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John Robbins 832-280-5815
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

No deal reached as Schumer, Trump meet to avert government shutdown



Inside C5

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

Saturday, January 20, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

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Please see C5

On Chinese Marriage Ceremony

The first time I saw a traditional Chinese wedding was on a TV drama as a child, and I thought it was beautiful. As a Chinese-American girl growing up in a mostly white town, the only connections I had to Chinese culture were my parents and Chinese dramas, so I watched dramas devotedly. The wedding procession was boisterous, with trumpets, drums, and cymbals playing a merry tune as the wedding party moved through the streets. On a horse at the head of the procession, was the proud groom wearing a red bow, smiling and waving at well-wishers. The bride - veiled and wearing a bright red embroidered jacket and skirt - stepped carefully from the sedan and was led into the groom's house. During the ceremony the bride and the groom bowed formally three times, to the heavens and the earth, to the parents, and lastly to each other in a gesture of respect.

Houston Columnist
Jane Ren



Between East and West
Column Review

and that it was not important to them. I think this indifference is sadder than lack of knowledge. Though modern Chinese have turned away from the traditional wedding, they have also devalued the ceremonial aspect of weddings, resulting in a watered down event that is neither Chinese nor Western. What we lost was more than a ceremony; it was our heritage.

I can understand the appeal of leaving traditions behind. When I was a child, I wished that I was not born Chinese. It was painful to look different from the kids around me and to realize that my family would never have the same traditions as my classmates' families. My solution was to fade into the background; no one could comment on my foreignness if I never stood out in the first place. Maybe that is why there are no longer any traditional Chinese weddings. A Chinese wedding is loud in sound and color. It cannot help but draw attention. It is hard to picture one happening in the streets of my quiet Houston neighborhood.

As I have matured, I have learned that in order for others to respect you, you must first respect yourself. This saying applies to individuals, but I think it also applies to cultures. Like a person, a culture needs to stand on a firm foundation. Luckily, Chinese culture has built its foundation over thousands of years. I think that if Chinese people, including Chinese Americans, rediscovered and celebrated the beautiful parts of their culture, they would find themselves standing a little taller. They would be more open to engaging other cultures and saying "Look at these splendid things we can share with you - I hope you can appreciate them too." At least, I know I would. Therefore I hope that other young Chinese, especially Chinese Americans, can come to know and appreciate the beauty of our culture despite its flaws. I hope one day to witness a traditional Chinese wedding in real life.

Even at a young age, I could see that the ceremony was infused with meaning, the product of a proud culture with rich traditions. Imagine my surprise when, years later, I attended a cousin's wedding in Ningbo, China and witnessed something quite different. Some parts of my cousin's wedding had traditional elements, such as the groom picking up the bride from her home, but the wedding itself consisted mostly of entertainment for the audience. The announcer at one point even played a trivia game with the guests and gave out stuffed animals as prizes. Two tables of guests did not show up at all. The Western-style vows were spoken in front of a wedding company representative, and did not seem to carry the same weight as in America, where only clergy, judges, or specially appointed friends of the couple can perform wedding ceremonies. The entire affair was strangely lacking in tradition and significance.

Since then, I have attended several weddings of Chinese friends in America and China, but have not witnessed a single traditional Chinese wedding even among non-religious couples. What happened to the traditional Chinese wedding? Does it only exist on TV these days? I asked several friends and family members this question. Some of them liked the simplicity of handing over wedding planning to a wedding company. Others cited a desire to be modern. Many of them said they do not know what a traditional Chinese wedding is supposed to look like.

Rep. Al Green's Statement on the Introduction of the Second Articles of Impeachment Against President



Washington, DC -- On Thursday, January 18, 2018, Congressman Al Green (D-TX) released a statement on impeachment: "On Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, President Donald J. Trump once again demonstrated to the world that he is unfit to be President of the United States. His reference to Haiti, El Salvador, and nations in Africa as shithole (or shithouse) countries is the latest act of bigotry bringing disgrace and disrepute on the presidency. This article of impeachment addresses not only the President's bigoted statements, but also connects his bigoted statements to his attempts to convert his statements into onerous policies. President Trump's attempt to ban Muslims from entering our country and to ban transgender individuals from the military are policies initially evidenced in his bigoted statements. His bigoted comments related to shithole (or shithouse) countries on

the continent of Africa were made while negotiating immigration policy. It would not be unreasonable for one to conclude that an American race-based immigration policy could emerge, cleverly disguised as a merit-based immigration policy given that the President has suggested that we admit more persons from Norway, as opposed to shithole (or shithouse) African countries, Haiti, and El Salvador, which are countries predominantly populated by people of color. It has become evident that the President's high misdeed of attempting to convert his bigoted comments into policy are high misdemeanors and impeachable.

"As I have previously stated, this is not about Democrats, it is about democracy. It is not about Republicans, it is about the Republic. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, 'The time is always right to do right.' Tomorrow is the right time to bring articles of impeachment to a second vote in the United States House of Representatives."

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Telecom carriers dominate distribution of mobile phones in the United States and Huawei is struggling to make inroads into the market. Photo: AFP

The collapse of a deal in which Huawei Technologies was to distribute its smartphones through US carrier AT&T will threaten Sino-US trade ties - and Beijing should consider "countermeasures" if the situation escalates, experts and a former Chinese commerce official said.



Huawei's U.S. market dreams dashed.

It was called off because of "political pressure", US-based online tech news site The Information reported, citing sources. AT&T was pressured to cancel the deal after members of the US Senate and House Intelligence committees sent a letter on December 20 to the Federal Communications Commission, citing concerns about Huawei's plans to launch consumer products through a major US telecoms carrier, the report said.

The abrupt cancellation of the deal is the latest sign of tensions between China and the US over trade and investment, with Washington calling for trade actions against China and tightening screening of Chinese companies, especially in the hi-tech sector.

Huawei is the second Chinese company facing a serious setback in the United States in a week, after the US Committee

Official Says Beijing Should Consider 'Countermeasures' If Situation Escalates Collapse Of Huawei Deal With AT&T 'Will Threaten China-US Trade Ties'

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

Foreign Investment rejected Chinese firm Ant Financial's takeover bid for US-based money transfer firm MoneyGram, citing national security concerns. Ant Financial is an affiliate of Alibaba, which



Visitors use their mobile phone at a Huawei stand. Photo: AFP

owns the South China Morning Post. He Weiwen, a former business counsellor at the Chinese consulate in New York, said the failure of the Huawei deal reflected heightened worries in the United States about Chinese investment.

"Investment cooperation between China and the US will be squeezed," He said. "The US is very worried about the impact in the US from the growth of China's hi-tech industry. It is worried that Chinese companies will transfer US technology through mergers and acquisitions. Huawei's US market dreams 'harmed again' after AT&T walks away from smartphone pact

"China should contemplate countermeasures [if Washington takes punitive action against China]," he said, adding that Chinese companies should also change their investment strategies.

US President Donald Trump in December labelled China and Russia as competitors in his national security strategy.

Paul Haswell, tech-focused partner at international law firm Pinsent Masons, said the cancellation of the deal was not a surprise because US concerns about market restrictions in China and misuse of intellectual property made it difficult for Chi-

nese companies to succeed. He Weiwen, a former business counsellor at the Chinese consulate in New York, said the failure of the Huawei deal reflected



A crew hangs a Huawei advertising banner on the side of the Las Vegas Convention Center as workers prepare for the 2018 CES in Las Vegas. Photo: Reuters



Huawei's US distribution plans are thwarted again as AT&T reportedly backs out of a deal.



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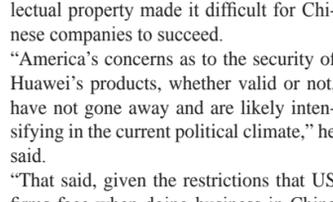
and the US will be squeezed," He said. "The US is very worried about the impact in the US from the growth of China's hi-tech industry. It is worried that Chinese companies will transfer US technology through mergers and acquisitions. "China should contemplate countermeasures [if Washington takes punitive action against China]," he said, adding that Chinese companies should also change their investment strategies.

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there's little hope of any improvement in the situation.

"I expect things to get significantly worse as the US and China markets - not just the tech markets - become more polarised." The AT&T decision is another blow for Huawei's business strategy in the US after the House Intelligence Committee released a report in 2012 urging US telecoms companies not to do business with Huawei and another Shenzhen-based firm, ZTE, citing potential Chinese state influence on these companies that could threaten US security.

A year later, the US Congress pushed for a cyberespionage review to restrict government purchases of information technology equipment from Chinese vendors.

Economic relations between China and the US have become tense in recent months, with Washington demanding Beijing take action to balance bilateral trade and launching an investigation into alleged intellectual property theft by Chinese companies.

State-run Xinhua news agency in a commentary last week criticised Washington's "zero-sum mentality" with regards to Sino-US trade and threatened to retaliate.

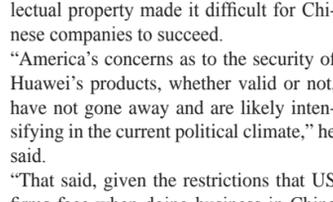
Lu Xiang, a US affairs expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the Huawei decision showed the US was increasing scrutiny of Chinese investments, even though the two nations had agreed on

heightened worries in the United States about Chinese investment. "Investment cooperation between China



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Economic relations between China and the US have become tense in recent months Photo: AP

business deals worth more than US\$250 billion during Trump's trip to Beijing in November.

"Both sides need to discuss the technical details of these deals, and neither of them want the deals to become scrap paper," he said. "The US will gain nothing if relations with China turn bad." (Courtesy http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence)

Advertisement for Southern Chinese Daily News (美南新聞日報) featuring various news sections and contact information.

Advertisement for Dynasty Pearls & Antiques (王朝 珍珠古董) featuring images of pearls and antiques.

Advertisement for Jian Pai skin cream (劍牌皮膚病霜) for various skin conditions, including eczema and psoriasis.

Advertisement for Zhen Fan, M.D. (范縝 外科醫生) specializing in vascular and surgical treatments.

Advertisement for Treemont Retirement Community (把Treemont當成你的家) offering retirement services.

Advertisement for Texas Regional Health & Wellness (德州第一醫療中心) featuring Dr. Sammy Tao and various medical services.

A Snapshot Of The World



Nobel Lett, who suffers from Prader Willi Syndrome and is treated under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), greets his father Jameson after school in Columbus, Ohio, U.S. January 17, 2018. Picture taken January 17, 2018. REUTERS



House Speaker Paul Ryan speaks at a news conference with Republican leaders



A dancer prepares to participate in the celebration of the feast honouring Saint Sebastian in Diriam-ba



Nobel Lett, who has Prader-Willi Syndrome and is treated under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has his supplements organized on the counter in his home in Columbus, Ohio, U.S. January 17, 2018. REUTERS/Maddie McGarvey



Nuns take a selfie while waiting for Pope Francis to drive past, in Lima, Peru January 18, 2018. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



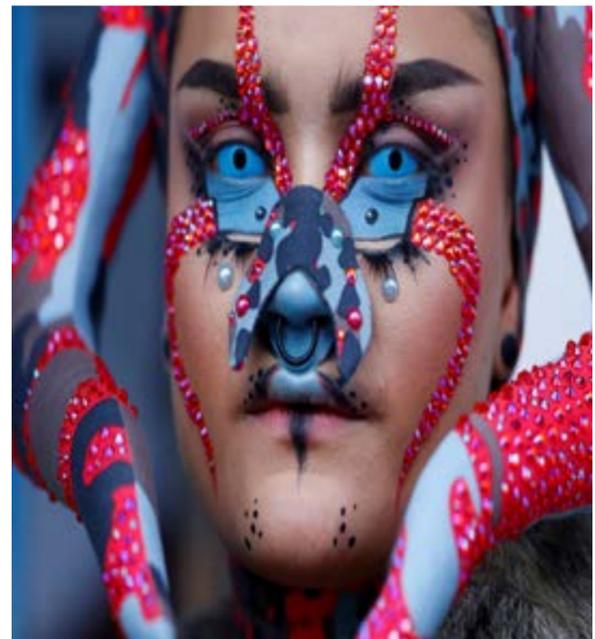
Priest Sergei Ryzhov conducts a ceremony as a man takes a dip in the freezing waters of Lake Buzim during Orthodox Epiphany celebrations north of Krasnoyarsk



U.S. President Donald Trump and Ivanka Trump visit Coraopolis



Parachicos dancers perform during the annual celebration to honour Saint Anthony Abbot in Chiapa de Corzo



A person waits outside fashion show of designer Hoermanseder at the Berlin Fashion Week Autumn/Winter 2018 in Berlin

How Plastic In The Ocean Is Contaminating America's Seafood

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



"A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem," says a marine toxicologist.

We've long known that the fish we eat are exposed to toxic chemicals in the rivers, bays and oceans they inhabit. The substance that's gotten the most attention — because it has shown up at disturbingly high levels in some fish — is mercury.

"The ocean is basically a toilet bowl for all of our chemical pollutants and waste in general," says Chelsea Rochman, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Davis, who authored the study.

For many years, scientists have known that chemicals will move up the food chain as predators absorb the chemicals consumed by their prey.

highest levels of mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other dioxins. (And that's concerning, given that canned tuna was the second most popular fish consumed in the U.S. in 2012, according to the National Fisheries Institute.)



Seafood in grocery stores may have been caught in parts of the polluted ocean.

"Plastics — when they end up in the ocean — are a sponge for chemicals already out there," says Rochman. "We found that when the plastic interacts with the juices in the [fish's] stomach, the chemicals come off of plastic and are transferred into the bloodstream or tissue."

The fish on the marine plastic diet were also more likely to have tumors and liver problems. While it's impossible to know whether any given fish you buy at the sea-

food counter has consumed this much plastic, Rochman's findings do have implications for human health, she notes. "A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem."

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Quantity. Includes items like cigarettes, food wrappers, beverage bottles, caps, etc.

Top items found in the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch."

Consider the five massive gyres of trash particles swirling around in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans alone. Those gyres, Hume told Gross, contain "plastic that has been weathered and broken down by the elements into these little bits, and it's getting into the food chain."

One of those gyres is the infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Fish could encounter the plastic in those gyres, but also much closer to shore, says Rochman. Even so, the consensus in the public health community still seems to be that the benefits of eating fish — because of their omega-3 fatty acids, among other assets — exceed the potential risks.

be of concern. The Environmental Protection Agency does put out advisories to warn consumers when fish get contaminated with chemicals in local U.S. waters. But a lot of our seafood now comes from foreign waters, which the EPA does not monitor.



swordfish altogether. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/sections)

Advertisement for the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival. Includes details about the event date (February 24, 2018), location (Houston, TX), and various activities like entertainment, food, and music.

Advertisement titled "ALL LIFE DEPENDS ON THE OCEANS" with a quote from Professor David Suzuki. It discusses threats to marine life and the impact of climate change.

Large advertisement for ZK brand products. Features the headline "固本扶正不助邪 祛邪解毒不傷身" and promotes "ZK靈芝破壁孢子三萜油軟膠囊" (ZK Reishi Mushroom Soft Capsules).

Advertisement for Ocean Palace restaurant. Features the logo "Lean Palace 珍寶海鮮城" and promotes "天天茶市 正宗粵菜 港式點心" (Daily Tea Set, Authentic Cantonese Cuisine, Hong Kong Dim Sum).

No deal reached as Schumer, Trump meet to avert government shutdown

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer met with President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday to search for ways to avert a U.S. government shutdown, but Schumer said afterward that disagreements remained as the clock ticked toward a midnight deadline to pass a funding bill.

Trump invited Schumer to the White House as a stopgap bill to fund the federal government through Feb. 16 appeared on the verge of collapse in the Senate, where Democratic votes are needed to pass it.

"We had a long and detailed meeting," Schumer told reporters on his return to the U.S. Capitol after the approximately 90-minute meeting. The chiefs of staff for each man - John Kelly for Trump and Mike Lynch for Schumer - also attended.

"We discussed all of the major outstanding issues. We made some progress, but we still have a good number of disagreements. The discussions will continue," Schumer said. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved the stopgap spending measure late on Thursday, but it has been sidetracked in the Senate by a dispute over immigration.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said on Thursday he was ratcheting up the likelihood of a government shutdown from 30 percent to a 50-50 possibility.

Democrats have demanded the bill include protections from deportation for 700,000 young undocumented immigrants. Those children, known as "Dreamers," were

brought into the United States as children, largely from Mexico and Central America, and given temporary legal status under a program started by former President Barack

Obama. Many have been educated in the United States and know no other country. In September, Trump announced he was ending the program and giving Congress until March 5 to come up with a legislative replacement.

"Now that we're 13 hours away from a government shutdown that Democrats would initiate and Democrats would own, the craziness of this seems to be dawning on my friend the Democratic leader," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said, referring to Schumer.

Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, said Republicans needed to sit down and negotiate and called on House Republicans not to leave town until the crisis was averted. "I would beg them, don't turn your back on your responsibility right here in Washington to work with us, to try to

find a way forward," Durbin said. Trump, on the eve of the first anniversary of his inauguration, said in a morning tweet that Democrats were holding up a resolution over the immigration issue.

"Democrats are needed if it is to pass in the Senate - but they want illegal immigration and weak borders. Shutdown coming?" he said. Democratic Senator Tim Kaine told reporters that lawmakers were close to a longer-term deal and should not pass another 30-day funding measure.

"We can get there, we're close enough we can get there if we just stay on it," he said. "I think we can get one in the next few days." Republican Senator Tom Cotton said he was willing to provide protection to DACA recipients in future negotiations.

"We have another six weeks to solve that problem. It doesn't really involve government funding," he told Fox News Channel. "We should take those two issues up in sequence." Republicans have a 51-49 majority in the Senate, but with Senator John McCain undergoing cancer treatment at home in Arizona they need at least 10 Democrats to reach the 60 votes required to pass a spending bill.

In addition to strong Democratic opposition, at least three Republican senators have said they will not back the resolution in its current form. Republican Senator Mike Rounds, who had earlier said he could not back the bill, on Friday said in a statement that while the measure was "not ideal," he would support it after being assured that other legislation to adequately fund the U.S. military would be raised soon.

Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia has indicated he was leaning in favor of the stopgap measure. Manchin is one of 10 Democrats up for re-election this year in states Trump won in the 2016 presidential election.

When the government shuts down, which has only happened three times in a meaningful way since 1995, hundreds of thousands of "non-essential" federal workers may be put on furlough, while "essential" employees, dealing with public safety and national security, would keep working.

Amid the deadlock, more senators were raising the possibility of merely approving enough new federal funds for a few days. The idea is to put pressure on negotiators to then cut deals on immigration, defense spending and non-defense funding by next week. But McConnell shot down that plan on Friday. "Let's fund the government for a full month so we can actually get something done" and negotiate other issues including immigration, he said.



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) arrive at a news conference with Democratic leaders on opposition to government shutdown on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., January 19, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

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Advertisement for Double Star Academy (育才學校) featuring math and English courses for various grade levels, including Algebra, Geometry, and SAT preparation.

Advertisement for Talent Academy (騰龍教育學院) offering bilingual day care, after-school classes, and summer camps.

Advertisement for Qiyuan Art Company (奇緣藝術品公司) specializing in the purchase and sale of traditional Chinese art, calligraphy, and ceramics.

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Advertisement for First Academy (第一學院) listing specific tutoring services and contact information.

Advertisement for IQ Tutoring Center (IQ VIET MY) offering after-school classes in reading, algebra, and physics.

Advertisement for FAME WELL School (瀚歲文才學校) offering a wide range of extracurricular and academic programs.