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Luxury tower for seniors under way near Rice Village



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Iran's supreme leader says Western attack on Syria a crime

ANKARA (Reuters) - Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said coordinated air strikes on Syria by the United States, France and Britain on Saturday were a crime that would bring no benefit.

"They will not benefit (from the attack) as they went to Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan in the past years and committed such crimes and did not gain any benefits," Khamenei added.

Iran — the dominant Shi'ite Muslim power which is in rivalry with Saudi Arabia and the United States' other Sunni Arab allies — has been Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's most supportive ally against insurgents throughout the conflict. Militias backed by Tehran helped Assad's army stem rebel advances and, following Russia's entry into the war in 2015, turn the tide decisively in the Syrian government's favor.

Iran's pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani warned that the U.S.-led missile attacks would lead to further destruction in the Middle East, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

"Such attacks will have no result but more destruction ... the Americans want to justify their presence in the region by such attacks," Rouhani was quoted as saying, signaling that Iran's support for Assad would grow.

"UNRELENTING CONFRONTATION"

An official in Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), the Islamic Republic's most powerful arm, said fallout from the attacks would harm Washington.

"With this attack ... the situation will become

more complex, and this will surely be at the expense of the United States, which will be responsible for the aftermath of upcoming regional events that will certainly not be in their interest," Yadollah Javani, the Guards' deputy head for political affairs, told Fars news agency.

"The resistance front will be strengthened and it will have more capacity to act against (U.S.) acts of intervention. Americans should expect the consequences of their actions," Javani said. Iran often refers to regional countries and forces opposed to Israel and the United States as a "resistance front".

In a statement, the IRGC said: "This unrelenting confrontation shows that the Syrian people, with the support of the strategic allies of Damascus, will not stop until achieving complete victory," Fars reported.

Iran's military chief of staff General Mohammad Baqeri assured Syrian Defense Minister Ali Abdullah Ayoub of Tehran's continued support.

"The nation and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to fight alongside the Syrian people and the Syrian armed forces against the criminal terrorists," Fars quoted Baqeri as telling Ayoub by telephone.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry in Tehran said Washington and its allies had attacked Syria "despite the absence of any proven evidence."

"Iran is opposed to the use of chemical weapons on the basis of religious, legal and ethical standards, while at the same time it ... strongly condemns (using this) as an excuse to commit aggression



Presidents Hassan Rouhani of Iran, Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and Vladimir Putin of Russia pose before their meeting in Ankara

against a sovereign state," it said in a statement carried by state media. Analyst Hossein Sheikholeslam, a former Iranian ambassador to Damascus,

told state television the attacks would bolster support for the Syrian government.

Miller Outdoor Theatre Celebrates its 95th Anniversary Season!

April scheduled performances

All performances are always free

Fun facts and frequently asked questions at the bottom



HOUSTON —It's Miller Outdoor Theatre's 95th Anniversary Season and there will be activities marking this special occasion throughout the year! Since 1923, Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park has been one of Houston's most beloved cultural treasures, a gathering place for the community and the site of thousands of memorable free performances.

Miller is unique in the United States, offering an eight month season of professional, artistically-excellent and culturally diverse entertainment completely FREE of charge to the public. This is the largest "always free" program of its kind in the country and it attracts hundreds of thousands each season. From daytime programs especially for young children to family friendly evening performances of classical music, jazz, ethnic music and dance, ballet, Shakespeare, musical theatre, popular

concert artists, films and more, this is Houston's best entertainment value.

HAYA Band: The Migration

April 20 at 8 p.m.

<http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/files/3127/HAYA>

Band performs Migration, a calm sampling of traditional and contemporary Chinese music.

Founded in 2006, HAYA Band is an award-winning world music collective representing a new era in folk music. The group has won many accolades, including from the China Music Awards (Best World Music Performance) and the Chinese Media Awards. Lead singer Dai-qing Tana was recently voted "The Most Beautiful Voice in China."

MIGRATION is about searching for one's own spiritual home, experiencing the beauty of life itself, and returning to a simplistic, survivalist lifestyle. HAYA Band's "Migration" Concert employs

innovative musical language alongside classic traditional songs, fusing a variety of musical elements such as chants, the Mongolian horsehead fiddle, plucked string instruments, throat singing, and shaman drums. Their music is refined and captivating. Their shows have a distinct "ceremonious" feel. Migration provides us with a path for escape from this fast-paced modern world, a contemporary migration to another realm, one surrounded by the wonders of nature and life.

This is a ticketed event for the covered seating area. Free tickets are available (4 per person over age 16 while they last) at the Miller Outdoor Theatre box office the day of the performance between the hours of 10:30 a.m. -1p.m. If tickets remain at 1p.m., the box office will re-open one hour before show time to distribute the remaining tickets. As always, open seating on the hill. The show goes on rain or shine.

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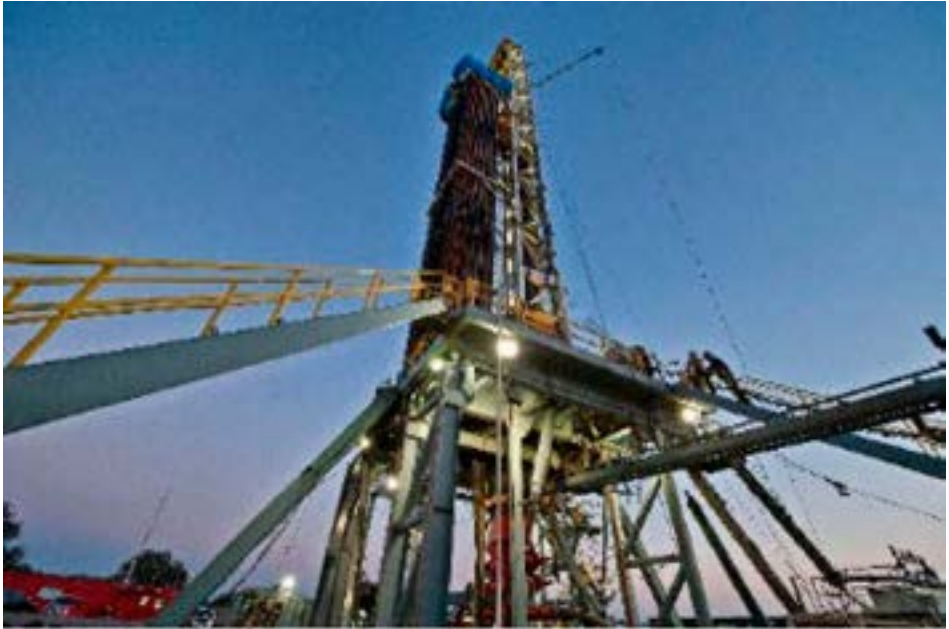
The oil bust forced more than 330 North American energy companies into bankruptcy, report says

By Robert Downen

“Falling oil prices sent 335 energy producers, oil field service companies and pipeline operators in North America into bankruptcy court since early 2015, according to the latest tally by Haynes & Boone.
The Dallas law firm, which has tracked energy bankruptcy cases since oil prices tumbled from above \$100 a barrel in the summer of 2014, said only 11 companies have filed for bankruptcy protection this year, marking a sharp slowdown as oil prices climb above \$65 a barrel.
The oil industry’s 2018 bankruptcy cases include six oil and gas producers, four service companies and one midstream firm, with \$9.5 billion in debt all together.
Of all the cases filed since the beginning of

2015, Texas companies made up the lion’s share, with filings involving more than \$74 billion in debt – and that’s not counting the cases filed in Delaware courts by Texas-based companies.
Analysts have said the financial fallout of the 2015-2016 oil bust was worse than the telecom bust of the early 2000s.

That’s been the bottom for a price-per-barrel for oil in this bust. It was reached Feb. 11, 2016. Oil has more recently been trading around \$45 a barrel.



Luxury tower for seniors under way near Rice Village

A developer has started construction on a 17-story residential building near the Rice Village shopping district, adding a new senior housing component to the tony neighborhood near Rice University and West U. The Village of Southampton is being developed at 5020 Kelvin, between Robinhood and Quenby, adjacent to the Robinhood condominium building.
The tower, which should be completed in spring 2020, will offer independent living, assisted living and memory care services, filling a gap in the neighborhood, said Jim Gray, founder and president of Bridgewood Property Co. “We saw that this well-loved, long-established Houston enclave was very much underserved in quality senior

living options,” Gray said in an announcement.
He said the location was chosen because it allows residents of the area a place to move as they age without leaving their friends, neighbors and churches.
Bridgewood has developed several other senior facilities in or near high-end neighborhoods including Meyerland, Tanglewood, the Heights and River Oaks.
Before it was built, the River Oaks facility was targeted by a group of nearby condominium owners who sued the developer, claiming the building would harm their property values. The lawsuit was later withdrawn.
Bridgewood said it has met with homeowners who live in the Robinhood

to inform them of the project and discuss potential concerns.
The buildings will be close, but the new tower’s garage will buffer the two structures, said Lynn Wallace, spokeswoman for Retirement Center Management, which will run the property.
“We’re doing everything we can to prevent traffic problems” during construction, she added.
Amenities in the new building will include an indoor heated pool, fitness center, movie theater, full-service salon, secured parking for residents and guests, valet and concierge services and formal and private dining. Shuttle service also will be provided to residents.
Rents have not been determined yet, but likely will be similar to the River Oaks property, where units rent from around

\$3,900 per month and reach \$6,500 per month for the largest units.



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Editor's Choice Picturs



Forensic officers work on a crime scene, where two dead bodies were found, on the outskirts of Ciudad Juarez



Russian Ambassador to the U.N. Nebenzya speaks after members of the U.N. Security Council voted against a Russian resolution condemning 'aggression' against Syria by the U.S. and its allies during an emergency meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York



Demonstrators arrive at the Portuguese parliament during a protest against the drilling for oil and gas in the Algarve region, in Lisbon



Tear gas floats in the air as protesters clash with French CRS riot police during a demonstration in Nantes



Passers-by pause at a memorial for victims of the Boston Marathon bombings in Boston



U.S. Sen. Rubio speaks during a news conference at the VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima



Peru's President Martin Vizcarra and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence attend a bilateral meeting during the VIII Summit of the Americas in Lima



Horse Racing - Grand National Festival - Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool, Britain - April 14, 2018 A racegoer walks by the course Action Images via Reuters/Jason Cairnduff



China's ambassador to the United Nations Zhaoxu speaks during the emergency United Nations Security Council meeting on Syria at the U.N. headquarters in New York



SBA.GOV
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 include 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

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 entrepreneurs during a panel

discussion.



Maya Durnovo, HCC



Carlecia Wright, City of Houston



Gilda Rameriz, The Port of Houston



Tandelyn Weaver, The KBC



Tim Jeffcoat, SBA



Steve Lawrence, SBDC



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: Wikipedia)
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)

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The Woodlands Clinic

Meet Dr. Amy En-Hui Chen



Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin
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Dr. Chen is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She completed her internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Her special clinical interests include women’s health, preventive medicine, adolescent medicine, hypertension, and obesity management.

“The goal of my practice is to establish a nurturing, positive environment where my patients feel comfortable to discuss their health issues and situations. I enjoy getting to know my patients and developing lifelong relationships with them. I believe in educating patients to better understand their health conditions and disease processes, while making them an active partner in their ongoing care. I emphasize preventive care and lifestyle changes to help improve their overall health and quality of life.”

~ Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.

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The U.S. Senate has voted 97–2 to advance the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, a controversial initiative meant to crack down on sex trafficking on the internet. The bill will now go President Trump’s desk for his signature. Passage of the bill addressed concerns from the tech industry and capped off a months-long legislative fight. The legislation, called the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA), but also referred to as SESTA after the original Senate bill, would cut into the broad protections websites have from legal liability for content posted by their users. The bill would hold websites liable for hosting sex trafficking content by making a change to a key part of the Communications Decency Act. Some free-internet activists — as well as some tech company representatives — have argued that the bill places an unrealistic burden on small website operators, and will ultimately chill online speech. Sex workers have also opposed the legislation. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), a critic of the bill, offered an amendment that might have clarified the bill’s purposes, but it was voted down.



Senator Rob Portman, Republican of Ohio, is sponsoring the bill. He led a two-year investigation into Backpage.com, a website known for prostitution and trafficking ads. (Photo/Getty Images)

“Today is a dark day for the Internet,” the Electronic Frontier Foundation tweeted, saying that the legislation “will silence online speech by forcing Internet platforms to censor their users.” Last month, the House of Representatives passed its version of the legislation. Fol-

U.S. Senate Passes Controversial Online Sex Trafficking Bill

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



United States Senate Building in Washington DC

lowing the broad support in Congress, President Trump will likely sign the legislation when it reaches his desk, and Ivanka Trump gave the measure her support yesterday. “Passing this important piece of legislation will bring us one step closer to ending sex trafficking online & restoring safety in our communities,” she tweeted. “We now have the ability to go after these websites who are exploiting women and children online,” Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), one of the original authors of the bill, said at a press conference after the vote. The House overwhelmingly passed the bill last month, and President Trump is expected to sign it.



The legal liability protections are codified in Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act from 1996, a law that many internet companies see as vital to protecting their platforms. SESTA would amend that law to create an exception for sex trafficking, making it easier to target websites

with legal action for enabling such crimes. Wyden, the most outspoken critic of SESTA and one of the authors of the Communications Decency Act, said that making exceptions to Section 230 will lead to small internet companies having to face an onslaught of frivolous lawsuits. “In the absence of Section 230, the internet as we know it would shrivel,” Wyden said on the Senate floor ahead of the vote Wednesday. “Only the platforms run by those with deep pockets, and an even deeper bench of lawyers, would be able to make it.” The Oregon Democrat also noted opposition from groups as varied as the Cato Institute, the Human Rights Campaign and the American Civil Liberties Union.



But some lawmakers and anti-sex trafficking advocates think the law has gotten in the way of efforts to go after online trafficking suspects like Backpage.com. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), a co-author of SESTA and a former prosecutor, called Section 230 “outdated and obsolete” during Wednesday’s press conference. Most internet giants have gone quiet in the fight over the controversial bill. Facebook endorsed SESTA as the company faces scrutiny on other fronts, in particular alleged Russian efforts to use their platform to conduct a disinformation campaign targeting U.S. voters during the 2016 election season. But the bill was also championed by technology companies, such as IBM, Oracle and Hewlett Packard, that have been at odds with Silicon Valley. They argued that online companies enjoy overly broad legal protections while being subject to very little regulation, leading to pervasive problems like online sex trafficking.



The passage of the bill is widely seen as a major legislative loss for Silicon Valley, and perhaps the first in an era where the industry is being viewed much more critically by lawmakers. During Wednesday’s press conference, Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said he believes the bill sends a message to tech giants. “I think that in the future tech companies have to understand that it’s not the Wild West and they have to exercise responsibility,” Thune said. (Courtesy thehill.com)

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