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SRI KULKARNI ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS' 22ND CONGRESS-



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. accuses pair of stealing secrets, spying on GE to aid China

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A former engineer and a Chinese businessman have been charged with economic espionage and conspiring to steal trade secrets from General Electric Co to benefit China, according to an indictment unsealed by the U.S. Justice Department on Tuesday. Xiaqing Zheng, formerly an engineer at GE, was previously charged by the Justice Department in August in connection with the alleged theft. The indictment unsealed on Tuesday against the former engineer and Chinese businessman Zhaoxi Zhang marks the first time that the U.S. government has formally alleged that the scheme was carried out to benefit China, and that the Chinese government provided “financial and other support.” The 14-count indictment against the pair charges that Zheng, who worked at GE Power & Water in Schenectady, New York, stole multiple electronic files containing details about design models, engineering drawings and other specifications related to the company’s gas and steam turbines. Prosecutors say he emailed the files to Zhang, who was located in China. GE said in a statement it has “been in close cooperation with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for some time on this matter. At GE, we aggressively protect and defend our intellectual property and have strict processes in place for identifying these issues and partnering with law enforcement.” The two men allegedly used the stolen information to advance their own business interests in two turbine research and development companies - Liaoning Tianyi Aviation Technology Co Ltd and Nanjing Tianyi Avi Tech Co Ltd. The indictment also says that Zheng and Zhang knew the trade secrets would benefit the People’s Republic of China. The indictment adds that the pair received financial and other support from the Chinese government through those two companies, and they coordinated with Chinese government officials. Zheng and Zhang were formally indicted on April 18. Zheng was arraigned on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty. He was allowed to remain free on bond. A jury trial has been set for June 24 in Albany, New York. Zhang was believed to be in China, the Justice Department said.



FILE PHOTO: The logo of U.S. conglomerate General Electric is pictured at the company’s site of its energy branch in Belfort, France, February 5, 2019. REUTERS/Vincent Kessler

S&P, Nasdaq notch record closing highs on strong earnings

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq registered record closing highs after a broad-based rally on Tuesday as a clutch of better-than-expected earnings reports eased concerns about a slow-down. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 145.41 points, or 0.55%, to 26,656.46, the S&P 500 gained 25.69 points, or 0.88%, to 2,933.66 and the Nasdaq Composite added 105.56 points, or 1.32%, to 8,120.82.



FILE PHOTO: The logo of Foxconn, the trading name of Hon Hai Precision Industry, is seen on top of the company’s building in Taipei, Taiwan, March 30, 2018. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

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Snap returns to user growth, beats quarterly revenue estimates

(Reuters) - Snap Inc on Tuesday beat Wall Street targets for quarterly revenue as its photo-messaging app Snapchat added users for the first time in three quarters, backed by the popularity of its original shows and the launch of a new Android app.

The owner of Snapchat said the number of daily active users on the app rose to 190 million in the first quarter ended March 31 from 186 million three months earlier, but it was slightly down from 191 million from a year earlier.

The figure, widely watched by investors and advertisers, also beat analysts' average estimate of 187.2 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

In an effort to increase the amount of time users spend on the app, Snap, which faces stiff competition from Facebook Inc's Instagram, launched over 50 new shows in the reported quarter.

It also rebuilt its Android app, which had more bugs and a worse user experience than its iOS app. The targeting of Android users is a change of tune for Snap, which prioritized development on the Apple ecosystem through its stock market launch in 2017.

Snap's revenue, which it earns from selling advertising on the app, jumped 39 percent to \$320.4 million and beat Wall Street's average estimate of \$306.6 million.

Revenue growth was helped in part by new ad formats like unskippable commercials on its original shows, which are housed on the Discover page, a panel on the app that contains publisher content along with influencer content.

Snap's focus on privacy and communication between friends has helped it avoid problems with misinformation and spread of unsavory content, which have plagued Facebook and Google's YouTube, two of its rivals for digital ad dollars.

Average revenue per user jumped 39 percent to \$1.68 during the quarter from a year earlier.

The company's net loss narrowed to \$310.4 million, or 23 cents per share, from \$385.8 million, or 30 cents per share, a year earlier.

Excluding items, the company lost 10 cents per share in the quarter.

For the second quarter, Snap said it expects revenue of \$335 million to \$360 million. That compares with the average analyst estimate for revenue of \$348.5 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

Earlier this month, Snap launched a gaming platform within its Snapchat app featuring original and third-party games such as Zynga Inc's Tiny Royale.



FILE PHOTO: A woman stands in front of the logo of Snap Inc. on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) while waiting for Snap Inc. to post their IPO, in New York City, NY, U.S.



Traders work on the floor at the NYSE in New York

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Editor's Choice



Actors Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner and Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige place their handprints in cement at a ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood



Sudanese demonstrators ride atop a train from Atbara, the birthplace of an uprising that toppled Sudanese former President Omar al-Bashir, as they approach the military headquarters in Khartoum



A model poses on a set during a photo and video shoot on the street in New York



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Harris greets audience members during a campaign stop in Keene



Protesters on a train from Atbara, the birthplace of an uprising that toppled Sudan's former President Omar al-Bashir, shout slogans as they approach to a train station in Khartoum



Soccer Football - Premier League - Tottenham Hotspur v Brighton & Hove Albion - Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain - April 23, 2019 Tottenham's Son Heung-min during the warm up before the match REUTERS/Dylan Martinez



Demonstrators and police confront each other during anti government protests in Algiers



Models pose backstage before Lenny Niemeyer show during Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo

Match Point!!
Houston And Chengdu, China,
Selected As Top Venues For The 2021 -2022
World Table Tennis Championships



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor
From the Office of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner

It's official! Houston has been awarded the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships! The United States and China were both selected. There is no better way to celebrate 50 years of diplomacy between these two great countries than to bring the first of these back-to-back championships to the most diverse and welcoming city in the nation. The leadership of the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has brought another incredible international event to Houston. I encourage both local and global Table Tennis fans to make plans to watch the competition and enjoy the hype and festivities connected to the event.

Mayor Sylvester Turner
Houston, Texas

#

The Official Press Release from
Houston Sports Authority

MEDIA RELEASE
Houston to Host 2021 World Table Tennis Championships
The United States and China both selected, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ping Pong Diplomacy

HOUSTON, TX – International Table Tennis is coming to Houston. The Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has been selected to host the International Table Tennis Federation's 2021 World Table Tennis Championships. It is the first time the event will be held in the United States.

The announcement was made today at the 2019 ITTF Annual General Meeting and World Championships in Budapest.

The ITTF also awarded the Chinese Table Tennis Federation the 2022 Championships, which will be held in Chengdu, Houston and China collaborated in what was, essentially, a joint-support bid.

The announcement comes 50 years after the USA Table Tennis Team arrived in China for a friendly Table Tennis exchange and wound up changing the world. The 1971 event, dubbed Ping Pong Diplomacy, brought the USA and China to the table. This re-establishing diplomatic relations.

The event utilized the Chinese athletic slogan "Friendly First, Competition Second," and eased diplomatic tensions enough to allow President Richard M. Nixon to travel to Beijing in 1972.

"We're thrilled not only to be hosting the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships but also to have the chance to help commemorate that historic moment," said Harris County – Houston Sports Authority CEO, Janis Burke, said. "In 1971, China and the United States came together and helped change the world."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner agreed. "There is no better way to celebrate 50 years of diplomacy between these two great countries than to bring the first of these back-to-back championships to the most diverse and welcoming city in the nation. The leadership of the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has brought another incredible international event to Houston."

"I encourage both local and global Table Tennis fans to make plans to watch the competition and enjoy the hype and festivities connected to the event."

The United States and China agreed to support each other's efforts with these back-to-back championships, with Houston and China both getting support from former Houston Rockets player, Yao Ming, as well as Nixon's grandson, Christopher Nixon Cox.

"It excited the event is finally coming to the U.S. and to Houston," Cox said. "There is no better way to recognize my grandfather's work with Chinese-American relations."

USA Table Tennis and the United States Olympic Committee supported Houston's bid.

"The event will spotlight the sport of Table Tennis – a sport for a lifetime – and provide dreams for our youth," said USATT Chairman of the Board, Anne Cribble. "It's also a sport has the ability to bring the world together as we celebrate what unites us rather than what divides us."

The two table tennis players most associated with 1971's Ping Pong Diplomacy, which inspired China's invitation to the U.S. team, were Glenn Cowan and Zhuang Zedong. The two met each other on a bus which had been reserved for the Chinese team during the World Championships in Nagano, Japan, in 1971. It was the first time China had publicly emerged since the Cultural Revolution began in 1966. At the time, Zedong was a three-time world champion (1961, 1965, 1969). During the short trip to the training venue and competition hall, Cowan, who had moved from U.S. team bus and was allowed to ride with the Chinese, spoke passionately about his desire for friendship between the two countries.

Morocco had also put in a bid to host the 2021 World Championships, while Japan and Portugal also bid for the 2022 Championships.

Related
Houston, Chengdu to host 2021, 2022
table tennis worlds



Liu Yi (center), vice president of Chinese Table Tennis Association, receives hugs as Chinese city of Chengdu won the bid to host the 2022 World Table Tennis Championships in Budapest on April 22, 2019.

The U.S. city of Houston has won the bid to host the 2021 world table tennis championships and the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu will host the 2022 version.

The news followed Monday's historic vote at the International Table Tennis Federation's annual general meeting.

Strong bids put forward by the United States and Morocco had ensured that 2021 would mark the first time in 82 years that the world championships are held outside of Asia and Europe, since Cairo, Egypt hosted the 1939 competition.



"We're thrilled not only to be hosting the 2021 world table tennis championships, but also to have the chance to help commemorate that historic moment when Ping-pong Diplomacy was born," said Harris County-Houston Sports Authority CEO Janis Burke.

Chengdu beat Kitakyushu of Japan and Portugal's Lisbon to become the sixth Chinese city staging this tournament

"We are so happy to win and look forward to showing Chengdu to the entire world in 2022," said Liu Yi, vice president of the Chinese table tennis association. (Courtesy Xinhua)

Related
World Table Tennis Championships
Awarded To U.S. For The
First Time In 95-Year History



Kanak Jha competes in the men's
table tennis bronze-medal match at
the Summer Youth Olympic Games
Buenos Aires 2018 on Oct. 10, 2018
in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The old saying goes that everything is bigger in Texas, so what better place to hold the biggest World Table Tennis Championships in history?

The Lone Star State's largest city of Houston was selected Monday as the host of the 2021 world championships, beating out Agadir, Morocco, from the International Table Tennis Federation's short list. The selection of a U.S. city is historic, as it will be the first world championships held in the United States and the first one outside of Asia or Europe since 1939. The event began in 1926.

It is a fitting choice for 2021 as the ITTF is seeking to grow the game globally and

increase participation. The 2019 world championships in Budapest, Hungary — which began Monday — feature a record 609 players from 109 national associations, a figure that is still only 47 percent of the 226 associations around the world. The ITTF aims to move that number as close as possible to 100 percent for 2021.



The selection is also a major milestone for the city of Houston, which by 2021 will have hosted its fourth major world championships. Houston hosted world championships in boxing in 1999 and weightlifting in 2015, and will host the BMX cycling world championships in 2020. The city has hosted numerous U.S. Olympic Team Trials in the past, including marathon in 2012. Houston also bid for the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, though did not make it past the U.S. phase, and is the birthplace of two-time Olympian table tennis player Timothy Wang.

The U.S. is eighth all-time in the world championship medal table but has not brought home any hardware since the legendary Dick Miles took bronze in men's singles in 1959. The highest-ranked member of Team USA is 2016 Olympian and 2018 Youth Olympic medalist Kanak Jha, 38th in the most recent ITTF men's world rankings. The sport of table tennis has long been dominated by China, which has nearly double the world championship medals of second-place Hungary. (Courtesy United States Olympic Committee)

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BUSINESS

April 22 (UPI) -- People moving from other countries made up almost half of the U.S. population growth in 2018, according to estimates released by the U.S. census.

The entire nation added a little over 2 million people in 2018, with 1.04 million of that number coming from “natural increase” or the number of births over deaths.

Another 978,826 people moved to the 50 states, and a lot of them were from Puerto Rico. The still-recovering island lost 129,848 in population in the past year, according to census data released last week. Texas and Florida made up fully one-third of the United

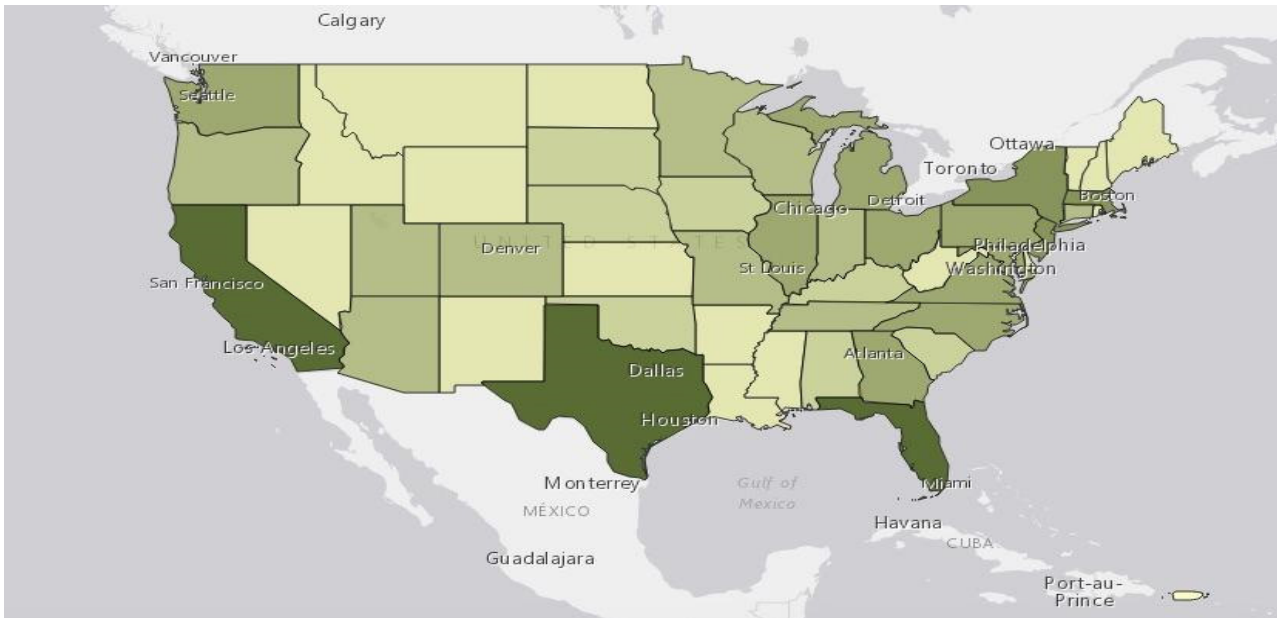


States' population gain. Texas' population grew by 379,128, while Florida's grew by 322,000 in 2018.

New York and Illinois lost the greatest population over the past year, with drops of 48,510 and 45,116, respectively. West Virginia and Louisiana also saw considerable drops, at 11,216 and 10,840, respectively.

Many U.S. residents still are moving to Florida, resulting in net domestic migration gain of 132,603. But international growth was higher, including U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico,

Immigration Accounted For Almost Half Of U.S. Growth In 2018



Map shows states with highest levels of international migration in darker shades. (Map generated by US Census Bureau website tools.)

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

at 175.670.

For such a large state, Florida's natural increase is low at 13,323, partly because of the high number of retirees who move to there. The Sunshine State saw 221,488 births and 208,165 deaths. Texas had 391,451 births and 200,500 deaths, for a natural increase

in 2018, followed by Phoenix with an increase of 96,268 (2.0 percent).

The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metroplex stands out because it also is losing residents to other regions at a rapidly growing rate as it struggles with traffic congestion and high housing costs.



of 190,951. Among large metros, Dallas-Fort Worth had the largest numeric growth with a gain of 131,767 (1.8 percent)

Miami, Florida
Miami-Dade, the state's largest county, had a decrease of 51,671 in domestic migration

-- people moving to other parts of Florida or the United States. But that was more than offset by an international migration boost of 58,732 and natural increase of 9,407.

Broward County, just north of Miami-Dade, showed an accelerating trend toward people moving out, with domestic migration loss of 10,337. With births, deaths and international migration Broward eked out some overall growth at 16,789 people.

New York's largest county, or borough -- Brooklyn -- is booming economically but saw the population drop by 13,555. Another older urban area with high costs, Brooklyn had negative domestic migration of 46,706 people, while 12,424 moved in from other countries or Puerto Rico.

Palm Beach County was the only area of South Florida that had positive domestic migration, at 3,661. With 12,706 new international arrivals, overall growth was 15,603 people.



Palm Beach, Florida

A Wall Street Journal analysis of census data released Thursday said about one in 10 U.S. counties grew in the fiscal year that ended last June primarily because of immigration, showing how new arrivals are shaping the nation as the population ages and the birth rate slows.

The Orlando area in Florida mostly boomed, but the most urban part of it, Orange County, showed a loss in domestic migration of 202 people. Births and international migration boosted its population by 27,712.

Osceola County to the south of Orlando has had large influxes of Hispanic people. The county grew by 4.3 percent in 2018, the seventh-fastest rate in the nation. It added 4,385 in domestic migration and 8,862 in international for total growth of 15,329 and total population of 367,990. (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>)

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