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## Trump rejects author's accusations, calls self 'stable genius' policy

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday rejected an author's accusations that he is mentally unfit for office and said his track record showed he is "a very stable genius."

U.S. President Donald Trump departs for Camp David from the White House in Washington, U.S., January 5, 2018. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Michael Wolff, who was granted unusually wide access to the White House during much of Trump's first year, has said in promoting his book that Trump is unfit for the presidency. Trump, in a series of extraordinary morning posts on Twitter, said his Democratic critics and the U.S. news media were bringing up the "old Ronald Reagan playbook and screaming mental stability and intelligence" since they have not been able to bring him down in other ways.

Reagan, a Republican who was the U.S. president from 1981-1989, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1994 and died in 2004.

"Actually, throughout my life, my two greatest assets have been mental stability and being, like, really smart," said Trump, a former reality TV star and developer.

"I went from VERY successful businessman, to top T.V. Star ... to President of the United States (on my first try). I think that would qualify as not smart, but genius ... and a very stable genius at that!"

Trump, 71, issued the tweets from the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, where he was meeting Re-

publican congressional leaders and many Cabinet secretaries about their legislative agenda for the year.

Wolff's book, "Fire and Fury - Inside the Trump White House," portrays Trump as unfocused, unprepared and petty while presiding over a chaotic White House.

Trump, answering questions from reporters at Camp David later, called Wolff a "fraud" and said the book is "a complete work of fiction."

"I think it's a disgrace," he said.

An employee of Book Culture book store unloads copies of "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" by author Michael Wolff inside the store in New York, U.S. January 5, 2018. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Trump said he never granted Wolff an interview for the book and blamed former adviser Steve Bannon, who he called "Sloppy Steve," for granting Wolff access at the White House.

The tweets were another sign of Trump's frustration at what he views as unfair treatment by the news media of his presidency amid a federal investigation into whether he or his campaign aides colluded with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign, in which he defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump, asked about a New York Times report that his aides had pressured Attorney General Jeff Sessions not to rescue himself from the Russia investigation, said: "Everything I've done has been 100 percent proper."

Wolff's book has proved to be another



An employee of Book Culture book store places copies of "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" by author Michael Wolff inside the store in New York

er shock to the system for Trump and his top aides, coming just as he starts his second year in office.

Wolff told BBC Radio in an interview broadcast on Saturday that based on his interviews with the people around Trump that he believed the president was unfit for office.

He told NBC News on Friday that White House staff treated Trump like a child.

"The one description that everyone gave, everyone has in common — they all say he is like a child," Wolff said.

"And what they mean by that, he has a need for immediate gratification. It's all about him."

"This man does not read, does not listen. He's like a pinball, just shooting off the sides."

Fox News correspondent Geraldo Rivera told "Fox and Friends" on Sat-

urday that he had spoken to Trump on Friday and that he was "very, very frustrated" that the issue of his mental fitness was getting traction.

Trump is to undergo the first physical examination of his presidency on Jan. 12. The exam was announced on Dec. 7 after questions arose about Trump's health when he slurred part of a speech announcing that the United States recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

## Iran stages pro-government rallies, derides Trump 'blunder' at U.N

DUBAI (Reuters) - Thousands of government supporters staged rallies in Iran for a fourth day on Saturday, in a backlash against widespread protests that the clerical establishment has blamed on the country's enemies.

People take part in pro-government rallies, Iran, January 3, 2018. Tasnim News Agency/Handout via REUTERS

Saturday's show of support came a day after Iran's foreign minister said a United Nations Security Council meeting called by the United States to discuss the protests had proved a

"blunder" by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

State television showed rallies in cities including Amol, Semnan and Shadegan waving Iranian flags and chanting "Death to America", "Death to Israel" and "Death to Britain".

More than a week of unrest has seen 22 people die and more than 1,000 arrested, according to Iranian officials, in the biggest anti-government protests for nearly a decade.

Unrest spread to more than 80 cities and rural towns as thousands of young and working class Iranians voiced anger at graft, unemployment and a deepening gap between rich

and poor.

Residents contacted by Reuters in various cities on Friday said the protests had shown sign of abating, after the government intensified a crackdown on protesters by dispatching Revolutionary Guards forces to several provinces.

The provincial governor in north-eastern Mashhad, where the protests started, was quoted as saying on Saturday that 85 percent of detainees there had been released after signing a pledge not to re-offend.

"Those with a criminal record, or those charged with sabotage such as setting fire to motorcycles or damaging public buildings have been



referred to judicial authorities," governor Alireza Rashidian told the ISNA news agency.

Tehran University Vice-President Majid Sarsangi said the university had set up a committee to track the fate of students arrested during the

unrest. "Our efforts at the university are aimed at cooperating with the relevant authorities to create the conditions for the return of the detained students to the university and their families in the shortest possible time," Sarsangi told ISNA.

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A Snapshot Of The World



People walk in Times Square during a winter storm in Manhattan, New York



A H-IIA rocket carrying the satellites GCOM-C, nicknamed “Shikisai” and the Super Low Altitude Test Satellite (SLATS) nicknamed “Tsubame”, lifts off from the launching pad at Tanegashima Space Center on the southwestern island of Tanegashima, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo December 23, 2017. Mandatory credit Kyodo/via REUTERS



Students react as water from earthen pitchers is poured on them to take a holy bath during a ceremony organised to resemble the annual month-long Hindu religious festival of Magh Mela, held during the Hindu month of Magh, in Ahmedabad



Japan’s Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, smile with their family members during a photo session for the New Year at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo



A newborn baby wearing a dog costume to celebrate the New Year of the Dog is pictured at the nursery room of Paolo Chokchai 4 Hospital in Bangkok



Navy personnel of People’s Liberation Army (PLA) wave at their brides during a mass wedding at a military base in Zhoushan



Pet dogs and staff members wait to watch a movie at Cute Beast Pet Resort in Beijing



Women gather to watch the body of Noor Mohammad Tantray, a suspected militant, who according to the local media was killed in a gunbattle with Indian security forces, during his funeral in south Kashmir’s Tral town



Trump greets fire rescue squads at one of their stations in West Palm Beach, FloridaNEW-YEAR/JAPAN-TUNA



A new study by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that between 400 million and 800 million of today's jobs will be automated by 2030.

The research adds fresh perspective to what is becoming an increasingly concerning picture of the future employment landscape. "We're all going to have to change and learn how to do new things over time," institute partner Michael Chui told Bloomberg.

In the U.S., it seems it's the middle class that has the most to fear, with office administrators and construction equipment operators among those who may lose their jobs to technology or see their wages depressed to keep them competitive with robots and automated systems.

In places where labor is cheaper and tech is more expensive, jobs may be less vulnerable than in more developed markets.

There will—of course—be new kinds of jobs, too, McKinsey's research arm said. As recently articulated by business leaders like Bill Gates and Autodesk chief Andrew Anagnost, an aging population may lead to more work for caregivers (unless they too are replaced by robots, as is happening in Japan) and for people who tend to the robots.



"There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," report co-author Susan Lund said, according to Wired. (Courtesy <http://fortune.com>)

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ROBOTS THREATEN BIGGER  
SLICE OF JOBS IN US, OTHER  
RICH NATIONS

Automation will reduce demand for crane operators in the US, Germany, and Japan, while demand for similar work is projected to boom in India and Mexico, according to a new report.

The world is commonly divided into industrialized and emerging economies. A new study of how technology will transform demand for workers suggests we might talk

Robots May Steal As Many As  
800 Million Jobs In The Next 13 Years

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



of the automated and automating worlds instead.

Economic think tank McKinsey Global Institute forecast changes in demand for different kinds of labor across 45 countries as technologies improve to perform physical or office tasks. One key result: Robots pose a more immediate and disruptive threat to the US middle class than they do to middle-income workers in less developed countries like India.

The report warns that in the US technology will crimp demand for many types of work, such as office administration and operating construction equipment. That would add to the existing squeeze on middle-class incomes by displacing some workers, and likely push down wages for those still employed in less in-demand work. Meanwhile, automation is forecast to be less marked in countries such as India, where the relative cost of new technology is much higher and labor much cheaper. That will allow devel-



oping-world incomes and the ranks of the middle class to keep growing healthily, the report says.

Overall, the MGI report guesses that automation will displace the jobs of 400 million to 800 million people between now and 2030. But it also looked at potential sources of new demand for labor and came up with good news. Plenty of new jobs should be created by things like companies spending the additional earnings unlocked by deploying automation, and the healthcare demands from aging populations. "There will be enough jobs for all of us in most scenarios," says Susan Lund, a co-author of the report. MGI mapped possible futures for three rich, and three poor countries in particular detail—the US, Germany, Japan, Mexico, India, and China. In the most-likely scenario, 9 percent of work in India, 13 percent in Mexico, and 16 percent in China will be automated by 2030. In the US, Japan, and Germany, that figure will be closer to 25 percent.

The analysis suggests the prospects of traditionally middle-class occupations will differ markedly between rich and poorer countries in the next decade or so. In the three more prosperous countries, demand for office administrators is seen contracting 25 percent or

more as software takes on more of that work, for example. But demand for such work will increase in the three poorer countries, the analysis finds, as incomes and consumer and business spending continue to grow.



China, which is more heavily industrialized than other emerging economies, sometimes occupies a middle ground in McKinsey's view of the road ahead. It has automation causing demand for crane operators to decline by between 15 and 24 percent in the US, Germany, and Japan, and by 5 to 14 percent in China, while booming 25 percent or more in India and Mexico.

Lund, the report co-author, says matching displaced workers to newly created jobs is the biggest challenge facing policymakers in America and elsewhere. In the US, MGI

projects that the number of jobs requiring a college degree or more will grow, while jobs requiring less education will shrink.



But government and corporate spending on worker training has declined over the past two decades, and a recent report by the Brookings Institution found that the country has a severe and immediate problem with workers lacking relatively basic digital skills, such as familiarity with spreadsheets. A recent pledge by Google to give \$1 billion to projects that help workers with their digital skillsets appears well-aimed, but is unlikely to solve the problem alone.

Developing economies have their own version of that retraining problem. Lund says India will face increased demand for workers with all levels of education between now and 2030, but particularly for people with high school diplomas. That will challenge the vast country's school system.

Although the short-term disruption from automation may be smaller in developing countries than in richer countries, the developing nations face more difficult challenges in the longer term.



China has shown how low-cost manufacturing can provide a kind of step ladder that helps a country gradually climb into more complex and lucrative sectors, says Brad DeLong, an economics professor at University of California, Berkeley, who worked in the Clinton administration.

But as automation technology gets cheaper and more capable, more manufacturing likely will migrate back to countries like the US. "The fear is that China is the last country for which this will be a successful strategy," DeLong says. Governments need to think not just about how automation affects workers, but their entire economic underpinnings. (Courtesy [wired.com](http://wired.com))

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U.S. factory orders rise for fourth straight month



(Reuters) - New orders for U.S.-made goods increased in November for a fourth straight month, but business spending on equipment appeared to be cooling after robust growth in 2017.

Factory goods orders jumped 1.3 percent amid rising demand for transportation and electrical equipment, the Commerce Department said on Friday. October's report was revised to show orders advancing 0.4 percent instead of the previously reported 0.1 percent dip.

Economists had forecast factory orders increasing 1.1 percent in November.

Orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, which are seen as a measure of business spending plans, fell 0.2 percent in November instead of slipping 0.1 percent as reported last month. Orders for these so-called core capital goods increased 0.8 percent in October.

Shipments of core capital goods, which are used to calculate business equipment spending in the gross domestic product report, fell 0.1 percent in November instead of increasing 0.3 percent as reported last month. Core capital goods shipments surged 1.2 percent in October.

Business spending soared last year as companies anticipated a massive cut in the corporate income tax rate, which has since been passed by the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump.

The overhaul of the tax code, the most sweeping in 30 years, slashed the corporate income tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent. Robust business spending, recent weakness in the dollar and a strengthening global economy are boosting manufacturing, which makes up about 12 percent of the U.S. economy.

In November, orders for machinery fell 1.0 percent after rising 2.8 percent in October. But orders for transportation equipment rebounded 4.1 percent after declining 4.0 percent in October. Orders for electrical equipment, appliances and components rose 0.6 percent.

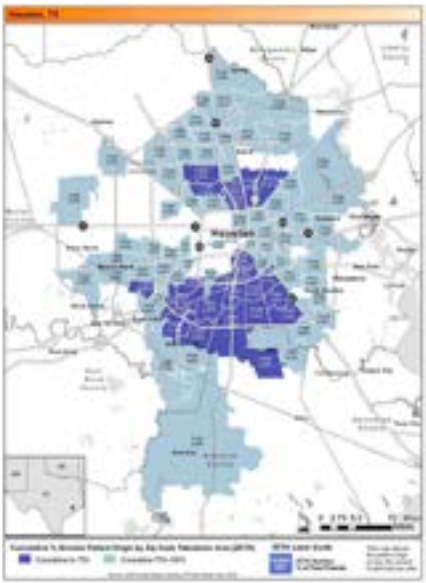
Central Care funding won by Houston Area Community Services' Avenue 360

By Cindy George

Federal grant money lost by Central Care clinics that leaders say will shut down its six locations has been awarded to Houston Area Community Services, a well-known local health provider to the underserved that has rebranded as Avenue 360 Health & Wellness.

Central Care Integrated Health Services, which serves about 10,000 patients in Third Ward, Acres Homes and Sunnyside among other areas, has sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue receiving the grant money. A temporary restraining order issued by a federal judge in December extended the funding until Monday.

Central Care officials, patients and supporters joined U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee on Wednesday for a news conference defending the city's first federally qualified health center and seeking reconsideration of its application for continued funding by the Health Resources and Services Administration, known as



*Federal grant money lost by Central Care clinics that leaders say will shut down its six locations has been awarded to Houston Area Community Services, a well known local health provider to the underserved that has rebranded as Avenue 360 Health & Wellness. This is the service area competition geographical footprint from HRSA, Health Resources and Services Administration.*

According to the competition details on the HRSA web site, the 2018 service area for the grant included the high-need ZIP codes of 77033, 77048, 77004, 77051 and 77021. The service area is geographically centered on the city's north and south sides with a projected 26,969 patients.

"A service area competition was held for

HRSA. HRSA, which is part of HHS, is the primary federal agency responsible for improving health care for underserved populations, including the economically and medically vulnerable, as well as those who are geographically isolated.

Central Care lost a service area competition to receive three years of additional funding by scoring lower than Houston Area Community Services, according to HRSA communications director Martin Kramer. In 2017, Central Care received nearly \$5.4 million from the federal agency.

this particular service area and a different health center grantee received a higher score on their application than the health center that lost funding and they will then take over that service area," Kramer said Thursday, adding that Houston Area Community Services expects to provide care to about 26,000 patients.

Health centers receive about 20 percent of their funding from HRSA, he said.

Centers fill out their budgets with patient care reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and private insurance. Many also receive state and local government aid as well as private charitable contributions.

Kramer added that losing HRSA funding doesn't have to determine whether any center continues to operate.

Central Care officials have said the HRSA funding will cause them to close.

The organization has faced HRSA eligibility issues in recent years, including losing access to health professionals who receive student loan reimbursements for working in medically underserved areas. A nearly one-year lapse between restored eligibility and access to physicians crippled Central Care's most recent service area competition application, CEO La Toya Darden said in court documents and during Wednesday's news conference.

A hearing on Central Care's suit in scheduled for Monday morning in federal court.

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