



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 50

March, 2012

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

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Voting News: Register and Request Your Ballot for Upcoming Primaries

Voters from the below States should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballot for the April, May, and June 2012 Presidential Preference Primary (P) and State Primary (S) elections listed below:

April Primaries (30-Day Notice):
NOTE for April Primaries: If you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot at FVAP.gov (see FWAB information below).

- District of Columbia (P,S): April 3
- Maryland (P,S): April 3
- Wisconsin (P): April 3
- Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24
- Connecticut (P): April 24
- Delaware (P): April 24
- New York (P): April 24
- Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24
- Rhode Island (P): April 24

May Primaries: (60-Day Notice)

- Indiana (P,S): May 8
- North Carolina (P,S): May 8
- West Virginia (P,S): May 8
- Idaho (P,S): May 15
- Nebraska (P,S): May 15

- Oregon (P,S): May 15
- Arkansas (P,S): May 22
- Kentucky (P,S): May 22
- Texas (P,S): May 29 (This is a change; the election was originally scheduled for March 6, then April 3)

June Primaries: (90-Day Notice)

- California(P, S): June 5
- Iowa (S): June 5
- Montana (P, S): June 5
- New Jersey (P, S): June 5
- New Mexico (P, S): June 5
- South Dakota (P, S): June 5
- Arkansas (Primary Runoff): June 12
- Maine (S): June 12
- Nevada (S): June 12

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to the FVAP.gov web portal or by following the

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Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our holiday closings is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>March 29, Thursday:</u> | Administrative Day | (内部管理日 Nèibù Guǎnlǐ Rì) |
| <u>April 4, Wednesday:</u> | Tomb Sweeping Day | (清明节 Qīngmíng Jié) |
| <u>April 30, Monday:</u> | Administrative Day | (内部管理日 Nèibù Guǎnlǐ Rì) |

Tax News: New IRS Form for Overseas Taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) wishes to bring to the attention of U.S. citizens abroad a new information reporting form that taxpayers will use starting this tax filing season to report specified foreign financial assets for tax year 2011.

The Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets) should be filed by taxpayers with specific types and amounts of foreign financial assets or foreign accounts. It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply.

Form 8938, the instructions, regula-

tions implementing this new foreign asset report, and other information to help taxpayers determine if they are required to file Form 8938 is available on the web at:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/corporations/article/0,,id=23666>.

The Consulate website maintains a Help for Overseas Tax Payers webpage with extensive guidance and resources for those preparing their U.S. taxes from abroad. Please visit our webpage at:

<http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/tax.html>.

For specific questions on taxes you may email the IRS field office at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing at

irs.beijing@irs.gov; please allow several days for a reply.

Taxpayers located outside the U.S. may also contact the IRS by mail at: Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 920 Bensalem, PA 19020

Or you may telephone or FAX the Philadelphia Service Center office at: Tel: 267-941-1000 (not toll-free) Fax: 215-516-2555 Phone service available from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm (EST) M-F

You may also visit the U.S. Internal Revenue Service webpage for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad at: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries:

<u>Israel, the West Bank and Gaza</u>	03/19/2012
<u>Mali</u>	03/16/2012
<u>Syria</u>	03/06/2012
<u>Nigeria</u>	02/29/2012

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

Senegal 03/02/2012

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at :

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html .

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.

Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

Voting News: Register and Request Your Ballot for Upcoming Primaries

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instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide, also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include an email address, phone number, and/or fax number on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. Remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your State's election website to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpca.html>, or visit your State website.

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in March Primary States), vote the FWAB at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Additional information: Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

If you'd like more information on the

Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to the FVAP.gov web portal or call FVAP at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584). Email vote@fvap.gov and don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter for election updates throughout 2012.



Local News: Get Ready for the Great Dragon Baby Boom

Jan. 29, 2011 (Xinhua) -- Although dragons may scare some people, many young Chinese couples are determined to have a child this year despite pressures their offspring may face in coming years.

A doctor in Hong Kong expects a 5 percent rise in births in the Year of the Dragon. Shanghai is expecting 180,000 dragon babies this year.

Maternity wards in Shanghai's hospitals were crowded during the Chinese New Year holiday. At the 10th People's Hospital, more than 40 babies were born during the first five days of the lunar New Year. Medical workers were forced to put extra beds in every maternity ward to accommodate the new mothers and babies. Zhou Wen said her son's birth in the Year of the Dragon was a surprise. "He was due about a week before the New Year. I think he'll bring us good luck, as the

dragon is a symbol of wisdom and bravery." Zhou and her husband named the child Wang Zhoulin, with "lin" meaning "dragon." The same character has been given to several other "dragon babies" born at the same hospital.

In Beijing, every bed at the city's Maternity Hospital has been booked through August. The hospital has decided to limit expectant mothers to 1,000 every month in order to ensure space in the delivery room when their babies are due. Li Jing, an expectant mother in Jinan, eastern Shandong Province, is fed up with having to wait several hours for a prenatal check. "I sort of 'planned' for the baby to be born in the Year of the Dragon, because the whole family believes a dragon baby is auspicious," said Li, who is due in April. "But so many dragon babies are due this year. It will be hard for them to

enter kindergartens and schools in a couple of years," she said.

Li has good reason to worry, as all the recent baby booms, which happened in 2000, the last Year of the Dragon, the auspicious year of the "Golden Pig" in 2007 and in 2008, the year China hosted the Olympics, were followed by shortages in resources ranging from available delivery room beds to openings at kindergartens and primary schools.

Jinan-based office worker Yang Qin remembered having to offer "deal sweeteners" to a kindergarten chief, and then to a primary school principal, to secure a place for her daughter, who was born in 2000. In Beijing, some "Olympic babies" have been waiting to enter kindergarten, despite the government's efforts over the past two years to open more kindergartens.

IRS Tax Time Scams and Phishing

It is that time of year again, tax time. Here are a few reminders and some information from the Internal revenue Service that may help alleviate a little of the tax time stress.

IMPORTANT NOTES: The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request detailed personal or financial information. The IRS does not send any communication requesting your PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

What is phishing? Phishing is a scam typically carried out by unsolicited email and/or websites that pose as legitimate sites and lure unsuspecting victims to provide personal and financial information.

All unsolicited email claiming to be from either the IRS or any other IRS-related components such as the **Office of Professional Responsibility** or **EFTPS**, should be reported to phishing@irs.gov.

What to do if you receive a suspicious IRS-related communication

If	Then
You receive an email claiming to be from the IRS that contains a request for personal information ...	<p>Do not reply. Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer. Do not click on any links. If you clicked on links in a suspicious email or phishing website and entered confidential information, visit our identity protection page. Forward the email as-is, to us at phishing@irs.gov. After you forward the email and/or header information to us, delete the original email message you received.</p>
You discover a website on the Internet that claims to be the IRS but you suspect it is bogus send the URL of the suspicious site to phishing@irs.gov . Please add in the subject line of the email, 'Suspicious website'.
You receive a phone call or paper letter via mail from an individual claiming to be the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee ...	<p>Phone call: Ask for a call back number and employee badge number. Contact the IRS to determine if the caller is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you. If you determine the person calling you is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you, call them back. Letter or notice via paper mail: Contact the IRS to determine if the mail is a legitimate IRS letter. If it is a legitimate IRS letter, reply if needed. If caller or party that sent the paper letter is not legitimate, contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.</p>
You receive an unsolicited e-mail or fax, involving a stock or share purchase ...	<p>... and you are a U.S. citizen located in the United States or its territories or a U.S. citizen living abroad. Complete the appropriate complaint form with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward email to phishing@irs.gov. Please add in the subject line of the email, 'Stock'. If you are a victim of monetary or identity theft, you may submit a complaint through the FTC Complaint Assistant.</p> <p>... and you are not a U.S. citizen and reside outside the United States. Complete the appropriate complaint form with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Contact your securities regulator and file a complaint. Forward email to phishing@irs.gov. Please add in the subject line of the e-mail, 'Stock'. If you are a victim of monetary or identity theft, you may report your complaint to consumer.gov.</p>
You receive an unsolicited fax (such as Form W8-BEN) claiming to be from the IRS, requesting personal information ...	<p>Contact the IRS to determine if the fax is from the IRS. If you learn the fax is not from the IRS, please send us the information via email at phishing@irs.gov. In the subject line of the email, please type the word 'FAX'.</p>
You have a tax-related question ... Note: Do not submit tax-related questions to phishing@irs.gov.	If you have a tax-related question, unrelated to phishing or identity theft, please contact the IRS .

Local News: 3-Day Unlimited Metro Passes

Feb. 29, 2012 (Zha Mingjie, Shanghai Daily) -- Three day passes for unlimited use on the subway are available starting from Mar. 1, 2012.

The new RMB 45 (US\$ 7.14) pass allows the holder to travel on all 11 Metro Lines, said Shanghai Shentong Metro Group, the subway operator. The new passes are sold at all 200-plus Metro stations.

Shentong said the passes would benefit "short-term visitors who are in Shanghai for business or leisure."

Currently, an RMB 18 one day pass is available for visitors.

Metro passengers said they welcome the tickets, adding they'd like to see more diversified tickets that would be good for weekly or monthly use. But some complained that the price is too high.

Currently, subway passengers use either a single trip ticket or the public transportation card, which is also accepted for taxi, bus and ferry services, but does not offer a discount. The city's Metro fares are on a sliding scale, with a ceiling of RMB 10 and a minimum of RMB 3 (except for line 5).

Norgestimate and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets: Recall - Packaging Error, Potential for Incorrect Dosing Regimen

Glenmark Generics Inc. USA issued a voluntary, nationwide, consumer-level recall of seven (7) lots of Norgestimate and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets USP, 0.18 mg/0.035 mg, 0.215 mg/0.035 mg, 0.25 mg/0.035 mg.

Audience: OB/GYN, Pharmacy, Patient

Issue: Glenmark Generics Inc. issued a nationwide, consumer-level recall of seven (7) lots of Norgestimate and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets USP (0.18 mg/0.035 mg, 0.215 mg/0.035 mg, 0.25 mg/0.035 mg), because of a packaging error where select blisters were rotated 180 degrees within the card, reversing the weekly tablet orientation and making the lot number and expiry date visible only on the outer pouch. As a result of this packaging error, the daily regimen for these oral contraceptives may be incorrect and could leave women without adequate contraception, and at risk for unintended pregnancy.

Background: Norgestimate and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets are used as an oral contraceptive, indicated for the prevention of pregnancy in women. The product was distributed to wholesalers and retail pharmacies nationwide between September 21, 2011 and December 30, 2011.

Recommendation: Consumers exposed to affected packaging should begin using a non-hormonal form of contraception immediately. Patients who have the affected product should notify their physician and return the product to the pharmacy. See the Press Release for a listing of affected lot numbers, expiration dates, and product photos.

Read the MedWatch safety alert, including a link to the Press Release, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm293385.htm>

Safety Update: Physical Altercations with Drivers

The American Citizen Services Unit has received several reports of American citizens being injured following physical altercations with drivers of automobiles within our consular district.

Such physical altercations have sprung from the citizen tapping or otherwise making physical contact with an automobile driving across a pedestrian crosswalk very close to the US citizen. The ACS Unit urges American citizens to be cautious when walking as a pedestrian in China, as drivers in China may not follow the same driving customs

as in the United States and may not yield to pedestrians. If a car does come too close as you are crossing the street, we urge you not to hit the car as this may lead to a physical confrontation.



Skin Creams, Soaps and Lotions Marketed as Skin Lighteners and Anti-aging Treatments: May Contain the Toxic Metal, Mercury

Issue: FDA notified healthcare professionals and warned consumers not to use skin creams, beauty and antiseptic soaps, or lotions that might contain mercury. The products are marketed as skin lighteners and anti-aging treatments that remove age spots, freckles, blemishes and wrinkles. Adolescents also may use these products as acne treatments. Products with this toxic metal have been found in at least seven states.

Background: The products are manufactured abroad and sold illegally in the United States—often in shops in Latino, Asian, African or Middle Eastern

neighborhoods and online. Consumers may also have bought them in another country and brought them back to the U.S. for personal use. Investigations in the past few years by FDA and state health officials have turned up more than 35 products that contain unacceptable levels of mercury.

Recommendations: Consumers are advised to check the label of any skin lightening, anti-aging or other skin product used. If there is no label or no ingredients are listed, do not use the product. If “mercurous chloride,” “calomel,” “mercuric,” “mercurio,” or

“mercury,” are listed on the label, stop using the product immediately. If you suspect you have been using a product with mercury, stop using it immediately. Thoroughly wash hands and any other parts of the body that have come in contact with the product. Contact a health care professional or a medical care clinic for advice.

Read the Consumer Update and News Release at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm296261>.

Local News: Shanghai Targets Tiny Airborne Particles

Feb. 29, 2012 (Shanghai Daily) -- Exhaust from motor vehicles and boats are the biggest source of local PM2.5 emissions, accounting for one-fourth of fine particles in the city's air, the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau said yesterday.

The bureau released an analytical report on the source of PM2.5 and future measures it will take to help work out solutions to air-quality problems such as haze.

Another major component of the exhaust problem is the spreading of sandstorms from northern China,

which account for 20 percent of Shanghai's PM2.5 measurement.

PM2.5 also comes from a variety of local sources, including industrial procedures like chemical factories, industrial sprays, industrial boilers, power plants and flying dirt from construction sites, roads and stocking yards.

Residences contribute with kitchen smoke, laundry and painting, as do agricultural practices like straw burning, fertilizer use and livestock farming.

Shanghai will spend 10.3 billion yuan (US\$1.63 billion) on 53 projects targeting air pollution, especially for PM2.5 control, in the next three years. It plans to begin publicly reporting the stricter PM2.5 measuring gauge, which monitors the smallest particles - 2.5 microns or less in diameter - in June.

According to the plan, local government will eliminate high-polluting vehicles and control discharges from key industrial plants to reduce PM2.5, which pose major health risks in addition to affecting air quality and visibility.

Currently, there are over 200,000 high-polluting vehicles on local roads. Their exhaust discharge is 20 to 30 times that of new cars. Shanghai will expand the areas banning these high-polluting vehicles and eliminate 150,000 of them by 2014. It will also adopt a stricter National V emission standard, equivalent to European V, on new cars, as well as require cleaner fuel, next year.

By 2014, the city will eliminate 2,000 outdated projects with low production capacity but high pollution. These projects are responsible for 35 percent of overall particle emissions in the city, including the larger PM10.

Regulation of power plants and other sources of industrial pollution also will be tightened, and an online flying dirt monitoring system will be established on construction sites, the bureau said.

Shanghai will also cooperate with neighboring provinces in the Yangtze River Delta region to carry out regional air pollution inspection and control.

