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Champion steer sells for \$410,000 at Rodeo auction



Inside C5

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Sunday, March 18, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Former FBI No.2 McCabe fired; claims he is being targeted

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired the FBI's former No. 2 official Andrew McCabe on Friday, prompting McCabe to say he is being targeted because he is a crucial witness into whether President Donald Trump tried to obstruct the Russia investigation. Sessions, in a statement on Friday, said he felt justified in firing McCabe after the Justice Department's internal watchdog found he leaked information to reporters and misled investigators about his actions. "The FBI expects every employee to adhere to the highest standards of honesty, integrity and accountability," Sessions said. But McCabe, who played a crucial role in the bureau's investigations of Hillary Clinton and Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election, denied those claims and said he is facing retaliation by the Trump administration. In a lengthy statement, McCabe said he believes he is being politically targeted because he corroborated former FBI Director James Comey's claims that Trump tried to pressure him into killing the Russia probe. McCabe generally kept detailed notes about his interactions with the president, a source familiar with the matter said. Trump ousted Comey last year and acknowledged in a televised interview that he fired Comey over "this Russia thing." McCabe's dismissal came two days before his 50th birthday, when he would have been eligible to retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation with his full pension. The firing - nine months after Trump fired Comey - puts

McCabe's pension in jeopardy. It also is likely to raise questions about whether McCabe received an overly harsh punishment due to political pressure by the Republican president, who has blasted McCabe on Twitter and called for his ouster. Comey's firing paved the way for Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to tap Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is now leading the investigation into possible collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia. Trump has denied there was any collusion. "I am being singled out and treated this way because of the role I played, the actions I took, and the events I witnessed in the aftermath of the firing of James Comey," McCabe said in his statement. "This attack on my credibility is one part of a larger effort ... to taint the FBI, law enforcement, and intelligence professionals more generally." Trump posted a message on his twitter account early Saturday, praising the action and blasting both McCabe and Comey. Trump wrote, "Andrew McCabe FIRED, a great day for the hard working men and women of the FBI - A great day for Democracy. Sanctimonious James Comey was



FILE PHOTO: FBI Deputy Director McCabe pauses while testifying before a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act on Capitol Hill in Washington

his boss and made McCabe look like a choirboy. He knew all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI!" McCabe had stepped down from his position as FBI deputy director in January but remained on leave pending retirement. His departure was triggered by a critical report from the Justice Department's inspector general that eventually led the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility to recommend he be fired. The report, which has yet to be made public, says McCabe misled investigators about his communications with a former Wall Street Journal reporter who was writing about McCabe's role in probes tied to Clinton, including an investigation of the Clinton family's charitable foundation. In his statement, McCabe denied ever misleading investigators. He added that the release of the inspector general's report was "accelerated" after he testified behind closed doors before the U.S. House Intelligence Committee where he revealed he could back up Comey's claims. Comey's firing has become central to questions about whether Trump unlawfully sought to obstruct the Russia investigation. McCabe could potentially be a crucial witness in Mueller's investigation. Trump and other Republicans have accused McCabe, a lifelong Republican who worked at the FBI for more than 20

years, of political bias and conflicts in connection with his oversight of investigations related to Clinton. Some of that criticism stemmed from the fact that his wife, Jill McCabe, a Democrat, received donations for her unsuccessful 2015 Virginia state Senate campaign from Terry McAuliffe, who was then the state's governor and an ally of the Clintons. McCabe did not start overseeing the investigations until after his wife's campaign ended, the FBI has said, and therefore did not have a conflict of interest. On Twitter last year, Trump questioned why McCabe was allowed to oversee an investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server while his wife received donations from "Clinton puppets." He said McCabe was "racing the clock to retire with full benefits." Behind closed doors, Trump also asked McCabe who he voted for in the presidential election and referred to his wife as a loser, according to a source familiar with the matter. McCabe initially did not respond to Trump's question but later told Trump he did not vote in 2016. Asked about this in January, Trump said he did not recall asking McCabe whom he voted for. The inspector general's report is largely focused on how McCabe answered questions about whether he leaked to the press in advance of a story that was critical of his oversight into the Clinton foundation investigation.

U.S. probes air bag failures in deadly Hyundai, Kia car crashes

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Saturday it is opening a probe into why some air bags failed to deploy in Hyundai and Kia vehicles after crashes in which four people were reportedly killed and another six injured. Hyundai Motor Co issued a recall last month for 154,753 U.S. Sonatas after non-deployment reports were linked to electrical overstress in the air bag control unit, but said it did not have a final fix yet. Hyundai spokesman Jim Trainor said the South Korean automaker is aware of reports of two deaths in its vehicles, which he said occurred in head-on collisions at extremely high rates of speed. Trainor said the automaker is working with NHTSA in the investigation, and that it has not seen any issues with any vehicle apart from the 2011 Sonata. "We are working on getting the fix as fast we can," Trainor said. NHTSA, which announced the start of the probe in documents posted on a government

website, said it was aware of six crashes in which six people were injured when air bags failed to deploy in frontal crashes, including four in 2011 Hyundai Sonatas and two in 2012 and 2013 Kia Fortes. The 2013 Forte crash occurred in Canada. A car with the Kia logo is seen on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., January 16, 2018. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst The agency said the air bag control module was built by ZF Friedrichshafen-TRW, a German auto supplier that acquired TRW Automotive Holdings Corp in 2015. A ZF spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Saturday. NHTSA said it believed that the 2012-2013 Forte cars also use similar air bag control units supplied by ZF-TRW. Kia Motors Corp said in a statement it has "carefully monitored the quality and safety performance of the 2012-2013 Kia Forte."

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限時特惠

Champion steer sells for \$410,000 at Rodeo auction

By Todd Ackerman

Loki, the Charolais steer selected as this year's Grand Champion Junior Market Steer, fetched \$410,000 at the auction Saturday afternoon at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Cameron Conkle from Allen raised the winning steer, earning the 17-year-old a prize of at least \$75,000. "It is hard to explain how I'm feeling, I'm just so choked up," Cameron said after Loki won the top prize late Friday. "The long days at the barn paid off."

Last year's Grand Champion steer sold for \$345,000. The record of \$600,001 was set in 2002.

The second-place pick, a Black Cross steer, went for a record \$366,000 at Saturday's auction. The Reserve Grand Champion was raised by Jett Hale, a 10-year-old from Miami, Texas.



Cameron Conkle, of Allen, raised the with the Allen FFA with his Grand Champion Charolais during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at NRG Stadium, Friday, March 16, 2018, in Houston.

Houston-area student artwork wins big at RodeoHouston

No trip to RodeoHouston is complete without a stop to see the intricate works of art on display from Houston-area students.

Two students from Pasadena and Katy rose to the top of the rodeo's school art competition this year, selling their paintings for a total of \$375,000.

Emilio Recio, 18, of Pasadena ISD, sold his grand champion painting, "By Dawn's Early Light," for \$225,000 to Mary and Ken Hutcherson, Kristina and Paul Somervill, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre and Lynda and Jim Winne, in honor of

Mimi and Tom Dompier.

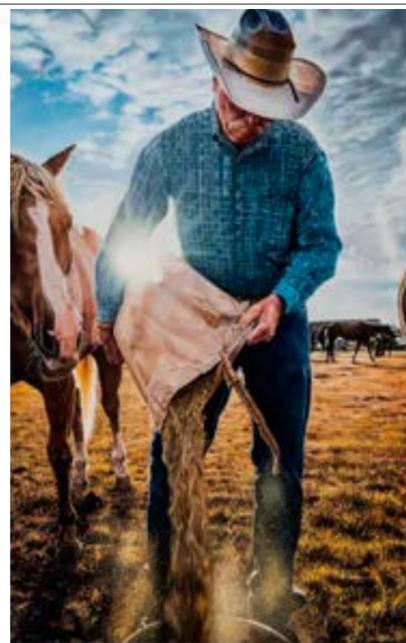
Janice Khang, 18, of Katy ISD, sold her reserve grand champion painting, "Horsing Around," for \$150,000 to Sharon and George Buschardt, Cheryl and Gary Deitcher, The Inn at Dos Brisas, Dr. Kelly Larkin and Fernando Para.

Class champion and reserve class champion awards were also given for works of art in colored drawing, mixed media, monochromatic drawing, painting and 3-D.

Winners in junior high and elementary were each judged as one class, without separations based on the medium.



Lot #17 Colored Drawing Joseph Rogers Pasadena ISD



By Dawn's Early Light - Painting Grand Champion Emilio Recio, Pasadena ISD

Houston Yellow Page is published by Southern News Group

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A Snapshot Of The World



Rally in reaction to the murder of Slovak investigative reporter Jan Kuciak is held in Bratislava



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



FILE PHOTO: A cup of coffee rests on a counter at a Starbucks coffeehouse in Austin, Texas



Television personality and drag queen RuPaul touches his star after it was unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles



Fan Sanchez waits for the unveiling for the star of television personality and drag queen RuPaul on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles



Outgoing White House Communications Director Hope Hicks departs the West Wing at the White House in Washington



The logo of Gulf Oil petrol station is pictured in the municipality of Guadalupe



Aerosuperbatics Wingwalkers perform during the start of the 22nd Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta in Clark



Fans wait for the unveiling for the star of for television personality and drag queen RuPaul on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles



2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan

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

Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas) 4. Rate: USD 800 (per person), including ground transportation to/from Taoyuan International Airport (TPE), 7-night double occupancy room, 2-meal during weekdays (breakfast and lunch), 15-hour Mandarin Classes divided into Children and Adult. A total of 5-cultural field trips will be arranged during weekday afternoon.

- 7. Application Deadline: April 30, 2018
8. Application Package: (1) Application form with photo (per person) (2) Check of USD 800 (per person) for camp fee (flight ticket not included), please make payable to Education Division, TECO in Houston (3) Flight information
9. Please submit the application package to: 2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan Education Division Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston
11. Greenway Plaza, Suite 2012 Houston, TX 77046
10. Information will be sent to applicants by email upon acceptance into the program.

Elissa Chung Education Division Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston Email: houcul@houstonscul.org



The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston and Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University offering a 2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan.

The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston and Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University are excited to offer a 2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan! Designed to promote Chinese-language learning, this summer camp offers elementary and middle school students in the Southern USA a chance to learn in a fun and effective way.

Overview

- Camp Information: 1. Duration: June 3 - June 10, 2018 (7-Night stay) 2. Location: Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University, Taiwan 3. Eligibility: Students ages 7-14 from the service area of the Education Division of TECO in Houston. (Arkansas,

Taiwan. 6. Calendar:

Calendar table showing dates from Jun 3 to Jun 10 with activities like Airport pickup, Breakfast, Mandarin Classes, Lunch, and Free Time.

Le Colonial advertisement for a dinner event on March 21, 2018, featuring international focus magazines and complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

eSoon Travel advertisement for various travel packages including Alaska, Hawaii, and Europe tours.

千里行旅遊 advertisement for travel services, including tours to the US, Europe, and Asia.

快捷旅遊 advertisement for travel services, including tours to Japan, Beijing, and other international destinations.

六福旅行社 USA Gateway advertisement listing travel agencies in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and Oklahoma.

Travel deals advertisement listing various tour packages such as Beijing 5 days, Vietnam 5 days, and Alaska 5 or 7 days.

明星假期 Majestic Vacations advertisement with contact information and website.

幸福新邨公寓 advertisement for a residential complex, listing amenities and contact details.

百樂公寓 BELLAIRE SILK advertisement for a residential complex, listing amenities and contact details.

華人商家刊登廣告 advertisement for business listings, featuring the 'Southern Chinese Daily News' and 'Yellow Page'.

李元鐘保險 advertisement for John Lee Insurance, listing services like auto, home, and life insurance.



China Is The World's Biggest Foreign Holder Of U.S. Treasuries

China May Halt Purchases Of U.S. Treasuries

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

Chinese officials have recommended slowing or halting purchases of U.S. Treasuries.

China added to bond investors' jitters this past Wednesday as traders braced for what they feared could be the end of a three-decade bull market.

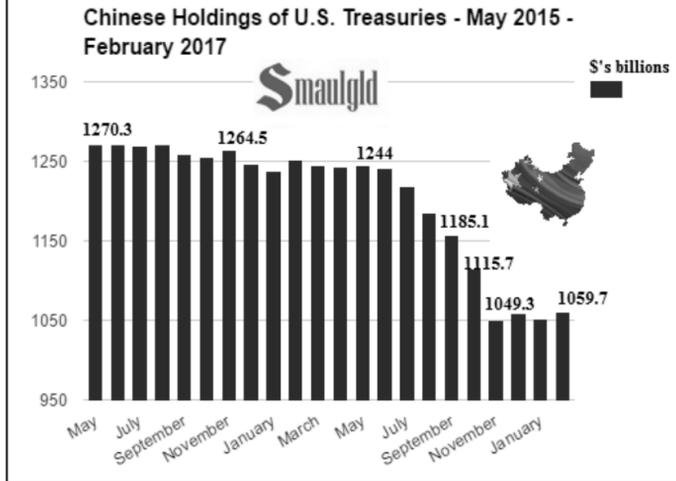
Officials in Beijing reviewing the nation's foreign-exchange holdings have recommended slowing or halting purchases of U.S. Treasuries, according to people familiar with the matter. Benchmark bonds reversed earlier gains on the news, with the yield on 10-year Treasuries climbing for a fifth day.

China's foreign-exchange reserves of \$3.1 trillion are the world's largest, though it wasn't clear whether the recommendations have been adopted. The market for U.S. government bonds is becoming less attractive relative to other assets, and trade tensions with the U.S. may provide a reason to slow or stop buying American debt, the thinking of these officials goes, according to the people, who asked not to be named as they aren't allowed to discuss the matter publicly. China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange didn't immediately reply to a fax seeking comment on the matter.



"With markets already dealing with supply indigestion, headlines regarding potentially lower Chinese demand for Treasuries are renewing bearish dynamics," said Michael Leister, a strategist at Commerzbank AG. "Today's headlines will underscore concerns that the fading global quantitative-easing bid will trigger lasting upside pressure on developed-market yields."

The Chinese officials didn't specify why trade tensions would spur a cutback in Treasuries purchases, though foreign holdings of U.S. securities have sometimes been a geopolitical football in the past. The strategies discussed in the review don't concern daily



purchases and sales, said the people. The officials recommended that the nation closely watch factors such as the outlook for supply of U.S. government debt, along with political developments including trade disputes between the world's two biggest economies when deciding whether to cut some Treasury holdings, the people said.

The yield on 10-year Treasuries was four basis points higher at 2.59 percent as of 12:16 p.m. in London, reversing a decline to 2.54 percent earlier Wednesday. The rate on comparable bonds was one basis point higher at 0.53 percent.

Any reduction in Chinese purchases would come just as the U.S. prepares to boost its supply of debt. The Treasury Department said in its most recent quarterly refunding announcement in November that borrowing needs will increase as the Federal Reserve reduces its balance sheet and as fiscal deficits look set to widen.

"It's a complicated chess game as with everything the Chinese do," said Charles Wyplosz, a professor of international economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. "For years they have been bothered by the fact that they are so heavily invested in one particular class of U.S. bonds, so it's just a question of time before they would try to diversify."

Some investors said that the market could take the China news in its stride considering the nation's net purchases of Treasuries have already slowed "significantly."

"If China ceases to be a net purchaser of U.S. Treasuries, this is unlikely to have a signif-

icant impact on the overall yield curve unless China divests a large share of its total holdings in a short time period," said Rajiv Biswas, Singapore-based chief Asia-Pacific economist at IHS Markit.

Yields were already climbing this week amid expectations the improving global economy will boost inflation pressures round the world, just as major central banks scale back their asset purchases.

Markets are also braced for a deluge of debt supply this week. The U.S. is scheduled to reopen \$20 billion of 10-year debt later today, followed by \$12 billion of 30-year bonds on Thursday. Germany sold 4.03 billion euros of 0.5 percent 10-year bonds on Wednesday with syndications in Italy and Portugal to follow. (Courtesy <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles>)

Related
U.S. yields rise after China officials said to slow purchases
Traders weigh impact for equities; crude extends gains
Treasuries, Stocks Slump on China as Dollar Falls: Markets Wrap

U.S. stocks fell, Treasury yields rose and the dollar weakened after Bloomberg reported that Chinese officials were said to be wary of American government debt, further roiling a bond market unnerved by a recent selloff. The 10-year Treasury yield rose toward 2.59 percent ahead of a note auction after senior government officials in Beijing recommended slowing or halting purchases. The news rippled through markets, with gold, euro and

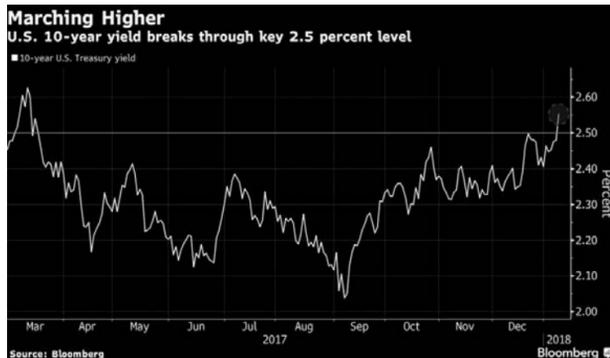


Swiss franc jumping. The S&P 500 Index headed for its first decline of the year, while European equities snapped a five-day rally. The dollar retreated against most G10 peers. West Texas oil rose past \$63 a barrel after U.S. government data showed inventories fell.

Reduced asset purchases by the world's top central banks, rising commodity prices and looming U.S. debt sales all support the case for higher bond yields, but until now they have proved resilient. The move in benchmark Treasuries -- into what bond veteran Bill Gross declared a bear market -- has left traders weighing where yields will go from here and what impact the change will have on other assets.

Billionaire bond manager Jeffrey Gundlach forecast in a year-ahead outlook webcast that the S&P 500 will end the year with a negative return after a "pretty decent run" early in the year. Others, including CLSA Ltd. CEO Jonathan Slone, argued equity markets have enough momentum to keep rising.

In Asia, the yen climbed for a second day as traders unwound short positions in the wake of the Bank of Japan paring back purchases of ultra-long dated bonds. China's central bank weakened its daily fixing on the yuan by the most since September, one day after a report showed it has adjusted its currency-fixing mechanism, a move interpreted as an embrace of greater fluctuation in the exchange rate. (Courtesy <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles>)



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Houston Travel Guide

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