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SpaceX to develop, test  
Starship prototype in South  
Texas

# Southern DAILY

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, January 20, 2019 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

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Inside C2

## Democratic senator dismisses wall-for-DACA offer expected from Trump

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump will propose an immigration deal on Saturday in a bid to end a 29-day partial government shutdown, a source familiar with his plans said, but as details emerged Democrats were quick to dismiss it as inadequate. The president has not budged on his demand that \$5.7 billion to fund a U.S.-Mexico border wall be part of any bill to fully reopen the government, an ultimatum Democrats oppose. But Trump is expected to try to pressure Democrats in other areas.

In a speech set for 4 p.m. EST (2100 GMT), Trump will extend support for legislation to protect young undocumented immigrants, known as "Dreamers," as well as holders of temporary protected status (TPS), the source said.

Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, said he could not support such an offer. "First, President Trump and Senate majority leader (Mitch) McConnell must open the government today," Durbin said in a statement. "Second, I cannot support the proposed offer as reported and do not believe it can pass the Senate. Third, I am ready to sit down at any time after the government is opened and work to resolve all outstanding issues," Durbin said.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives has approved several bills that would restore funding to shutdown-affected federal agencies. But Trump opposes the bills and McConnell has refused to let any of them come to a vote in the Senate, which is still controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans.

The source familiar with the president's upcoming speech said Trump does not plan to declare a national emergency along the U.S.-Mexico border, a step he threatened to take earlier in his struggle with Congress over the shutdown.

Declaring an emergency would be an attempt by Trump to circumvent Congress and its power over the federal purse strings to pay for his wall. Such a step would likely prompt a swift legal challenge over constitutional powers from Democrats.

As the shutdown passed the four-week mark, making it the longest in U.S. history, about 800,000 federal workers were still at home on furlough or working without pay, a situation that was threatening public services and the economy.

Polls showed Americans increasingly blaming Trump for the shutdown, the 19th to occur since the mid-1970s. Most past shutdowns have been brief. The current one has had no impact on three-quarters of the government, including the Department of Defense, which has secure funding.

"IT'S NOT PERSONAL"

Trump told reporters on the White House South Lawn on Saturday that he has no personal feud with House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top U.S. Democrat.

She and other Democrats oppose Trump's demand and the wall, calling it too expensive, ineffective and immoral.

U.S. President Donald Trump waves as he boards Air Force One to travel to Dover Air Force Base to attend dignified transfer ceremonies for the remains of four U.S. military members and citizens killed during a recent attack in Syria as he departs from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S., January 19, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

"Whether it's personal or not, it's not personal for me," Trump said, adding he was concerned about more immigrants moving north through Mexico toward the U.S. border.

"I'm disappointed that Mexico is not stopping them," he said. "If we had a wall, we wouldn't have a problem."

The Dreamers, mostly young Latinos, are protected from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects certain people who illegally entered the United States as children. It provides about 700,000 immigrants with work permits, but no path to citizenship.



## Trump says U.S. 'made a lot of progress' with North Korea

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he had "an incredible" meeting with North Korea's nuclear envoy Kim Jong Chol and the two sides had made "a lot of progress" on denuclearization.

The White House announced after talks between Trump and Kim on Friday that the U.S. president would hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in late February, but would maintain economic sanctions on Pyongyang. "That was an incredible meeting," Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House, said of the talks.

"We've agreed to meet sometime, probably the end of February. We've picked a country but we'll be announcing it in the future. Kim Jong Un is looking very forward to it and so am I," Trump said.

"We have made a lot of progress as far as denuclearization is concerned and we are talking about a lot of different things. Things are going very well with North Korea."

Trump and the White House have given no details of the talks, and despite his upbeat comments there has been no indication of any narrowing of differences over U.S. demands that North Korea abandon a nuclear weapons program that threatens the United States and Pyongyang's demands for a lifting of punishing sanctions.

A first summit in June in Singapore - the first-ever between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader - produced a vague commitment by Kim Jong Un to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but he has yet to take what Washington sees as concrete steps in that direction.

U.S. President Donald Trump talks to the media ahead of his departure to Dover, Delaware, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S., January 19, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

Critics of U.S. efforts say the first summit only boosted Kim's international stature without much to show for it, and some believe Trump may see a second meeting as a way of distracting from his domestic troubles.

Trump did not elaborate on the country chosen to host the summit, but Vietnam has been considered a leading candidate.

Kim Jong Chol, regarded as a member of Kim Jong Un's inner circle, also had talks on Friday with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the U.S. special representative on North Korea, Stephen Biegun.

Trump, Kim to meet at second nuclear summit The State Department said the two sides had "a productive first meeting at the working level" and Biegun would travel to Sweden at the weekend to attend an international conference.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## SpaceX to develop, test Starship prototype in South Texas

SpaceX, the commercial space company of billionaire Elon Musk, is working in South Texas to develop and test an early prototype of the vehicle designed to take people to the moon and Mars.

The Starship vehicle, with a test version recently assembled at Boca Chica beach near Brownsville, could one day carry space travelers atop a powerful rocket. The Starship integrated with the Super Heavy Rocket, previously called BFR, is expected to be more powerful than the Saturn V rocket that NASA used to propel astronauts to the moon.

The assembly of the test Starship is reinvigorating the Greater Brownsville community after long delays and roadblocks. SpaceX first announced its Gulf Coast launch facility in 2014, but then years went by with little to no activity. People can now see the vehicle while driving along the beach, stopping to gawk and take pictures.

At HoustonChronicle.com: SpaceX success gives Texans reason to cheer

Gilberto Salinas, who spent three years negotiating with SpaceX to build the Boca Chica beach launch facility, took his family to see the test vehicle on Sunday.

"When this company gets to Mars," he said, "we will be able to come back and say, 'Well, we were there when it all started.'"

SpaceX was founded by Elon Musk in 2002. He started with big ambitions and, six years later, launched the Falcon 1 rocket that became the first privately developed, liquid-fuel rocket to reach Earth's orbit. The company's growth has continued since then, winning work with NASA to bring cargo and, one day, astronauts to the International Space Station. SpaceX selected Boca Chica for a commercial launch site due to its proximity to the equator and distance from populated areas.

SpaceX used a local company to help manage the manufacturing process associated with assembling the test vehicle, said Mario Lozoya, executive director and CEO of the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp., one of the organizations that provided incentive money to help attract SpaceX. Lozoya believes tests and launches will take place this year, which could provide data for future versions of the Starship. To the moon: SpaceX names first private passenger to fly around the moon



"For people from the immediate area around Brownsville and the border region," he said, "to see front-end technology in our backyard is really exciting."

Construction of the Boca Chica launch site had previously been delayed as SpaceX discovered the ground was unstable. The company trucked in 310,000 cubic yards of soil, enough to cover a football field that's 13 to 14 stories tall, which was put on top of the sand and left to settle and compress before construction.

Unexpected incidents with SpaceX operations outside of Texas, including an anomaly during a flight to the International Space Station in 2015, also forced the company to put its Boca Chica launch site plans on the back burner. The problem temporarily grounded SpaceX operations and demanded the company's attention.

But work slowly ramped up. Last year, SpaceX successfully launched the Falcon Heavy — billed as the world's most powerful operational rocket — from Kennedy Space Center, sending a Tesla sports car into space during the test launch. Musk then floated the idea of testing an even more powerful vehicle in South Texas.

Starship is not the first SpaceX test vehicle to be in Texas. In McGregor, where SpaceX tests all of its rocket engines, the

"Grasshopper" reusable rocket prototype was used to perfect the guidance, navigation and control systems for landing a rocket booster vertically. The prototype's namesake comes from its large, insect-like landing gear. The Grasshopper started with hops of only a matter of inches, but ultimately it flew half a mile into the air.

At HoustonChronicle.com: SpaceX engineers put rocket engines through their paces

In a statement, SpaceX said it's developing the Starship test vehicle in Texas "to streamline operations." The decision won't affect its current manufacturing, design and launch operations in Hawthorne and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

In a Tweet, Musk said the test vehicle, or "test hopper," at Boca Chica beach is at its full diameter of 30 feet, but it's not at full height. It's designed to do suborbital tests. SpaceX expects to complete its first orbital prototype around June.

In a separate Tweet, Musk said he will provide a full technical presentation of Starship "after the test vehicle we're building in Texas flies, so hopefully March/April."

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## Editor's Choice



Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York's 14th Congressional District stands with marchers during the Women's March Alliance demonstration in front of the Trump International Hotel and Tower New York on Central Park West



Marchers and members of the Women's March Alliance pose for a group photo in front of the Trump International Hotel and Tower New York on Central Park West



U.S. President Donald Trump waves as he walks on the South Lawn of the White House upon his return to Washington from Dover, Delaware, U.S., January 19, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas



People, belonging to a caravan of migrants from Honduras en route to the United States, sleep at the central park in Tecun Uman



Participants walk to the Ontario provincial legislature during the Women's March in a -22 Celsius (8 Fahrenheit) wind chill snow storm in Toronto, Ontario, Canada January 19, 2019. REUTERS/Chris Helgren



Women wear wall protest outfits as they stand in front of the Trump International Hotel while participating in the Third Annual Women's March in Washington



Participants pose for a photograph during the Third Annual Women's March in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S., January 19, 2019. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



A supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump carries a cardboard cut out next to an opponent with a sign about impeachment during the Third Annual Women's March in Boston

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## 2019 Is The Year Of The Pig On The Chinese Zodiac

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



The Pig is the twelfth of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. Pig was late because he overslept. Another story says that a wolf destroyed his house. He had to rebuild his home before he could set off. When he arrived, he was the last one and could only take twelfth place.

### Personality and characteristics

Pigs might not stand out in a crowd. But they are very realistic. Others may be all talk and no action. Pigs are the opposite. Though not wasteful spenders, they will let themselves enjoy life. They love entertainment and will occasionally treat themselves. They are a bit materialistic, but this is motivation for them to work hard. Being able to hold solid objects in their hands gives them security.

**Men** born in the Pig year are optimistic and gentle. They are very focused. Once they decide on a goal, they'll put everything into it.

They are not the best with money. Though cool-headed, they are also gullible. They trust others easily and are often scammed. This can cause them to lose a fortune.

**Women** born in the Pig year are full of excitement. They attend social events whenever possible and treat everyone genuinely. Combined with their easygoing personality, they gain everyone's trust.

However, they are sometimes over-friendly. In their excitement, they can forget to give others personal space. They also have good fortune with wealth. As long as they keep at it, the efforts will not go to waste. Though they don't start with an advantage, their hard work will keep money

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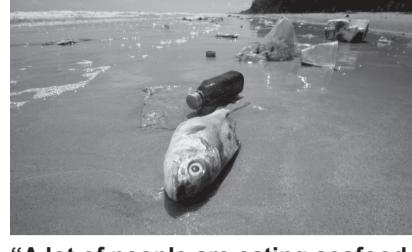
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"A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem," says a marine toxicologist.

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. But mercury is just one of a slew of synthetic and organic pollutants that fish can ingest and absorb into their tissue. Sometimes it's because we're dumping chemicals right into the ocean. But as a study published recently in *Nature*, *Scientific Reports* helps illuminate, sometimes fish get chemicals from the plastic debris they ingest.

"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. "Eventually, we start to see those contaminants high up in the food chain, in seafood and wildlife."

For many years, scientists have known that chemicals will move up the food chain as predators absorb the chemicals consumed by their prey. That's why the biggest, fattiest fish, like tuna and swordfish, tend to have the



**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-

## BUSINESS

### How Plastic In The Ocean Is Contaminating America's Seafood

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

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.)

What scientists didn't know was exactly what role plastics played in transferring these chemicals into the food chain. To find out, Rochman and her co-authors fed medaka, a fish species often used in experiments, three different diets.

One group of medaka got regular fish food, one group got a diet that was 10 percent "clean" plastic (with no pollutants) and a third group got a diet with 10 percent plastic that had been soaking in the San Diego Bay for several months. When they tested the fish two months later, they found that the ones on the marine plastic diet had much higher levels of persistent organic pollutants.

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."

And there's a lot of plastic out there in the open ocean. As Edward Humes, author of *Garbology*, told Fresh Air's Terry Gross in 2012, the weight of plastic finding its way into the sea each year is estimated to be equivalent to the weight of 40 aircraft carriers.

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. Just a tiny fraction of imported fish get tested for contaminants. As for Rochman, she says her research in marine toxicology has persuaded her to eat seafood no more than twice per week. And she now avoids



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

TOP 10 ITEMS FOUND	
cigarettes / cigarette filters	2,117,931
cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons	692,767
food wrappers / containers	1,140,222
straws, stirrers	611,048
beverage bottles (plastic)	1,065,171
beverage bottles (glass)	521,730
bags (plastic)	1,019,902
beverage cans	339,875
cape, lids	958,893
bags (paper)	298,332

**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. And many researchers advocating for Americans to increase their fish consumption argue that the levels of dioxins, PCBs and other toxic chemicals in fish are generally too low to

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