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Houstonians come out in force for the 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo



Inside C2

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'Trade wars are good,' Trump says, defying global concern over tariffs

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump struck a defiant tone on Friday, saying trade wars were good and easy to win, after his plan to put tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum triggered global criticism and a slide in stock markets. The European Union raised the possibility of taking countermeasures, France said the duties would be unacceptable and China urged Trump to show restraint. Canada, the biggest supplier of steel and aluminum to the United States, said it would retaliate if hit by U.S. tariffs. U.S. stock indexes recouped some losses on Friday, but were on track to end the week in the red as investors fretted over a possible global trade war. World equity markets slid further and the U.S. dollar dropped to its lowest point in more than two years against the yen. Trump said on Thursday that a plan for tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminum products would be formally announced next week. "When a country (USA) is losing many billions of dollars on trade with virtually every country it does business with, trade wars are good, and easy to win," Trump said on Twitter on Friday. In a later social media post, Trump said his aim was to protect U.S. jobs in the face of cheaper foreign products.

"We must protect our country and our workers. Our steel industry is in bad shape. IF YOU DON'T HAVE STEEL, YOU DON'T HAVE A COUNTRY!" he wrote. Many economists say that instead of increasing employment, price increases for consumers of steel and aluminum such as the auto and oil industries will destroy more U.S. jobs than they create. Major U.S. trade partners are likely to retaliate against any new duties imposed by Washington. Europe has drawn up a list of U.S. products on which to apply tariffs if Trump follows through on his plan. "We will put tariffs on Harley-Davidson, on bourbon and on blue jeans - Levis," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told German television. Officials have not said whether the tariffs would include imports from Canada and Mexico, Washington's partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which is being reworked. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said any U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports would be "absolutely unacceptable" and vowed to continue to engage with U.S. officials on the issue. The International Monetary Fund also expressed concern about the proposed tariffs and said they likely would damage the U.S. economy as well as the economies



Trump holds a meeting on steel and aluminum tariffs at the White House in Washington

of other nations. Trump's announcement came after what one person with direct knowledge of the discussions described as a night of "chaos" in the White House due to frequent switching of positions in the administration. As school shootings become a growing concern, police in Georgia on Wednesday

arrested a high school teacher who barricaded himself inside a classroom and fired a handgun when the principal tried to force the door open. President Donald Trump has suggested arming teachers and reopening mental hospitals as a way of combating school violence. Trump is scheduled to meet

with a group of 17 senators and representatives from both parties on Wednesday for a discussion on background checks and other proposals. Following the shooting, several large American companies said they were ending programs that offered discounts or benefits to NRA members. Some have faced blowback, particularly in Georgia

Gunman kills two in domestic dispute in Michigan university dorm

(Reuters) - At least two people were shot dead in what authorities said was a domestic issue at a dormitory at Central Michigan University on Friday morning and police were searching for the gunman. The two victims who were not students were found inside the residence hall at the university, located about 125 miles (200 km) northwest of Detroit, according to university Police Lieutenant Larry Klaus. He identified the suspect as 19-year-old James Eric Davis Jr. "Our campus is safe," Klaus said at a news conference on Friday. "We're calling it a family-type domestic issue at this point." The university said no one was injured by the gunfire. The incident came about two weeks after 17 students and educators were killed by a 19-year-old gunman with an assault-style rifle at a Florida high school. Davis had contact with college police on Thursday night and was taken to a local hospital after an apparent overdose or "bad reaction to drugs," Klaus told

reporters. The hospital has no record of Davis being a patient, Rachel Blizzard, a spokeswoman, said in an email. The site of shooting at Central Michigan University is seen, in Mount Pleasant, U.S., March 2, 2018 in this picture obtained from social media. Parents and others expected on campus on Friday to pick up students for spring break were told to stay away while the suspect was at large. Davis was considered armed and dangerous and campus police were investigating the incident along with local and state police, according to university officials. Klaus said Davis was seen wearing a dark hoodie following the shooting. Police found "a number of articles of clothing" as he fled the campus north along railroad tracks, Klaus said. Police in patrol cars and helicopters searched for the gunman around an area of apartments just north of the campus

in the city of Mount Pleasant, according to video posted online by reporters on the scene. The United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said on Twitter sent special agents to assist. "The priority right now is the safety of those still on campus and I thank all first responders involved for their swift action," Michigan



The site of shooting at Central Michigan University is seen, in Mount Pleasant, U.S., March 2, 2018 in this picture obtained from social media. COURTESY OF GRANT POLMANTEER

Governor Rick Snyder said on Twitter. Central Michigan University is a four-year, public institution with more than 23,000 students enrolled, according

to the college's website. Access to most of the buildings is limited, and individuals must have identification to enter, according to campus officials.

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Houstonians come out in force for the 2018 Houston Livestock Show

By Daniela Sternitzky-Di Napoli Photo By Jun Gai

the cameras used for NFL games. The new RodeoHouston concert stage for 2018 includes more lights and rising star points. For those that are hearing impaired (or would like to at least understand what is being said or sung), there is an open captioning system this year providing captioning on mobile devices. More details can be found at the rodeo's official site.

RodeoHouston also knows that Houstonians and others love taking pictures at the rodeo, so they have set up the retired rodeo stage, a giant "Bowlegged H", and some selfie frames around the grounds to create fun photos. In addition to this, Houston street artist Gonzo247 has created a four-sided art piece for the rodeo, integrating the rodeo's four pillars -- agriculture, education, entertainment, and western heritage. It shouldn't be hard to miss. If shopping is your thing, RodeoHouston has also added an outdoor market on the west end

Thousands of people packed NRG park for the first day of carnival rides, fried foods and fun at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The festivities began on Tuesday — with the iconic Garth Brooks playing his first show on the rodeo stage since 1993 — and will last through March 18, with Brooks closing out the event as well. Some of the artist featured at the 2018 RodeoHouston include Blake Shelton, Rascal Flatts, Jason Aldean, OneRepublic, Keith Urban, Brad Paisley and more.

Founded in 1931, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be celebrating 87 years of honoring Texas tradition and culture.

Tuesday is opening day at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, entering its 86th season of turning city boys and city girls into urban cowboys.

This year, the organizers have more than a few new extras lined up for the rodeo faithful as well as newbies getting their first taste, including more carnival rides, more dining options, and more places to take selfies.

For starters, there is a new performance stage inside NRG Stadium to accommodate the slew of artists that play RodeoHouston each year. Garth Brooks will be the first performer to break in the stage this year.

There will also be a new aerial camera inside the stadium to get unique angles of the rodeo events and the concert happenings. RodeoHouston brass compares its new NavCam to



of the Astrodome featuring food, art and leather goods. This, in addition to the endless shopping options inside NRG Center, where you can buy a recliner, a tractor, and a new belt buckle - all within a few yards of each other. The rodeo carnival is also known for offering up great ways to ruin your diet. In that vein expect to see new vendors like Get Fried and Totally Baked, with fried and sweet goodies galore. Fruteria Cano and the Original Minnapple Pie are also making their rodeo debuts. And if you would like to test the limits of your stomach after snacking on said foods, new carnival rides like the Extreme and the Konga will do just that. Family-friendly new rides include Rockin' Rodeo and the Flyin' Jumbo.



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Advertisement for DYNASTY PEARLS & ANTIQUES featuring a green horse figurine and pearls, with address and phone number.

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Advertisement for Treemont Retirement Community (專為銀髮族設計的社區) featuring a woman's portrait and contact details.

Advertisement for Today America website (www.today-america.com) showing a QR code and a laptop displaying the site.

A Snapshot Of The World



A worker removes a fallen tree blocking a road on Foxhall Road as high-wind weather conditions continue in Washington, U.S. March 2, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas



Participants wear motorcycle helmets as they attend the 'Beehive Firecrackers' festival at the Yanshui district in Tainan



Athletics - IAAF World Indoor Championships 2018 - Arena Birmingham, Birmingham, Britain - March 2, 2018 Britain's Elliot Giles in action during a Men's 800m Heat with Spain's Alvaro De Arriba and Drew Windle of the U.S. Action Images via Reuters/John Sibley



A security guard uses a phone outside of the U.S. Embassy in Havana



Casket is carried during funeral service for the late U.S. evangelist Billy Graham in Charlotte



Ruth Graham speaks during Billy Graham's funeral at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte



43rd Cesar Awards ceremony - Red Carpet Arrivals - Paris, France. 02/03/2018. Director and President of Ceremony Vanessa Paradis poses before the start of the ceremony. REUTERS/Charles Platiau



Participants wearing motorcycle helmets get sprayed with firecrackers, during the 'Beehive Firecrackers' festival at the Yanshui district in Tainan



People struggle against strong wind while waiting to cross 42nd Street in the Times Square district during a winter nor'easter in New York City, U.S.

The idea that flu shots cause the flu has been disproven by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but the myth lives on. In this flu season, the deadliest in a decade, skeptics have taken it a step further — insisting the shot not only makes people sick, but also is fueling the entire epidemic.

It's a theory bolstered by the spinning of a recent event — the disappearance of a CDC staffer named Timothy Jerrell Cunningham. An epidemiologist at the Atlanta headquarters, Cunningham was reportedly last seen by his colleagues on Feb. 12, when he left work early because he didn't feel well.

When the 35-year-old's parents arrived at his home in Atlanta a few days later to look for him, they found his car, dog, and phone. Two weeks later, no one has heard from him. As officials continue to search, the Atlanta Police Department is offering a reward for any information on his disappearance.



Atlanta Police Dept

UPDATE: @StopCrimeATL is partnering with the family of Timothy Cunningham in offering a \$10,000 reward for info leading to an arrest & indictment in Cunningham's missing persons case. There is no evidence of foul play

New Theory Connects Flu Causing Vaccine To Missing CDC Staffer Tim Cunningham

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



but we explore every possibility. Call 404-577-TIPS with info. 10:17 AM - Feb 26, 2018

What thrust Cunningham's story into the influenza spotlight was a Jan. 18 post from controversial site YourNewsWire.com, which claimed to have spoken with a "CDC doctor" who said the flu shot was responsible for the spike in flu deaths. Fact-checking website Snopes investigated the claim and found it "false," citing the CDC's protocol of recommending the flu shot, as well as YourNewsWire's history of fabricating quotes.

Although YourNewsWire did not identify the so-called CDC doctor in the Jan. 18 piece, in the aftermath of Cunningham's disappearance the site has run with the narrative that it was Cunningham. In a Feb. 22 post titled "CDC Doctor, Who Claimed Flu Shot Caused Outbreak, Missing Feared Dead," writer Baxter Dmitry claims to have spoken with Cunningham in January, and said he expressed concerns about his safety if his name got out.

Anti-vaccination groups have used this story as proof that the flu shot is causing the epidemic — and that anyone who talks about it is in danger.

This week, the theory was advanced by another site, Health Nut News, which ran a story under the headline "ABC: Experts Say Flu Shot Potentially Caused the Flu Epidemic." In it, site editor Erin Elizabeth

makes no mention of ABC News and instead uses an out-of-context quote from a nurse in Wisconsin, named Anna Treague, as "proof" that the flu shot is causing the epidemic

Erin-Health Nut News@unhealthytruth

This is in mainstream news. Experts from the health department state that the FLU SHOT is what potentially... <https://fb.me/2DYT2hrTK>

9:34 PM - Feb 8, 2018



ABC: Experts say flu shot potentially caused the flu epidemic (Shocker, in mainstream no less) (Note from Erin: Our mainstream source is listed below, BUT, for the trolls who have sent us death threats and cannot scroll down 5 seconds until the end of article, we've placed it here as well:

quote — and deemed it "false." The Sentinel amended its story to add an editor's note apologizing for the "potentially misleading" article, and specifically clarifying that Treague is not a CDC nurse, but one with Burnett County Public Health. "We regret the error and apologize for any confusion, inconvenience or misunderstanding it may have caused," the editors write.

Although the current vaccine does not protect against H3N2, it can stop a co-infection from happening in the event that someone has H3N2. It's not unusual for a flu vaccine not to offer full protection. (Courtesy <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle>)



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SEATTLE — With little more than a whiff of Amazon's interest in a new business, the company can crater the stocks of potential competitors...

The latest category alarmed by the specter of competition from Amazon is the pharmacy market. With huge amounts of consumer spending and frustrating inefficiencies...

The likelihood of Amazon's eventually getting into the pharmacy business is high, several analysts and a former employee said. But it is not clear when it will make that move or how aggressive it intends to be.

The near-term threat may be somewhat overstated. Amazon has received wholesale pharmacy licenses in at least a dozen states, as The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported on Thursday. But the licenses permit the company to sell other kinds of products too.



Amazon is eying the pharmacy market that has huge amounts of consumer spending and a long list of frustrating inefficiencies.

Brian Tanquilut, an analyst for Jefferies, noted that the company acquired many of the wholesale pharmacy licenses between fall of last year and early this year, around

Analysts Say Likelihood Of Amazon's Getting Into The Pharmacy Business Is High

The Health Care Industry "Hears" Amazon's Footsteps

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



The pharmacy market, with huge amounts of consumer spending and frustrating inefficiencies, could be attractive to Amazon. Above, Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO. (Photo/Reuters)

when the company started selling medical supplies to businesses. "It's not evidence of a retail entry into the pharmacy business," he said.

An Amazon spokeswoman, Lori Torgerson, refused to comment on "rumors or speculation" about Amazon entering the pharmacy business, but she shared a statement that suggested other motivations for the paperwork.

There is little doubt, though, that Amazon is interested in at least some aspects of the pharmacy business. Brittain Ladd, a supply chain consultant who worked at Amazon until earlier this year on groceries and other initiatives, said he participated in discussions about how Amazon could enter the category, including through acquisitions.

"The pharmacy business was always a topic of interest when I was with Amazon, and there was a sincere desire on the part of Amazon to create a better customer experience across pharmacy and health care as a whole," he said.



Speculation is that Amazon is interested in at least some aspects of the pharmacy business.

While Mr. Ladd said he isn't privy to the company's current strategy, he believes existing pharmacy companies are right to be worried. "My advice is that executives at pharmaceutical companies should crush all assumptions when it comes to Amazon and their ability to enter, innovate and reimagine the pharmacy business and health care," he said.

If Amazon decides to enter the market, it could take a variety of avenues, analysts said.

The easiest way in would be to set up a mail-order pharmacy that focused on price-sensitive customers without health insurance or who have high-deductible

plans that require them to pay for some drug costs upfront. To do this, Amazon would need retail pharmacy licenses in every state — a hurdle, certainly, but not an insurmountable one, the analysts said.

"They can at least dip their toe in the water with the cash-pay customers, and learn the business," said Ana Gupte, an analyst for Leerink Partners.

She said cash-paying customers account for 5 percent to 10 percent of the \$560 bil-



lion prescription drug business.

The easiest way for Amazon to enter the healthcare business would be to set up a mail-order pharmacy catering to price-sensitive customers without health insurance or who have high-deductible plans.

The idea could prove attractive to customers who already go to Amazon for a wide range of shopping items, from shoes to electronics to diapers. Retailers like Target and Walmart have added pharmacies to bring in extra business for a similar reason.

"A large part of the infrastructure is already there," said David Maris, an analyst for Wells Fargo.

In a call with analysts this week, Timothy C. Wentworth, the chief executive of the pharmacy-benefit manager Express Scripts, indicated a willingness to work with Amazon to reach these cash-paying

customers. "We certainly see that as something where if they wanted to move into a space, we could be a very natural collaborator," he said.

If Amazon wanted to go bigger, Ms. Gupte and others said, it could sell to insured customers and even serve as a pharmacy-benefit manager, overseeing drug coverage for people on behalf of insurers and large employers.

This would be far more complex. It would likely require Amazon to either acquire a pharmacy-benefit manager or enter into a partnership with an existing one. Expanding the pharmacy business without the aid of a major pharmacy-benefit manager would be tough, because the benefit managers serve as gatekeepers to insured patients, deciding which pharmacies they can and cannot use.

Some said they expect that if Amazon chooses to enter the health care business, it would do so in a big way. The company could attempt to provide comprehensive services to patients, doctors and others, far beyond selling drugs.

Nadina J. Rosier, the health and group benefits pharmacy practice leader at Willis Towers Watson, said other areas the company could explore include offering virtual doctor consults, or using the Amazon Echo, its voice-controlled smart device, for health care applications.

No matter the short-term steps Amazon is taking, Ms. Rosier said, her research has demonstrated that it is "clearly looking to revolutionize how health care is delivered in some way."

But while Amazon has a track record for upending major industries, from books to groceries, she said health care is complicated and there would be intense pressure to get it right. "It is just a sensitive topic," she said. "We don't have as much scrutiny of how much you paid for your jeans, or your shoes." (Courtesy https://www.nytimes.com.)

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