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Oil slides to lowest in a month as U.S. drillers boost output

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Inside C2

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## America's poor becoming more destitute under Trump: U.N. expert

GENEVA (Reuters) - Poverty in the United States is extensive and deepening under the Trump administration whose policies seem aimed at removing the safety net from millions of poor people, while rewarding the rich, a U.N. human rights investigator has found.

Philip Alston, U.N. special rapporteur on extreme poverty, called on U.S. authorities to provide solid social protection and address underlying problems, rather than "punishing and imprisoning the poor".

While welfare benefits and access to health insurance are being slashed, President Donald Trump's tax reform has awarded "financial windfalls" to the mega-rich and large companies, further increasing inequality, he said in a report.

U.S. policies since President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty in the 1960s have been "neglectful at best," he said.

"But the policies pursued over the past year seem deliberately designed to remove basic protections from the poorest, punish those who are not in employment and make even basic health care into a privilege to be earned rather than a right of citizenship," Alston said.

Almost 41 million people or 12.7 percent live in poverty, 18.5 million in extreme poverty, and children account for one in three poor, he said. The United States has the highest youth poverty rate among industrialized countries, he added.

"Its citizens live shorter and sicker lives compared to those living in all other rich democracies, eradicable tropical diseases are increasingly prevalent and it has the world's highest incarceration rate ... and the highest obesity levels in the developed world," Alston said.



People walk around the neighboring streets around the Fred Jordan Mission, in Los Angeles

However, the data from the U.S. Census Bureau he cited covers only the period through 2016, and he gave no comparative figures on the extent of poverty before and after Trump came into office in January 2017.

The Australian, a veteran U.N. rights expert and New York University law professor, will present his report to the United Nations Human Rights Council later this month.

It is based on his mission in December to several U.S. states, including rural Alabama, a slum in downtown Los Angeles, California, and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. A U.S. official in Geneva, asked for comment, told Reuters: "The Trump Administration has made it a priority to provide economic opportunity for all Americans."

## The price for lunch with Warren Buffett: \$3,300,100

(Reuters) - An anonymous bidder has agreed to pay \$3,300,100 at auction to have a private lunch with Warren Buffett, the billionaire chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

The winning bid came near the end of a five-day online auction on eBay to benefit the Glide Foundation, a San Francisco charity that serves people who are poor, homeless or battling substance abuse.

It was the third highest price in the 19 years Buffett has offered lunch, near the record \$3,456,789 bid in both the 2012 and 2016 auctions. This year's auction drew 136 bids from just six bidders before ending on Friday night.

The auction helps cover Glide's \$20 million annual budget, which goes toward providing roughly 750,000 free meals, shelter, HIV and Hepatitis C tests, job training, and children's day care and after-school programs.

"Glide really takes people who have hit rock bottom and helps bring them back," Buffett said in a statement.

Buffett, 87, has raised \$29.6 million for Glide through the 19 auctions.

His first wife Susan, who died in 2004, introduced him to Glide after volunteering there. The Reverend Cecil Williams, 88, Glide's charismatic co-founder, remains a minister at its affiliated church.

"The \$3.3 million is an extraordinary gift, not

just the money but the fact that Warren Buffett lends his name and reputation and shines a light on the work Glide does," Glide's president, Karen Hanrahan, said by phone. "Demand for our services is skyrocketing, in this city of innovation and wealth."

The winning bidder and up to seven friends can dine with Buffett at the Smith & Wollensky steak house in Manhattan.

Buffett will discuss anything apart from what he might invest in next.

Ted Weschler, a hedge fund manager, paid a combined \$5.25 million to win the 2010 and 2011 auctions, and later joined Berkshire as one of Buffett's investment managers. Berkshire has more than 90 businesses in the insurance, energy, food and retail, industrial, railroad, real estate and other sectors, and also invests in companies such as Apple Inc, Wells Fargo & Co and Coca-Cola Co.

According to Glide, these bidders have won its auctions:

- 2000: Pete Budlong, \$25,000
- 2001: Jim Halperin and Scott Tilson, \$20,000
- 2002: Jim Halperin and Scott Tilson, \$25,000
- 2003: David Einhorn, Greenlight Capital, \$250,100
- 2004: Jason Choo, Singapore, \$202,100
- 2005: Anonymous, \$351,100
- 2006: Yongping Duan, California, \$620,100
- 2007: Mohnish Pabrai, Guy Spier, Harina Kapoor, \$650,100
- 2008: Zhao Danyang, Pure Heart Asset Management,

- China, \$2,110,100
- 2009: Courtenay Wolfe, Salida Capital, Canada, \$1,680,300
- 2010: Ted Weschler, \$2,626,311
- 2011: Ted Weschler, \$2,626,411
- 2012: Anonymous, \$3,456,789
- 2013: Anonymous, \$1,000,100
- 2014: Andy Chua, Singapore, \$2,166,766
- 2015: Zhu Ye, Dalian Zeus Entertainment Co, China, \$2,345,678
- 2016: Anonymous, \$3,456,789
- 2017: Anonymous, \$2,679,001
- 2018: Anonymous, \$3,300,100 "If during the Clinton or Obama



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## Oil slides to lowest in a month as U.S. drillers boost output

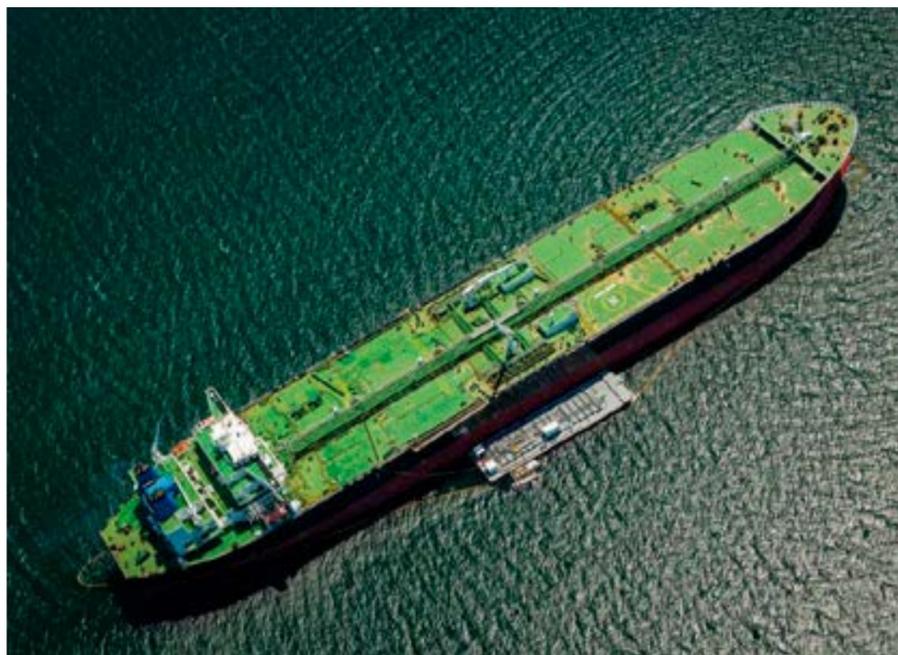
Tsuyoshi Inajima and Alex

Oil dropped to the lowest level in more than a month amid surging U.S. output and signs that OPEC and Russia may ease production limits. Futures in New York lost 3.1 percent this week, while the global benchmark traded in London ended the week 0.5 percent higher. Unprecedented U.S. production and transportation bottlenecks at the biggest American oil field are weighing on West Texas Intermediate crude. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Russia are indicating they may push more supplies onto global markets.

“When you look at the production we’ve had in the U.S., it continues to ramp up and you end up having some capacity constraints with the pipelines,” said Mark Watkins, who helps oversee \$151 billion at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. “Overseas, as people are wanting our cheaper oil, we’ve got to get it to port cities to ship that off and there’s not a quick fix for this.”

Saudi Arabia and Russia said last week that they are considering raising production, yet there are questions as to whether other nations will be on board with the proposal. Russia’s largest oil company, Rosneft PJSC, is testing its capacity to bring back production it cut under the OPEC-led accord, Renaissance Capital said. WTI for July settlement slid \$1.23 to close at \$65.81 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent for August dropped 77 cents to end the session at \$76.79 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. The global benchmark is at a \$11.02 premium to WTI for the same month.

In the U.S., crude production jumped to another record high, according to Energy Information Administration data released on Thursday. The oil rig count in the U.S. also increased this week



The Alaskan Frontier oil tanker takes on fuel at an outside anchorage in this aerial photograph taken near the Port of Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California, U.S., on Thursday, April 19, 2018. Photographer: Tim Rue/Bloomberg

## Breeze Energy told to stop selling electricity

Breeze Energy, the Dallas retail electric company with thousands of customers in Houston, was shut down by Texas regulators after the company defaulted on its financial obligations, leaving industry analysts to speculate that the anticipation of higher wholesale electricity prices this summer may have put the retail electric provider in a financial squeeze.

The closure marks the first time in four years that state regulators have shut down a retail electricity provider.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the nonprofit group that runs the state’s power grid, notified Breeze Energy’s 9,800 customers in Texas earlier

this week that they would be shifted to other retail electricity companies. Notices went out by email.

Retail power companies retailers must put up certain amount of collateral, based on market share, to ensure payment for the electricity they buy in wholesale markets. ERCOT would not say how much Breeze Energy owed, in part to keep prices from rising too high and slowing global economic growth. The U.S. oil benchmark was hovering above \$66 a barrel Friday, while there’s a growing gap between it and the European North Sea benchmark, which is trading at about \$77 a barrel.

There are now 861 rigs drilling for oil in the U.S. with more than half of them - 477 - situated in the Permian. There are 197 gas-seeking rigs and two miscellaneous rigs, creating a total rig count of 1,060, the highest count since March 2015.

The next most active area after the Permian is South Texas’ Eagle Ford shale with 80 rigs and then Oklahoma’s Cana-Woodford shale with 76 rigs. Texas is home to 535 rigs overall - just more than half of the nation’s total - while Oklahoma is second with 142 rigs. New Mexico is next with 90 rigs.

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# Editor's Choice



Soccer Football - International Friendly - Republic of Ireland vs USA - Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland - June 2, 2018 Fans before the match Action Images via Reuters/Jason Cairnduff



2018 USA flag next to Republic of Ireland scarves outside the stadium before the match Action Images via Reuters/Jason Cairnduff



Guests arrive for the opening ceremony of the 25th Life Ball in Vienna



U.S. president Trump supporter holds a banner against MS-13 before a forum about Central American-based Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang organization at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage, New York



People sit at Souq al-Melh market during the holy fasting month of Ramadan in the Old City of Sanaa



Soccer Football - International Friendly - England vs Nigeria - Wembley Stadium, London, Britain - June 2, 2018 England fan before the match REUTERS/David Klein



Tennis - French Open - Roland Garros, Paris, France - June 2, 2018 Netherlands' Kiki Bertens in action during her third round match against Germany's Angelique Kerber REU-



Soccer Football - International Friendly - England vs Nigeria - Wembley Stadium, London, Britain - June 2, 2018 England's Ruben Loftus-Cheek in action Action Images via Reuters/Carl Recine



Yemeni customs worker walks past a ship carrying Ethiopian migrants leaving Yemen at the Red Sea port of Hodeida

HCC To Launch Challenger Learning Center

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



inary step to provide students in the area with a STEM experience that will spark a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.

new innovation corridor in Midtown and partnerships with NASA and the University of Houston to build a Mars surface habitat and other additional facilities for manned missions to Mars."

Space City with this project. This new partnership with Challenger Center is a perfect match made in the heavens."

The Challenger Center

As a leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, Challenger Center provides more than 250,000 students annually with experiential simulation-based programs that engage students in hands-on learning opportunities.

The organization offers dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities to students around the world. These programs equip students with the knowledge, confidence, and skills that will help better our national social and economic well-being.

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society.

HOUSTON [April 12, 2018] - Houston Community College is on a mission to thrill and educate young students in simulated flights to Mars, the Moon and beyond.

In February, HCC submitted a formal application to Challenger Center, headquartered in Washington D.C., to open a Challenger Learning Center at the HCC Southeast College Felix Fraga Campus.

"We are incredibly impressed with Houston Community College's vision for a seamless STEM pathway that launches students on a trajectory to higher education and 21st century skills. We share both this vision and a passion for inspiring today's youth," said Challenger Center President and CEO Lance Bush.

The Challenger Learning Center at Houston Community College will join a network of more than 40 Challenger Learning Centers around the globe. Each Center is a fully immersive experience, including a Mission Control Room and Space Station where students work with hands-on labs, conduct experiments and analyze data during a Challenger Center Mission.

in southeast Houston, offers a rigorous STEM curriculum that includes engineering, maritime logistics, drafting, math, physics and astronomy. It also has an astronomical observatory to serve students and the community.

"This will add to HCC's growing innovative educational offerings that already include participation in the city's

"HCC is proud to have been selected as the site for the newest Challenger Learning Center," said HCC Board Chair Carolyn Evans-Shabazz. "Houston put a man on the moon and now HCC is adding to Houston's heritage as



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Seven-year-old Muscular Dystrophy patient Jordan McLinn, from Indiana, is embraced by U.S. President Donald Trump during the president's signing of the "Right to Try Act," which gives terminally ill patients the right to use experimental medications not yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), at the White House in Washington, U.S., May 30, 2018.

President Donald Trump signed the controversial "right-to-try" bill into law on Wednesday, which bypasses drug regulators to give gravely ill patients access to experimental medicines.

The legislation allows patients with life-threatening conditions to ask drug-makers for medicines that have cleared some testing but still haven't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Previously, patients would need to ask the FDA for access to experimental treatments.

Trump and Vice President Mike Pence had been major supporters of passing the measure, which proponents say gives patients hope they would not otherwise have. Last week the House of Representatives approved the bill, the same version the Senate passed in August.



It allows certain patients to ask drug-makers for medicines that have passed Phase 1 of the FDA approval process but haven't been approved yet and are still undergoing testing. Patients must have exhausted other options and be

## **Bill Inspired By Indiana Boy** **Suffering With Muscular Dystrophy** **Trump Signs 'Right-To-Try' Act Allowing Gravely Ill Patients To Bypass FDA For Experimental Medicines**

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



unable to participate in a clinical trial. Drugmakers aren't obligated to give patients the requested experimental medicines.

Critics say the legislation undermines the FDA's authority to regulate drugs and could leave patients vulnerable to medicines that might not work or may even be harmful. The agency already runs an "expanded access" program where seriously ill patients can apply to gain access to experimental treatments. Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has said the agency grants 99 percent of these requests. In a statement Wednesday, Gottlieb said the FDA is ready to implement the "right-to-try" legislation.

"The FDA is dedicated to achieving the goals that Congress set forth in this legislation, so that patients facing terminal conditions have an additional avenue to access promising investigational medi-

cines," he said. While signing the bill Wednesday, Trump said he never understood why passing this bill was hard since it can take years for drugs to undergo clinical trials.

"Right to try. That's such a great name," Trump said. "Some bills, they don't have a good name. Really. But this is such a great name, from the first day I heard it. Right to try. And a lot of the trying is going to be successful. I really believe that. I really believe it." (Courtesy cnbc.com)

### Related

#### U.S. House passes 'right to try' bill inspired by Indiana boy

WASHINGTON -- President Trump signs S. 204, the "Right to Try Act" last Wednesday afternoon.

In March, the House passed legislation aimed at giving seriously ill patients increased access to investigational drugs, a bill championed by Vice President Mike Pence.



Jordan McLinn, a second grader from Indianapolis sits beside Vice President Pence. Jordan advocated in Washington for the "Right to Try" bill with Pence.

The bill would allow seriously ill patients to take experimental treatments that have not yet been approved by the FDA.

Vice President Mike Pence and Indiana lawmakers backed the "right to try" bill on behalf of Jordan who suffers with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

The House approved the measure 267 to 149. The bill, formally titled the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018, is named in part for McLinn, who has traveled to Washington to advocate for the bill's passage.

Indiana has a similar law on the books. While serving as Indiana's governor, Pence signed the state's version into law

in 2015. McLinn was at Pence's side during the signing ceremony.

The House bill allows patients who are terminally ill to try treatments that have gone through preliminary testing in humans. The patients would have to be ineligible for clinical trials and must have tried other available treatment options.

The Senate passed a different version of the bill in August. Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., and Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., introduced that legislation. Lawmakers in both chambers will have to resolve the differences between the two versions. (Courtesy http://fox59.com)



Vice President Mike Pence

✓@VP

Always great to see Jordan McLinn & his mother Laura McLinn, 2 great Hoosiers who have been fierce advocates for the Right to Try legislation the House will consider today. This bipartisan bill is about restoring hope to patients w/ terminal illnesses & it's the right thing to do

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The bill will let patients who are near death, or who have a disease that is likely to lead to severely premature death, potentially access drugs that have gone through only preliminary testing on humans. They would have to be ineligible for a clinical trial and have already tried other available treatments.

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