



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact
John Robbins 832-280-5815
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Texas oil production falls for first time since Feb. 2017



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
General Manager: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Business Manager: Jennifer Lopez
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Chaos grips Senate hearing on Trump Supreme Court pick Kavanaugh

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Senate confirmation hearing for Brett Kavanaugh, President Donald Trump's U.S. Supreme Court pick, descended into chaos on Tuesday, as Democrats protested about Republicans blocking access to documents concerning the nominee's White House work more than a decade ago.

With Democratic senators repeatedly interrupting the Judiciary Committee's Republican chairman Chuck Grassley at the outset of the hearing and dozens of shouting protesters removed one by one by security personnel, the session quickly became a ruckus. "This is the first confirmation for a Supreme Court justice I've seen, basically, according to mob rule," Republican Senator John Cornyn said, a characterization Democrats rejected. "What we've heard is the noise of democracy," Democratic Senator Dick Durbin said.

News photographers clicked pictures of a smiling Kavanaugh - the conservative federal appeals court judge picked by Trump for a lifetime job on the top U.S. judicial body - as he entered the hearing room with family members. But moments after Grassley opened the session, Democrats decried the withholding of the documents and asked to have the proceedings adjourned.

Protesters, mostly women, took turns yelling as senators spoke, shouting, "This is a travesty of justice," "Our democracy is broken" and "Vote no on Kavanaugh." Demonstrators voiced concern about what they saw as the threat posed by Kavanaugh to abortion rights, healthcare access and gun control.

"We cannot possibly move forward. We have not had an opportunity to have a meaningful hearing," Democratic Senator Kamala Harris said. Democratic Senator Cory Booker appealed to Grassley's "sense of decency and integrity" and said the withholding of the documents by Republicans and the White House left lawmakers unable to properly vet Kavanaugh.

Grassley called the Democrats' request to halt the hearing "out of order" and accused them of obstruction. Republicans hold a slim Senate majority and can confirm Kavanaugh if they stay united. There were no signs of Republican defections.

If confirmed, Kavanaugh is expected to move the court - which already had a conservative majority - further to the right. Senate Democratic leaders have vowed a fierce fight to try to block his confirmation. Democrats signaled they would press Kavanaugh on abortion, gun rights and presidential power when they get to



U.S. Supreme Court nominee judge Brett Kavanaugh takes his seat for his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington

question him on Wednesday in a hearing due to run through Friday. Republican Orrin Hatch accused Democratic senators of political opportunism, noting, "We have folks who want to run for president," though he did not mention any by name. There has been speculation Booker and Harris might

consider 2020 presidential runs. Hatch grew visibly irritated as protesters interrupted him. U.S. Supreme Court nominee judge Brett Kavanaugh looks on during his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.,

September 4, 2018. REUTERS/Chris Wattie
"I think we ought to have this loud-mouth removed," Hatch said. Trump nominated Kavanaugh, 53, to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy, who announced his retirement on June 27.

Amazon joins \$1 trillion club, on pace to overtake Apple

(Reuters) - Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) on Tuesday joined Apple Inc (AAPL.O) to become the second \$1 trillion publicly listed U.S. company after its stock price more than doubled in a year as it grew rapidly in retail and cloud computing.

If the online retailer's share gains keep up the pace, it would be a matter of when, not if, Amazon's stock market valuation eclipses that of iPhone maker Apple, which reached \$1 trillion on Aug. 2.

Apple took almost 38 years as a public company to achieve the trillion dollar milestone, while Amazon got there in 21 years. While Apple's iPhone and other devices remain popular and its revenues are growing, it is not keeping up with Amazon's blistering sales growth.

Amazon has impressed investors by diversifying into virtually every corner of the retail industry, altering how consumers buy products and putting big pressure on many brick-and-mortar stores.

"It says a lot about Amazon and its ever-increasing dominance of segments of the retailing world as well as the web services business," said Peter Tuz, President Of Chase Investment Counsel In Charlottesville, Virginia. "They have a tiny share of the worldwide retail sales market so there's a lot left to capture there."

Amazon also provides video streaming services and bought upscale supermarket Whole Foods. And its cloud computing services for companies have become its main profit driver.

"Amazon's a little bit more dynamic than Apple because the iPhone has become more mature. Amazon's cloud business is an extra growth driver that Apple doesn't have," said Daniel Morgan, portfolio manager at Synovus Trust in Atlanta, Georgia who describes Amazon's cloud services as its "crown jewel."

In the second quarter the unit accounted for 55 percent of Amazon's operating income and 20 percent of total revenue, according to Morgan.



FILE PHOTO: Facebook Amazon Netflix and Google logos in combination photo from Reuters files

Experience fast, easy and safe online payments



5800 Corporate Dr. STE B2
Houston, TX 77036

832-239-5408
5800@eboxgroup.com



Texas oil production falls for first time since Feb. 2017

Oil production in Texas fell in June for the first time since Feb. 2017. The year-over-year data released by the Texas Railroad Commission showed that oil production in June was 98.9 million barrels, down 2.4 percent from the 101.3 million barrels produced in June 2017. The June 2018 figures are preliminary. The last time crude oil production fell year-over-year was in Feb. 2017, which saw a 3.6 percent drop compared to Feb. 2016. It's also the first time that oil production dipped below the 100 million barrel mark since April 2017. June production was down 7.1 percent from May, when production was 106.5 million barrels. While oil pipelines out of West Texas' Permian Basin are said to be full it's unclear what drove the decrease in June, as data from the Department of Energy shows continued increases in the Permian and South Texas' Eagle Ford Shale.

Still, Texas has one of the lowest number of breweries per capita in the country, ranking 46th.

NAI said cities in Texas are "wildly underserved." Only 12 of the 52 breweries are inside the 610 Loop, the report said, citing data from the Houston Beer Guide.

Texas sales tax receipts jumped to \$2.7 billion in April, largely because of growth in the state's oil and gas industry, the comptroller's office said Wednesday.



Americans Are Grilling More Steaks for Labor Day

By Lydia Mulvany

When Americans feel like they've got more money, they like to treat themselves. That means there could be plenty of steaks on the grill this year for Labor Day. A buzzing economy and low U.S. unemployment is a boon for beef, typically considered a premium meat. Gains for the cattle herd means retail prices have fallen. Combine that with grocer discounts for the holiday, and steaks and burgers could be the cheapest they've been in years, attracting demand. Meanwhile, other meats are in the doldrums. There are record supplies of chicken and pork in the U.S., and even with prices at multiyear lows, it's more than most people care to eat. Companies including Tyson Foods Inc. and Sanderson Farms

Inc. have recently said that bargains on beef were hurting poultry. "Margins for retailers are great, and consumers are back into beef now that prices are better," said Will Sawyer, an economist at Greenwood Village, Colorado-based CoBank. "Chicken, which had been the recession special for so long, is having to take a back seat to the more pricey protein." Americans are hungry for burgers and steaks partly because they've been deprived. A drought caused ranchers to reduce herds to a six-decade low in 2014, and beef prices shot up to an all-time high. The meat was so expensive it forced consumers to cut back, with consumption declining to the lowest since the 1970s. Now, even with cheaper prices and bigger supplies, demand still hasn't bounced back to where it was before the recession, Sawyer said.

That means there's still plenty of room for increased buying. Beef consumption will rise 1.4 percent this year to 57.7 pounds on a per-capita basis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said this month. Demand will grow to 58.7 pounds next year, the agency estimates. Hedge funds are taking note. As of Aug. 28, investors had a cattle net-long position of 62,165 futures and options, according to U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data published Friday. While that's down slightly from a week earlier, the holding -- which measures the difference between bets on a price increase and wagers on a decline -- has more than doubled since the end of June. The gains for demand mean retailers are making good margins, and that's allowing them to slash prices for fancier cuts of meat, according

to Gary Morrison, who tracks the market for commodity researcher Urner Barry. In more good news for Labor Day grillers, ample supplies of chicken and pork means those prices are also falling. The U.S. holiday will be celebrated Monday. One thing carnivores should watch out for: There could be increased volatility ahead for the hog market. As the U.S. gets on better trade terms with Mexico -- the biggest buyer of American pork -- exports could pick up. At the same time, a killer pig virus is threatening China's pork production. The Asian country confirmed a fifth outbreak of African swine fever on Aug. 30, indicating further spread of the disease that threatens to disrupt the world's largest hog industry.

全球晨間直播上線

早安，休士頓



主播高白

畢業於浙江傳媒學院新聞系播音與主持專業，中國國家級普通話測評員、中國國家級主任播音員。1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播，2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休士頓記者（2016年卸任）。

最專業最即時多元的新聞報導

國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊

氣象和路況報導



主播高航

休士頓 Anya Tish Gallery 和舊金山 The Secondbedroom Gallery 代理畫家，休士頓大學（美國）繪畫系碩士，首都師範大學（中國）油畫、影視技術雙學士。曾任教休士頓大學繪畫基礎部，Art League Houston 美術中心。作品曾多次展覽於美國休士頓、達拉斯、洛杉磯等城市，中國北京、江蘇、上海、廣州等城市以及韓國。

美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響。為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。

Editor's Choice



The 75th Venice International Film Festival - Screening of the film "Werk Ohne Autor" (Never Look Away) competing in the Venezia 75 section - Red Carpet Arrivals - Venice, Italy, September 4, 2018 - Director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck and actors Paula Beer and Saskia Rosendahl. REUTERS/Tony Gentile?



U.S. Senators Grassley and Feinstein speak during U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Judge Kavanaugh's Senate confirmation hearing in Washington



FILE PHOTO: The logo of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is seen during a special session in the Hague,



A 1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL Coupe sports car is displayed during Grand Basel autoshow in Basel



Models present creations by Ukrainian designer Darja Donezz during Ukrainian Fashion Week in Kiev



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump signs a presidential proclamation placing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports while surrounded by workers from the steel and aluminum industries at the White House in Washington



Migrants are seen after they were relocated from government-run detention centers, after getting trapped by clashes between rival groups in Tripoli



White House counsel McGahn looks during Supreme Court nominee Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington

Texas Cities Dominate List of U.S. 'Boomtowns'

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



Aerial View of Austin, Texas. (Photo AP)

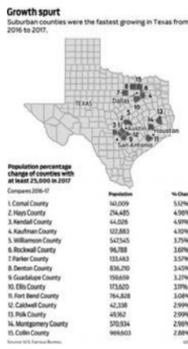
Magnify Money, a consumer finance website, released a new study this week that found Texas dominated the list of U.S. 'boomtowns' and Austin scored the top spot. 'Americans are flocking to and prospering in Texas,' wrote Kali McFadden, a Magnify Money senior analyst. She said Lone Star State metros represented one-third of the top 15 spots on their rankings. Five of the six Texas cities on the list placed in the top 11. 'We wanted to find out where Americans are gathering now to take advantage of growing prosperity and improved lifestyles to achieve the American dream,' said McFadden. Magnify Money researchers examined the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) over the five year period from 2011 to 2016 using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and County Business Patterns. Researchers focused on business growth, population and housing, and workforce and earnings. Boomtowns saw the biggest influx of people, work opportunities, and business growth. 'Austin jumps way out ahead of all the metros we reviewed, showing the greatest five year growth in population and housing,' said McFadden. The Texas capital earned a perfect population and housing score of 100. It added people and had jobs for them. The Austin metro area experienced a 23 percent drop in unemployment. The median wage increased by nearly nine percent. The number of businesses operating in Austin rose by 21 percent and new hires soared by 24 percent. Analysts identified one shortcoming — 10 percent housing unit growth lagged next to the almost 16 percent population boom. Dallas (7), San Antonio (9), and McAllen (10) made the top 10. Houston (11) and El Paso (24) placed in the top 25. Business also boomed in Provo, Utah; Raleigh, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; and Nashville, Tennessee; ranking second through fifth, respectively. Provo got the highest score, 95.1, in the business growth category. Its population increased by 12 percent and housing rose eight percent. Although the workforce grew by 13 percent, median wages stalled, budging only 3.5 percent higher than five years earlier.



Provo, Utah

Raleigh, with a 13 percent surge in residents and a nine percent rise in dwellings, ranked second to Austin in the population and housing subset. The North Carolina capital was fifth in business growth. Nearby Durham ranked 16th. Charlotte took 13th. Charleston got the third highest marks for workforce and earnings, with a healthy 22 percent drop in joblessness. Its workforce grew by 11 percent. During this time, Charleston's population also increased 11 percent but the number of housing units fell short, stalled at slightly more than six percent. Nashville firms grew staff by a healthy 21 percent. Their workforce grew nine percent. Unemployment dropped 25 percent. Median wages rose seven percent. McFadden suggested the boom "may be luring people to work" and noted the city diversified from its traditional country music roots. Housing, though, increased by five percent, not nearly enough for the influx of new people. Colorado's Denver ranked sixth while Colorado Springs placed 23rd. Boise, Idaho, took eighth, and Des Moines, Iowa, was 15th. Top 25 listers included Florida's Orlando (14),

Fort Myers (17), and Sarasota (25); Utah's Ogden (12) and Salt Lake City (18), and California's San Jose (19) and San Francisco (22). Riverside (40), San Diego (43) and Los Angeles (58) placed lower. (Courtesy https://www.breitbart.com/texas) The study also identified the slowest growing places in the nation. Four of six Ohio metros shrunk their labor forces and number of businesses between 2011 and 2016. Only Columbus (34) saw appreciable growth. Connecticut and Pennsylvania MSAs landed in the bottom quarter of the findings as did metros in New York, except for New York City (62). Boston (46) was the sole northeastern city in the top half of the list. Eight of 15 of the fastest-growing counties in the U.S. between 2016 and 2017 are in Texas Suburban counties in Texas led the way nationwide in percentage growth in that one-year period. Suburban counties in the Austin and San Antonio metropolitan areas were among the fastest-growing in the nation between 2016 and 2017, according to figures the Census Bureau released late Wednesday.

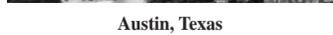


Growth spurt: 15 counties were the fastest growing in Texas from 2016 to 2017.

In the Austin area, Hays, Williamson and Caldwell counties were among the fast-growing at 4.96 percent, 3.75 percent and 2.99 percent, respectively. Caldwell County, which abuts Travis County to the south, saw its largest growth rate this decade; its previous annual growth rates since 2010 were under 2 percent.

Closer to San Antonio, Comal County grew by almost 7,000 people to just more than 140,000 people, giving the county the second-fastest growth nationally among counties with populations of 10,000 people or more, according to the Census Bureau. In 2016, Comal County ranked as the seventh-fastest-growing county in America. Business leaders in New Braunfels, the county seat, credit the increase to a lower cost of living and its proximity to two large cities. "I love the accessibility," said Rashmi Baht, who used to live in Houston and owns a European deli inspired in part by her childhood in Europe. "It's really close to Austin and San Antonio, but you don't have the cost of living that those cities have, nor do you have the traffic." Lee and Jennifer Garza, co-owners of an insurance franchise in New Braunfels, both grew up and have family in the area and returned as they began their family, after living and working in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The growing population was an incentive to return home, Lee Garza said. "That was one of the major reasons why it was easy for us to make the decision to move here," he said. "It provided a lot of opportunity career- and business-wise. ... It had a lot of advantages for my family and me." Employment opportunities drove population growth in suburban counties in the San Antonio-Austin corridor, state demographer Lloyd Potter told the American-Statesman. "The bulk of their growth (in Texas suburban counties) — 80 to 90 percent — is from domestic migration, and that's people moving from other counties in Texas, but also from other counties or other states within the United States," he said. "Usually, when you see growth that's occurring from domestic migration like that, in those fast-growing counties, it's happening because jobs are being created." Eight of the 15 counties nationally that gained the most people between 2016 and 2017 were in Texas. Travis County was 15th, with a gain of 22,116 people. Harris County, No. 4 nationally and No. 1 in Texas, saw an increase of nearly 36,000 people. "Texas dominates overall," Potter said. "Our counties dominate what we're seeing in terms of population growth nationwide." (Courtesy https://www.mystatesman.com/news)

Among metro areas with more than 1 million people, the five-county Austin area was the fastest-growing for the seventh consecutive year. The agency estimated population changes between July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017. Amelia Smith, who's worked in real estate in Caldwell County for more than 30 years, attributed the area's growth to lighter traffic and lower cost of living. "The toll road is becoming increasingly popular," Smith said of Texas 130. "Even though it is expensive to drive, it is a flash trip from Austin to Lockhart. I live in Lockhart, and I can get to Onion Creek in about 18 minutes. It's fast." "People in Austin, particularly in the east side, are seeing property values rise so much that the land their \$100,000 house sits on is worth \$700,000 or \$800,000, and they're being driven out by high taxes, and they're coming to Lockhart with proceeds from their sale and buying houses (with) cash. ... We're seeing a lot of that." Also, under a new Lockhart school superintendent, the district is working toward becoming one of the best in Central Texas, which might be another draw, Smith said.



Austin, Texas

Advertisement for General Communication Inc. featuring services from Dish, Xfinity, Comcast, Sling, Ultra, Lycamobile, and DirectTV. Includes promotional offers like \$100 and \$240 discounts, and a special offer on a vacuum cleaner for \$298-\$725.

Advertisement for General Chennault Flying Tiger Academy. Promotes aviation career opportunities with text: '航空業前景看好為最具潛力的黃金職業之一', 'Global Chennault Flying Tiger Academy', 'Global extreme good pilots', 'Broad horizons, high salary, stable work', 'Provide professional flight training courses', 'Recruitment: Professional pilots, amateur flight enthusiasts'. Includes contact information for Lone Star College and a photo of a pilot.

Mexico Far From Goal On Alibaba E-Commerce Deal: Official

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

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's deal with China's biggest e-commerce company, Alibaba, to increase online business for exports like avocados and tequila needs the participation of dozens more companies to make it successful, an official at Mexican trade group Promexico said in an interview.

So far, 24 companies have been approved to export to businesses in China and other countries as paying members on business-to-business platform Alibaba.com, Carlos Alvarez, a project coordinator at government trade and investment group Promexico, told Reuters this week. Alibaba is waiting for 100 Mexican vendors to join before launching a country-specific site known as a "pavilion" on its wholesale platform that would showcase Mexican products on a single web page, Alvarez said.

The Mexican government signed a deal with Alibaba last September to help small- and mid-sized businesses enter Mexico's nascent e-commerce industry alongside mega players including Wal-Mart de Mexico and Amazon Inc.

Alibaba said in a statement that it was committed to "helping them participate in global trade through e-commerce and the use of technology."



Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto and Alibaba Group Executive Chairman Jack Ma witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Alibaba Group and Mexican government to help Mexican small and medium-sized businesses reach China, the largest consumer market in the world. (Photo: Business Wire)

Part of Promexico's task is convincing companies that gaining access to Alibaba is worth taking on complex logistics and high shipping and insurance costs, Alvarez said.



An employee is seen behind a glass wall with the logo of Alibaba at the company's headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, April 23, 2014. (Photo/REUTERS)

"They're scared of coming because it's expensive. But once they're there, they can take off," he said.

Unfamiliarity among Mexican businesses with Alibaba's wholesale platform and e-commerce in general, along with seller membership costs, have been other barriers, Alibaba said.

Alibaba offered a half-price promotion from November 2017 to March 2018, putting the annual cost at \$1,500 a year, Alvarez said. Promexico is negotiating with Alibaba to renew the promotion.

A web page dedicated to Mexico would be Alibaba's first to focus on Latin America and would join pages for 17 other countries, including the United States, India and Japan.



Traditional Mexican crafts will find a market in China.

"They want the Mexico pavilion because they know that Mexico has products of quality, and products that distinguish it," Alvarez said, naming leather cowboy boots, tequila and mezcal liquors, cactus cooking ingredients and avocado-based cosmetics and soaps as examples of high-demand items in China.

Just as coveted are avocados that can be wrapped with shiny bows and given as gifts, Alvarez said.

Companies on board include home goods business Vianney, sugar producer Pan-Elami, shoemaker Altura Siete and coffee farm Argovia.

Some companies that qualified for the program were not ready to leap into new territory.

Grupo Evans, which sells industrial equipment like electric generators and water pumps, was approved but decided to hold off until gathering more internal resources to handle greater sales volume it expects from new markets.

"We needed a bit of preparation," said Ana Carolina Goytia Martinez, head of digital marketing for Evans. "But we're looking for new markets and we think with e-commerce, we can reach them."

Alibaba reported its strongest-ever quarterly revenue growth on Thursday, partially boosted by an increase in paying members on its wholesale platform. (Courtesy oann.com)

Related

Mexico government seeking companies for Alibaba e-commerce deal

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Nearly a year after Mexico's government began recruiting local exporters to sell avocados, tequila and other goods wholesale with Alibaba, China's biggest e-commerce site, the trade body responsible still needs to sign up dozens more to meet its goal.

Twenty-four companies are now approved to export to businesses in China and other countries as paying members on business-to-business platform Alibaba.com, said Carlos Alvarez, a project coordinator at government trade and investment group Promexico, in an interview.

The Mexican government signed a deal with Alibaba last September to help small- and mid-sized businesses enter Mexico's nascent e-commerce industry alongside mega players including Wal-Mart de Mexico and Amazon Inc.



Mexican avocados may soon be shipped to China.

Part of Promexico's work is convincing companies that gaining access to Alibaba is worth taking on complex logistics and high shipping and insurance costs, Alvarez said.

"They're scared of coming because it's expensive. But once they're there, they can take off," he said.

Meanwhile, Alibaba is waiting for a total of 100 Mexican vendors before launching on its wholesale platform a country-specific site known as a "pavilion" that would showcase Mexican products on a single webpage, he said.

Unfamiliarity among Mexican businesses with Alibaba's wholesale platform and e-commerce in general have been other barriers, an Alibaba spokeswoman said, as well as seller membership costs. The company offered a half-price promotion from November 2017 to March 2018.

"Alibaba is committed to ... helping them participate in global trade through e-commerce and the use of technology," the company said a statement.

Promexico offers resources to cover the rest of membership costs, and Alvarez said the group is negotiating with Alibaba to renew the promotion.

A webpage dedicated to Mexico would be Alibaba's first to focus on Latin America and would join pages for 17 other countries, including the United States, India and Japan.



"They want the Mexico pavilion because they know that Mexico has products of quality, and products that distinguish it," Alvarez said, naming leather cowboy boots, tequila and mezcal liquors, cactus cooking ingredients and avocado-based cosmetics and soaps as examples of high-demand items in China.

Just as coveted are avocados that can be wrapped with shiny bows and given as gifts, Alvarez said.

"The avocado is the star in China," he said.

Alibaba reported its strongest-ever quarterly revenue growth on Thursday, partially boosted by an increase in paying members on its wholesale platform. (https://www.reuters.com/)

Advertisement for 雲天燒腊麵食家 (Yun Tian BBQ Noodle House) featuring a menu with items like 京都肉排, 葱油鯧魚, and 北京片皮鴨, along with contact information and address.

Advertisement for 中美酒樓 (Chinese American Restaurant) featuring a menu with items like 四人份, 八人份, and 十人份, along with contact information and address.

Large advertisement for Adolphus Rice, featuring the brand name, 'US #1 Quality Select Variety', and 'LONG GRAIN Enriched RICE', along with contact information for American Rice, Inc.