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O'Rourke holds rally near Mexican border that Trump threatens to shut



Inside C2

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Southern

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# Trump eyeing stepped-up Venezuela sanctions for foreign companies

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump is considering imposing sanctions on companies from other countries that do business with Venezuela to cut off revenues to President Nicolas Maduro, Trump's national security adviser John Bolton told Reuters TV on Friday.

"We're moving exactly in that direction," Bolton said when asked whether Trump would consider what are known as "secondary sanctions."

"We are even now looking at a series of additional steps we could take," Bolton said in the interview.

The United States and most other Western countries have thrown their backing behind Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who invoked the constitution in January to declare himself interim president, arguing that Maduro's 2018 re-election was illegitimate.

Oil provides 90 percent of export revenue for OPEC member Venezuela. The United States imposed sanctions on Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA in January, preventing U.S. companies from dealing with it unless revenues went to a fund available to Guaido.

The Trump administration has not yet slapped sanctions on companies from other countries that do business with PDVSA - but U.S. officials have been having "conversations" with oil trading houses and governments around the world to convince them to scale down their dealings with Maduro, Trump's Venezuela envoy Elliott Abrams said earlier on Friday.

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton speaks during an interview atthe White House in Washington, U.S., March 29, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

Russia and China support Maduro, who has said Guaido is a puppet of Washington. Maduro retains control of state functions and the loyalty of the country's military.



U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton speaks during an interview at the White House in Washington, U.S., March 29, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

# With a piece of paper, Trump called on Kim to hand over nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - On the day that their talks in Hanoi collapsed last month, U.S. President Donald Trump handed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a piece of paper that included a blunt call for the transfer of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and bomb fuel to the United States, according to the document seen by Reuters.

Trump gave Kim both Korean and English-language versions of the U.S. position at Hanoi's Metropole hotel on Feb. 28, according to a source familiar with the discussions, speaking on condition of anonymity. It was the first time that Trump himself had explicitly defined what he meant by denuclearization directly to Kim, the source said.

A lunch between the two leaders was canceled the same day. While neither side has presented a complete account of why the summit collapsed, the document may help explain it.

The document's existence was first mentioned by White House national security adviser John Bolton in television inter-

Bolton did not disclose in those interviews the pivotal U.S. expectation contained in the document that North Korea should transfer its nuclear weapons and fissile material to the United States.

The document appeared to represent Bolton's long-held and hardline "Libya model" of denuclearization that North Korea has rejected repeatedly. It probably would have been seen by Kim as insulting and provocative, analysts said. Trump had previously distanced himself in public comments from Bolton's approach and said a "Libya model" would be employed only if a deal could not be reached.

The idea of North Korea handing over its weapons was first proposed by Bolton in 2004. He revived the proposal last year when Trump named him as national security adviser.

The document was meant to provide the North Koreans with a clear and concise definition of what the United States meant by "final, fully verifiable, denu-





Saturday, March 31, 2019



## **WORLD NEWS**

# O'Rourke holds rally near Mexican border that Trump threatens to shut

EL PASO, Texas (Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke held a major rally in El Paso, Texas, on Saturday, a city thrust to the center of America's immigration debate by President Donald Trump and the U.S government this week.

Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke poses for a photo with supporters during a kickoff rally on the streets of El Paso, Texas, March 30, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson O'Rourke, a former congressman from El Paso, kicked off a series of three rallies in Texas in his bid to become the Democratic nominee a day after Republican Trump threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico as soon as next week.

Speaking in El Paso, a few hundred yards from the border with Mexico, O'Rourke decried the Trump administration's immigration policies and the president's call for a border wall.

"We'll find security not through walls," he declared to cheers from several hundred supporters as he officially launched his presidential campaign.

Before switching to Spanish to finish his speech, O'Rourke denounced what he called Trump's policies of "fear and division" and accused the president of seeking "to keep us apart and to make us afraid of one another."

"Let's remember, every single one of us are fellow human beings and deserve to be treated like fellow human beings," he said.

O'Rourke's rally in El Paso was long-planned, but the city became central to America's immigration debate this week. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan told reporters in El Paso on Wednesday the southern border system was at breaking point because of the number of illegal immigrants crossing the border each day.

Trump, who is still determined to build a barrier along parts of the southern border, said on Friday: "There's a very good likelihood that I'll be closing the border next week, and that will be just fine with me."

Trump has repeatedly said he would close the U.S. border with Mexico during his two years in office. His latest threat had workers and students who frequently cross the border worried about the potential disruption to their lives.

Trump and O'Rourke held dueling rallies in February in El Paso, which is already divided from Mexico by steel fencing.

Trump wants it reinforced and hundreds of miles of additional fencing built along the border. O'Rourke opposes any new border structures and opposition to Trump's border wall and immigration policies has been a centerpiece of his campaign.

"We are safe not despite the fact we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers - we are safe because we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers," O'Rourke said in El Paso on Saturday.

O'Rourke, who announced his White House campaign on March 14, shot to national prominence last year in an unexpectedly close race against incumbent Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz.



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke poses for a photo with supporters during a kickoff rally on the streets of El Paso, Texas, March 30, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson





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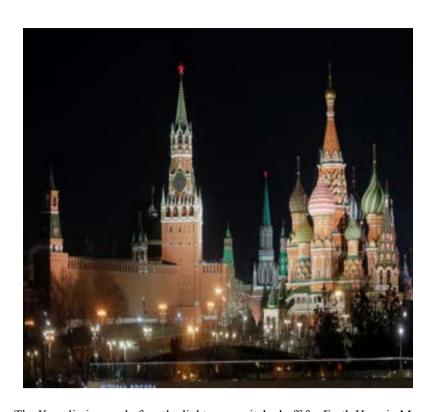
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Sunday, March 31, 2019 **C3** 



## **Editor's Choice**



The Kremlin is seen before the lights are switched off for Earth Hour in Moscow



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke hugs his children at a kickoff rally on the streets of El Paso



Soccer Football - Serie A - Sampdoria v AC Milan - Stadio Comunale Luigi Ferraris, Genoa, Italy - March 30, 2019 General view of AC Milan fans inside the stadium during the match REUTERS/Jennifer Lorenzini



Maren Kroymann presents the nominees for Best Actress during the annual German film and television awards 'Golden Camera' ('Die Goldene Kamera') of German TV magazine 'HoerZu' in Berlin, Germany, March 30, 2019. REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke/Pool



Venezuelan exiles hold a humanitarian collection drive for Venezuela, in Miami



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke and his wife Amy interact with supporters during a kickoff rally on the streets of El Paso



Jeannine Michaelsen and Steven Gaetjen host the annual German film and television awards 'Golden Camera' ('Die Goldene Kamera') of German TV magazine 'HoerZu' in Berlin, Germany, March 30, 2019. REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke/Pool



Westlife perform during the annual German film and television awards 'Golden Camera' ('Die Goldene Kamera') of German TV magazine 'HoerZu' in Berlin, Germany, March 30, 2019. REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke/Pool



# COMMUNITY

Elon Musk, the tech billionaire who aspires to revolutionize transportation on Earth and in space, has pledged to invest in education technology in the Flint, Mich., schools.

The Elon Musk Foundation announced a \$423,600 donation for the district to purchase Google Chromebook laptops for all its 7th and 8th grade students. The gift comes just a few months after Musk's organization made a separate donation meant to provide clean drinking water to the school system, which has been affected by an ongoing water-quality crisis in Flint.

The laptop effort is part of a broader secondary school restructuring plan in the Flint Community Schools that includes a \$300,000 donation from the C.S. Mott Foundation, which will go towards revising the middle school curriculum for the 2019 to 2020 school year.

The Flint community has been battered by decades of job losses, financial crises, and declines in services in the wake of the deterioration of the area's auto industry. The Flint community school system serves more than 4,500 K-12 students, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Flint was thrust into the national spotlight in 2014 when a change in the community's source of water was found to have led to elevated levels of lead in the drinking supply. In January 2016, Governor Rick Snyder officially declared a state of emergency on the matter



At the time, The Detroit News reported that the estimated cost of replacing Flint's water infrastructure totaled \$712.8 million for public lines and \$54.6 million for private lines. Already, state and federal officials have provided \$40 million for lead pipe replacement, and the state pays an average of \$22,000 per day to provide bottled water

Flint's water crisis dates to 2014, when the city switched the source of its drinking water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), supplied by Lake Huron and the Detroit River, to Flint River. Subsequent tests showed E. coli bacteria, high levels of lead and even disinfection byproducts in the Flint River water. The city switched back to the DWSD water

## Elon Musk Makes Donation To Flint, Michigan School District For Laptops



**Tesla CEO Elon Musk** 

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

supply more than a year later, and in 2016 President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in Flint, which allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide resources to the area.

The city is in the long process of replacing all lead pipes in Flint homes, but residents' trust in the state and city may not come back for a long time.

In October, the Musk Foundation gave \$480,350 to the Flint Community Schools to pay for the purchase and installation of new ultraviolet water filtration systems. The fountains and filtration systems for all 12 school buildings and the district's headquarters will be fully installed by the end of this month



Water samples from Flint and Detroit.

Thank you @elonmusk and @MuskFoundation for investing in the health/future well-being FCS Students! Your generous donation will help us replace ALL water fountains w/NEW WATER STATIONS & WATER FILTRATION at ALL SCHOOLS! Looking forward to our burgeoning partnership! More to come!

-- Flint Schools (@FlintSchools) October

Musk is a longtime entrepreneur who is the CEO of Tesla, a manufacturer of electric cars and solar panels, and SpaceX, an aerospace company. His net worth has been estimated at \$23 billion by Bloomberg. In a statement, Musk said, "I'm glad the Musk Foundation has been helpful to the children of Flint in providing clean water and computers. We intend to do more in the

Donald Rob Whitman, an administrator with the Flint Community Schools, will oversee the new laptop initiative. (Courtesy

https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek) Related

With second donation, Elon Musk has given nearly \$1 million to Flint schools Tesla CEO's first donation followed through on his pledge on Twitter to help out in Flint's water crisis

In October, the Musk Foundation donated \$480,350 to replace all water filters in the school district, fulfilling the billionaire Tesla CEO's tweeted pledge in July to help out Flint, which in 2015 was found to have dangerous levels of lead in its drinking water because city and state officials failed to treat the water.

The Musk Foundation website says is that the foundation provides grants for the following: renewable energy research and advocacy; human space exploration research and advocacy; pediatric research; and science and engineering education.



The donation is part of the district's plan to modernize educational offerings and curriculum for middle school students and re-align its schools. Board of Education members approved the donation Wednesday evening. (Courtesy mercurynews.com) "Building on the success of the recently opened Scott Middle School, the district has remained focused on the unique needs of our middle school-aged students," said Flint Superintendent Derrick Lopez. "While our district has faced many challenges in recent years, we are now positioned to build a strong foundation for our students' future through a solid secondary school education.

Musk's donation will allow Flint schools to provide a Google Chromebook to all seventh and eighth graders. The gift expands on a \$480,000 donation this fall to replace water filters in the schools.

"I'm glad the Musk Foundation has been helpful to the children of Flint in providing clean water and computers," Musk said in a statement. "We intend to do more in the

Administrator Rob Whitman will spearhead the one-to-one technology initiative. It will launch in two phases, with phase one launching in January 2019 at Scott Middle School and among current sixth grade classrooms.

Part of the changes include consideration of a high tech junior high school that would educate seventh and eighth grade students before they graduate to Southwestern Clas-

sical Academy for high school. The potential re-alignment for the fall of 2019 calls for Potter Elementary School to continue educating students from kindergarten through sixth grade, Holmes STEM Academy for students in third through sixth grade and Scott Middle School becoming an accelerated learning academy.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, the high tech junior high school would expand to include ninth grade. Southwestern Classical Academy would downsize to house 10th through 12th grades.

The Mott Foundation has given Flint Community Schools \$300,000 to modify its middle school curriculum and instructional practices.



"We're pleased to help Flint Community Schools implement a new middle school curriculum that's more hands-on and project-based," said Ridgway White, president and CEO of the Mott Foundation. "We understand this approach will be more engaging and exciting for students, which we hope will help them succeed through middle and high school and into college and career."

The high tech junior high school and building re-alignment proposals have not been approved. Board of Education members are planning to continue discussions in January. (Courtesy abc12.com)



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## **BUSINESS**

The Federal Reserve waded openly into the conversation about climate change this week, as the San Francisco Fed produced a report detailing the potential financial, economic and monetary policy implications of global warming.

Why it matters: In addition to the effects climate change has on businesses, such as "infrastructure damage, agricultural losses and commodity price spikes caused by droughts, floods, and hurricanes," Glenn Rudebusch, a senior policy adviser and executive vice president at the San Francisco Fed, argues climate change is becoming increasingly relevant for monetary policy.

- "Climate-related financial risks could affect the economy through elevated credit spreads, greater precautionary saving, and, in the extreme, a financial crisis."
- "With regard to financial stability, many central banks have acknowledged the importance of accounting for the increasing financial risks from climate change .... These risks include potential loan losses at banks resulting from the business interruptions and bankruptcies caused by storms, droughts, wildfires, and other extreme events."

Why you'll hear about this again: Earlier this year, all 4 of the still-living former Fed chairs joined nearly 30 Nobel economists and all but 1 former chair of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers in signing a statement of support for a carbon-tax policy — one that has been gaining support from Big Oil companies, environmental groups and others across the political spectrum.

• But this week's paper was the first clear indication in an official Fed release that the central bank is watching and preparing for the potential of major financial disruptions from climate change.

Climate Change events impact the "Bot-



**Our thought bubble,** from Axios Science Editor Andrew Freedman: A key trend in the scientific literature during the past few years has been the increased recognition

### SPECIAL REPORT

## The Fed Takes On Climate Change



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

that global warming constitutes a major economic threat nationally and world-wide. Climate impacts are already costing nations billions in the form of extreme weather events and coastal adaptation costs for sea level rise, and these will rise more steeply in coming years.

The bottom line: "For the Fed, the volatility induced by climate change and the efforts to adapt to new conditions and to limit or mitigate climate change are also increasingly relevant considerations," Rudebusch writes. "Moreover, economists, including those at central banks, can contribute much more to the research on climate change hazards and the appropriate response of central banks."

Related

Where the alarming economic damage stat in the new climate report came from

In the blitz of media coverage following the Trump administration's new climate report, one statistic kept popping up—that by the end of the century, global warming could cost the U.S. 10% of its gross domestic product.

Why it matters: This figure has been

used to indicate that global warming will inflict massive economic costs on the U.S. if dramatic actions to adapt to climate change and curtail emissions are not taken in the next decade. Critics, including the White House, have seized upon the statistic to paint the report as "radical" and "extreme."

• The White House and EPA are attacking the figure and say billionaire activists and research funders Tom Steyer and Michael Bloomberg are behind it.



**Background:** The stat can be traced to a 2017 study, published in the journal Science, that quantified the economic costs to the U.S. for various amounts of climate change.

"The poorest 10% of counties stand to lose over 10% of their county GDP, while many richer counties will see cli-

mate-driven boosts." —study author James Rising of UC Berkeley.

What they're saying: Amir Jina, an economist at the University of Chicago and a co-author of that study, told Axios he was not surprised the 10% statistic was used in the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), but he has been "a little disappointed" at how the media focused on it.

• "I still obviously stand by the work that we did, and that number does come from this paper, but I think it needs more nuance in the way that it's presented," Jina told Axios.

**Details:** The study, based on a meta-analysis of the peer reviewed literature as well as extensive new modeling, projects that nationwide, for every 1°C increase in average temperature, U.S. GDP will drop by 1.2%.

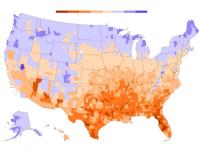
Where climate change will hit the U.S. hardest

Left unmitigated, rising temperatures from climate change will increase inequality and mortality rates in the U.S. by the end of the 21st century, a team of economists and climate scientists warn

in a study published today. It's the first to project the impacts of climate change on individual counties in the U.S. Many of those predicted to be hit hardest are in fast-growing Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

Projected economic impact from climate change

(Relative to county GDP in 2080-2099 under business-as-usual scenario)



Data Source: Hsiang, Kopp, Jina, Rising, et al. (2017); Map: Lazaro Gamio/Axios

- If anything, the GDP figures in the study could be an underestimate, Jina said. It only accounted for sectors that are well-researched and measured, not for the whole economy.
- The 10% figure does in fact derive from an extreme warming scenario, one in which the climate warms by about 8°C, or 14.4°F, by 2100. That is within the realm of possibility.
- But the average finding for a high-emissions scenario would amount to a mean warming of about 4–4.5°C, or 8.1 °F, compared to preindustrial levels.
- The GDP losses from that range of warming is still "large and shocking and terrible," said Jina.

**Funding:** Jina, and lead author Solomon Hsiang of U.C. Berkeley, told Axios the 2017 study moved the science well beyond findings of earlier work Steyer and Bloomberg funded and mainly relied on other sources. Hsiang also said the funders had no input on the study's conclusions.

It's not an outlier: Michael Oppenheimer, a geosciences researcher at Princeton and study co-author, told Axios that the cost estimates included in the NCA4 would be similar even if this study was not in it, given other work on the topic.

Ref: https://www.axios.com/origins-controversial-climate-report-stat-gdp-economy-bcb6bb-ca-8440-4d4a-a5d5-5b79f738895a.html (Courtesy axios.com)











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