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U.S. appeals court hands win to Trump in hotel 'emoluments' case



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New York showers confetti, love on U.S. women's soccer team



Soccer Football - Women's World Cup Champions Parade - New York, United States - July 10, 2019 Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan of the U.S. with the trophy during the parade REUTERS/Mike Segar

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Amid confetti and chants of "equal pay," New York honored the U.S. women's soccer team on Wednesday with a ticker-tape parade up the "Canyon of Heroes," celebrating its World Cup triumph and hailing the players' emergence as icons of women's rights.

The squad's 2-0 win over Netherlands in the final match on Sunday capped a World Cup campaign that attracted vast television audiences, reflecting the popularity of a U.S. soccer team that has dominated international competition, winning a record fourth title.

Fans heckle U.S. Soccer president, demand 'equal pay' for World Cup winners

A party atmosphere filled lower Manhattan as marching bands and women on motorcycles escorted floats carrying the players, coaches and staff up Broadway to a City Hall rally along a route dubbed "the Canyon of Heroes."

But the parade in New York's financial district was more than a tribute to a championship team, which has been involved in a well-publicized fight with the U.S. Soccer Federation for equal pay with the U.S. men's national team. The cause has endeared the players to those who support demands by women in general for pay equality.

"This is how I want my daughters to see what women can do and what women should be," said Gabrielle Blecher, 49, of Brooklyn, a mother of daughters aged 11 and 13, who works in an office along the parade route.

The month-long World Cup tournament attracted a huge television audience and gave the sport fresh momentum in the United States, where it has traditionally lagged in popularity behind American football, baseball and basketball.

At City Hall, Mayor Bill de Blasio presented the ceremonial keys to the city to the team, and star players Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan and Carli Lloyd thanked the country for supporting the team.

Soccer Football - Women's World Cup Champions Parade - New York, United States - July 10, 2019 Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan of the U.S. with the trophy during the parade REUTERS/Mike Segar

"Make this world a better place," said Rapinoe, the tournament's top scorer, who thrilled the crowd with her now-famous post-goal pose, arms aloft and a beaming smile on her face.



Fans watch the U.S. against France in their Women's World Cup Quarter Final match, in Times Square in New York



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U.S. appeals court hands win to Trump in hotel 'emoluments' case

(Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday scored a crucial victory in a Democratic-backed lawsuit that accuses him of violating anti-corruption provisions of the U.S. Constitution with his Washington hotel. The Richmond, Virginia-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a set of decisions instructing a lower court judge to dismiss the lawsuit filed against the Republican president in June 2017 by the Democratic attorneys general of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The three-judge panel said the attorneys general lacked legal standing to bring the case. The court said the District of Columbia and Maryland's interest "in enforcing the Emoluments Clauses is so attenuated and abstract that their prosecution of this case readily provokes the question of whether this action against the President is an appropriate use of the courts, which were created to resolve real cases and controversies." zens of subpoenas issued to Trump's businesses and government agencies for financial documents related to the hotel. "Today's pair of decisions by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals is a complete victory," Jay Sekulow, a lawyer for Trump, said in a statement. "This latest effort at presidential harassment has been dismissed with prejudice."

"Word just out that I won a big part of the Deep State and Democrat induced Witch Hunt," Trump wrote on Twitter.



U.S. to probe French plan to tax tech companies

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday ordered an investigation into France's planned tax on technology companies, a probe that could lead to the United States imposing new tariffs or other trade restrictions. "The United States is very concerned that the digital services tax which is expected to pass the French Senate tomorrow unfairly targets American companies," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement announcing the investigation. The move gives Lighthizer up to a year to investigate if France's digital-tax plan would hurt U.S. technology companies.

The "Section 301" investigation will determine if the levy poses an unfair trade practice. Prior investigations have covered Chinese trade practices and European Union subsidies on large commercial aircraft. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said in March that a 3% tax on the French revenue of large internet companies could yield 500 million euros (\$563 million) a year. USTR said in a statement the "services covered are ones where U.S. firms are global leaders. The structure of the proposed new tax as well as statements by officials suggest that France is unfairly targeting the tax at certain U.S.-based technology companies. Lighthizer said Trump "has directed that we

investigate the effects of this legislation and determine whether it is discriminatory or unreasonable and burdens or restricts United States commerce." Le Maire said the tax would target some 30 companies, mostly American but also Chinese, German, Spanish and British, as well as one French firm and several firms with French origins that have been bought by foreign companies. The tax would affect companies with at least 750 million euros (\$844 million) in annual revenues and apply to revenue from digital business including online advertising. Companies such as Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google, Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Facebook Inc (FB.O) and Amazon.com Inc

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-Jennifer Lai, M.D.

Dr. Lai is a board-certified pediatrician who earned her medical degree from The University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio and completed her pediatric internship and residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her special clinical interests include General Pediatrics, caring for newborns, and managing autism, and childhood obesity. She cares for young patients at Kelsey-Seybold's Spring Medical and Diagnostic Center.

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Editor's Choice



Soccer Football - Women's World Cup Champions Parade - New York, United States - July 10, 2019 Megan Rapinoe with the trophy during the parade REUTERS/Mike Segar TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



President Trump delivers remarks on Advancing American Kidney Health in Washington



Cycling - Tour de France - The 175.5-km Stage 5 from Saint-Die-des-Vosges to Colmar - July 10, 2019 - BORA-Hansgrohe rider Peter Sagan of Slovakia celebrates winning the stage on the podium, before receiving the green jersey. REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



President Donald Trump, standing with first lady Melania Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, and others, watch as the US Navy Blue Angels fly-over during an Independence Day celebration in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington,



Japan's Princess Mako visits the Peruvian-Japanese Cultural Centre in Lima, Peru July 10, 2019. REUTERS/Guadalupe Pardo TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



German Defense Minister von der Leyen briefs the media at the EU Parliament in Brussels



Undercover journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas speaks during the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London, Britain July 10, 2019. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Boris Johnson, so-called 'Brexit Party' leader, drinks beer at the Metropolitan Bar in London

Jeff Bezos Unveils Lunar Lander To Take Astronauts To The Moon By 2024



Blue Origin's "Blue Moon" lunar lander.

Overview

Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos unveiled the company's "Blue Moon" lunar lander on Thursday, as well as a new BE-7 rocket engine.

"I love Vice President Pence's 2024 lunar landing goal," Bezos said, adding that Blue Origin can meet that timeline "because we started this three years ago." Bezos invests more than \$1 billion in Blue Origin each year, through sales of his Amazon shares.

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

WASHINGTON — Jeff Bezos, chairman of Amazon and founder of Blue Origin, unveiled his space company's lunar lander for the first time last Thursday. "This vehicle is going to the moon," Bezos said during an invite-only presentation to media and space industry executives.

"We were given a gift — this nearby body called the moon," Bezos said. He added that the moon is a good place to begin manufacturing in space due to its lower gravity than the Earth. Getting resources from the moon "takes 24 times less energy to get it off the surface compared to the Earth," Bezos said, and "that is a huge lever."

The Blue Moon lander can bring 3.6 metric tons to the lunar surface, accord-

ing to Bezos.

Bezos also unveiled the company's BE-7 rocket engine at the event. The engine will be test fired for the first time this summer, Bezos said. It's largely made of "printed" parts, he added.

"We need the new engine and that's what this is," Bezos said.



Michael Sheetz

@thesheetztweetz

Bezos unveils the @blueorigin BE-7 engine, which he says will fire for the first time this summer

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"It's time to go back to the moon and this time stay," Bezos said.

Blue Origin, established nearly two decades ago, has remained relatively quiet about the rockets, engines and capsules it is developing. With its Latin tagline of "step by step, ferociously," Blue Origin has been working on multiple space systems at the same time. Bezos invests more than \$1 billion in the company each year, through sales of his Amazon shares.

Vice President Mike Pence earlier this year directed NASA to return U.S. astronauts to the surface of the moon within the next five years. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine answered by saying the agency will meet the White House's directive, which represents an acceleration of NASA's existing lunar exploration timeline. NASA's fiscal 2020 budget request included a massive increase in funding of the the Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities (ACSC) program. Under ACSC, the agency would first send robots to the surface without crews, later following up with astronauts. Despite internal hesitancy, NASA is considering commercial alternatives such as Blue Origin for getting astronauts to the moon's surface.

"I love Vice President Pence's 2024 lunar landing goal," Bezos said, adding that Blue Origin can meet that timeline "because we started this three years ago."

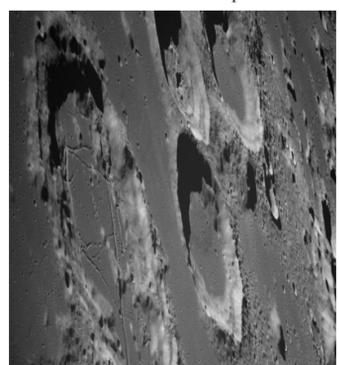


Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos

Ahead of the event, Blue Origin tweeted a cryptic photo of famed explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship and a date, May 9, in the caption. A teaser for Thursday's event, the photo appeared to hint that Bezos' announcement would focus on sending cargo and even astronauts to the south pole of the moon. That's because Shackleton lends his name to a crater on the moon's surface, which NASA named after the explorer in 2006 due to its potential as a lunar outpost. Located at the moon's south pole, the Shackleton crater is believed by many to have deposits of frozen water.

Bezos offered only few details two years ago about Blue Origin's lunar ambitions. In a program the company called "Blue Moon," it would send a couple tons of cargo to the surface of the moon, to begin building the infrastructure of a lunar base. The first mission was proposed for 2020, in partnership with government programs like the Boeing-built NASA Space Launch System (SLS) rocket. But in May of last year, Bezos indicated Blue Origin may develop Blue Moon on its own.

Blue Origin's most visible program has been its New Shepard rocket system, which the company is developing to send tourists to the edge of space for 10 minutes. New Shepard has flown on 11 test flights, with its capsule, built to carry six passengers, reaching an altitude of more than 350,000. The capsule features massive windows, providing expansive views of the Earth once in space.



Shackleton crater on the moon.

The company plans to send its first humans onboard a New Shepard rocket sometime in the next year. But it has yet to begin selling tickets. Blue Origin told CNBC last year that it will only offer tourists a ride to space "after our first human flights."

Additionally, New Shepard has served as a test bed for the company to develop its own reusability system. Like SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets, the largest part of the New Shepard rocket — the first stage "booster" — comes back and lands on a concrete pad shortly after launch.

Reusing rockets is a key development in the space industry as companies look to reduce the cost of sending humans, satellites, experiments and more to space. Blue Origin is building an immense rocket system, called New Glenn. Similar to New Shepard, the company plans to land New Glenn's rocket booster on a ship in the ocean



Bezos' ultimate ambition is to help humanity expand across the solar system, with a human population of more than a trillion living and working in space. Morgan Stanley highlighted Bezos' investments in space as a "force" in the industry who brings financial muscle unlike any other. Blue Origin is one of several space companies which Morgan Stanley said "will up the ante" this year. (Courtesy <https://www.cnbc.com/>)

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The stem cell industry is booming in the U.S., and while some legitimate medical uses have been discovered, there's also a thriving shadow industry offering poorly understood products without much regulation, ProPublica and the New Yorker report.

The big picture: The number of specialized clinics offering unproven stem cell treatments has grown from 12 in 2009 to more than 700 in 2017, according to one tally.

•Globally, unproven cellular therapies are a \$2 billion enterprise, according to a recent study.

Why it matters: Patients are paying thousands of dollars for care that is unproven and largely unregulated.

•Sometimes, that's just a waste of money. But in some cases, patients who have turned to these clinics for help have walked away harmed.

One trend is doctors touting the (unproven) healing power of amniotic stem cells, which don't have to be harvested from a patient's own body.



•Instead, they're conveniently obtained via donation after women give birth.

•An amniotic stem cell injection into a joint can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Intravenous administration may cost more than \$10,000 per session.

•There's not much data or research on these treatments, because they don't undergo the clinical trials required for approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

The bottom line: The investigation "found disgraced doctors who were recast as salespeople, manufacturers that cloaked

The Unproven, Unregulated, \$2 Billion Stem Cell Industry



Illustration: Rebecca Zisser/Axios

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

themselves in pseudoscience and had few scientists on staff, and clinics that offer to treat conditions like multiple sclerosis or kidney disease without specialized training," ProPublica's Caroline Chen writes.

•"Unscientific methods, deceptive marketing, price gouging and disregard for patients' well-being were rampant across the amniotic stem cell therapy industry."

Unregulated stem cell therapies now listed on government database



(Photo Victor/Flickr)

Stem cell clinics are using ClinicalTrials.gov — the National Institute of Health's database of private and public clinical trials

— to recruit patients to participate in potentially risky treatments, per a new study in Regenerative Medicine. People are paying big money to take part in these unregulated studies, even though people are typically not charged to join them.

One recent example: Three Florida women were blinded by a stem cell procedure meant to treat macular degeneration. They had each paid \$5,000 for the trial.

Big picture: There are close to 600 stem cell clinics (many of them newcomers) advertising treatments unapproved by the FDA to patients in the U.S. "A lot of these studies are just marketing pitches designed to appeal to people with COPD, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease," Leigh Turner, the study's author, told the Washington Post.

The NIH has put a disclaimer at the top of ClinicalTrials.gov: "Listing of a study on this site does not reflect endorsement by the National Institutes of Health." (Courtesy axios.com)

searchers have been able to duplicate the results of the so-called "Berlin patient" — which is the only other documented case of a permanent remission from the virus that causes AIDS, and is widely thought to have been an anomaly.

What they did: Like the Berlin patient, the new case involves an HIV positive patient who was treated with a stem cell transplant intended to target cancer, not the HIV. However, the stem cell transplants in both cases came from donors with a protein mutation known as CCR5. H.I.V. uses the protein to enter immune cells, but is unable to attach to the mutated version.



Larger scale stem cell transplants to combat HIV would be too impractical and risky to present a viable path to a cure. However, some researchers are examining whether gene-therapy techniques to induce the CCR5 mutation on immune or predecessor stem cells could be an option. There are considerable risks here too, namely that other genes could be altered in detrimental ways.

The CCR5 mutation would not successfully defend against strains of the HIV virus that use a different protein, known as CCR4, to enter immune cells.

A sample size of one — achieved in Berlin over a decade ago — is now a sample size of two. It's therefore difficult to assess the treatment's effectiveness, potential complications, odds of success and other factors, but it's still an extraordinary and hopeful sign, said Axios Science Editor Andrew Freedman. The concept of a cure is now slightly more real, albeit with an abundance of caution. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related

Second HIV patient achieves remission, signaling possible path to a cure



Photo by Vasyil Dolmato/Getty Images
An HIV patient has experienced remission for the second time in documented history, according to a study published this week in the journal Nature.

Why it matters: The patient, a U.K. man who has chosen to remain anonymous, has only been in remission for 18 months, so researchers are hesitant to call this a "cure." But it's nonetheless the first time that re-

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