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Inside C5

Southern DAILY

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Trump threatens to cut aid to U.N. members over Jerusalem vote

(Reuters) - A U.S. labor agency on Friday made it tougher for workers to form so-called micro unions made up of small groups of a company's employees, reversing an Obama-era decision that had been sharply criticized by companies.
It was the fifth time this week that the five-member National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) Republican majority, which has been in place since late September, upended a decision issued during the Obama administration that business groups said unfairly favored unions.
The NLRB in a 3-2 decision on Friday said a unionized unit of about 100 welders and "rework specialists" at a manufacturing company in Oregon was improper, and should include all 2,500 employees at the company's facility.
Forming smaller bargaining units can be a key organizing strategy for unions, particularly when they lack support from a majority of an employer's workforce. But business groups say that smaller bargaining units fracture workplaces.
The board said on Friday that its 2011 decision involving nursing agency Specialty Healthcare gave too much power to unions to decide which workers should be included in a bargaining unit.
In Specialty Healthcare, the NLRB ruled that businesses challenging "mi-

cro unions" must show that workers left out of a proposed unit share most of their working conditions with those who were included. That is a high bar for companies to meet since workers with different job titles and duties often have distinct supervisors, working hours, and wages.
The board on Friday said that decision improperly allowed unions to handpick groups of workers who were likely to vote in their favor "in all but narrow and highly unusual circumstances."
Previously, the burden was on unions to prove that proposed bargaining units were proper. Friday's decision revived that standard, making it easier for companies to challenge "micro unions."
David French, the vice president of the National Retail Federation, praised Friday's decision, saying the board's 2011 ruling had "undermined retail operations and limited opportunities for hardworking employees for the sole purpose of empowering Big Labor."
Friday's decision went against rulings by eight federal appeals courts. Courts have approved units of FedEx (FDX.N) drivers that excluded warehouse workers, and a unit of cosmetic and perfume department workers at a Macy's Inc (M.N) store in Massachusetts, among others.
An appeals court in Washington is considering Volkswagen AG's (VOWG_p.DE) challenge to a bargaining unit of skilled trade workers at the automaker's Chattanooga, Tennessee plant that excluded production workers.



A medic carries an injured Palestinian protester during a protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, near Qalandia checkpoint near the West Bank city of Ramallah

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley, in a letter to dozens of U.N. states on Tuesday seen by Reuters, warned that Trump had asked her to "report back on those countries who voted against us."
She bluntly echoed that call in a Twitter post: "The U.S. will be taking names."
Several senior diplomats said Haley's warning was unlikely to change

many votes in the General Assembly, where such direct, public threats are rare.
Miroslav Lajcak, president of the General Assembly, declined to comment on Trump's remarks, but added: "It's the right and responsibility of member states to express their views." A spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

also declined to comment on Trump's remarks on Wednesday.
"I like the message that Nikki sent yesterday at the United Nations, for all those nations that take our money and then they vote against us at the Security Council, or they vote against us potentially at the assembly,"

Chipotle restaurant under investigation after illness scare

(Reuters) - Shares of Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc (CMG.N) fell as much as 3.3 percent after a report that public health officials are investigating a possible illness outbreak in one of the company's restaurants in Los Angeles.
A Chipotle Mexican Grill is seen in Los Angeles, California, U.S. on April 25, 2016. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson/File Photo
An email from the Los Angeles Health Department's Acute Communicable Disease Control unit says the agency "is aware of reports of illness and is investigating" according to the Business Insider report.
Chipotle said the company is aware of a few online reports, but there is no clinical validation associated with them. The company also said it has not been contacted by customers

directly to substantiate these claims. At least three reports from customers under investigation after illness scare: Report



FILE PHOTO: Chipotle Mexican Grill photo of Chipotle CEO Steve Ells/www



File photo of a Chipotle Mexican Grill in Los Angeles

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Trump: 'We Can Be the Generation That Ends the Opioid Epidemic'

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency on Thursday and said the U.S. must confront "the worst drug crisis in American history."

The president said 64,000 Americans died from overdoses last year — 175 every day, seven every hour.

"This epidemic is a national health emergency," Trump said during an address at the White House. "Nobody has seen anything like what is going on now. As Americans, we cannot allow this to continue. It is time to liberate our communities from this scourge of drug addiction."

The president said, "We can be the generation that ends the opioid epidemic. We can do it."

Trump said he directed federal agencies to use all their resources to fight the drug crisis, including focusing on providing improved treatment for addicts.

"No part of our society" has been spared by the opioid crisis, Trump said, adding that he wanted Americans to know "the federal government is aggressively fighting the opioid epidemic on all fronts."

The president said the epidemic "will get worse before it gets better. But get better it will...It will be defeated."

First lady Melania Trump spoke before her husband and talked about the families and friends of opioid users she had met and she told the stories of addicts, some of whom had overdosed.

"This can happen to any of us," she said. "No state has been spared and no demographic untouched."

The president also went off script to tell the story of his older brother Fred, who died of alcoholism.

Trump Calls Opioids 'Worst Drug Crisis in American History'

"He'd tell me don't drink," Trump said in the emotional aside. "He was a strong guy but it was a tough, tough thing that he was going through. But I learned because of Fred."

In the audience for the president's remarks, a who's who of top administration officials and lawmakers. Seated in the front row were Cabinet members Betsy DeVos, Elaine Chao, Ben Carson, Alexander Acosta, Wilbur Ross, Ryan Zinke, and Jeff Sessions, while Gov. Chris Christie sat nearby flanked by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin and Republican Rob Portman.

The public health emergency declaration lasts 90 days, but can be renewed until no longer needed.

Christie, who leads the president's opioid commission, commended the action as "bold."

Trump's declaration is a sign that he is "showing an unprecedented commitment to fighting this epidemic," Christie said.

On Friday, Christie called that epidemic a "murder of our people from within" and explained that federal and state governments shouldn't hesitate to fund solutions.

"If we had a terrorist attack every day that killed 175 Americans, how much would you spend to make it stop?" Christie said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

The declaration alone provides no additional money to combat the problem but allows existing grants to be redirected to better deal with the crisis.

Among other things, the declaration allows for expanded access to "telemedicine" services, something the White House points out as being important in dealing with a crisis that is concentrated in rural areas across the United States.

States now also have the ability to expand the number of patients suffering from drug addiction they can treat at their facilities. At the agency level, money already granted can be now also be used to treat and prevent opioid addiction.

The president said he would be looking at the possibility of bringing "major lawsuits against people and companies that are hurting our people," as well as ensuring that one particular kind of "truly evil" opioid was taken off the market immediately.

Overdose Deaths by Race in 2014 per 100,000 people

HEROIN OPIOIDS
White 4.4 7.9
Black 2.5 3.3
Hispanic or Latino 1.9 2.2
Native American 3.7 8.4
Asian 10.3 0.7

Trump said the Centers for Disease Control have launched a prescription awareness campaign to ensure that patients have the facts and are aware of the dangers of opioid abuse.

Christie praised the multi-pronged approach to the issue that included prevention, intervention and treatment.

Trump had first said he would declare a national emergency in August, a move his opioid commission recommended over the summer. (Courtesy https://www.nbcnews.com)

Related Trump's Emergency Declaration on Opioid Crisis Will Require Further Funding

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's announcement of an unprecedented public health emergency Thursday to combat opioid and drug abuse drew both praise and concern from public health advocates. Many said the move, while a positive first step, risked undercutting the enormous financial requirement to launch an effective response.

typical Medicare and Medicaid rules temporarily or access the national stockpile of medications.

"Funds will be critical," said Rebecca Haf-fajee, Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. "Congress will need to appropriate more money" given the shallow resources available under the Public Health Emergency Fund.



A series of scandals now leaves the Trump administration without a health and human services secretary or a drug czar, the two posts best positioned to tackle this crisis. The commission itself will disband after it issues a major report on the crisis next week.

From the start, the president's commission to combat drug and opioid abuse made clear that the ball was in Trump's court.

"The first and most urgent recommendation of this Commission is direct and completely within your control," its members wrote in August in an interim report addressed to the president, calling on him to declare a national emergency.

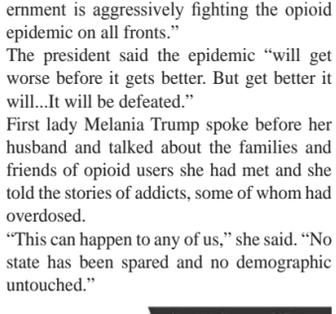
Its assessment was grim. Approximately 142 Americans die every day from drug overdose — more than those killed in gun homicides and car crashes combined. The report added that more than 27 million people reported current use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescription drugs in 2015. Working-class whites, who supported Trump in record numbers, have been among the hardest hit.

"You, Mr. President, are the only person who can bring this type of intensity to the emergency and we believe you have the will to do so and to do so immediately," it said.

The president's declaration Thursday will, among other things, allow for expanded access to "telemedicine" services, something the White House describes as important in dealing with a crisis that is concentrated in rural areas across the United States.

First Lady Melania Trump will spearhead the White House's efforts to combat addiction.

"Drug addiction can take your friends, neighbors or your family," she said, speaking ahead of the president Thursday. "No state has been spared and no demographic has been untouched." (Courtesy https://www.nbcnews.com)



Some states have more painkiller prescriptions per person than others.

The president also went off script to tell the story of his older brother Fred, who died of alcoholism.

Advertisement for Southern Television 15.3 channel, featuring various programs like '大朋鸟', 'MEMOIRS IN CHINA', '中国远征军', '男左女右', '海峡两岸', and '明星加油站'.

Table with 7 columns (MON-SUN) and 24 rows of program listings for Southern Television 15.3, including times and program titles.

A Snapshot Of The World



Carabao Cup Quarter Final - Bristol City vs Manchester United



U.S. President Trump celebrates with Congressional Republicans after passage of GOP tax bill at the White House in Washington



FILE PHOTO: Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister al-Falih addresses a news conference after an OPEC meeting in Vienna



A 3,000-year-old Olmec relief sculpture is on display after it was recovered two years ago in Paris, at the Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology in Mexico City



Argentina's Finance Minister Nicolas Dujovne, accompanied by Senator Esteban Bullrich and Senator Beatriz Mirkin, debates a new tax law in the Argentine Congress in Buenos Aires



Protesters who call for an immigration bill addressing the so-called Dreamers, young adults who were brought to the United States as children, rally on Capitol Hill in Washington



The police music band leaves the Government palace after a meeting with Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and cabinet in Lima



A man stands in front of a sign in the main press center for tomorrow's regional elections in Barcelona
SPAIN-POLITICS/CATALONIA



Belgium's King Philippe, Queen Mathilde, their children and Prince Aymeric pose in front of a Christmas tree at the Brussels Royal Palace

HOUSTON, Texas (KTRK) --Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo has announced that officers will be allowed to use their patrol vehicles to immobilize fleeing vehicles.

This morning, Acevedo and other top HPD commanders demonstrated the new procedures at the department's training academy on Aldine Westfield.

Chief Acevedo stated at the press conference that he wanted to make Houston one of the safest big cities in the country.

Acevedo said officers will be trained to bump or nudge fleeing vehicles at low speeds, to cause the vehicle to spin out. This technique is referred to as the "pit" maneuver.



Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo has announced that officers will be allowed to use their patrol vehicles to immobilize fleeing vehicles - a maneuver called the "pit maneuver."

Pursuit intervention is a technique used to gently tap a suspect's vehicle during a chase while the vehicle is at a specific speed. The procedure is supposed to enhance the safety of the residents, officers and suspects.

"Suspects are the only ones to blame for injuries in 99 percent of chases," Chief Acevedo said. "I believe suspects who cause death during chases should be charged with murder."



A police squad car immobilizing a fleeing vehicle using the "pit maneuver."

From January 1, 2012, to October 31, 2017, HPD has engaged in 4,831 pursuits, with 30 percent ending in crashes and 6.8 percent ending

in injuries, according to reports. There's an average of 5 fatalities a year.

"I want the community to know your lives matter. Officers lives matter. That's why we are starting the pit," said Acevedo.

Each class will be 10 hours and officers will only be certified once they are proficient in the maneuver, according to the HPD's technique trainer.

HPD trainers say they will tap the rear of vehicles to make them lose control and push suspect drivers off the road.

HPD To Train Officers To Bump Suspect Cars In Chases Using "Pit Maneuver"

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

Supervisors will recommend which officers they want trained. Rookies will not be trained until they prove that they're good decision makers and drivers.

"Next month, the first officers should be on the street trained. This is our Christmas present to the city of Houston," said Acevedo. "For criminals, this is Scrooge."

(Courtesy http://abc13.com/)

Related

Harris County Sheriff's Office Starts Telepsychiatry Program



Shown in photo is Program Cloud 9 CEO J.C. Adams who aids Harris County Sheriff Deputy Fred Lerma during a training session of a telepsych program in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Photo/Houston Chronicle via AP)

HOUSTON (AP) — The nice old man near Old Town Spring calls 911 every month or so to complain about people hiding in the attic of his home.

The Houston Chronicle reports there's nothing there, of course, except the inventions of his dementia and schizoaffective disorder. But he's now on a first-name basis with the Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Response Team.

They don't arrest him, not even when they find 55 gallons of gasoline stashed in the attic to keep out the imaginary people.

Now the Harris County Sheriff's Office may have a better solution. A new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies

with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room.

The program, which started Tuesday, is believed to be the first of its kind in the country, officials said.

"It will help better assess things and find a better outcome," said Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "We can better pinpoint the best way to deal with each individual."

Telepsychiatry programs are already in use in some county jails and juvenile lockups, but the possibility of using it in the field is the brainchild of Dr. Avrim Fishkind, a psychiatrist who is CEO of Houston-based JSA Health Corp.

"If you think about it, the rub with psychiatrists is that there aren't any - it takes months to see them," he said. "I kind of got tired of hearing people complain we were never there to help anybody."

Now, they'll be on call 24/7. But aside from making psychiatrists more accessible to those in the throes of a mental health crisis, the program could end up saving the county money.



Shown in photo, Cloud 9 CEO J.C. Adams trains Harris County Sheriff Deputies on a telepsych program in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Steve Gonzales/Houston Chronicle via AP)

"These are multimillion-dollar savings, potentially," Fishkind said. "Typical mental health and jail stays are thousands of dollars."

Fishkind's company, founded in 2007, already makes use of a fleet of some 70 psychiatrists to offer telemedicine services from California to Louisiana. But

those services weren't portable; most of the clients were hospitals and community clinics.

So to bring the concept to the streets, he approached Cloud 9, an Austin-based startup that had already developed an app to let psychiatrists securely video chat with clients in their homes.

With a few tweaks to the software, developers were able to make the program work for first responders in the field. Verizon pitched in to offer free use of tablets and the cellular network, and the pilot was born.

The program will run for eight weeks or until it's used in 25 to 30 calls, whichever comes first, according to Frank Webb, an HCSO project manager.

For starters, only a handful of deputies and supervisors will carry around the telepsych-equipped tablets.

The logistics are straightforward. When a deputy or the Crisis Intervention Response Team is dispatched to a call involving a mental health crisis, they can dial in to JSA and alert them. Then, according to JSA clinical operations manager Terrie Mayfield, the call goes into a queue for help, and by the time they arrive a psychiatrist can be on standby.

After a video chat session, the psychiatrist will be able to help frame a solution.

So the next time the elderly man in Spring dials 911, a deputy could rush to the scene with help in hand. And the CIRT team could direct its resources to higher-level crises.

It will work better for some scenarios than for others.

"If we are called for someone being suicidal and then we get there and say they're not - that would be perfect for this program," sheriff's Deputy Don Hess said during a training session at JSA earlier this month.

"But a guy naked with underwear on his head in the middle of the roadway? Meh, we'll probably leave this in the car," he said, gesturing to a tablet on the table.

In some cases, the telepsych consult will lead to a referral to the NeuroPsychiatric Center - or, if that's full, the emergency

room or hospital. But in other cases, the psychiatrist might determine there's no threat, call in a prescription, or recommend other counseling. "The goals are to reduce the transportation of patients to the hospital, and see if we can resolve some of these situations in the field and utilize other resources," Webb said.



In theory, having a clinician on call at all times could achieve that goal. But that's a pricey proposition, and guessing where to deploy a professional could be a challenge in an area the size of Harris County. In a Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 photo, Deputies Fred Lerma and Jose Gomez enjoy a call from Dr. Elizabeth Truong during a pilot test of a telepsych program training session in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Photo/Houston Chronicle via AP)

Greg Hansch, public policy director with National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas, offered glowing support for the program.

"It has a lot of potential," he said. "It can help people access mental health treatment and keep people out of settings that they don't need to be in."

But despite the optimism, everyone involved admitted it's not clear that the project will work. Will people in crisis on the street want to get help through an app? Will deputies feel comfortable using it? How soon should they make the call for help?

"A lot of the pilot is just to test the viability and the technology of doing this," Fishkind said.

But if it does work, Fishkind has ambitious dreams for the future.

"In my fantasy world, we work with Amazon to use drones to deliver drugs to the site," he said. "I've got to get Uber to provide free transportation and Amazon for the delivery service. You've got to think outside of the box." (Courtesy http://www.chron.com/news/texas/)

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Oil prices in 2018: It's all about Texas

The direction of oil prices in 2018 will be decided in Texas. Crude oil production out of the U.S. is expected to hit record levels next year, buoyed in part by OPEC supply curbs that have put a floor under prices. For analysts forecasting prices next year, there are two key questions: exactly how far American production grows and whether the global economy is strong enough to swallow those extra barrels?

Brent crude is expected to average \$60 a barrel in 2018, while its U.S. counterpart is seen at about \$55 a barrel, according to the median estimate of 27 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. That's below where oil prices sit now -- currently near \$64 a barrel for Brent and close to \$58 for West Texas Intermediate. Around those averages forecasts vary considerably -- ABN Amro Bank NV is ultra-bullish while Citigroup Inc. and BNP Paribas fall on the more bearish end of the spectrum.

"A lot of the divergence that you'll find between the analysts that do their balances really pertains to this U.S. production growth figure," said Harry Tchilingirian, head of commodity markets strategy at BNP Paribas SA in London, who forecasts Brent will average \$55 a barrel in 2018. "We are very optimistic on U.S. shale supply growth next year and this optimism is essentially fueled by the extensive hedging that occurred in 2017 for 2018."

Supply cuts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies finally began to crimp global supplies in the second half of 2017. While that's translated

into higher prices, it has also been a boon to oil producers in North America, who have been able to lock in prices for supplies going forward, giving the financial certainty to invest in drilling. The net-short position of swap dealers, an indication of hedging, increased for a ninth week to a fresh record-high, according to the latest data from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Producers have found it optimal to lock in rates with oil prices hitting the highest levels in two years during the fourth quarter. In a Bloomberg New Energy Finance survey of 53 North American drillers, producers had contracts in place for next year's crude production at an average price of \$48.95 a barrel as of the third quarter. There's a "risk to the upside based on what we think will end up as a record amount of hedging activity year on year," said Ed Morse, head of



crude production will surpass 10 million barrels a day next year, a record, while the International Energy Agency bolstered forecasts for growth in supplies outside OPEC next year by 200,000 barrels a day. Growth in supplies from outside OPEC may exceed the rise in global oil consumption next year, the IEA said. While a number of analysts expect U.S. shale to meet the rise in global demand next year, ABN Amro -- the most bullish on Brent and WTI forecasts in the survey -- only sees shale output increasing by around 700,000 to 800,000 barrels a day. Any more will be "challenging" due to rising production and financing costs, according to Hans van

Cleef, a senior energy economist at ABN, which predicts Brent will average \$70 next year. "The overall U.S. production number has been increasing, but if you look at separate

basins like the Bakken, they have struggled to increase production," van Cleef said. On the other hand, exploration and production companies' "tendency toward growth could eclipse the narrative of marrying disciplined spending with a controlled pace of production and capital repatriation, further delaying recovery," according to research by Bloomberg Intelligence analysts. As well as shale growth, demand will be key -- and that depends chiefly on the continued health of the global economy.

Kuwait's new oil minister Bakheet Al-Rashidi expects "healthy" crude demand next year, and sees consumption growing by 1.5 million barrels a day next year. That's in line with how JPMorgan Chase & Co. sees demand playing out in 2018. The bank forecasts WTI at \$54.88 next year and Brent at \$60, the median of Bloomberg's survey. WTI traded at \$57.75 a barrel and Brent at \$63.80 at 11:32 a.m. in London on Wednesday.

commodity research at Citigroup. "That gives rise to the view that if we're wrong on the supply side, we're understating it." The Energy Information Administration said U.S.

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How to complete a channel scan on your Digital TV to add Channel 15.3

Please note: All TV manufacturers differ, so menu options, wording and other items may vary. The best way to complete the channel scan is to refer to the TV owner's manual. If that is unavailable, the following general steps should guide you through the process.

1. Using your television's remote control, press the Menu or Settings option. Note: a "Smart TV" may have a smart button that must be used to access the settings menu. It will generally have the manufacturer's logo on it.
2. Locate Channels or Tuner Set Up option.
3. Check the menu for an option of Antenna Type or Connection Type followed by either Antenna or Cable.
4. Make sure that the designated setting is Cable (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Digital Cable, CATV or Cable STD)
5. From the menu, choose Digital Channel Search (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Channel Scan, Channel Search or Auto program.)
6. Allow the TV to complete the search. You will see a bar listing how many channels have been found. The process may take up to an hour.
7. Once complete, confirm the menu prompt, then press an exit or quit option.