事上的優勢令對方屈服。

在俄羅斯一方，未有能力取下基輔，叫澤連斯基投降，全盤接受俄羅斯的要求。而烏克蘭那邊，當然亦沒法用軍力，可以把俄羅斯的軍隊趕出烏克蘭，並收回頓巴斯與克里米亞。現實是烏克蘭連新近失控的頓巴斯與克里米亞之間的東部沿海地帶，也沒法收回，形勢並不太樂觀有利。

正是在這種形勢下，澤連斯基一再呼籲西方國家要提供更多先進武器與經濟援助，否則很難扭轉局面。此外，烏克蘭亦有聲音開始質疑，為何這場被視作北約要打的戰爭，在戰場上犧牲的都只是烏克蘭的孩子？在在顯示，烏克蘭人開始意識到，這場戰爭若是再這樣打下去，受傷害最大的肯定是烏克蘭。烏克蘭人若是頭腦清醒的話，應尋求方法，盡快以非戰爭手段來解決與俄羅斯之間的政治糾紛。因此，習總今次的和平之旅，雖然困難重重，卻不能說完全沒有機會，原因是繼續再打下去，對雙方都沒有好處。

烏克蘭必須接受一個現實，就是克里米亞與頓巴斯都是俄羅斯裔人多，強行收回，只會成為將來在

管治上的包袱；不如用作籌碼，以交換俄羅斯從烏克蘭撤兵，以及要求俄羅斯承諾今後會尊重烏克蘭的主權為主。

另一方面，俄羅斯亦得接受一個現實教訓：烏克蘭已不再是蘇聯年代的烏克蘭，他已是一個獨立國家，有自己的主權，不會任由俄羅斯擺布。俄羅斯必須明白，以俄羅斯現有的軍事實力，沒有能力叫烏克蘭完全屈服。俄國應該得些好意須回手。

別人勸普京這樣做，普京不一定接受，但習總開口，普京就得認真考慮。因為中國已成了俄國經濟的命脈，如果中國不全力支持，俄國很難在這場戰爭中獨力堅持下去。

中國已提出關於解決俄烏危機的12條原則，涵蓋烏克蘭問題的各個主要層面，相信今後中國的斡旋將會以此為基礎。以秦剛與烏克蘭外長通話後烏克蘭的反應來看，是接受中國作為俄烏之間調停人的。這亦代表烏克蘭會接受這12條原則作為談判的基礎。只要習總能說服普京亦接受這12條，雙方就會有機會坐下來談判。

現時，唯一可能會從中作梗的是美國。美國已表示，若現時停火，會有利俄國鞏固之前的戰果。意思是想等烏克蘭在戰爭形勢有利的時候才和談。不過，歐洲國家則大部分都不想打下去，而美國近期又出現金融不穩，有點自顧不暇。因此，俄烏衝突很有機會在中國的斡旋下取得突破。



## 希望診所為新的健康中心舉辦隆重開幕 T.T. and W.F. CHAO 基金會希望健康中心啟用



(本報休士頓報導) 希望為社區提供更好的醫療為宗旨，希望診所(Hope Clinic)於3月25日在百利大道13930號舉行了隆重的開幕典禮，為「T.T. and W.F. CHAO基金會、希望健康中心」的正式啟用開展里程碑。休士頓諸多政商人士及僑領均熱情出席，包括國會議員Al Green、斯坦福市議員譚秋晴、國會議員Lizzie Fletcher的代表、參議員John Cornyn的代表、議員吳元之的代表、衆多基金會代表等蒞臨祝賀。T.T. and W.F. CHAO基金會由James趙夫婦、及Albert趙夫婦代表出席。當天風和日麗、天氣宜人，開幕典禮於中心大門前舉行，場面歡慶且充滿溫馨。

國會議員Al Green致詞時表示，聚集天時地利人和，今天諸多善心及熱心人士匯集一處，共同慶祝新中心的開幕，因為有一個高素質的專業團隊非常努力，讓「T.T. and W.F. CHAO基金會、希望健康中心」順利完工，值得所有人用「德州式」的鼓掌來感謝他們，現場瞬時響起熱烈的掌聲。

希望診所的兩位Co-founder均發表致詞，Beverly Gor博士表示當天如同舉辦婚禮一般，希望診所成長21年後，這個新的健康中心如同新娘一般，將帶給社區更多健康的希望。Rogene Gee Calvert女士則表達深切的感謝，感謝所有用心讓這個中心順利開幕的團體與個人，並帶領現場做效忠宣誓(pledge of allegiance)。

希望診所的執行長Andrea Caracostis在開幕致詞中表示，她非常感謝促成這個新大樓完工的所有人士，以及慷慨的捐贈者們，感謝這些人的信任與支持，相信它會成功。還有感激攜手合作的同仁們，夙夜匪懈的工作，今日才得以完成這項艱鉅的工程。

希望診所目前有五個地點，新的健康中心將使希望診所能夠服務更多患者，提供最先進的醫療保健服務。一旦這個佔地70,000平方英尺的新設施全面投入運營，估計能夠在未來5年內服務近50,000名患者，每年為未投保、投保不足、或是低收入的患者提供超過190,000次就診。

「T.T. and W.F. CHAO基金會、希望健康中心」是三層樓的建築，位於Metro和百利大道的交叉口，佔地3.5英畝，由Philo Wilke Partnership設計，並由Arch-Con®公司建造。

希望診所成立於2002年，由大休斯頓亞裔美國人健康聯盟(Asian American Health Coalition of the Greater Houston)創立，從每月四小時，由義工服務的機構開始，在那時，語言和文化的障礙讓許多人無法獲得足夠的醫療保健。經過不斷成長，希望診所目前已是休斯頓第二大聯邦合格的健康中心，並且在全國屢獲殊榮。診所在指定的醫療服務欠缺的地區內建立富有同情心的醫療保健服務，希望幫助社區民衆的醫療與健康，無論民衆是否能負擔的起。

希望診所是一家社區健康中心，為民衆提供高品質的醫療服務，民衆未來可以在希望診所的總部或是T.T. and W.F.健康中心就診，對休斯頓民衆日益增加的醫療保健需求將有很大助益，同時能減低弱勢族群間的健康差異。



新的健康中心將提供初級保健服務：包括兒科、婦產科、內科、牙科、成人醫學視力、心理行為健康、藥學和放射學。希望診所提供30種不同語言的服務，包括：普通話、粵語、越南語、韓語、緬甸語、阿拉伯語和西班牙語。

希望診所電話：713-773-0803(可選中文)  
希望診所總部地址：7001 Corporate Dr. #120, Houston, TX 77036  
T.T. and W.F. CHAO基金會希望健康中心地址：13930 Bellaire Blvd., Houston