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O'Rourke holds rally near Mexican border that Trump threatens to shut



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Southern DAILY

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Trump says China trade talks 'back on track,' new tariffs on hold



FILE PHOTO: People shop at Macy's Department store in New York City, U.S., March 11, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

OSAKA (Reuters) - The United States and China agreed on Saturday to restart trade talks after President Donald Trump offered concessions including no new tariffs and an easing of restrictions on tech company Huawei in order to reduce tensions with Beijing.

China agreed to make unspecified new purchases of U.S. farm products and return to the negotiating table. No deadline was set for progress on a deal, and the world's two largest economies remain at odds over significant parts of an agreement. The last major round of talks collapsed in May.

Financial markets, which have been rattled by the nearly year-long trade war, are likely to cheer the truce. Washington and Beijing have slapped tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's imports, threatening to put the brakes on an already slowing global economy. Those tariffs remain in place while negotiations resume.

China says joint interests with U.S. greater than differences "We're right back on track," Trump told reporters after an 80-minute meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a summit of leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in Osaka, Japan. "We're holding back on tariffs and they're going to buy farm products," Trump said, without giving details about the purchases.

The U.S. president had threatened to slap new levies on roughly \$300 billion of additional Chinese goods, including popular consumer products, if the meeting in Japan proved unsuccessful. Such a move would have extended existing tariffs to almost all Chinese imports into the United States.

In a lengthy statement on the two-way talks, China's foreign ministry quoted Xi as telling Trump he hoped the United States could treat Chinese companies fairly. "China is sincere about continuing negotiations with the United States ... but negotiations should be equal and show mutual respect," the foreign ministry quoted Xi as saying. Trump offered an olive branch to Xi on Huawei, the world's biggest telecom network gear maker. The Trump administration has said the Chinese firm is too close to China's government and poses a national security risk, and has lobbied U.S. allies to keep Huawei out of next-generation 5G telecommunications infrastructure.

Trump's Commerce Department has put Huawei on its "entity list," effectively banning the company from buying parts and components from U.S. companies without U.S. government approval.

But Trump said on Saturday he did not think that was fair to U.S. suppliers, who were upset by the move. "We're allowing that, because that wasn't national security," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump meets with China's President Xi Jinping at the start of their bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 29, 2019. REUTERS/ Kevin Lamarque

Trump said the U.S. Commerce Department would study in

the next few days whether to take Huawei off the list of firms banned from buying components and technology from U.S. companies without government approval.

China welcomed the step.

"If the U.S. does what it says, then of course, we welcome it," said Wang Xiaolong, the Chinese foreign ministry's envoy for G20 affairs.

U.S. microchip makers also applauded the move.

"We are encouraged the talks are restarting and additional tariffs are on hold and we look forward to getting more detail on the president's remarks on Huawei," John Neuffer, president of the U.S. Semiconductor Association, said in a statement

Trump said he and Xi did not discuss the extradition proceedings against Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, who was arrested in Canada in December on charges alleging she misled global banks about Huawei's relationship with a company in Iran.

Huawei has come under mounting scrutiny for over a year, led by U.S. allegations that "back doors" in its routers, switches and other gear could allow China to spy on U.S. communications.

The company has denied its products pose a security threat. It declined to comment on the developments on Saturday.



傳承永續恆久懷念

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U.S. deploys more troops to Middle East, blames Iran for tanker attacks

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States on Friday announced the deployment of 1,500 troops to the Middle East, describing it as an effort to bolster defenses against Iran as it accused the country's Revolutionary Guards of direct responsibility for this month's tanker attacks.

President Donald Trump's administration also invoked the threat from Iran to declare a national security-related emergency that would clear the sale of billions of dollars' worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries without required congressional approval. The actions were the latest by the Trump administration as it highlights what it sees as a threat of potential attack by Iran, and follows decisions to speed the deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group as well as send bombers and additional Patriot missiles to the Middle East.

RELATED COVERAGE

Russia could take new U.S. troop deployment to U.N. security council: lawmaker
Pentagon accuses Iran's Revolutionary Guards over tanker attacks

The deployments, decried by Iran as escalatory, have come amid a freeze in direct communication between the United States and Iran that has raised concerns about the increasing risk of an inadvertent conflict.

Trump, however, described the latest deployments as defensive, in nature. The 1,500 troops include personnel manning missile defense systems, aerial surveillance to spot threats and engineers to fortify defenses. It also includes a fighter jet squadron.

"We want to have protection in the Middle East.

An F/A-18F Super Hornet from the "Patriots" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140 flies over the U. S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), in Arabian Sea, May 22, 2019. Picture taken May 22, 2019. Garrett LaBarge/U.S. Navy/Handout via REUTERS

We're going to be sending a relatively small number of troops, mostly protective," Trump said as he left the White House for a trip to Japan.

The decision on troops marks a reversal of sorts for Trump, who only on Thursday said he thought no more forces were needed.

Trump has sought to detangle the U.S. military from open-ended conflicts in places like Syria and Afghanistan.

The deployment is relatively small compared with the about 70,000 American troops now stationed across a region that stretches from Egypt to Afghanistan. In addition, some 600 of the 1,500 "new" troops are already in the Middle East manning Patriot missiles, but will see their deployments extended.

Still, the Democratic lawmaker who heads the House Armed Services Committee, Adam Smith, said the deployment "appears to be a blatant and heavy-handed move to further escalate tensions with Iran."

Eager to avoid escalation with Iran amid already heightened tensions, Pentagon officials stressed the defensive nature of the deployment in a news briefing and noted that none of the troops would be heading to hot spots like Iraq or Syria.

An F/A-18F Super Hornet from the "Patriots" of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140 flies over the U. S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), in Arabian Sea, May 22,



2019. Picture taken May 22, 2019. Garrett LaBarge/U.S. Navy/Handout via REUTERS

At the same time, the U.S. State Department informed Congress that it will go ahead with 22 arms deals worth some \$8 billion, congressional aides said, sweeping aside a long-standing precedent for congressional review of such sales.

Some lawmakers and congressional aides had warned earlier this week that Trump, frustrated with Congress holding up weapons sales like a major deal to sell Raytheon Co precision-guided munitions to Saudi Arabia, was considering using the loophole to go ahead with the sale.

ATTACKS ON TANKERS

Rear Admiral Michael Gilday, the director of the Joint Staff, on Friday described U.S. intelligence portraying a new Iranian "campaign" that used old tactics, and stretched from Iraq to Yemen to the waters in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime chokepoint for the global oil trade.

"We believe with a high degree of confidence that this stems back to the leadership of Iran at the highest levels and that all of the attacks that I mentioned have been attributed to Iran through their proxies or their forces," he said. Gilday accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) of being directly responsible for attacks on tankers off the United Arab Emirates earlier this month, in what could be a foreshadowing of the conclusion of ongoing investigations into the incident.

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Editor's Choice



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump shake hands during a bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping before starting their bilateral meeting during the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 29, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump walk off with fellow leaders after a family photo session at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman participates in a demonstration against G20 during the leaders summit in Osaka, Japan June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Silva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A protester wearing a mask of French President Emmanuel Macron holds a sign as fellow masked protesters demonstrate at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Silva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Soccer Football - Copa America Brazil 2019 - Quarter Final - Venezuela v Argentina - Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - June 28, 2019 Venezuela's Junior Moreno shoots at goal as Argentina's Leandro Paredes and German Pezella attempt to block REUTERS



Colette Giezantner competes in the final round of the 92nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

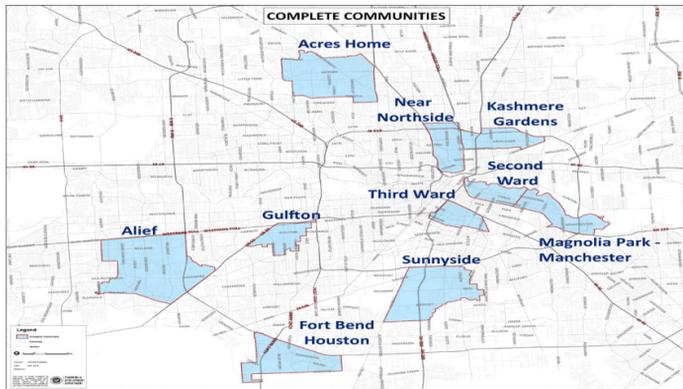


Soccer Football - Women's World Cup - Quarter Final - France v United States - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - June 28, 2019 Megan Rapinoe of the U.S. celebrates scoring their first goal REUTERS/Benoit Tessier TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

City Of Houston Mayor's Office Media Release For Immediate Release 6/20/19



Mayor Expands Complete Communities Initiative To Five More Neighborhoods

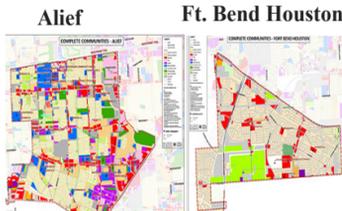


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Houston - On Thursday, June 20, 2019, Mayor Turner announced that five new neighborhoods have been added to the Complete Communities initiative!

They join a collaborative neighborhood improvement program that started with Acres Home, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward and Third Ward. The City will work in a concentrated manner with stakeholders in each area and partners across Houston to create more complete neighborhoods with enhanced access to quality affordable homes, jobs, well-maintained parks and greenspace, improved streets and sidewalks, grocery stores and other retail, good schools and transit options.

Houston creating One Complete City. Mayor Turner made today's announcement at a community celebration at Eastwood Park, 5000 Harrisburg Blvd. in Second Ward, to showcase examples of the initiative's progress.



Worn out tennis courts at the park were converted to soccer practice spaces thanks to a \$200,000 public-private partnership among the city, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Target stores. New skate park ramps debuted at the park, thanks to the Friends of Eastwood Park non-profit

organization. "Although they have been underserved for decades, these 10 neighborhoods represent some of the best of Houston—they're diverse, hard-working, and proud," Mayor Turner said. "Complete Communities will ensure that all ships rise with the tide, so that all of our communities are part of the fabric that makes Houston one complete city."



Complete Communities, which the mayor started two years ago, uses government, non-profit and business funds and other resources to strengthen neighborhoods across the city. Donors have already given \$11 million to the mayor's Complete Communities Improvement Fund and the initiative has also attracted millions of dollars in private investments.

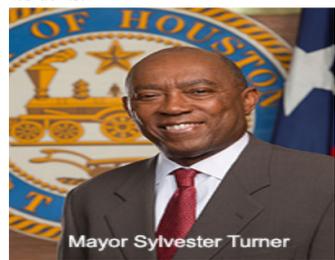
The 10 neighborhoods - half of them outside Loop 610 -- struggle with access to quality amenities and services, such as full-service supermarkets, affordable urgent care centers and high-quality early learning and after-school programs. Each has significant tracts of undeveloped land and at least two Opportunity Zones, designated by the federal government, in which investors can qualify for tax breaks.

Residents of each Complete Communities neighborhood determine the top priority neighborhood improvements through a series of public meetings and workshops.

Background Mayor Turner Announces Complete Communities Initiative

Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the launch of the much-anticipated Complete Communities Initiative on April 12, 2017. Complete Communities is a pilot program designed to revitalize Houston's under-resourced communities in

partnership with existing neighborhood residents.



The initiative will work toward creating sustainable, "complete" neighborhoods that are safe, affordable, economically viable, and that have access to quality education, affordable housing, transportation options, green spaces, healthy food options, economic opportunity, and well-maintained infrastructure.

In order to achieve sustainable, comprehensive community results that also safeguard against widespread gentrification, the City must embrace a nuanced approach, and work alongside community partners and neighborhoods to specifically identify what will make their respective neighborhoods "complete," and implement that vision.

The Complete Communities Initiative will commence with the following five (5) pilot communities: Acres Homes, Gulfton, Second Ward, Near Northside Third Ward.



The City will also collaborate with the Complete Community Advisory Committee, comprised of community building stakeholders across Houston, during this process. In order to both develop and implement these local community plans, the City will explore public-private partnerships and private investment in these projects, where appropriate, to help build local capacity and to promote sustainability. The goal of creating and

implementing these local community plans is to enable Houstonians in various places across Houston to have the opportunity to thrive where they are.

"With the Complete Communities Initiative, we are not simply imposing programs on 'under-resourced neighborhoods'; rather, we are seeking to collaborate with these communities to create and implement a shared community vision that empowers that community for the long-term." Council Member Edwards stated. Edwards adds, "I commend Mayor Turner for including the Complete Communities Initiative among his top priorities, and look forward to working with Mayor Turner and my colleagues on City Council to help move all of Houston forward."

For more information on the Complete Communities Initiative, visit houstontx.gov/completecommunities.

Strategy



Complete Communities is about improving neighborhoods so that all of Houston's residents and business owners can have access to quality services and amenities. It's about working closely with the residents of communities that haven't reached their full potential, understanding their strengths and opportunities, and collaborating with partners across the city to strengthen them. While working to improve these communities, we must also work to ensure existing residents can stay in homes that remain affordable.

Timeline table showing project milestones from June 2019 to Late Spring 2020.

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快捷旅遊 ASAP Travelwize advertisement with phone number (713) 777-1717.

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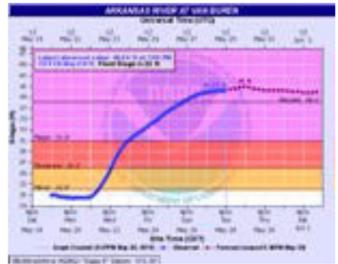
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A tense situation is unfolding in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where officials are hoping that 70-year-old levees will withstand an unprecedented, prolonged test to keep back the swollen Arkansas River, which has risen to an all-time record high after weeks of heavy rain.

Why it matters: The flooding that has gripped the nation's heartland will eventually affect the price of food, as farmers cope with fields that have turned into lakes at a time of year when staple crops such as corn and wheat should be planted already. In addition, the damage from the floods, which started in the Upper Midwest earlier this year and now stretch all the way down the Mississippi River, likely exceeds \$1 billion in individual states alone, with a far higher aggregate cost.

Details: Massive thunderstorms have dumped torrential rains in Oklahoma, Kansas and surrounding states during the past two weeks, sending the Arkansas River in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma to its highest level on record. In Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Tuesday morning, the river rose to 2 feet above its previous all-time high. The forecast crest is not predicted to occur until Wednesday, after the river rises another 2 feet.



- All-time record crests are predicted from Fort Smith southward to near Little Rock.
- In Tulsa, additional rain on Tuesday could force officials to release more water from the Keystone Dam or risk water levels overtopping the floodgates, which could be catastrophic, the Tulsa World reports.
- Tulsa's levees are being tested in ways that may become more common with global warming, as heavy rains and floods increase in frequency.
- “This is the culmination of a flood that is now in its fourth week,” David Williams, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa, told the newspaper.

The impact: Floodwaters are slowly

Historic Flooding Swamps Oklahoma, Arkansas As Storms Prove Relentless



Floodwaters in Iowa in March, at the beginning of this spring's flooding. (Photo/Getty Images)

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

making their way down the Mississippi River toward Louisiana, rattling nerves and setting records.

•Officials announced Monday they will open the Morganza Spillway in Louisiana for only the third time since it was built in 1954. The river is expected to crest there by June 2 at the second-highest level on record.

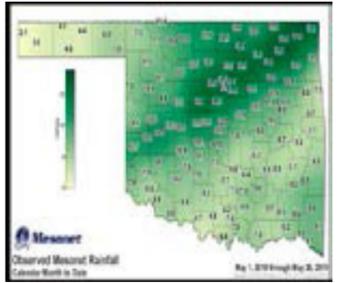
•“The current flood fight is historic and unprecedented,” the Corps said in a statement, noting that this year's Mississippi River floods are likely to become the longest such event on record, beating a 1973 flood that lasted 225 days.

The background: “In the Southern Plains, Oklahoma has far and away been the poster child for this event,” Victor Murphy of the National Weather Service tells Axios.

“By the time May 31st rolls around, we fully expect May of 2019 to surpass October 1941 as the 2nd wettest month on

record for Oklahoma, behind only May 2015.”

According to Murphy, many counties along and north of I-44 from Oklahoma to the Missouri border have seen at least 16 to 19 inches of rain for the month, with more to come. “These 30 day values are on the order of 1-in-50-year to 1-in-100-year events,” he says.



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@okmesonet shows a swath of 15"-19" of rain has fallen so far in May in a band from Kingfisher County northeast to Ottawa County in extreme northeast OK. Statewide avg. of 9.7" already the 5th wettest calendar month ever since 1895, w/4 days left. May 2015 (14.4") is #1. #okwx 9:49 AM - May 28, 2019

Between the lines: The ongoing flooding is consistent with scientific studies showing the increasingly apparent effects of human-caused climate change. A warmer atmosphere holds more water vapor on average, which contributes to an uptick in heavy precipitation events. Such trends have been seen in much of the U.S. in recent decades.

In addition, other research shows ties between persistent, highly amplified weather patterns such as this one and long-term climate change.

Staggering destruction from historic flooding in the Plains



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 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 (Courtesy axios.com)

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