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Amazon showcases new fulfillment center in Houston



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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China's record trade surplus with U.S. adds fuel to trade war fire

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's trade surplus with the United States widened to a record in August even as the country's export growth slowed slightly, an outcome that could push President Donald Trump to turn up the heat on Beijing in their cantankerous trade dispute.

The politically sensitive surplus hit \$31.05 billion in August, up from \$28.09 billion in July, customs data showed on Saturday, surpassing the previous record set in June.

Over the first eight months of the year, China's surplus with its largest export market has risen nearly 15 percent, adding to tensions in the trade relationship between the world's two largest economies. China's annual export growth in August moderated slightly to 9.8 percent, the data showed, the weakest rate since March but only slightly below recent trends.

The number missed analysts' forecasts that shipments from the world's largest exporter would rise 10.1 percent, slowing only slightly from 12.2 percent in July.

Even with U.S. tariffs targeting \$50 billion of Chinese exports in effect for their first full month in August, China's exports to the United States still accelerated, growing 13.2 percent from a year earlier from 11.2 percent in July.

"There is still an impact from front-loading of exports, but the main reason (for still-solid export growth) is strong growth in the U.S. economy," said Zhang Yi, an economist at Zhonghai Shengrong Capital Management.

Zhang said the impact from U.S. tariffs on China's exports would likely be limited over the next few months.

China's imports from the United States grew only 2.7 percent in August, a slowdown from 11.1 percent in July.

The world's largest trading nation got off to a strong start this year, but its economic outlook is being clouded by the rapidly escalating U.S. trade dispute and cooling domestic demand.



Shipping containers are seen at a port in Lianyungang

Obama rebukes Trump and Republicans for 'abuses of power,' urges Democrats to vote



(Reuters) - Former U.S. President Barack Obama assailed President Donald Trump and Republicans on Friday, urging Democrats to deliver a check on the administration's "abuses of power" and restore a sense of sanity to politics by voting in November's elections.

In an unusually blistering attack on his successor, Obama said Americans were living in dangerous times and accused Republicans of threatening democracy, dividing the country, undermining global alliances and cozying up to Russia.

"In two months we have the chance, not the certainty, but the chance to restore some semblance of sanity to our politics," he said in a speech at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "There is actually only one check on bad policy and abuses of power, and that's you and your vote."

Both parties are urging their core supporters to get to the polls for the Nov. 6 midterm elections, when Democrats need to pick up

23 seats in the House of Representatives and two seats in the Senate to gain majorities in Congress and slam the brakes on Trump's agenda.

Obama, who had frustrated some Democrats by keeping a relatively low profile since leaving office in January 2017, accused Republicans of being unwilling to safeguard democracy or offer a check on Trump's policies or worst instincts.

He said voters would have to do it instead. "In the end, the threat to our democracy doesn't just come from Donald Trump or the current batch of Republicans in Congress," he said. "The biggest threat to our democracy is indifference. The biggest threat to our democracy is cynicism."

Trump was dismissive of Obama's speech. "I'm sorry, I watched it but I fell asleep," he said during a fundraiser in North Dakota. "I found that he's very, very good for sleeping."

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Amazon showcases new fulfillment center in Houston

By Paul Takahashi

Orange robots weave around the warehouse floor in a synchronized dance, twirling tall stacks of goods from smartphone cases to T-Rex toys.

As online orders flash on computer screens, an army of workers pick and place items from the robot's shelves into yellow plastic bins that zip around a marathon-long maze of fast-moving conveyor belts inside Amazon's fulfillment center in north Houston. The 855,000-square-foot facility -- roughly the size of 14 football fields -- processes hundreds of thousands of packages a day to be shipped to customers around the world.

"What once took hours to fulfill, we can now do in a matter of minutes," general manager Sarah Smith said on a media tour Thursday. "These robots have created tremendous efficiencies." Sarah Smith, general manager, talks about the Amazon HOU2 Fulfillment Center Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, in Houston.

Amazon's latest Kiva robots, which can fetch small items faster than humans and allows the company to store more product in its warehouses, will be on full display Friday as the e-commerce giant throws a grand opening ceremony for its first major fulfillment center in the Houston area and one of nine

operating in Texas. The four-story facility actually began operations in July 2017, but Hurricane Harvey's devastating floods delayed plans for the public unveiling until now.



Larry McCollister works on picking orders from inventory at the Amazon HOU2 Fulfillment Center, 10550 Ella Blvd., Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, in Houston.



Galveston museum shows off rare Balinese Room

By Dana Burke

The Balinese Room, Galveston's legendary casino, is long gone, but an island museum is showing off a memento from the iconic party spot this month.

A souvenir pepper mill from the nightclub was recently donated to the Rosenberg Library Museum by Louise Hagood of Paris, Texas, who first visited the establishment in 1950.

The pepper mill will be on display as the museum's "treasure of the month" throughout September.

The Balinese Room first opened in 1923 under a different name, the Chop Suey, then was named the Sui Jen. It was one of several gambling parlors on the island from the 1920s through the 1950s. When gambling was finally shut down on the island in the late 1950s, the Balinese Room was closed and later brought back to life as a bar.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike demolished the historic building, leaving nothing behind. The pepper mill is viewable by the general public on the second floor of the library during regular hours, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



The Balinese Room at 2107 Seawall Blvd, Galveston.

HOUSTON 2019

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Editor's Choice



UEFA Nations League - League A - Group 4 - England v Spain



Supporter wears a T-shirt with the images of presidential candidate Marina Silva of the Brazilian Sustainability Network Party (REDE) and her Vicepresident Eduardo Jorge as he carries a box of strawberries after a campaign rally in Sao Paulo



The 75th Venice International Film Festival - Screening of the closing film "Driven", Out of Competition - Venice, Italy, September 8, 2018 - A DeLorean model is seen on the red carpet. REUTERS/ Tony Gentile



Actor Alexander Skarsgård poses with fans as he arrives for the world premiere of The Hummingbird Project at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto



A priest takes part in a demonstration against the agreement reached by Greece and Macedonia to resolve a dispute over the former Yugoslav republic's name, during the opening of the annual International Trade Fair of Thessaloniki



A protester wearing gas mask argues with police at a demonstration against the agreement reached by Greece and Macedonia to resolve a dispute over the former Yugoslav republic's name, Thessaloniki



Sep 8, 2018; New York, NY, USA; Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States, left, and Jamie Murray of Great Britain celebrate their mixed doubles championship win over Alicja Rosolska of Poland and Nikola Mektic of Croatia on day thirteen of the 2018 U.S. Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Mandatory Credit: Danielle Parhizkaran-USA TODAY SPORTS



Motorcyclists drive down the street as they participate in the Hells Angels demonstration in Berlin

HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Asia Cargo News named Port Houston the Best Seaport in North America...

Port Houston Named Best Seaport in North America

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



DNV GL representatives congratulated Port Houston for its continued achievements in environmental stewardship and presented a plaque...



Asia Cargo News announced the results at an awards ceremony held in Shanghai, China, Guenther said, adding that 10,000 shippers and industry experts participated in the survey...

In other business news, Guenther announced that Port Houston had been added to MSC's existing Indus service. That container service, which employs nine 8,400 TEU vessels...

...nomination and voting results were determined by industry service users, rather than judges

Reporting on business results, the executive director stated that April was "another strong month:" steel imports increased by 17 percent and container activity grew by 3 percent over 2017.

Port Houston terminals, reflecting a 2 percent annual growth.



International trade buoyed Houston economy during energy slump

International investments and trade, primarily exports, buoyed the Houston economy during recent downturns in the energy sector...

"Trade is becoming as important as oil and gas in Houston," partnership senior vice president of research Patrick Jankowski said...

The 2018 Global Houston report outlines

the ways in which Houston has increasingly tied itself to the global economy, while also addressing impending threats to the future of trade agreements such as NAFTA.



The Port of Houston and the Houston Ship Channel expect a surge in exports as new plastics and petrochemical plants come online over the next several years.

"Ours is the most diverse city in the nation, a place where one in four residents is foreign born and dozens of languages are

Houston/Galveston Customs District also grew by 19 percent. (Courtesy Houston BusinessWire)

About the Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the public wharves and terminals of the Port of Houston - the nation's largest port for foreign waterborne tonnage...



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Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Registration and Logistics
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Seminar
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch, Awards, Performance & Keynote Speaker
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Networking & Seminar Adjourns

Speakers:

- Alale Allal, Regional Export Finance Manager, SBA, Huston, TX
Roberta Skebo/ Carmen Strong, Export Business Advisor, Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Mindy Fryer, Lead Grants Coordinator, Trade & Business Development, TX
Will Whitehouse, Senior Trade Development Manager, Port of Houston
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Overview

Whole Foods Employees Trying To Unionize Under Amazon Ownership

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

A group of Whole Food employees reportedly have sent an email to most workers urging them to back an effort to unionize, the Wall Street Journal has reported. They are pushing for better pay, benefits and profit-sharing.

A group of Whole Foods employees are trying to unionize to address concerns they have over the culture and compensation since Amazon bought the grocery chain last year, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

Whole Foods reportedly stopped granting stock options to lower-level employees after Amazon's acquisition last year.

The group reportedly plans to send an email Thursday to most employees at the company's 490 stores asking them to back their campaign. They want better pay, benefits and profit sharing, the WSJ said.

Whole Foods and Amazon didn't immediately return emails for comment.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which didn't immediately return a call and email for comment, is helping to organize employees, the WSJ said. The New York-based labor union has about 100,000 members.



A Whole Foods employee stocks produce in Oakland, California.

Related

Some Whole Foods employees want to unionize to address what they say are changes to corporate culture and diminished compensation under the ownership of Amazon.com Inc. AMZN -1.77%

A group of workers plans to send an email Thursday to workers at most of the 490 Whole Foods stores urging them to back their unionization drive.

A copy of the group's message to fellow employees, reviewed by The Wall Street



Journal, said organizers want to "collectively voice our concerns to Whole Foods Market and Amazon leadership."



The workers said they want to push Whole Foods and Amazon for better compensation, benefits and profit-sharing.

The unionization push presents a potentially high-profile challenge to Amazon, which has opposed past organizing efforts by warehouse workers and other employees that are less visible to customers than grocery-store clerks.

Amazon wants to deliver everything you want to your doorstep, anywhere in the world. But the e-commerce giant faces several challenges in its pursuit of a global empire.

Amazon workers in Germany, Spain and Poland held strikes around Amazon's

Prime Day promotion in July to demand better health protections and job-safety measures. Germany's powerful service-workers' union has held a number of job actions over pay and working conditions in recent years.

Amazon has fought those efforts. The e-commerce company has said that it treats its workers fairly and that reports of inhospitable conditions at its facilities are untrue.

"We offer competitive wages and benefits and are committed to the growth and success of our team members," a Whole Foods spokeswoman said.

An Amazon spokeswoman didn't respond to a request for comment.



Your groceries could be delivered by an Amazon drone any day now.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, a national organization headquartered in New York with 100,000 members, is assisting the effort. The union has been in touch with Whole Foods workers previously, but contact has become more frequent since Amazon bought the chain, according to the organization.

"The RWDSU stands with workers in precarious positions no matter what—Amazon and Whole Foods workers are no different," said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the union, which has also worked to represent Amazon workers.

"We will not back down until Amazon workers are treated with dignity and respect," he said.

Before Amazon bought it last year, Whole Foods resisted unionization efforts as well.

The chain has appeared near the top of lists ranking companies by the benefits they offer and the gap in pay between managers and workers. Whole Foods paid \$20.15 an hour and \$41,911 a year on average in 2016, according to a company filing, more than many other grocers.

But worker grievances started to multiply after Whole Foods laid off hundreds of workers in 2015 amid weak sales. Whole Foods eliminated hundreds of marketing jobs this year, deepening the discontent.



Workers say Whole Foods also stopped offering stock options to lower-level staff after Amazon took over. Whole Foods had for years offered most employees annual stock options. Around 94% had gone to nonexecutive employees since the program began in 1992, according to a company report before Amazon took over the

grocer.

"The clandestine nature of Amazon offering stock options to store leadership without informing [other employees] is beyond problematic," said the message from workers advocating unionization. "It is insulting and unethical." (Courtesy wsj.com)

Related

Next stop for Whole Foods delivery is NYC

Amazon's ongoing mission to spread organic produce countrywide continues

Amazon is expanding its Whole Foods Delivery service to five new cities. Prime Now subscribers in New York City, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Long Island will be able to sift through a variety of dairy, meat, everyday staples and seafood options.

Delivery times are still between 8AM to 10PM, and it's a two hour wait before your order arrives -- unless you're willing to spend \$8 extra for the quicker one hour option. Regardless, your minimum order needs to be \$35.



Originally kicked off in February, the partnership between Amazon and the Whole Foods Market was established to bring fresh produce to the table in a more convenient fashion, and if you're short on time, help dodge those seemingly endless grocery lines. Shoppers in Austin and Cincinnati were the first with access, but Amazon quickly expanded the service to Seattle and San Francisco. It's very likely additional cities -- according to the Prime Now website, 34 are currently being serviced -- will join the list soon, since Amazon has plans to spread deliveries nationwide. (Courtesy engadget.com)



主播高白

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美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響；為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。



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