

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** 

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

Southern News Group

LOWER FOOD PRICES

Houston-based Fiesta Mart to be acquired by El Super grocery chain

Inside C2

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Southern Make Today

www.today-america.com

# U.S., EU to expel more than 100 Russian diplomats over UK nerve attack

LON-DON/

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States said on Monday it would expel 60 Russian diplomats, joining governments across Europe in punishing the Kremlin for a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy in Britain that they have blamed on Moscow.

It was the strongest action that U.S. President Donald Trump had taken against Russia since coming to office. He has been criticized by Democrats and members of his own Republican Party for failing to be tough enough on Russia over U.S. allegations of Russian meddling in the U.S. electoral system including the 2016 presidential campaign.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, welcoming the show of solidarity, said 18 countries had announced plans to expel Russian officials. Those included 14 European Union countries. In total, Monday's announcements affected more than 100 Russian diplomats - the biggest Western expulsion of Russian diplomats since the height of the Cold War.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on
Twitter that
Monday's

Twitter that Monday's "extraordinary international response by our allies stands in history as the largest collective expulsion of Russian intelligence officers ever and will help

defend our shared security."

May said the coordinated measures sent the "strongest signal to Russia that it cannot continue to flout international law." Britain had evidence Russia has investigated ways of distributing nerve agents for assassinations, May told parliament. Russia's Foreign Ministry called the actions a "provocative gesture". The Kremlin spokesman said the West's response was a "mistake" and that Russian President Vladimir Putin would make a final decision about Russia's response. Moscow has denied being behind the attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the southern English city of Salisbury. Skripal, 66, and Yulia Skripal, 33, were found unconscious on a public bench in a shopping centre on March 4 and remain critically ill in hospital.

2938 W Sam Houston Pkwy S Houston, TX 77042 Salisbury could have been potentially exposed to this nerve agent," May said.

Monday's wave of expulsions followed EU leaders saying last week that evidence presented by May of Russian involvement in the attack was a solid basis for further action. The staff expelled by the United States included 12 intelligence officers from Russia's mission to the United Nations headquarters in New York for activities the U.S. said were outside their official capacity and an abuse of their privileges of residence.

Russian U.N. ambassador Vassily Nebenzia

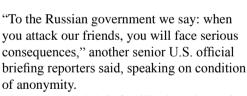
"We assess that more than 130 people in

called it "a very unfortunate, very unfriendly move", adding they had to leave by April 2. Trump also ordered the closure of the Russian consulate in Seattle because of its proximity to a U.S. submarine base and planemaker and defense contractor Boeing Co, one of the senior administration officials said. Seattle was a hub of Russian cyber espionage, both political and commercial, according to two U.S. intelligence officials.

The administration officials said "well over 100 intelligence officers" operated in the United States, and Washington's action cuts

60 of them

Russian
Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations
Vladimir
Safronkov arrives at the Permanent
Mission of the Russian Federation to the United



The envoys and their families have been given a week to leave the United States, according to the official.

Trump, who before he took office in January last year promised warmer ties with Putin, last week congratulated the Russian leader on his re-election, drawing criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike. Trump said the two leaders had made tentative plans to meet in the "not too distant future." People depart the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Manhattan on Monday. REUTERS/Mike

He did not bring up the poisoning attack in



Adults and children board an aircraft sent to collect diplomats and their families from Russia's embassy in London, at Stansted airport

his phone call with Putin.

U.S. lawmakers largely welcomed Trump's move on Monday.

Deputy Am-Washington had already imposed sanctions bassador to the United Nations
Vladimir
Seferal to the United State of the United Nations targeting oligarchs and government officials close to Putin.

"Punishing diplomats is not a direct threat to Putin's power or money. Further, our previous efforts to kick out diplomats has done little to change Kremlin behavior," said former CIA officer John Sipher, who served in Moscow and ran the agency's Russia operations.

"If we follow-up on this action with additional sanctions against Putin and his cronies, it might get his attention. I don't think this action by itself will do so."

The U.N. mission in New York was also a center for Russian financial spying and recruiting, the officials said.

"The last time that the United States expelled so many Russian spies was when the Reagan administration ordered 55 Soviet diplomats out of the country in 1986," said Angela Stent, director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies at Georgetown University.

The U.S. officials said the scale of the expulsions was based not only on the expansion of Russian espionage in the United States, but also on its increasing focus on critical infrastructure targets such as electrical grids, financial networks, transportation and healthcare. Trump has been criticized in the United States for doing too little to punish Russia for the election meddling and other actions, and U.S.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller is looking into whether Trump's campaign colluded with the Russians, an allegation the president denies. Moscow denies interference in the campaign. Skripal's poisoning, which Britain said employed the Soviet-era military-grade nerve agent Novichok, is the first known offensive use of a nerve toxin in Europe since World War Two. EU foreign ministers report back on possible further measures against Russia: UK UK PM May: More than 130 people could have been exposed in Salisbury nerve attack RUSSIA PROMISES 'SYMMETRICAL' RESPONSE

European Council President Donald Tusk said further measures could be taken in the coming weeks and months. Mexico said it reserved the right to expel diplomats.

Russia said it would respond in kind.
"The response will be symmetrical. We will work on it in the coming days and will respond to every country in turn," the RIA news agency cited an unnamed Foreign Ministry source as saying.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said "powerful forces" in the United States and Britain were behind a nerve agent attack, RIA Novosti agency reported.

The Kremlin has accused Britain of whipping up an anti-Russia campaign and has sought to cast doubt on the British analysis that Moscow was responsible. Russia has already ordered 23 British diplomats out of the country after Britain expelled 23 Russian diplomats.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova suggested in a post on Facebook that the EU's expression of support for Britain was misguided given that it would be leaving the bloc next year.

R03-REGAL 名門金宴B\_16



(For Kids 3-6歲) \$8.95

Holiday Price May Very!

Birthday People 50% of

不能與其他Coupon合用 ID帶來

R03\_TOKYO ONE東京餐館2467C\_16





## LOCAL NEWS

Houston-based Fiesta Mart to be acquired

by El Super grocery chain

By Paul Takahashi

A Hispanic food retailer is buying Fiesta Mart in a \$300 million deal that will infuse new capital into the Houston-based grocer's fight to remain relevant in the increasingly competitive grocery land-

The Fiesta Mart acquisition would make the California-based Bodega Latina Corp and its Mexican parent company Chedraui, one of the largest Hispanic food retailers in the country. They are expected to acquire the 63 Lone Star State stores, including 32 in the Houston area, by the beginning of the second quarter.

"The acquisition of Fiesta allows us to meaningfully expand into Texas via an established, well-known supermarket operator," said Carlos Smith, CEO of Bodega, which currently operates 59 El Super stores in the Southwest U.S. "Through the combination of the strengths of our two organizations, we will be well positioned to significantly accelerate our vision of efficiently offering high quality products at the lowest possible prices."

Fiesta Mart, founded in Houston 46 years ago to cater to the Hispanic population, has struggled in recent years to maintain its customer base amid mounting competition from larger grocers eyeing the fast-growing consumer

Executive Wine Editor Ray Isle shares his basic tips for for shopping wine at a grocery store.

Although Fiesta Mart has revamped some stores to broaden its appeal, the grocer has been outgunned by well-capitalized giants H-E-B, Kroger and Walmart and newcomers such as Aldi,

who have been aggressively courting Hispanic customers with competitive prices and a more international selection of produce, meats and canned foods.

"Spanish-speaking shoppers are the most coveted market in the country, with Texas being the No. 1 market," said Burt Flickinger III, managing director of Strategic Resource Group, a New York retail consulting firm. Flickinger, whose firm has conducted competitive pricing analyses for major retailers in Texas for 25 years, said he expects Bodega CEO Carlos Smith to maintain the Fiesta Mart brand in Houston, but likely renovate and remodel stores to capture new customers by the busy holiday season. The new owner will likely use its broad procurement power to buy food products at lower prices and pass them on to consumers, Flickinger said.

Smith will also likely bring a more personal touch to Fiesta Mart, Flickinger said. The CEO is often found personally overseeing El Super stores regularly, and knows what customers of all backgrounds want in terms of meat cuts and seasonings, Flickinger

Fiesta Mart employs 8,000, with 4,500 of those based in Houston.

"What (Carlos Smith) will do is rebuild that great Fiesta heritage and make it better," Flickinger said. This is the latest ownership change for Fiesta Mart over the past decade. In 2004, Fiesta Mart was acquired by Grocers Supply, a wholesale groceries distributor. In 2015, the grocer was acquired by Acon Investments, a Washington, D.C.-based private equity firm.

Acon's founding partner Ken Brotman said the Fiesta Mart sale will likely close in 30 to 45 days, pending regulatory approvals, but declined to give a statement with further com-

After the deal closes, Bodega will have 122 stores across the southwest U.S. with revenues of approximately \$3 billion. More than half of the nation's Hispanic population live in the five states Bodega will have a footprint in: California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and now Texas.

Houston, with its growing Hispanic population and young families, represents a growth opportunity for Bodega. As more Californians move to Texas seeking lower cost of living, Bodega likely sees a future in Texas, said David Littwitz, a retail broker with Houston-based Littwitz Investments.

"The Hispanic population in the Houston metro area is still growing," Littwitz said. "This is fighting for every last inch of territory and last inch of market. They've done their research. They see Houston as a market to grow and make money.



People shop at Fiesta Mart Sunday, March 25, 2018 in Houston



友戚親姻

誼哀此計

長子 滕芝明 女婿 George Metz 滕芝洲

外孫 同 Sailor Beau Metz 泣

此敬告諸親友,恕不另計。

行追悼會

休士頓永福殯儀 (8514 Tybor Dr. Houston, TX 77074) 館

此致

擇二零一八年三月二十九日上午十時三十分 寫專欄旅遊講學度過美好的退休生活 德克薩斯大學醫學系退休後,活躍於松年學院 佛羅里達大學生物化學博士學位 九六零年赴美深造 九四七年移民台灣, 於二零一八年三月十四日在休士頓去世,享年八十八歲 父滕鈞宜博士,一九三零年十月十九日出生於中國福建省建甌 一九五四年畢業於台灣大學農學院

罪

Tuesday, March 27, 2018



## A Snapshot Of The World



The Russian flag is seen through barbed wire as it flies on the roof of the Russian embassy in Kiev



Russian United Nations ambassador Vasily Nebenzya arrives for a lunch meeting in the Manhattan borough of New York City



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the Kremlin in Moscow



Alexander Yakovenko, Russia's ambassador to Britain, speaks in front of the aircraft sent to collect diplomats and their families from Russia's embassy in London, who were expelled by Britain, at Stansted airport



Staff at Russia's Embassy attend a reception hosted by ambassador Alexander Yakovenko for the 23 diplomats who are being expelled by Britain's government, in London



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko makes a statement on the decision to expel 13 Russian diplomats in response to the poisoning of a former Russian spy in England, in Kiev



A man takes selfie pictures with Presidential candidate Mousa Mostafa Mousa after casting his vote during the presidential election in Cairo



A model presents a creation for a make-up styling show at China Fashion Week in Beijing



Members of the Emergency Situations Ministry work to extinguish a fire in a shopping mall in Kemerovo



## COMMUNITY

## SCORE ///

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

U.S. Small Business Administration SCORE and the U.S. Small Business Administration will honor the best small business owners and champions in Houston at an awards event to be held

Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at the Westin Galleria 5060 West Alabama in Houston. The event will includes a workshop titled, "Insights into Entrepreneurial Success", a small business expo and celebratory luncheon with a keynote address.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Johnny Carrabba III.



**Keynote Speaker** 

Proudly born and raised in the East End of Houston, Texas, Johnny Carrabba III was raised in his parent's family-owned grocery store, Carrabba's Friendly Grocery, and attended St. Thomas High School. In 1986, Johnny opened The Original Carrabba's on Kirby Drive. The second location on South Voss Road opened its doors in 1988. In 1993, Outback Steakhouse created a joint venture partnership consequently opening over 250 Carrabba's Italian Grill Restaurants nationwide. Johnny and his family continue to own and operate the two original Carrabba's locations. Johnny and his wife, Randi, are philanthropists at heart and give back to the community through many venues and charities.

## SCORE/SBA Small Business Awards Event To Honor The Best Entrepreneurs In Houston

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



Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Bob Charlet. Bob Charlet became the publisher of the Houston Business Journal in 2005 where he joined a veteran team of professionals who have distinguished the HBJ as one of the leading business journals in the country.

Charlet joined the Pacific Business News, a sister publication, in 2009 as advertising director and was promoted to publisher three years later. Prior to PBN, he was North American group sales manager at Canon Communications, overseeing sales and marketing for a group of B2B media properties. He is a graduate of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

## Event Workshop (9 AM - 11 AM) "Insights into Entrepreneurial Success" Workshop

Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the resources available to the entrepreneur in Houston. Meet the distinguished panelists and learn about their programs to promote small, minority, and women-owned businesses. Learn about SBA's 3 C's, Capital, Contracting and Counseling plus programs to spur innovation and exports. Meet SBA's resource partners, UHSBDC and SCORE, who provide education and mentoring to help you succeed. Listen and learn from other successful entrpreneurs during a panel

discussion.

Maya Durnovo, HCC



City of Houston



Gilda Rameriz, The KBC The Port of Houston



Tim Jeffcoat,

Steve Lawrence,



David Lurie, SCORE

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is a United States government agency that provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses. The mission of the Small Business Administration is

"to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by enabling the establishment and viability of small businesses and by assisting in the economic recovery of communities after disasters". The agency's activities are summarized as the "3 Cs" of capital, contracts and counseling. SBA loans are made through banks, credit unions and other lenders who partner with the SBA. The SBA provides a government-backed guarantee on part of the loan. Under the Recovery Act and the Small Business Jobs Act, SBA loans were enhanced to provide up to a 90 percent guarantee in order to strengthen access to capital for small businesses after credit froze in 2008. The agency had record lending volumes in late 2010. (Source:

SCORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides free business mentoring services to prospective and established small business owners in the United States. More than 10,000 volunteers provide these services, with all volunteers being active and retired business executives and entrepreneurs. In addition to mentoring, SCORE also offers free and low-cost educational workshops each year, both online and in-person. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration. It operates out of 300 chapters across the U.S., with national headquarters in Herndon, Virginia. (Source: Wikipedia)

## **Event Registration Here:**

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/ register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef2s1k-

ky59281fda&oseq=&c=&ch= Contact Beth Shapiro for Sponsorship and Exhibition Booth Information at 713-487-

Email: beth.shapiro@scorevolunteer.org Small Business Awards Winners To be announced 3/19/2018.

> **Event Sponsors** Underwriter



**Gold Sponsors** 

Launching Entrepreneurs for 20 Years



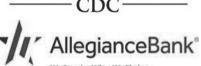
WELLS FARGO

**Silver Sponsors** 









Friends of SCORE



**Alliance Partner** 







T281-498-4310 F 281-498-2728

ad@scdaily.com www.today-america.com

11122 Bellaire Blvd Houston, TX 77072



## BUSINESS

The immense mass of predominantly plastic waste floats halfway between California and Hawaii, as a large part of the more than five trillion pieces of plastic garbage currently polluting our planet's most precious resource. The Ocean Cleanup Foundation has spearheaded the recently published research, explaining that the wind and convergence of ocean currents are what gather so much of it into one place.

The "patch" contains more than 1.8 trillion pieces of garbage and weighs approximately 88,000 tons. That is the rough equivalent of 500 jumbo jets — and more than 16 times the size of previous estimates. It has nearly doubled the size of Texas — and is bigger than France, Germany, and Spain combined.

The study required three years of careful mapping, a team of scientists, six universities, and even a company that develops aerial sensors. And it only covered this single largest island of pollutants — there are four others floating around, waiting on the same level of scrutiny.

There is urgency inherent to the project. For now, the plastics are largely gathered in these centralized locations. However, tiny pieces are constantly breaking away and, every day, make the oceans more dangerous for continued marine life. If left unattended, there is no educated guess as to how long the process could continue.



The Ocean Cleanup Foundation's spokesman, Dubois, called it "a ticking time bomb of larger material." He emphasized that "we've got to get it before it breaks down into a size that's too small to collect and also dangerous for marine life." (Courtesy http://www.breitbart.com/environment)

## Related

The great Pacific garbage patch is even trashier than we thought --the ocean is flooded with plastic.



'Ghost nets' like these make up

## **Report: 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch' Has Grown to Twice the Size of Texas**

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



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch now consumes a whopping 600,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.

nearly half of the plastic found in the great Pacific garbage patchan area of the ocean where plastic tends to accumulate.(Courtesy The Ocean Cleanup)

Plastic is everywhere, from our homes and everyday lives all the way up to the illusorily pristine Arctic. The oceans are no exception—our high seas are accumulating plastic just as fast as we can push it out

In a new paper in Scientific Reports, researchers found that the infamous great Pacific garbage patch contains 16 times more plastic than previous estimates showed, and it seems to be increasing over time.

The great Pacific garbage patch is one of six areas of the ocean known to accumulate plastic, located in the north Pacific Ocean. While there is a lot of plastic there, the debris aren't clumped together like some floating landfill. Instead, the plastics (many of them broken down into teeny tiny pieces) are distributed widely across an area of about 617,000 square miles.

This particular study didn't just trawl the zone with screens to measure the damage. They also flew planes from California to do aerial surveys of the patch. Part of the reason that this survey found so much more plastic than others was that it took into account 'megaplastics' instead of just focusing on 'microplastics.'



"We did some research a few years back trying to assess how much plastic is floating on the ocean, and we found that using those methods we're giving a bias to small debris," says Laurent Lebreton, lead study author and oceanographer at The Ocean Cleanup. But ships also reported larger bits of plastic, so Lebreton and colleagues decided to look for those using aerial techniques.

The Ocean Cleanup is a foundation focused on removing debris from the oceans. They plan to deploy technology to scoop up manufactured debris, a plan that drewcriticism when announced. The group anticipates launching trash collectors in the Pacific this year.

But for now, the trash is still out there. And the birds-eye view helps give researchers an idea of what that debris actually is

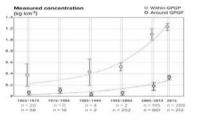
These larger pieces of plastic, like bottles, lids, and fishing nets, are all far denser than tiny particles of plastic. As a result, they add a lot to the total debris estimates. The authors suggest that somewhere between 45,000 and 129,000 tons of plastic are floating within this particular patch of

By weight, the larger plastics (two inches or more) make up most of that total. Microplastics were vastly more numerousbut being tiny, didn't contribute nearly as much to the weight. Nearly half the garbage came in the form of fishing nets. Plastic nets can continue to catch fish and other marine life long after they are aban-

doned to the sea. This is called ghost fishing, and becomes a larger problem with every net or trap that is tossed overboard.

"The prevalence of ghost nets and discarded fishing gear is well documented, so this is not necessarily surprising," White said. "But the authors have done a excellent job of using a variety of survey methods to quantify this debris." This type of debris can and should be prevented, White added, but efforts must be global; ocean currents can easily sweep waste all around the world.

The authors also found that the sheer mass of plastic in the oceans has gone up over time, from 0.88 pounds per 0.39 square miles in the 1970s to 2.7 pounds per 0.39 square miles in 2015. That mirrors the increase in plastic production over the past several decades, as the material has become increasingly ubiquitous. But there are several other factors to consider. One is the 2011 tsunami off the coast of Japan, which swept vast amounts of debris out to sea. The other is that previous studies primarily focused on small microplastics, not the larger 'megaplastics'—so we don't have a full understanding of how that part of the problem has changed in recent decades. But Lebreton and colleagues did find that microplastics, which have been examined for years, have increased in concentration.



## Plastic concentrations oceans have increased over time. (Courtesy The Ocean Cleanup)

One thing that has been increasing over time, really, is plastic consumption on a global scale," Lebreton says. "We are using more and more plastic in our societies. I think without the help of proper waste management infrastructures, we can expect more and more plastic to be released into the environment in general, and down the line into the marine environment."

'And there's still plastic that hasn't been tracked down yet.

Though the study found a lot more debris than previous estimates, it still doesn't account for a lot of the plastic that makes its way out to the ocean only to disappear. Debris can sink into the sea or degrade, but researchers are still trying to make a grand accounting of all the trash we're pushing offshore.

'The challenge with microplastics in particular is that it really is not feasible to clean them up," White said. "Reducing the waste stream is the only current means to slow the inputs of plastic to our ocean." (Courtesy https://www.popsci.com)



