



### Share Your News with Southern Daily

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 consider-

ation, please send to [scdailynewsroom@gmail.com](mailto:scdailynewsroom@gmail.com) or contact John Robbins 832-280-5815 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

FEMA rule change opens door for hurricane disaster aid for Texas churches



Inside C5

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Friday, January 5, 2017 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## Trump administration rescinds Obama-era marijuana enforcement

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Justice Department on Thursday rescinded an Obama administration policy that had eased enforcement of federal marijuana laws in states that legalized the drug, instead giving federal prosecutors wide latitude on pursuing criminal charges. The action by Attorney General Jeff Sessions could have damaging consequences on the burgeoning marijuana industry in the six states including California and Colorado that have legalized the drug for recreational use, plus dozens of others that permit medicinal use. Justice Department officials who briefed reporters about the policy change declined to say whether the department might take legal action against those states, saying further steps were "still under consideration." Sessions, known as a strong opponent of legalizing marijuana, stopped short of directly encouraging U.S. prosecutors to bring marijuana cases. His action, outlined in a one-page memo, drew condemnation from marijuana legalization advocates and politicians in both parties who said it trampled on the rights of voters in states where the drug is now legal and created uncertainty about how strictly federal drugs laws will be enforced. The announcement came three days after California formally launched the world's largest regulated commercial market for recreational marijuana. The administration's move raised questions about how it might impact tax revenues in states that permit some

form of legal marijuana use. It also created uncertainty for banks, which have already been fearful about having a business relationship with the marijuana industry due to concerns they might run afoul of anti-money laundering rules. The policy put in place under Democratic former President Barack Obama, outlined by then-Deputy Attorney General James Cole in a series of memos, recognized marijuana as a "dangerous drug," but said the Justice Department expected states and localities that authorized various uses of the drug to effectively regulate and police it. The Obama-era policy had discouraged federal prosecutors from pursuing marijuana-related criminal crimes in states that had legalized the drug. The Trump administration policy gives federal prosecutors around the country discretion to enforce the existing federal ban on marijuana. There has been a surge in legalization of marijuana in U.S. states in recent years. Other states that permit the regulated sale of marijuana for recreational use also include Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Nevada. Massachusetts and Maine are on track to do so this year. U.S. President Donald Trump arrives to board Air Force One for travel to Palm Beach from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, U.S., December 22, 2017. REUTERS/Carlos Barria California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said his state will pursue "all legal, legisla-



FILE PHOTO: A bag of marijuana being prepared for sale sits next to a money jar at BotanaCare in Northglenn Colorado

tive and political options to protect its reforms and its rights as a state." He said the Trump administration's position "defies facts and logic." Republican Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado said on Twitter that the administration's action "directly contradicts what Attorney General Sessions told me prior to his confirmation." Gardner added that he would take all steps necessary to fight the mea-

sure, including possibly holding up the Senate from voting on pending Justice Department nominees. The administration's action seemed incongruous with comments that Trump made during the 2016 presidential campaign. Trump told a TV news reporter that the decision to legalize marijuana should be left "up to the states." Among companies that have invested

in the industry, Scotts Miracle-Gro, a gardening product manufacturer, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire companies that sell soil, lighting, fertilizer and other products to marijuana growers. Shares in the company dropped 3.8 percent to \$104.54 after the news of the policy shift, before paring losses later in the morning. Several Canadian marijuana-related stocks also fell sharply.

## Trump credits his firmness for potential Korea talks, signals Olympic concession

WASHINGTON/SEOUL (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday called potential talks between North and South Korea "a good thing" and agreed with South Korea there would be no joint military drills, which North Korea bitterly opposes, during next month's Winter Olympics. South Korea's Presidential Blue House said Trump told South Korea's President Moon Jae-in in a telephone call he hoped inter-Korean talks would lead to good results and that he would send a high-level delegation, including members of

his family, to the Winter Olympics, which will be held in South Korea. A senior U.S. administration official told Reuters there had been discussion about Trump's daughter Ivanka attending the games in Pyeongchang. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on this but said Trump and Moon had agreed "to de-conflict the Olympics and our military exercises" to ensure the security of the games and that a "high-level delegation" would attend. At the same time, the two leaders also "agreed to continue the campaign of maximum pressure against

North Korea," it added. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters the joint drills, which North Korea denounces as a prelude to invasion, would now take place sometime after the Olympics and Paralympics, which run from Feb. 9-25 and March 9-18, and called their delay a "practical" matter. Mattis said it was too early to say if North Korea's offer to talk to South Korea was a genuine olive branch, but said it was clearly the result of international pressure. Also owns The Washington Post, a newspaper that Trump has repeatedly railed against in his criticisms of the



news media. In tweets over the past year, Trump has said the "Amazon Washington Post" fabricated stories. He has Amazon does not pay sales tax, which is not true, and so hurts other retailers,

part of a pattern by the former businessman and reality television host of periodically turning his ire on big American companies since he took office in January.

[www.afnb.com](http://www.afnb.com)

恆豐 銀行 American First National Bank

借記卡手機管理 24小時保護你的賬戶

<b>Houston Area:</b> Main Office 713-596-2888	Spring Branch 713-273-1838	Katy Branch 281-762-6688	Harwin Branch 713-273-1888	First Colony Branch 713-596-2588	<b>Nevada Area:</b> Las Vegas Branch 702-777-9988	Pahrump Branch 775-751-1773	Amargosa Valley Branch 775-372-1100	
<b>Dallas Area:</b> Richardson Branch 972-348-3488	Harry-Hines Branch 972-348-3433	Legacy Branch 972-348-3466	Carrollton Branch 972-428-5088	Arlington Branch 817-261-5585	Garland Branch 972-272-3375	Plano Branch 469-429-2422	<b>California Area:</b> City of Industry Branch 626-667-3988	Alhambra Branch 626-863-1980

The U.S. would be ready to talk with North Korea if it renounced further nuclear or missile tests and followed through on the pledge, U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said.

"If they announce that they're not going to be doing any more nuclear tests and they're not going to be launching any more missiles," Branstad told Bloomberg Television on Wednesday, when asked what it would take for talks to start.

Branstad, speaking on the sidelines of the Fortune Global Forum in Guangzhou, also said that sanctions against North Korea were "starting to have an impact." Calling Kim Jong Un's push for nuclear weapons "the biggest threat to humankind right now," the former Iowa governor repeated the Trump administration's call for China to cut off oil sales to Kim Jong Un's regime.

"We believe we need to go further," Branstad said. "We think oil and also these North Korean workers working in China and other countries, that needs to stop."

President Donald Trump has sought to pressure China to rein in its ally and neighbor, which last week tested a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile. Kim said the test showed that North Korea's nuclear program was complete because it could deliver an atomic warhead anywhere in the U.S.

While Kim hasn't yet proven he has the technology to put a warhead on an ICBM and deliver it safely to a target, the test has put new pressure on the U.S. and its allies to find a solution. By declaring his weapons program complete, Kim may have created a path to resume negotiations from a position of strength.



'An Opportunity For Us To Get Back To The Bargaining Table' North Korea Must Halt All Testing For Talks To Begin, U.S. Ambassador Says

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



U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad

"I interpret this as a starting gun, signaling that he's opening up the negotiating pas de deux, the dance," Daniel Russel, who until June was assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, told reporters in Beijing after the test.

The United Nations' top official for political affairs is in Pyongyang this week to discuss the nuclear issue, and countries from Canada to Germany are seeking to help facilitate talks.

Meanwhile, the saber-rattling has continued on both sides, with the U.S. sending a B-1B bomber to join massive aerial drills with South Korea on Wednesday. North Korea had previously threatened



U.S. - South Korea Military Drills

to retaliate against the exercise with the "highest-level hard-line countermeasure in history."

The U.S. must work with China and others to convince North Korea "what they are doing is a suicide mission that makes no sense," Branstad told the forum. He declined to rule out a Trump visit to North Korea at some point, but said the timing "is probably not right."

Branstad, 71, has ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping that go back decades. The two men met in 1985, when Xi visited Iowa as part of a delegation from the northern Chinese province of Hebei. Chinese officials refer to the envoy as an "old friend of the Chinese people," a designation reserved for foreigners who've demonstrated a particular understanding of the country.



Facebook, WeChat

But the ambassador told Bloomberg that the "very good" chemistry demonstrated in meetings between Trump and Xi was more important. "Building a relationship of trust and respect hopefully can go a long ways to these two big countries, the two biggest economies in the world, working together," he said.

Still, the U.S. has sharpened its tone toward China since Trump's state visit last month to Beijing, which ended with no big breakthroughs on trade. The Trump administration has in recent weeks hit China with a probe into the country's aluminum imports, and accused its leadership of backsliding on market-oriented reforms.

Branstad said he agreed with such criticism. He cited as an example how China blocks access to Facebook while the U.S. allows Americans to use Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat messaging service.

"There are areas where we think China has not been fair, their market is not open," Branstad said. (Courtesy bloomberg.com)

15.3 美南國際電視15.3頻道

- 免費高清頻道
免費數位頻道
免費中英文頻道



美南電視本周節目單

Table with columns for days of the week (MON-SUN) and time slots (00:00-01:00, etc.), listing various TV programs and their broadcast times.

# A Snapshot Of The World



A delivery man bikes down the street during Storm Grayson in New York



A man cleans the path during Storm Grayson at the Jersey shore in Union Beach, New Jersey



FILE PHOTO: An Intel logo is seen at the company's offices in Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv, Israel, October 24, 2011. REUTERS/Nir Elias/File Photo



Cancelled flights are seen on a display in the Delta Airlines terminal at LaGuardia Airport during Storm Grayson in New York City



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Attorney General Sessions holds a news conference in Washington



Members of the media and security forces stand in one of the airport entrance for the arrival of Roberto Borge, former governor of Quintana Roo state of the ruling PRI Party, who is extradited from Panama to face charges for corruption, in Mexico City



FILE PHOTO: Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett visits the BNSF booth before the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting in Omaha



Roberto Borge, former governor of Quintana Roo state, is escorted by Panamanian security forces while being extradited to Mexico to face charges for corruption, at the Toncontin airport in Panama City



Dakar Rally - 2018 Peru-Bolivia-Argentina Dakar rally - 40th Dakar Edition - January 4, 2018 - Monster Energy Honda team rider Joan Barreda Bort puts his helmet on during a technical check at Las Palmas air base in Lima. REUTERS/Andres Stappf



FEMA rule change opens door for hurricane disaster aid for Texas churches



In the wake of a federal lawsuit in Houston by three Texas churches damaged during Hurricane Harvey, the Trump administration has followed through this week on its promise to reverse a long-standing disaster aid policy that denied relief to houses of worship.



Party pics from the luncheons, galas, and fashion soirees you may have missed

By Amber Elliott

The new year is well underway, but before 2018's social season officially begins, let's reflect on the biggest party moments from 2017.

mena Baird, Dr. Sippi Khurana, Bettina Elias Siegel, Claire Cormier-Thielke, Hallie Vanderhider, T'Liza Kiel, Ariana Smetana, and Martin.

local founders Tena Lundquist Faust and Tama Lundquist joined Dr. Devinder and Gina Bhatia onstage to recognize the 70 non-profits who received more than \$400,000.

美南新聞日報 Southern Chinese Daily News 風行四海 日盡萬言 電話: 281-498-4310 傳真: 281-498-2728

騰龍教育學院 Talent Academy 中英雙語幼兒園 (1歲半~5歲) Day Care 暑期夏令營、秋季星期中文學校

IQ VIET MY The Professional Tutoring Center IQ TUTORING CENTER 課後安親班 位於中國城精華商圈, 國泰銀行二樓

瀚歲文藝學校 連續6年榮獲最佳教育獎 全年招收雙語幼兒班

中美酒樓 CHINESE AMERICAN RESTAURANT 281-498-1280 超值套餐 新推出超值特價菜 (全天供應) \$5.50

FIRST ACADEMY 第一學院 WHERE LEARNING COMES FIRST 學習第一 K-12年級、大學課業輔導