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New fire erupts at Deer Park plant as leaking toxins close Ship Channel



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Sunday, March 24, 2019 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## Findings of Trump-Russia report expected Sunday as Democrats vow further probes

WASHINGTON/WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (Reuters) - The U.S. attorney general's summary of a special counsel report on an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Moscow will not be delivered to lawmakers on Saturday, an official said, as Democrats vowed to investigate beyond the inquiry. William Barr, the top U.S. law enforcement official, was examining a report sent to him on Friday by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, aiming to transmit a summary to Congress and the public by the end of the weekend. Republican President Donald Trump, at his Florida resort for the weekend, remained silent on the report of an investigation that also looked into any potential wrongdoing by Trump, whose legal woes appear likely to continue even with the closure of the Mueller investigation. White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told reporters that the White House still has not received or been briefed on Mueller's report. A Justice Department official said Barr and his deputy were working closely with principal advisers to determine what to include in a letter to Congress. Barr will not deliver the summary on Saturday, the official said. U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said in a statement that Barr's offer to provide congressional committees with a summary of the report's conclusions is insufficient and that "Congress requires the full report and the underlying documents." Senator Chris Coons, a Democratic member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Trump and his core team could still face legal risks even if the report does not find that they committed crimes. Trump's business, his charity and presidential transition operation remain under investigation, Coons said, and congressional Democrats would keep looking into his activities.

"It's the end of the beginning, but it's not the beginning of the end," Coons told reporters on a telephone conference.



FILE PHOTO: Special Counsel Robert Mueller (R) departs after briefing members of the U.S. Senate on his investigation into potential collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., June 21, 2017. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts/File Photo

## Hundreds of thousands march in London

LONDON (Reuters) - Hundreds of thousands of people opposed to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union marched through central London on Saturday to demand a new referendum as the deepening Brexit crisis risked sinking Prime Minister Theresa May's premiership. After three years of tortuous debate, it is still uncertain how, when or even if Brexit will happen as May tries to plot a way out of the gravest political crisis in at least a generation. Marchers set off in central London with banners proclaiming "the best deal is no Brexit" and "we demand a People's Vote" in what organisers said was more than one million people strong and the biggest anti-Brexit protest yet. Wheat fields and underpants: Brexit satire lampoons British leaders on huge march  
Wheat fields and underpants: Brexit satire lampoons British leaders on huge march  
"I would feel differently if this was a well-managed process and the govern-

ment was taking sensible decisions. But it is complete chaos," Gareth Rae, 59, who travelled from Bristol to attend the demonstration, told Reuters. "The country will be divided whatever happens and it is worse to be divided on a lie." While the country and its politicians are divided over Brexit, most agree it is the most important strategic decision the United Kingdom has faced since World War Two. Thousands of pro-EU protesters gathered for the "Put it to the people march" at Marble Arch on the edge of Hyde Park around midday, before marching through the landmarks Picadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square and past the prime minister's office in Downing Street to finish outside parliament. March organisers estimated that more than one million people turned out for the march, exceeding a similar rally held in October, when supporters said about 700,000 people turned up.



LONDON (Reuters) - Hundreds of thousands of people opposed to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union marched through central London on Saturday to demand a new referendum as the deepening Brexit crisis risked sinking Prime Minister Theresa May's premiership.

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## New fire erupts at Deer Park plant as leaking toxins close Ship Channel:

A fireball again erupted into the sky.

An unknown volume of chemicals leaked into waterways, destined for Galveston Bay. Deer Park residents peered out their windows at another plume of black smoke.

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Friday brought a bout of deja vu to the Houston Ship Channel, where for the sixth consecutive day firefighters battled a massive chemical fire that has so far burned 11 storage tanks at Intercontinental Terminals Company. "People are scared. I'm scared," said Jennifer Tijerina of Pasadena, as she held her 10-month-old boy, Sammy, on her hip. "Just information and reassurance would've been nice."

**COMMERCE HAMPERED:** Houston Ship Channel briefly shut during latest flareup, spill

A day ITC hoped would bring no surprises as the company carefully drained flammable compounds from exposed 80,000-barrel tanks devolved into a series of emergencies that exposed new dangers. Around noon, a wall surrounding the tank farm breached, increasing the risk that airborne and liquid toxins would be released and forcing a portion of the Ship Channel to close.

Three hours later, the fire re-ignited in at least two locations, sending familiar smoke into the sky.

An hour after that, Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie Christensen announced the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would join the county's probe, an effort to boost its investigative resources and make good on her

pledge to hold ITC accountable.

"They can bring in experts," said Rachel Moreno, spokeswoman for the county fire marshal. "They can bring in electrical engineers and fire science engineers that we don't have on staff."

A beefed-up county probe coincided with a separate investigation announced by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, and a lawsuit by the Texas Attorney General, on behalf of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, alleging ITC violated the Texas Clean Air Act.

ITC had little to say about Friday's developments, rescheduling an afternoon news conference for Saturday morning. "It is still under investigation," said an ITC spokeswoman who declined to be identified. "What happened at the site is a flare-up, or re-ignition of fire, which we saw the potential for and planned for," he said. "They're moving chemicals exposed to the environment, and those chemicals are not designed to be transported in that way."



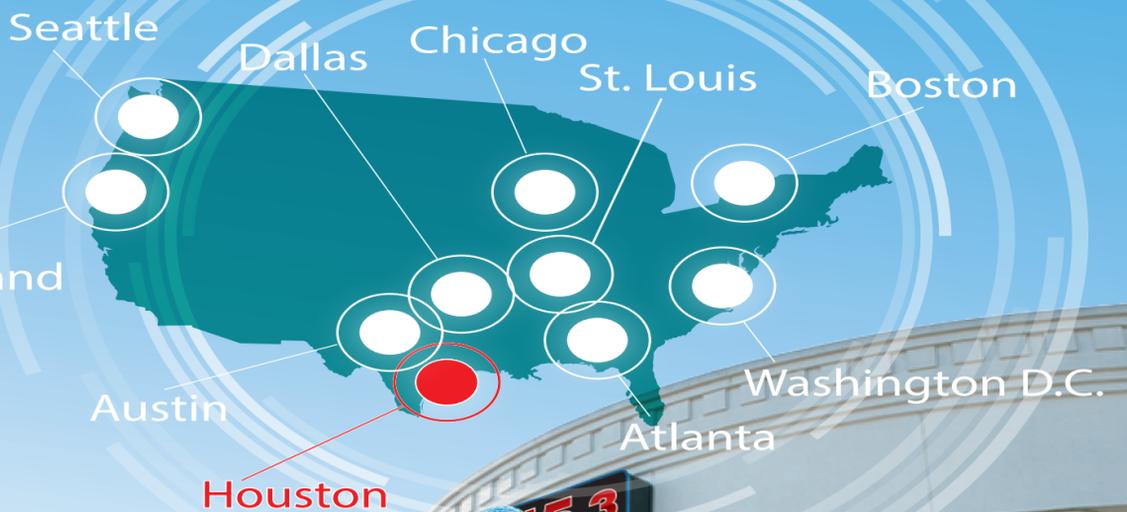
Firefighters arrive at the site where the Intercontinental Terminals Company petrochemical fire reignited as crews tried to clean out the chemicals that remained in the tanks Friday in Deer Park, Texas. Also on Friday, Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the company on behalf of the state's top environmental agency for unauthorized pollution.



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# Editor's Choice



The Space Needle and Seattle Center grounds are seen in the foreground, with Elliott Bay at left in this aerial photo facing east in Seattle, Washington, U.S. March 21, 2019. Picture taken March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson



The T-Mobile Park, formerly Safeco Field, in this aerial photo in Seattle



A Boeing KC-46A Pegasus sits on the tarmac at Boeing facilities at Boeing Field in this aerial photo in Seattle



FILE PHOTO: Soccer Football - Ireland Press Conference - Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland - November 25, 2018 Chief Executive of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) John Delaney with new manager Mick McCarthy REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne/File Photo



A cruise ship Viking Sky drifts towards land after an engine failure in Hustadvika



Demonstrators attend a protest against President Aleksandar Vucic and his government in central Belgrade



Soccer Football - Euro 2020 Qualifier - Group J - Liechtenstein v Greece - Rheinpark Stadion, Vaduz, Liechtenstein - March 23, 2019 General view of the match ball before the match REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann



U.S. 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris greets a young supporter at the end of a rally at Texas Southern University in Houston

San Antonio Spurs Salute Filipino Guerrilla, 103



Liban Brillantes, 103, who was born in the Philippines and served in the Army's 121st Infantry Division, is honored during a timeout of the Miami Heat at San Antonio Spurs NBA game in the AT&T Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

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

After war broke out between Japan and the United States in 1941, Liban Brillantes was a young Filipino farmer who appeared to get along with invading Japanese troops.

Wednesday night, the team saluted him at the AT&T Center, bringing him onto the court during the first timeout of the second quarter.

rilla resistance continued.



Liban Brillantes, 103 is presented with a jersey as he is honored during a timeout of the Miami Heat at San Antonio Spurs NBA game in the AT&T Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Clutching a cane, Brillantes didn't look so old courtside but he walks slowly these days, a mild concession to time. Family members say he was as excited as a kid to learn the Spurs would honor him.

When he rejoined the unit, his duties included delivering secret messages. He went on patrols, scouted the enemy, helped fellow troops make their way through the jungle, and evacuated women and children ahead of Japanese offensives.

his granddaughter, Precious Joy Ross, during a timeout of the Miami Heat at San Antonio Spurs NBA game in the AT&T Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

The village was more than a day by foot and ferry from Manila, if you made it to the boat by 5 p.m. If not, those arriving late bedded down by a riverbank and spent the night there.

Food was meager, with prisoners living on a rice gruel that occasionally included bits of fish. Beatings were common, with the Japanese guards sometimes killing their prisoners.



Nippon Bazar. Manila, Philippines, just before WWII late 1941.

Civilians suffered as much, if not more. Brillantes remembers a mass shooting near his native Sallapadan, Alba, that claimed the lives of 10 people.

ing at the scene heard a moan come from the common grave, he said. After the Japanese left, somebody retrieved the wounded man and nursed him back to health.

Another guerrilla, Tiburcio D. Banatao, remembered Brillantes serving as a leader of a group of laborers who leveled an airstrip.

After the war, Brillantes returned to the farm where he and his wife raised eight children. He later served on a local municipal council but eventually came to the United States, moving here when he was 85, and became a citizen seven years later.



War-torn remnants photographed just after the Battle for Manila, March 1945, Manila, Philippines.

Wary of using a walker, Brillantes instead is partial to his cane and has always been independently minded. At 97, he traveled on his own to Canada and England.

Brillantes rose slowly from his chair a few days ago to greet a reporter. He had a strong handshake and talked for nearly three hours, later telling his daughter, Febe-Lyn Janacek, that he was just getting started in his recollections about the war.

"I still have a lot of stories to tell him yet," she recalled him saying. "But you guys are stopping me." (https://www.expressnews.com)

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## NOAA Warns Of "Unprecedented Flood Season" All Across U.S.

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



Iowa has already experienced record-breaking floods this year. (Photo/Getty Images)

The U.S. is likely to see "historic, widespread flooding" through May, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's spring outlook.

**What they're saying:** "The extensive flooding we've seen in the past two weeks will continue through May and become more dire and may be exacerbated in the coming weeks as the water flows downstream. This is shaping up to be a potentially unprecedented flood season, with more than 200 million people at risk for flooding in their communities," writes Ed Clark, the director of NOAA's National Water Center.

**The big picture:** The Midwest has already seen record-breaking flooding due to rapid snow melts and heavy spring rains. And with more rain and snowmelt on the way as the seasons turn, NOAA warns that "the flood threat will become worse and geographically more widespread."

• Across the Plains, major rivers, like the Missouri and Platte, are hitting levels that are historically unprecedented, and the old records are being exceeded by several feet, which is an unusually high margin

for such milestones.

• The current batch of flooding across the Midwest is already a billion-dollar disaster, according to insurance experts.



• Farmers in the region are fearing for their livelihoods after because the ongoing disaster could cause a \$400 million hit to the state's livestock sector as they are cut off from their cattle herds — and the supplies necessary to care for them.

**Related**

**Record flooding in Plains states as seen through before and after photos**

A combination of a cold winter, rapid snowmelt due to mild air and heavy rain from a massive "bomb cyclone," and other

factors led to some of the worst flooding on record in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and is beginning to affect downstream states. The extreme nature of the floods — which have overtaken large parts of Offutt Air Force Base, where America's nuclear forces are coordinated — is best seen from high above.

**Why it matters:** The floods have wiped out farms, killed an unknown amount of livestock, marooned entire towns and destroyed large infrastructure as rivers have risen, sending surges of water and chunks of ice churning downstream. While waters are receding in many locations in Nebraska, flooding is occurring further southeast into the Mississippi River Valley.



Satellite view of flooding at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, HQ of Strategic

Command. (Image? DigitalGlobe)

As of Tuesday morning, 8 million people were still under flood warnings. Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts has called the floods the "most widespread disaster we have had in our state's history."

While studies have not tied this event directly to climate change, research has shown an uptick in precipitation extremes across the U.S. in recent decades as more water vapor is added to the air.

**In photos: Staggering destruction from historic flooding in the Plains**



(Photo/Nebraska National Guard)

Melting snow and heavy rain from the "Bomb Cyclone" in the Midwest has caused historic flooding from the Platte and Missouri rivers.

**Why it matters:** Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts said it's the worst flooding the state has experienced in 50 years, with at least two flood-related fatalities this week. Dams have failed, levees breached and other infrastructure stripped away as raging floodwaters and chunks of ice move downstream.

**The details:** The floods have resulted from a series of events including an extremely cold winter that allowed a thick snowpack to pile up. Then the intense storm brought a sudden pulse of heavy rainfall and mild temperatures. The rain fell on impermeable, frozen ground, causing huge amounts of runoff into area rivers and streams that were choked with thick blocks of ice.



**Before/after imagery of flooding near Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. (Image/NASA)**



**Brian K Gamble@BriankgambleN**  
One of the bridges that washed away in #NebraskaFlood #Nebraska Highway 281.

6:11 AM - Mar 17, 2019

41 people are talking about this



**Ben Sasse**  
@BenSasse

Historic weather events in Nebraska this week: blizzards and now massive flooding. Dozens of communities have been completely evacuated, displacing thousands.

This is our National Guard dropping giant sandbags to build an island around a pump house—>

8:57 AM - Mar 16, 2019

220 people are talking about this



**Ben Sasse**  
@BenSasse

Am hearing stories of Nebraska high school kids volunteering at local kennels — to walk dogs that have washed up in the floodwaters. #neighbors

11:43 AM - Mar 16, 2019

(Courtesy <https://www.axios.com>)

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