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Pompeo pushes back on U.S. House impeachment inquiry into Trump



**Inside C2**

# Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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## Huawei CFO's phone passcodes were shared to Canada police in 'error':

(Reuters) - Canada's border security agency admitted making an "error" while sharing passcodes of phones belonging to Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou with Canadian federal police, according to document filed as part of a hearing in a British Columbia court.

Meng, 47, was arrested at a Vancouver airport on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States, where she is charged with bank fraud and accused of misleading the bank HSBC about Huawei Technologies Co Ltd's business in Iran. She has said she is innocent and is fighting extradition.

An email submitted to the British Columbia Supreme Court on Tuesday says "the passcodes were provided in error and could not be disclosed as evidence nor used to access any of Ms Meng's devices."

Meng's lawyers are demanding emails, notes and other records to support their case that Meng's rights were violated before her arrest. They wrapped up their arguments last week, saying Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had originally planned to board Meng's flight once it landed in Vancouver and arrest her.

They noted that the warrant called for immediate arrest. However, that plan changed after a meeting between border and police officials, although the reasons for the change were not clear and, they said, resulted in Meng's constitutional rights being violated.

If Canadian officials abused their authority, her lawyers say, the extradition proceedings should be halted.

The email from a representative of the Canada Border Services Agency further says that the RCMP confirmed they did not access the devices, and do not intend to access the devices at any time as it was "not their investigation."

Lawyers for Canada's attorney general are set to continue their oral arguments on behalf of the United States in the British Columbia



FILE PHOTO:  
Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou leaves her home to appear in British Columbia supreme court for a hearing, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada September 30, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson

courtroom Wednesday.

In their filing last week, they said the Crown already provided extensive documents to Meng, and that contacts between U.S. and Canadian authorities under such circumstances are encouraged.

Oral arguments by counsel for the Canadian attorney gen-

eral are scheduled to run through Friday this week but could end earlier.

The extradition proceeding itself is scheduled to begin in January and experts say legal wrangling could go on for years.

## Florida joins Justice Department settlement with Sprint, T-Mobile

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Florida has signed on to a consent agreement that the Justice Department reached with Sprint Corp and T-Mobile US Inc to allow the companies to merge, according to a court filing on Wednesday.

While Florida's decision to join the government is a morale boost for the companies, it may have little practical effect since the two sides already settled.

A group of 17 states and the District of Columbia has filed a separate lawsuit to stop the \$26 billion merger, arguing that it will lead to higher prices for consumers. A trial date has been set for Dec. 9.

Florida on Wednesday joined Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and South Dakota in backing the federal government's decision to approve the deal on condition that the compa-

nies, the third- and fourth-largest U.S. wireless companies, divest Sprint's prepaid businesses to satellite television company Dish Network Corp to create a fourth U.S. wireless carrier.

Separately, the Federal Communications Commission has indicated it plans to approve the merger and has begun the process of formally doing so.

A smartphone with Sprint logo are seen in front of a screen projection of T-mobile logo, in this picture illustration taken April 30, 2018. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration



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# Trump slams impeachment probe as hoax as Democrats seek White House documents

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump on Wednesday angrily denounced an impeachment inquiry into his July telephone call with Ukraine's leader as Democratic lawmakers said they would subpoena White House records about the call.

At a joint news conference with Finland's president, a frustrated Trump blasted reporters who asked about the probe, which he called a hoax and a fraud, but said he would cooperate with the inquiry. "I always cooperate," he said.

Trump repeatedly refused to answer a question from a Reuters reporter about what he wanted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to do when Trump brought up the business ties to Ukraine of Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Trump suggested, however, that his objective was aimed at corruption in Ukraine, saying the United States gives the country a lot of money, and "I don't like giving money to a country that's that corrupt. ... I don't like being the sucker country." Trump attacks Democrats, whistleblower over impeachment

Schiff says Pompeo trying to 'interfere with witnesses' in U.S. impeachment inquiry

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The Democrats' subpoena request has the potential to become a flashpoint in the showdown between the Republican president and the Democratic-led House of Representatives.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a close ally of Trump, acknowledged earlier in the day during a trip to Italy that he had listened in on the call in which Trump asked Zelenskiy to investigate Biden, a former U.S. vice president and a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

The call prompted the House to launch its impeachment inquiry last week. Pompeo's admission came a day after he objected to Democratic efforts as part of the impeachment inquiry to obtain depositions from five current and former State Department officials.

"We're not fooling around here, though. We don't want this to drag on months and months and months, which appears to be the administration's strategy," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, whose panel leads the inquiry, told a news conference alongside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings said he intended to subpoena the White House for the Ukraine-related records on Friday, the latest demand for evidence from an administration that has repeatedly resisted such efforts by Democrats.

Trump seemed to make light of the request, telling reporters that Pelosi "hands out subpoenas like they're cookies."

Schiff said Democrats were deeply concerned about the Trump administration's potential interference with witnesses, saying any such efforts by the president, Pompeo or others would be considered obstruction of justice.

The House launched its impeachment inquiry, which threatens Trump's presidency, following a complaint brought by a whistleblower within the U.S. intelligence community over Trump's request to Zelenskiy.

The whistleblower provided an account of his concerns to a House Intelligence Committee aide before bringing his complaint, and some of that



U.S. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) joins Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to speak about Democratic legislative priorities and impeachment inquiry plans during her weekly news conference at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., October 2, 2019.

REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

information was shared with Schiff, the New York Times reported, citing a spokesman for Schiff and current and former U.S. officials.

U.S. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) joins Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to speak about Democratic legislative priorities and impeachment inquiry plans during her weekly news conference at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., October 2, 2019.

REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

Trump said the newspaper's report

showed that "Schiff is a fraud" and the president called it a "scandal" that Schiff had advance knowledge of the complaint. "He probably helped write it," Trump said, without offering evidence.

**'HARD TO IMAGINE'**  
Trump made his request to Zelenskiy shortly after he had frozen nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine. Zelenskiy agreed to the request on the call, and the aid was later provided. Democrats have accused Trump of pressuring a vulnerable U.S. ally to meddle in the 2020 election for his

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## Editor's Choice



Britain's Prince Harry poses as he meets with business representatives at a Creative Industries and Business Reception, at the British High Commissioner's residence in Johannesburg, South Africa, October 2, 2019. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks about the impeachment inquiry during his meeting with Finland's President Sauli Niinisto at the White House in Washington, U.S., October 2, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Athletics - World Athletics Championships - Doha 2019 - Men's 800 Metres Final - Khalifa International Stadium, Doha, Qatar - October 1, 2019 Donavan Brazier of the U.S. celebrates winning gold with a championship record REUTERS/Ahmed Jadallah TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A model presents the winning wedding dress made of toilet paper by designer Mimoza Haska named "Celestial Rose" after the 15th Annual Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest in New York City



Athletics - World Athletics Championships - Doha 2019 - Women's 400 Metres Semi Final - Khalifa International Stadium, Doha, Qatar - October 1, 2019 Poland's Justyna Swiety-Ersetic reacts after finishing second in her semi final REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Louis Vuitton Spring/Summer 2020 women's ready-to-wear collection show during Paris Fashion Week



A woman with traditional cooling-face-powder look on as she sell fruits and vegetables on a wooden boat at Martapura river in Lok Baintan village near Banjarmasin



A pro-China supporter holds up a China national flag at Harbour City, during China's National Day in Hong Kong



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## Hurricane Season Is Here – Are You Ready?

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

The International District would like to remind everyone that Hurricane Season is upon us. We all need to be smart and plan ahead for all kinds of disasters: natural, manmade, technological and terrorist related. In Southeast Texas, however, the most likely disaster scenario is a Hurricane.

Here are a few things to do in preparation:

### Before the Hurricane

- Monitor local TV or AM 740 KTRH Radio for instructions
- Check your supplies; especially water (5 gallons per person per day)
- Fuel your vehicles and generators
- Cover your windows with plywood
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, toys, tools and other objects that could be missiles
- Take pictures of property and contents for insurance purposes

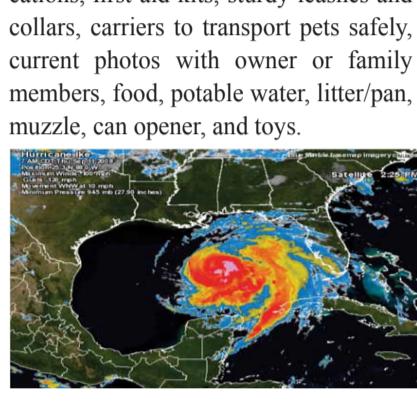
### Stock Emergency Supplies

(at least 72 hours worth)

- First aid kit
- NOAA Radio and batteries
- Flashlight and batteries
- Extra eye glasses
- Bottled water & Non perishable food
- Clothing & Bedding
- Sanitation (toilet paper & personal hygiene items)
- Medications and copies of prescriptions
- Cash as well as credit cards
- Photo ID, important documents and records
- Special products for babies, elderly and medically fragile family members

### Don't Forget Your Pets

Pet disaster kits should include: medi-



Make a check list of necessary pre hurricane preparations and review with your family. Review it again when there is a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Discuss evacuation plans with your family. Check Radio 740 and local television media for updates on zones being evacuated. Make sure your home insurance policy is current and remember that standard policies may not cover flooding and wind damage.

For more information check out the Harris County Office of Emergency Management web site. Emergency Essentials Kit (HarrisReady.org) (Courtesy International Management District)

### The "Ultimate" Hurricane Checklist

- Aluminum foil
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and an NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both

cations, first aid kits, sturdy leashes and collars, carriers to transport pets safely, current photos with owner or family members, food, potable water, litter/pan, muzzle, can opener, and toys.

- Bleach and medicine dropper (Nine parts water to one part bleach can be used as a disinfectant.)
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

- Cash or traveler's checks and change  
- Carbon monoxide detector (while using generator)

- Cellphone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

- Change of clothing including a long-sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes

- Coolers

- Duct tape

- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

- Emergency reference material, such as a first aid book

- Extension cord (for generators)

- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items

- Financial documents

- Fire extinguisher

- First aid kit

- Fix-a-flat

- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

- Frozen gel packs

- Gas cans

- Generator

- Infant formula and diapers

- Local maps

- Manual can opener for food

- Matches in a waterproof container

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

- Paper and pencil

- Paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils

- Pet food and extra water for your pet

- Plastic bucket with tight lid

- Prescription medications and glasses

- Rain gear and rubber boots

- Sandbags (for flooding)

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person

- Toilet paper

- Trash bags

- Utility knife

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

- Whistle to signal for help

- Work gloves

- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

(Courtesy <https://www.chron.com/news/>)



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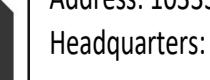
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## Amazon Warning To Customers: Some Supplements Could Be Fake

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



Procter & Gamble brand.



"We are aware that some counterfeit Align product was sold on Amazon via third parties," Mollie Wheeler, a spokesperson for Procter & Gamble, said in an email.

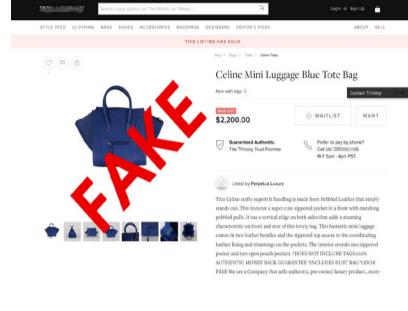
"Amazon has confirmed they have stopped third party sales of the Align products in question and Amazon is only selling Align product received directly from P&G manufacturing facilities."

In a statement, an Amazon spokesperson highlighted several initiatives the company has devised to detect counterfeiters, like Brand Registry and Project Zero. Brands typically need to elect to participate in these programs, and the spokesperson declined to clarify whether Procter & Gamble or Align were already enrolled.

"We investigate every claim of potential counterfeit thoroughly, and often in partnership with brands, and in the rare instance where a bad actor gets through, we take swift action, including removing the item for sale, permanently banning bad actors, pursuing legal action, and working with law enforcement when appropriate," the statement reads.

"We have taken these actions against the bad actors in question and proactively notified and refunded customers." Neither Amazon nor Procter & Gamble would say who first detected the fake pills. Amazon also didn't respond to a question about whether it would test the counterfeit probiotics, leaving Bressler and other customers to wonder if they may have ingested something dangerous. The FDA has found that supplements

sometimes contain prescription pharmaceuticals like steroids or antidepressants, which can be harmful if a person takes them without being aware of it.



CVS recently announced plans to independently test every nutritional supplement it carries in its stores. That Amazon isn't doing the same might sound careless, but the reality is that the company has already taken far more action than it's obligated to under the law.

Even if the counterfeit Align pills Amazon sold turned out to be harmful, Bressler and other buyers would likely have little legal recourse against the company. When consumers have tried to sue online marketplaces like Amazon and eBay for selling dangerous goods in the past, courts have ruled they aren't responsible for products offered by third-party vendors—they serve merely as intermediaries between consumers and sellers.

In many of these cases, the companies have defended themselves using Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. Passed in 1996, it shields them from nearly all liability for what sellers or users post on their sites. In one 2014 case, for example, a judge found that because of Section 230, eBay isn't liable even when it sells items that have been recalled. "Marketplaces aren't responsible for passing along recalls, even if they know the recalls have been issued, and even if they would have the capacity to share them," says Eric Goldman, a professor at Santa Clara University School of Law who has written extensively about intermediary liability. (Items that have been recalled, however, are prohibited under eBay's Terms of Service.) Retailers, on the other hand, can be held

directly responsible for selling things like questionable dietary supplements. Three years ago, the Department of Justice ordered GNC to pay a \$2 million fine for selling products with harmful hidden ingredients, and the chain agreed to better police the goods on its shelves moving forward.

Amazon is both a retailer and a third-party marketplace. It buys some products directly from manufacturers and sells them at a markup, and it allows independent merchants to offer their goods directly to consumers, the latter of which accounts for 58 percent of gross merchandise sales on the platform. But the line between those two parts of its business are not always clear. Amazon exerts a significant amount of control over sellers, including dictating how their goods appear in search results. It also often warehouses and ships their products for them. And unlike on eBay, Etsy, or other online marketplaces, a single Amazon product listing can feature goods from dozens of independent sellers, making it difficult for consumers to understand from whom they're purchasing a product. "Amazon has obviously kept pushing the needle further and further toward taking responsibility for marketplace goods," says Goldman.

The US 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled earlier this month that these kinds of differences do, in fact, make Amazon liable for harmful products sold by third-party sellers in some circumstances. The judges noted that because third-party vendors can only communicate with consumers directly through Amazon, they can "conceal themselves from the customer, leaving customers injured by defective products with no direct recourse." The case involved a woman who purchased a dog collar from a third-party vendor on Amazon in 2014. Several weeks later, while she was walking her dog, it snapped, leaving the woman permanently blind in one eye. Goldman notes that the ruling is based on Pennsylvania law and doesn't yet set a precedent for the rest of the country. Amazon is also asking the court to re-

view it again.

Making Amazon legally liable for everything on its site wouldn't be a silver bullet. The immunity granted under Section 230 is what, in part, made it possible for online marketplaces to thrive in the first place. If platforms became totally liable, that would make it incredibly difficult for, say, Etsy to allow independent artists to sell their work on its site. Amazon has banned some products it has deemed to be dangerous, such as hoverboards, but there are an endless number of other categories in which seemingly benign products may pose risks.

And in situations where Amazon can't be held legally responsible, it can be almost impossible to track down the entities who are. The third-party vendor who sold the knockoff Align pills, or the company that manufactured them, may very likely be difficult to find, especially if they're overseas. In the dog collar case, The Furry Gang, the third-party vendor that sold the defective collar, completely disappeared.



The US government is taking more notice of the growing problem of counterfeits and how online shopping in many ways has allowed knockoffs to flourish. On Thursday, lawmakers in the House of Representatives held a hearing on counterfeits, where people from a variety of industries spoke about the threat to their businesses. "As one of the largest and most influential ecommerce companies in the world, Amazon has an important role to play in ensuring that counterfeit goods stay out of consumers' hands," said Robert C. Barchiesi of the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition in written testimony. "And we look forward to their continued cooperation toward that end." (Courtesy https://www.wired.

On the second evening of Prime Day, Amazon's annual sales bonanza, Anne Marie Bressler received an email from Amazon that had nothing to do with the latest deals. The message, sent from an automated email address Tuesday, informed her that the Align nutritional supplements she ordered two weeks earlier were probably counterfeit.

"If you still have this product, we recommend that you stop using it immediately and dispose of the item," the email reads, adding that she would be receiving a full refund.

It's not clear how many other customers may have purchased the fake supplements. Amazon confirmed that it sent out the email but declined to specify the number of customers impacted.

For years, Amazon has battled third-party sellers who list knockoffs of everything from iPhone charging cables to soccer jerseys on its site. Nutritional supplements are another popular target for fakes, as it's a largely unregulated industry. The US Food and Drug Administration has been criticized—including by former staff—for declining to test dietary supplements for safety and effectiveness the same way it does pharmaceuticals. In this instance, the problems came together: An Amazon merchant sold dupes of genuine probiotics made by Align, a

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