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# Southern DAILY

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## Long sought by North Korea, summit holds risks for Trump administration

SEOUL/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - For at least two decades, leaders in North Korea have been seeking a personal meeting with an American president. Now, as a summit unexpectedly appears possible, analysts fear U.S. President Donald Trump's understaffed administration may lack the expertise to successfully turn a political spectacle long sought by Pyongyang into a meaningful opportunity to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. South Korean officials said Friday Trump almost immediately agreed to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, without preconditions, by the end of May. Even proponents of a diplomatic approach towards North Korea worry the administration could be rushing into a summit with little time to prepare. Such a summit - the first time sitting American and North Korean leaders have ever met - would typically happen after each side had made at least some concrete agreements, said Suzanne DiMaggio, a senior fellow at the New America think tank, who has engaged North Korean officials at unofficial discussions. "It will have to be managed carefully with a great deal of prep work," she said on Twitter. "Otherwise, it runs the risk of being more spectacle than substance. Right now, Kim Jong Un is setting the agenda and the pace, and the Trump administration is reacting. The administration needs to move quickly to change this dynamic."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has often been publicly contradicted by the White House over North Korea, including on Thursday when the announcement of a summit he said "we are a long ways from negotiations". Several experienced career diplomats occupy key positions in the Trump administration's Korea and East Asia offices, but many of them are in an acting capacity

while other positions are entirely empty. Joseph Yun, the U.S. envoy in charge of negotiating with North Korea, quit last week, and Trump has yet to nominate an ambassador to South Korea. "A Trump meeting with Kim presents both risks and opportunities," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. "The U.S. side needs to be very, very well prepared and know exactly what it wants to achieve, as well as what the U.S. is willing to provide in return." Analysts say North Korea has been seeking a summit with American leaders as a way to secure international legitimacy, something that has prevented past U.S. administration's from taking Pyongyang up on its invitations. South Korea's national security chief Chung Eui-yong briefs U.S. President Donald Trump at the Oval Office about his visit to North Korea, in Washington March 8, 2018. The Presidential Blue House/Yonhap via "A summit is a reward to North Korea," said Robert Kelly, a professor at South Korea's Pusan National University. "It extends the prestige of meeting the head of state of the world's strongest power and leading democracy. That is why we should not do it unless we get a meaningful concession from North Korea. That is why other presidents have not done it."



South Korea's national security chief Chung Eui-yong briefs U.S. President Donald Trump at the

Kim Jong Un has "committed to denuclearization" and to suspending nuclear and missile tests, South Korea's National Security Office head Chung Eui-yong told reporters at the White House on Thursday after briefing Trump.

North Korea, though, has yet to provide more details. "There hasn't been any North Korea-U.S. summit meetings at all and having one after North Korea has already obtained nuclear weapons basically sends a signal that the U.S. is willing to deal with North Korea on that basis," said Zhao Tong, a North Korea expert at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing. "So that achieves North Korea's first objective, even if there's no progress at all in terms of what they discuss at the summit," Zhao said. A senior administration official said Trump was elected to take a different approach from previous presidents. That included avoiding low-level negotiations that have failed in the past in favor of talking directly to Kim as the "one person who can actually make

decisions instead of repeating the... long slog of the past," the official said.

In 2000, Marshal Jo Myong Rok, a powerful figure in the North Korean armed forces, became the first and most senior North Korean official to visit the White House and meet a U.S. president, then Bill Clinton.



FILE PHOTO: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets members of the special delegation of South Korea's President in this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency

Shortly after, then-U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright traveled to Pyongyang to meet Kim Jong Un's father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il, in a visit to lay the groundwork for a visit by Clinton that would only happen after he had left office. During President Barack Obama's administration, North Korean officials were also seeking a breakthrough with the United States, and were disappointed when American officials offered no diplomatic concessions, former U.S. director of national intelligence, James Clapper, has said. Even observers who credit Trump's hardline stance with setting the stage for talks said they are waiting to see if this time is different.



White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders takes questions during a daily briefing at the White House in Washington

If the summit fails, the cost could be higher than in the past, observers noted, with North Korea firmly in possession of a nuclear arsenal and Trump having said military strikes may be needed to remove those weapons.

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Houston-area spring breakers have another low-cost option: Fishing

By Craig Hlavaty

Watching TV? Already bored? Texas Parks and Wildlife has an alternative during this week off from classroom studies. Think bass, crappie and rainbow trout March 10-18. Parks officials suggest 10 scenic destinations that offer free or low-cost fishing, all within a relatively easy drive from Houston. Some activities are geared toward families with younger children or teens, while others would appeal to anglers of all ages. Sea Center Texas on Lake Jackson is about 55 minutes away on Texas 288 south. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, with free admission. This destination offers aquariums and exhibits, marine fish hatchery and other educational programs. Lake Conroe, with a host of public and private access points to the water, is a little over an hour from downtown Houston on Interstate 45 north. Stubblefield Lake Recreation Area, operated by the National Forest Service in Sam Houston National Forest, offers free shore fishing on northern Lake Conroe as well as access for canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized boats. Admission is free, except for camping. You will need a valid state fishing license for catches in federal waters. Colorado Bend State Park offers a free basic fishing workshop starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 10, but spots are limited. Call first, 325-628-3240, before hitting the road. No fishing license is needed in a state park, but anglers will need to bring their own pole and tackle. It's a relatively long drive to this Texas Hill Country park, clocking at just under five hours from Houston. Anglers under 17, or senior citizens born before Jan. 1, 1931, aren't required to have a fishing license. For everyone else, fees range

from a low of \$11 for single day access to a high of \$40 for both fresh and saltwater. Another option, the Tyler Nature Center, offers a unique chance to catch and clean rainbow trout, from 8 a.m. to noon March 12-15. It's a relatively long drive at almost four hours from Houston, but the fishing is free of charge and no license is required. Warm weather is great for spring breakers, but not so much for rainbow trout, which thrive in colder water. "Rainbow trout cannot survive in warm water so we encourage anglers to keep their daily limit of five rainbow trout and one channel catfish," said Richard Ott, parks department Inland Fisheries District supervisor for Tyler South. Parks officials recommend bringing a light-action rod and reel for the kids, with small fishing hooks, light line 12-pound test or less and other tackle. Bait could be salmon eggs, whole kernel corn, marshmallows or commercially available trout bait. Be sure to bring a cooler or stringer if you're going to keep your fish. There is one special rule: Youths under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. And all participating adults must have at least one kid with them.



Lake Conroe is one of the top Toyota ShareLunker largemouth bass fishing lakes in the state. Above, Maggie Flecknoe with WB39 in Houston interviews angler Jeff Kriet of Ardmore, OK, for the 2017 Bassmaster Classic on March 24, 2017.



This destination, sporting 20,118 acres of water, is one of the closest fishing spots to Houston, a little over an hour's drive north on Interstate 45 to FM 1375 west at its farthest destination.

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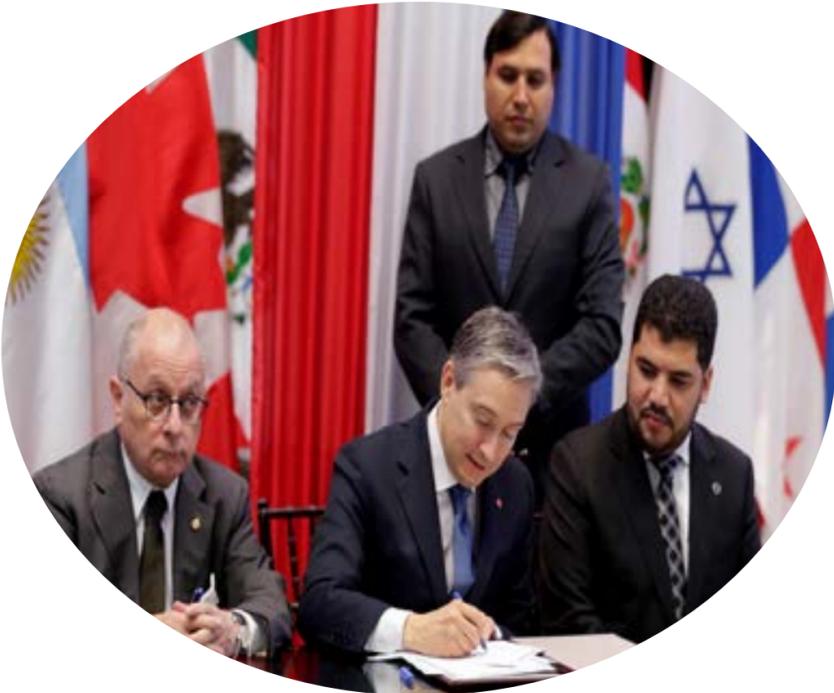
# A Snapshot Of The World



Jeff Mitchell marks information on slabs of steel after they arrive at the Novolipetsk Steel PAO steel mill in Farrell



A packaged steel coil is lowered into place by an overhead crane at the Novolipetsk Steel PAO steel mill in Farrell



Canadian Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne signs a document as Argentinian Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie looks on as during a meeting in Asuncion



Rinrada Thurapan of Thailand holds a trophy after winning second runner-up during the final show of the Miss International Queen 2018 transgender beauty pageant in Pattaya



Contestant Juana Paing of Myanmar prepares backstage before the final show of the Miss International Queen 2018 transgender beauty pageant in Pattaya



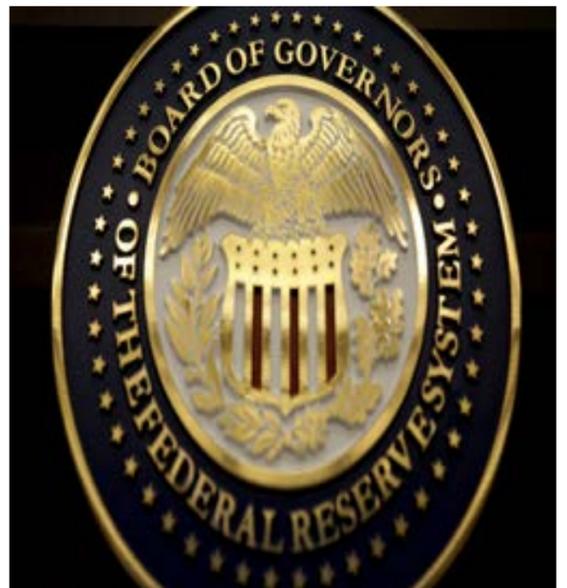
White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders takes questions during a daily briefing at the White House in Washington



FILE PHOTO: The ticker and trading information for Blackstone Group is displayed at the post where it is traded on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange



Contestant Dinda Syarif of Indonesia prepares backstage before the final show of the Miss International Queen 2018 transgender beauty pageant in Pattaya



FILE PHOTO: The seal for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington

Houston and Harris County with the fourth most-populous city in the U.S. will decriminalize low-level marijuana possession...

The policy, which takes effect March 1, 2018, means in most circumstances there will be no jail, no tickets, no court appearances...

More than two dozen U.S. states have legalized some form of marijuana for medical or recreational use, but the drug remains illegal at the federal level and in Texas.

The new "Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program" for Harris County applies to people 17 and older facing no additional charges other than misdemeanor marijuana possession...

"Harris County has spent more than \$200 million in the past decade on more than 100,000 cases of misdemeanor marijuana possession," District Attorney Kim Ogg, a Democrat who took office this year, said in a statement.

Officials look at a graph describing the estimated \$26 million Harris County spends on low-level marijuana enforcement every year as district attorney Kim Ogg, not pictured, announced a new policy to decriminalize some possession of marijuana Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017 in Houston.

The new policy means that most misdemeanor offenders with less than four ounces of marijuana will not be arrested, ticketed or required to appear in court if they agree to take a four-hour drug education class.

She added that the effort "has deprived neighborhoods of officers' time that could be spent patrolling communities; jail beds that could be used for violent criminals..."

The Texas Attorney General's office could not immediately be reached for comment.

The move is also aimed at preventing people from being denied education, employment and housing opportunities due to having a criminal record for marijuana possession.

A main provision is for those caught with low-level possession to complete a four-hour course on decision-making at a cost of \$150, which will be waived for the indigent.

The county and Houston will give police officers discretion to bring criminal charges. Individuals under court supervision through bond, probation, or deferred adjudication are not eligible since they have agreements not to violate

No More Arrests For Marijuana Possession In Harris County, Texas Starting March 1st

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



the law, the county and city said.



Harris County district attorney Kim Ogg announces a new policy to decriminalize low-level possession of marijuana Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017 in Houston.

Ogg said the move falls under the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures that says it is the duty of a district attorney "not to convict, but to see that justice is done."

Related

New policy to decriminalize marijuana in Harris County will save time, money, DA's office says

Houston and Harris County are poised to decriminalize low-level possession of marijuana in a sweeping move that puts the area at the forefront of efforts in Texas to halt minor drug arrests that clog jails and courts.



Mayor Sylvester Turner (center at podium) with District Attorney Kim Ogg to his right, announces the city's new marijuana policy set to begin March 1.

District Attorney Kim Ogg announced the new

policy Thursday with Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. Ogg said the county has spent \$25 million a year for the past 10 years locking up people for having less than 4 ounces of marijuana.

"We have spent in excess of \$250 million, over a quarter-billion dollars, prosecuting a crime that has produced no tangible evidence of improved public safety," she said.

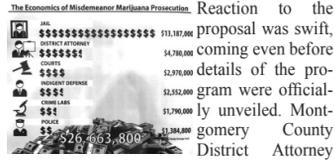
Officials have said it could divert an estimated 12,000 people a year out of the criminal justice system and would save officers hours of processing time now spent on low-level cases.

Since there is no arrest, there is no arrest record. Since there is no court date, there are no court documents connected to the encounter.

"You do not get charged with anything," Assistant District Attorney David Mitcham, who heads the DA's trial bureau, said Wednesday.

Every Harris County law enforcement agency would be affected, since they rely on the district attorney's office to prosecute their cases.

Ogg, a Democrat who beat incumbent Republican District Attorney Devon Anderson in the November general election, campaigned as a reform candidate who pledged to reduce arrests for low-level drug offenses.



Reaction to the proposal was swift, coming even before details of the program were officially unveiled. Montgomery County District Attorney Brett Ligon sharply criticized the proposal, saying Ogg was trying to legalize marijuana.

"Law enforcement should focus on protecting our communities instead of wasting their resources arresting people and ruining their lives over a misdemeanor amount of cannabis," the organization said in a press release.



Harris County district attorney Kim Ogg, left, shakes hands with Houston police chief Art Acevedo after she announced a new policy to decriminalize low-level possession of marijuana Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017 in Houston.

At the sheriff's office, the new policy will save up to 12 hours of processing time per month for as many as 1,000 suspects, a move that will ease the workload on administrators and jailers who transfer and process inmates, officials said.

Sullivan said the move would likely not affect the jail population significantly, since most misdemeanor marijuana offenders move quickly in and out of jail.

Elected district attorneys are given wide latitude in their discretion about how to enforce laws in their jurisdictions. Diversion programs,

such as drug courts, have been widely used across Texas, and Austin has launched a "cite and release" program in which low-level drug offenders are given tickets and required to appear in court.



Harris County district attorney Kim Ogg, left, shakes hands with Houston city council member Michael Kubosh, right, after she announced a new policy to decriminalize low-level possession of marijuana Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017 in Houston.

Under the new local program, police would identify a suspect to make sure they do not have warrants or other legal issues, then would offer them the option of taking the drug education class.

The new program will keep police on the streets longer each day and reduce costs for lab testing of the drugs, Mitcham said.

Shortly after taking HPD's top post in December, Acevedo — who previously was chief in Austin — voiced similar sentiments about low-level drug cases, saying police should go after drug dealers rather than users.

"For those that are involved in the violence of the drug trade, that's who I want to focus on," he said in December. "I want to focus on the people that are the big movers and shakers that are poisoning young people."

"We don't want people to go through an arrest, and all that entails, over simple possession of marijuana," he said. "We don't want the cops spending the hours it takes to book somebody into jail while the burglars conduct their business because there's no cop on the beat."

Part of Ogg's platform was adopted by Anderson, who created a diversion program in 2014. Under Anderson's plan, only first offenders were eligible to take the diversion program and could take it only once.

Under that plan, they were arrested, jailed, had to arrange bail and come to court to apply for a year-long probation.

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SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Eleven countries will sign a landmark Asia-Pacific trade agreement without the United States in Santiago on Thursday in what one minister called a powerful signal against protectionism and trade wars.

The signing ceremony comes the day after Europe and the International Monetary Fund urged U.S. President Donald Trump to step back from the brink of a trade war focused on steel and aluminum imports.

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will reduce tariffs in countries that together amount to more than 13 percent of the global economy - a total of \$10 trillion. With the United States, it would have represented 40 percent.

Heraldo Munoz, Chile's minister of foreign affairs, told a news conference the agreement was a strong signal "against protectionist pressures, in favor of a world open to trade, without unilateral sanctions and without the threat of trade wars."

"We will be giving a very powerful signal," he said after giving a joint statement with counterparts from Canada and New Zealand.



Even without the United States, the deal will span a market of nearly 500 million people, making it one of the globe's three largest trade agreements, according to Chilean and Canadian trade statistics.

The original 12-member agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), was thrown into limbo early last year when Trump withdrew from the deal just three days after his inauguration in a bid to protect U.S. jobs.

The 11 remaining nations, led by Japan and Canada, finalized a revised trade pact in January. It will enter force when at least six member nations have completed domestic procedures to ratify the agreement.

The revised TPP agreement, to be signed at 3 p.m. (1800 GMT) Thursday, eliminates some requirements of the original TPP demanded by U.S. negotiators. Those include rules ramping up intellectual property protection of pharmaceuticals, which governments and activists of other member nations

'TPP-11' Countries To Sign Landmark Trade Agreement Against Trade Wars

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



Trade ministers and delegates from the remaining members of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) attend the TPP Ministerial Meeting during the APEC 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam November 9, 2017. (REUTERS File Photo)

worried would raise the costs of medicine. The final version of the agreement was released in New Zealand on Feb. 21. The member countries are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico,



New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. "We're proud ...to show the world that progressive trade is the way forward, that fair, balanced, and principled trade is the way forward, and that putting citizens first is the way forward for the world when it comes to trade," Canadian Trade Minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne said.

In January, Trump, who also has threatened to dump the North American Free Trade Agreement, told the World Economic Forum in Switzerland that it was possible Washington might return to the TPP pact if it gets a better deal. However, New Zealand's trade minister said that was unlikely in the near term, while Japan has said altering the agreement now would be very difficult.

Trump promised on Thursday to show flexibility and cooperation toward "real friends" as he prepared to propose import tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said earlier on Thursday he was confident his country's close relationship with the United States will protect it from the tariffs. (Courtesy Reuters.com)

Related

Trump sticks to tariff level pledge as Mexico, Canada reject pressure

WASHINGTON/SANTIAGO (Reuters) - President Donald Trump was set to press ahead with the imposition of 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminum, although he said on Thursday he was willing to strike a deal that could exempt Canada and Mexico.

Trump has offered relief from steel and aluminum tariffs to countries that "treat us fairly on trade," a gesture aimed at putting pressure on Canada and Mexico to give ground



in separate talks on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which appear to be stalled.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a joint news conference with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven in the White House East Room in Washington, U.S. March 6, 2018. (Photo/REUTERS)

Mexico rejected the linkage to NAFTA in-

bust terms on Thursday. Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo told Reuters, "Under no circumstance will we be subject to any type of pressure." Canadian Trade Minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne told Reuters his country would not accept any duties or quotas from the United States.

Trump's unexpected announcement of the tariffs last week roiled stock markets as it raised the prospect of an escalating global trade war. He appeared to have conceded some ground after a campaign by legislators from his own Republican party, industry groups and America's allies abroad.

"I'm sticking with 10 and 25 (percent) initially. I'll have a right to go up or down, depending on the country, and I'll have a right to drop out countries or add countries," the president told reporters at the beginning of a Cabinet meeting at the White House.

Trump was due to announce the duties at 3.30 p.m. ET (2030 GMT), although the range of potential exemptions for allies and for industries has made the final outcome unpredictable.

The president said he was pleased with progress in the NAFTA talks, although he repeated that he would be willing to terminate the



agreement. The talks were launched after Trump took office last year saying that if the pact was not negotiated to better serve American interests, Washington would leave.

President Trump has offered relief from steel and aluminum tariffs to countries that "treat us fairly on trade."

Many observers take a dimmer view of six-month-old talks, saying little progress has been made and the negotiations are stalled over issues such as autos. Car manufacturing's contribution to the U.S., Mexican and Canadian economies far outweighs that of steel and aluminum production.

In addition to possible exemptions to the steel and aluminum tariffs, there could be a consultation period that would lead to intense lobbying by industry and a growing group of disgruntled Republican lawmakers. Several major trading partners have said they will respond to the tariffs with direct action.

"If Donald Trump puts in place the measures

this evening, we have a whole arsenal at our disposal with which to respond." European Financial Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said.

Countermeasures would include European tariffs on U.S. oranges, tobacco and bourbon, he said. Harley Davidson Inc motorcycles have also been mentioned, targeting House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan's home state of Wisconsin.

Peanut butter, cranberries and Harley-Davidson motorcycles under threat in trade war

As President Donald Trump reportedly prepares to implement tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, trading partners are publicly speculating about their retaliatory measures.

HOW TARGETED TARIFFS COULD HURT THE US



European leaders have listed off a host of American products that may be subject to tariffs in the wake of Trump's move, and experts have read between the lines to see some political messages that are being sent with those warning shots. Cranberries and peanut butter could very well become weapons in a possible global trade war.

The final list has not been set or publicly disclosed, but European Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said that it would include certain types of bourbon, cranberries, peanut butter, and orange juice.

She also said that it would include unspecified steel products, industrial products, and agricultural products. Last week, Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, also said that Harley-Davidson motorcycles and Levi's jeans could be on the list.

"This will be the strategy of all the affected countries -- to try to make threats that will generate huge political pressure on the administration. And we have seen that pressure growing hugely just over the past week," Edward Alden, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations specializing in international trade, told ABC News. (Courtesy http://abcnews.go.com/Politics)

Beijing, which until now had kept largely silent on the issue, sharpened its rhetoric significantly. One lever that China has is U.S. agricultural exports and it has said in the past that it could target soybeans.

"Especially given today's globalization, choosing a trade war is a mistaken prescription. The outcome will only be harmful," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on the sidelines of an annual meeting of China's parliament. "China would have to make a justified and necessary response." (Courtesy https://www.reuters.com/article)

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瀚歲文才學校 最佳幼教、文理、才藝、游泳、球類、綜合學校專業教學 20 餘年豐富經驗 持政府執照學費可抵稅 休士頓華人唯一一買地自建最大民營連鎖綜合學校附設: 游泳池、體育館、舞蹈室、會議室、繪畫室、鋼琴房、電腦室、圖書館、Playground、學校標準格局寬敞安全 57,000 呎, 全新設備、政府培訓一流師資、勤教嚴管、品質保證、學費合理, 課超所值。 KATY 周六中文學校特設 2 歲-4 歲幼兒班和 5 歲-12 年級實班 採用馬立平漢拼簡體字課本教學, 珠心算數學, 繪畫, GT 英語, 老外學中文, 鋼琴, 舞蹈, 籃球, 乒乓球, 西洋棋 珠心算實班及數學高分保證班 (5 歲-G8) 梁楚宜校長親授珠心算(加、減、乘、除)技巧, 啟發智慧, 增強記憶力, 配合應用數學分析演算, 訓練思考邏輯及計算能力的快又準, 使學習過程不在害怕, 而是充滿自信, 質量控管限定 70 位。 糖城、凱蒂唯一蒙特梭利雙語學校 (1 歲半-5 歲) 由 Montessori 專業執照經驗教師分級小班教學, 獨特教材及教具訓練手部肌肉, 使幼兒反應靈活強化自信心及群體生活能力, 提昇日後認真學習、閱讀書寫能力及情緒穩定。 天天密集中文教學建立識字背誦好根基, 供午餐及早晚點心。 課後輔導班 After School (PreK-9 年級) 校車接送, 完成作業, 每日密集分級中文(漢拼簡體)教學, 英數加強、題詞訓練、提供點心, 定期和家長聯繫。 暑期國內外來美遊學營 (5 歲-14 歲) 安排知(感)性參觀從活動中潛移默化的認識美國生活文化、遠程旅遊。 國際熱愛大自然促進會 教導學生大自然快樂操、歡喜歌以達和諧的身心教育。 暑期游泳訓練密集班 (瀚歲校內標準游泳池) 專業教練教授呼吸划水、滾翻轉身、蹬腿出發、自由泳、仰泳、蛙泳、蝶泳。 繪畫基礎、中級、高級班 (5 歲以上) 由三位專業老師教授各種繪畫技巧、物像遠近大小比率、色彩調配、及不同筆具和材料之使用, 含素描、彩色鉛筆、蠟筆、馬克筆、炭、墨汁、水彩、油彩、粉彩、膠彩并定期畫展。 籃球 & 乒乓球 1 on 1 或 5-12 歲 控球/運球/投籃/傳球/接傳/防守/進攻/團隊戰略/體能彈跳。 孔子學院國家漢語授課漢語考試中心 (HSK) 漢語水平考試、(YCT) 中小學生漢語考試, 請上網查詢報名: www.chinesetest.cn