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Houston's Mucky Duck music venue hit by unsuccessful thieves early Monday morning



Inside C5

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Tuesday, January 16, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

## China absence looms over Canada meeting on how to pressure North Korea

VANCOUVER (Reuters) - Foreign ministers from around 20 nations gather on Tuesday to discuss how to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions through diplomatic and financial pressure, but China, seen as a key player in any long-term solution, will be absent.

The Vancouver meeting, co-hosted by Canada and the United States, comes amid signs that tensions on the peninsula have eased, at least temporarily. North and South Korea held talks for the first time in two years last week and Pyongyang says it will send athletes across the border to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

But the United States and others say the international community must look at ways of expanding a broad range of sanctions aimed at North Korea's nuclear program.

"There is growing evidence that our maximum pressure campaign is being felt in North Korea. They are feeling the strain," said Brian Hook, the State Department's director of policy planning.

Hook told a briefing in Washington that participants, including U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, would examine how

to boost maritime security around North Korea to intercept ships trying to defy sanctions as well as "disrupting funding and disrupting resources."

Separately, 17 members of the 105-nation Proliferation Security Initiative, which aims to prevent the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, on Friday said "it is imperative for us to redouble our efforts to put maximum pressure on North Korea".

But North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has shown no sign of willingness to give in to U.S. demands and negotiate away a weapons program he sees as vital to his survival.

Another challenge in Vancouver will be the absence of China, which has significant influence in North Korea. Beijing is Pyongyang's only ally and its chief trading partner.

The meeting primarily groups those nations that sent troops to the Korean war of 1950-53, when China fought alongside the North. Beijing condemned the gathering.

"Holding this kind of meeting that doesn't include important parties to the Korean peninsula nuclear issue actually cannot help in advancing an appropriate resolution to the issue," foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing.



South Korean soldiers set up a barricade after vehicles transporting the South Korean delegation drove past a checkpoint on the Grand Unification Bridge in Paju

## County Attorney Ryan wins Court Order Stopping Hazardous Waste Dumping

County Attorney Ryan wins Court Order Stopping Hazardous Waste Dumping

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan won a court order on Monday stopping a Houston company from dumping hazardous waste into the city's storm sewer system.

The temporary restraining order prevents Wright Containers, LLC, 6633 Lindberg in southeast Houston, from accepting more waste and disposing of the waste into the city's system. Judge Jeff Shadwick of the 55th State District Court ordered Wright Containers to return for a hearing on January 19.

Wright Containers operates an industrial packaging company that supplies totes, steel drums, and other packaging products. Among its products are "Reconditioned Bottle Totes." Totes are large plastic chemical storage containers that are encased in a heavy metal wire cage. Each tote is capable of holding approximately 300 gallons of waste. According to its website, "Wright Containers will pick up your dirty and empty IBCs."



Three company employees alerted authorities about ongoing violations of the Texas Water Code. The District Attorney, the City Attorney and the Houston Police Department used their information to obtain a search warrant.

The search of Wright Containers by HPD on January 4 uncovered evidence that the company had accepted used hazardous waste containers without proper state authorization. Additional evidence found at the site supported the whistleblower allegations that hazardous waste had been illegally dumped into a concealed storm drain leading to the City of Houston's storm water collection system connected to Sims Bayou. Between 300 and 500 totes remain at the facility.

Many contain hazardous waste, some of it is highly corrosive, and the totes are in various states of disrepair, with some leaking waste onto the ground.

"Cleaning chemical waste containers is a hazardous business and one that requires strict compliance with state and city environmental law," said County Attorney



Officers took this photo of corrosive gelatinous sledge flowing into City storm drain at Wright Container.

Ryan. "Dumping waste from these containers in to the storm sewers is unacceptable. If the company's employees had not alerted HPD to this problem it would have continued unreported. They may well have

averted a disaster." Company owner Ron Wright has agreed to work with the County and City to ensure the business is in compliance with all applicable environmental laws before it resumes cleaning used containers.

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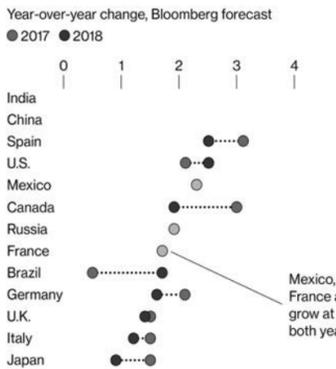
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Everyone in the world—plus the two SpaceX customers who technically won't be in the world when they do figure eights around the Earth and the moon for two weeks this coming year—can look forward to another year of healthy growth in 2018.

The big story for 2018 is likely to be how to manage the continued expansion. A turning point may come at the end of September, when the European Central Bank might stop or curtail monthly bond purchases.

The International Monetary Fund, which has reported subpar growth for years, now says "the global upswing in economic activity is strengthening." In its World Economic Outlook, published in October, the IMF says now would be a good time to deal with issues that went unaddressed during the convalescence from the 2007-09 financial crisis.

GDP Growth Projections for Large Economies



GRAPHIC BY BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK; DATA: BLOOMBERG ECONOMICS

The Key Question Is Will Consumers And Businesses Continue To Ignore Worrisome Geopolitical Threats?

The Global Economy Looks Good For 2018

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



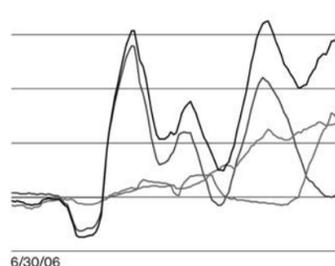
Revelers celebrate in this Jan. 1, 2016, file photo, as confetti flies over New York's Times Square after the clock strikes midnight during the New Year's Eve celebration as seen from the Marriott Marquis hotel. (AP Photo)

Bloomberg economists predict the U.S. will grow 2.5 percent in 2018; China, 6.4 percent; Japan, 0.9 percent; and Germany, 1.6 percent. In most cases those numbers are in line with the growth expected for 2017, which has turned out to be a better year than many forecasters expected.

Still, brisk growth that's not shared by all is better than no growth at all. One reason for optimism about the outlook is that the global expansion seems to be based on strong fundamentals, not froth. In a virtuous spiral, confident consumers are spending, which allows employers to hire and invest, which leads to more consumer spending, and so on.

year, economists at JPMorgan Chase & Co. wrote on Oct. 25. The synchronized expansion reflects "a self-reinforcing turn in the global profit cycle that has boosted business confidence and spending in all corners of the world," the economists said in an earlier note.

Central Bank Net Asset Purchases



GRAPHIC BY BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK; DATA: BLACKROCK INVESTMENT INSTITUTE

Healthy growth puts the world in a better position to deal with the next downturn, whenever it comes. Governments fight recessions by lowering interest rates, cutting taxes, and raising spending. Those tools are blunted if interest rates are already low and government debt is so high that gov-

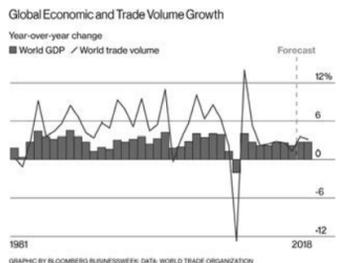
ernments can't get away with bigger budget deficits. Policymakers' goal for now is to normalize interest rates and repair their countries' finances, gaining altitude so the next downdraft can't plunge them into a hillside.

It's also possible that we're already headed for a crash. Economists are lousy at picking turning points. After Queen Elizabeth II questioned the failure to foresee the financial crisis last decade, a group of British economists wrote her a letter saying it "was principally a failure of the collective imagination of many bright people, both in this country and internationally, to understand the risks to the system as a whole."

A key question for 2018 is whether consumers and businesspeople will continue to shrug off some pretty scary geopolitical threats. So far they've been nonchalant. The best example is South Korea, which has been rocked by threats of nuclear attack from the north, corporate scandals, and even a warning from President Donald Trump that its free-trade agreement with the U.S. might not survive.

near record highs. The Bank of Korea is confident enough in the outlook that it's signaling another interest rate hike on the horizon. (Economists expect it to happen next year.)

Similarly, on the other side of the planet, the economy of the U.K. has trundled along at a better-than-expected clip given the uncertainty over Britain's exit from the European Union, which must take place by the end of March 2019. This is all the more remarkable considering the cack-handed way the government of Prime Minister Theresa May has conducted the talks.



GRAPHIC BY BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK; DATA: WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Or how about Spain, which could lose a fifth of its economy if Catalonia secedes? In the fraught leadup to Catalonia's unauthorized September referendum on independence, Spain somehow managed to post the fastest growth of the big four Continental economies. Spanish imperturbabilidad will be tested in the months ahead.

One of the big stories to watch in 2018 will be how the EU reimagines itself in light of Brexit, the crisis in Catalonia, and the differing Euro-visions of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Macron wants more fiscal integration than most Germans are comfortable with. "There is a window of opportunity" in the first half of 2018 for the French and Germans to come to some kind of compromise on governance, says IFO's Fuest. After that, he says, Europe will be distracted by the approach of Brexit, European Parliament elections, and the choice of a new European Central Bank president in 2019.

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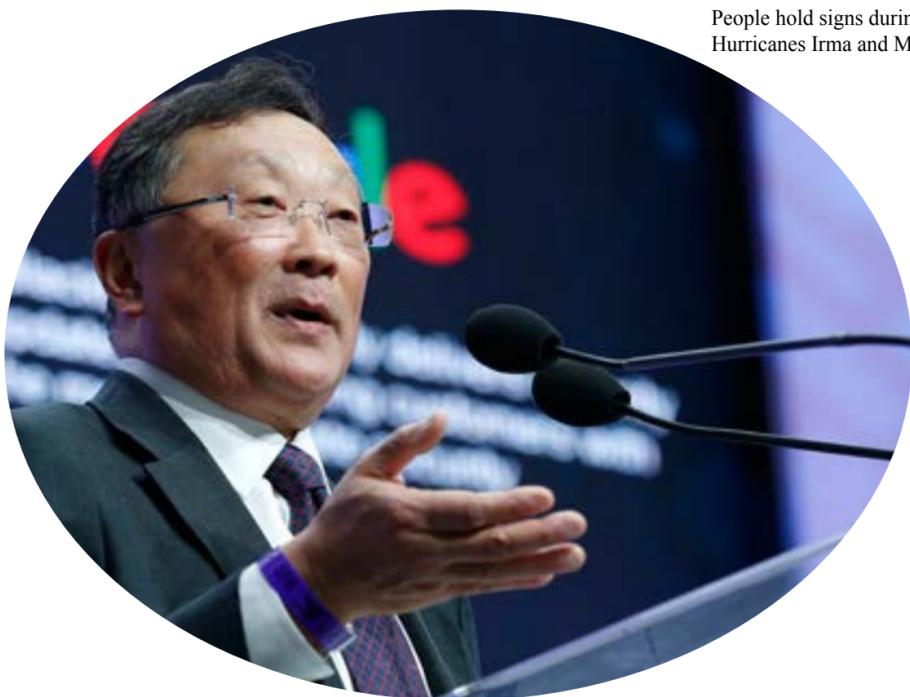
# A Snapshot Of The World



FILE PHOTO: Police vehicles leave Pauline Johnson Junior Public School in Toronto



People hold signs during a protest demanding that authorities fix the electrical grid which was mostly destroyed after Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island in September, in San Juan



BlackBerry CEO Chen speaks at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit



The Doping Control Laboratory, at the National Institute of Scientific Research Centre (INRS) Institute Armand-Frappier seen in Laval



Handball - Men's EHF European Handball Championship - preliminary round Group D - Czech Republic v Denmark - Arena Varazdin, Varazdin, Croatia - January 15, 2018. Denmark's fan before the game. REUTERS/Ognen Teofilovski



The crew of Sun Hung Kai / Scallywag made a textbook recovery during a man overboard situation on Sunday, January 14 during Leg 4 of the round the world sailing race. Crew member Alex Gough was washed overboard by a wave during a sail change, near midday local time, in winds of 15-20 knots / Leg 4, Melbourne to Hong Kong, day 14 of the Volvo Ocean Race. Alex Gough on the wheel, Ben Piggott and Annemieke Bes on board Sun Hung Kai/Scallywag on January 15, 2018.



Feng Xingya, President of GAC Group, speaks at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit



the Grand Unification Bridge in Paju South Korean soldiers place traffic cones at a checkpoint on the Grand Unification Bridge that leads to the true village of Panmunjom, just south of the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreans, in Paju, South Korea



People protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's recent comments and tough stand on immigration near the Southern Boulevard bridge to Palm Beach near Mar-a-Lago

Influenza viruses are among the most unpredictable disease actors around. These constantly changing germs regularly humiliate anyone who is rash enough to forecast the potential severity of an upcoming flu season or how well — or poorly — the vaccine might work this year.



"I wouldn't," Dr. Kanta Subbarao, director of the World Health Organization's influenza collaborating center in Australia, said with a laugh when asked what she would project the Northern Hemisphere might be facing, flu-wise, in the coming months. "I've been in this business too long to fall into the trap of trying to predict." That said, flu experts are a bit worried right now. There are some signals they think may foretell that we're facing a nasty flu season. But they hand-to-heart don't know whether the constellation of things that is worrying them will lead to clogged doctors offices. Subbarao and other flu experts discussed with the press the coming flu season. Beyond the basics — there will be a wave or two of flu activity sometime between now and next spring, and the people caught up in the wave will curse the virus — we cannot tell you what's going to happen. But we can explain why experts are on edge.



Here are three things they've been watching.

The flu vaccine is probably not an optimal match

In the flu world, scientists in one hemisphere keep a close eye on the other to try to figure out what might be headed their way. And during their 2017 winter, parts of the Southern Hemisphere, including Australia,

lia, had a pretty nasty flu season. Hong Kong and some other places in the tropics have also experienced a surprising amount of flu of late.

The illness has been caused mainly by H3N2 viruses, which trigger the worst outbreaks of the two influenza A viruses and two types of influenza B viruses that circulate among people. Flu seasons in which H3N2 viruses dominate are typically miserable, with lots of hospitalizations and more deaths.

"At this point the data look like it was a big season. Started earlier than usual, lasted a bit longer. ... And all segments of the population were affected, including people who were vaccinated," Subbarao said of the Australian winter outbreak.

The severity of the flu in at least some parts of the Southern Hemisphere has created concern a similar assault is heading toward the Northern Hemisphere.

But there's a complicating factor: Last winter North America had a pretty active flu season, caused mainly by H3N2 viruses. So did countries in the Southern Hemisphere follow us? Or are we about to follow them?

"That's the million-dollar question," Subbarao said.

People who were infected by the virus last year are less likely to fall prey to it again this winter. So the amount of illness experienced in North America last year could blunt the impact of this season, if another H3N2 onslaught is headed our way, suggested Jacqueline Katz, deputy director of the influenza division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SYMPTOMS OF FLU: Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Runny or stuffy nose, Feeling feverish/chills, Muscle or body aches, Headaches, Fatigue (tiredness). #FIGHT FLU www.cdc.gov/flu

The flu vaccine is probably not an optimal match

Late last month leading flu experts from around the world — Katz and Subbarao among them — met at the World Health

Organization for a twice-annual ritual. They selected the viruses that should be covered by the winter 2018 Southern Hemisphere flu vaccine, using recent viral surveillance data from flu laboratories around the globe.

It takes months to make and distribute flu vaccine, which is updated regularly in an effort to keep pace with the ever-changing viruses. The strain selection meeting for the Northern Hemisphere vaccine takes place every year in late February.



Rather than recommend a flu shot with the same composition as the ones in clinics, pharmacies, and doctors' offices in the Northern Hemisphere are injecting right now, the experts decided to update two of the target viruses. Interpretation: The Northern Hemisphere shot is already a bit out of date. (Courtesy https://www.statnews.com/)

Related

Study Says Flu Hits Men Harder Than Women

As winter rolls into town, so does the flu and all its miserable symptoms. Yet, doctors and women alike have long noticed that men tend to bemoan those symptoms more than women. The phenomenon even has a name: the "man flu."



While the phrase "man flu" started as derision for what is seen as men whining about being sick, researchers say men's immune systems may be weaker than women's and respiratory illnesses may

actually hit them harder. (Photo by Wikimedia Commons)

So, are men just whiny wimps? No, a new analysis out of Canada suggests, because respiratory illnesses may indeed hit men harder than women. According to study author Dr. Kyle Sue, "there are already many physiologic differences between men and women, so it makes sense that we could differ in our responses to cold and flu viruses as well."

Sue is a clinical assistant professor in family medicine with the Health Sciences Centre at Memorial University of Newfoundland. "The evidence in current studies points towards men having weaker immune systems than women, especially when it comes to common viral respiratory infections," Sue explained. "Men are more susceptible to them, symptoms are worse, they last longer, and men are more likely to be hospitalized and die from the flu."



The evidence in current studies points towards men having weaker immune systems than women, especially when it comes to common viral respiratory infections.

One investigation out of Hong Kong suggested that when the flu strikes, adult men face a greater risk for being admitted to the hospital than their female peers. Another American study also found that, all things being equal, men seem to face a higher risk for actually dying from the flu than women.

Still another investigation indicated that in the face of both the flu and other respiratory illnesses, men face a higher risk for developing complications than women. What's more, several mouse studies suggested that hormonal differences between men and women may actually offer women greater protection from the full brunt of

flu symptoms. Other patient-based studies similarly indicated that the onset of a flu may trigger a stronger immune response among women than men, blunting the full impact of symptoms.

And yet another study found that women tend to develop a stronger reaction to the flu vaccine than men, perhaps because higher testosterone levels among men tend to suppress the overall immune response, the review team suggested. The analysis was published Dec. 11 in the BMJ.

Sue acknowledged that more research is needed. But he suggested that the findings to date indicate that the "man flu" has some basis in reality.



"Men are regularly stereotyped to exaggerate cold and flu symptoms," Sue noted. "That's how the term 'man flu' became so commonly used internationally, regardless of differences in culture," he said. "[But] from my clinical work, personal experiences and my social circles, I've seen men suffer worse from colds and flus. In other words, be less functional."

And Sue added that if the underpinnings of "man flu" are real, it could mean that flu treatment may have to be tailored to address gender differences. "Medically treating both genders exactly the same will do both genders a disservice," Sue said. "We already screen men earlier for cardiovascular diseases because they are more susceptible. Why should it be so controversial for men to suffer worse from colds and flus?"

Dr. Ebbing Lautenbach, chief of the division of infectious diseases at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, said the latest analysis "does a nice job of reviewing how much real data there are to back up these commonly held impressions." He wasn't involved with the review.

Still, Lautenbach stressed that the analysis does not prove that a "man's response to a respiratory infection is, in fact, worse than a woman's and, if so, by how much. Much more work needs to be done to figure out whether differences exist and, if so, what biological mechanisms might explain them." (Courtesy https://www.upi.com/Health\_News)

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Houston police searching for escaped prisoner



Houston police are searching in east downtown for an escaped prisoner, a man with a long criminal recording, including bail jumping and fleeing from police.

Jorge Santana-Trujillo, 30, escaped from a transport van after slipping out of his handcuffs, HPD spokeswoman Jodi Silva said. He was in custody on a felony fugitive warrant, arrested for violation of probation.

Sometime before 9:30 a.m., police began swarming the area near Scott and Leeland near the University of Houston and, for a time, Drew and Milby streets, searching for the escapee. Police have K-9 units on hand, and a helicopter is circling the sky. Police have moved their search to east downtown.

This is a breaking news story and will be updated as information becomes available.

Santana-Trullio has a history of escaping from custody, fleeing police and jumping bail. Harris County court records show a long history of run-ins with the law, including an armed confrontation in 2009 with a northwest Harris County man who found Santana-Trujillo and two other people breaking into cars.

The earliest Harris County court filings show Santana-Trujillo was arrested in September 2005, two days before his 18th birthday, for carrying a tool used to break into cars. He made a \$500 bail and then jumped bond. After he was caught two months later, he pleaded guilty to unlawful use of a criminal instrument in exchange for 30 days in jail. wo years later, in 2007, he was arrested for possession of cocaine and admitted guilt in exchange for four years of probation. While on probation in January 2009, he was pulled over and caught with marijuana. During that arrest, he gave police a fake name and claimed he was having an asthma attack. At the jail, a doctor found his lungs were clear. Santana-Trujillo then claimed he was having appendicitis. He was taken to LBJ Hospital where he said he needed to use the restroom. He was able to flee police at the hospital and was later charged with escape.

Houston's Mucky Duck music venue hit by unsuccessful thieves early Monday morning



The Mucky Duck, at 2425 Norfolk, is known for hosting singer-songwriters, including some Texas favorites. Early Monday morning, it was site of a botched theft job after suspects were scared off by a neighbor.

By Craig Hlavaty

One of Houston's most popular listening rooms is picking up the pieces after thieves broke into the music venue looking for valuables.

Rusty Andrews, the owner of long-running McGonigel's Mucky Duck in the Upper Kirby area (2425 Norfolk), shared a photo Monday afternoon of what appeared to be the venue's safe battered and bruised as well as a trashed front office.

His wife Teresa told Chron.com on Monday afternoon that Houston police are currently looking at surveillance video from both inside and outside the venue. Three suspects can be seen in the video driving a large white Dodge pickup.

"There was a suspicious-looking truck on the block that was scared away by a neighbor," according to Teresa. "They didn't get away with anything, luckily."

Rusty Andrews, the owner of long-running McGonigel's Mucky Duck in the Upper Kirby area (2425 Norfolk), shared a photo on Monday afternoon of what appeared to be the venue's safe battered and bruised as well as a trashed front office. Photo: Rusty Andrews

The couple received a message from the alarm company around 4 a.m. Monday morning alerting them to a break-in. They arrived just minutes after the suspects left empty-handed.

According to Andrews, the real damage inflicted was on the front door of the venue, smashed to bits by the bad guys. "They tore the front door to pieces.

The same door that countless musicians have walked through since we opened," she said Monday. One of the most loved, Greg Trooper, died just a year ago this week she said.

It's business as usual though at the Mucky Duck, which was open for lunch and will be open for its weekly open mic night on Monday night.

"Except for the door broken you wouldn't know anything happened," she says. Concerts this week, including Bob Schneider's sold-out show set Thursday night, are still going on as planned.

The venue opened June 1, 1990 with singer-songwriters Shake Russell, Jack Saunders, and Dana Cooper playing to a packed crowd.

"They left and didn't take any money that first night," Andrews says of the artists. The trio wanted the venue to keep the money to help it get on its feet.

美南電視轉換新頻道15.3操作指南

美南國際電視網STV Channel 已由55.5 轉換至15.3，並正式擴大為十個頻道，廣大收視觀眾只要透過遙控器轉台至15.3，即可收看到美南電視節目，如果您家中的電視遙控器轉到15.3頻道，依然無法收看到美南電視，請依以下中英對照操作指南方式調整。

點選遙控器內的Menu頻道設定，重新掃描，注意智能型電視可能有一個聰明的按鈕用於設置MENU選項。通常會有廠商的LOGO標誌。尋找頻道設置選項。確認頻道是以天線收視。從MENU中，選擇數位頻道搜索 (Channel Scan 或 Channel Search 或是Auto program)，進行頻道掃描搜索或頻道自動設定。當電視完成自動搜索後，你會看到電視列出已有多少個頻道重新被發現。頻道重新設定過程有時可能長達一個小時。頻道設定完成後，按確認然後退出。如果頻道重新搜尋仍無法接收或是收視情況不佳，請購買天線調整最佳收視角度。如仍有相關問題，請致電美南新聞281-498-4310，聯繫Daniel。

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.