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U.S., Canada and Mexico reach agreement - again - to replace NAFTA



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Trump is fourth U.S. president to face impeachment as Democrats unveil



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi leads Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) and other Democratic committee chairs through statuary hall to a news conference to announce articles of impeachment against U.S. President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., December 10, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives announced impeachment charges against President Donald Trump on Tuesday, making him the fourth president in U.S. history to face a formal effort to remove him from office.

The Democratic-controlled House is almost certain to vote to impeach the president as soon as next week, setting up a trial in the Republican-controlled Senate early next year, shortly before the presidential election kicks off with primaries in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The effort to force Trump out of the White House faces long odds of success. At least 20 Senate Republicans would have to vote to remove him from office, and none so far have indicated they are considering such a move.

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The two formal charges, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, accuse Trump of "betraying" the country by abusing power in an effort to pressure Ukraine to probe a political rival and then obstructing Congress' investigation into the scandal.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler told reporters that Democrats had to take action because Trump

had endangered the U.S. Constitution, jeopardized national security and undermined the integrity of the 2020 election.

"No one, not even the president, is above the law," Nadler said at a news conference. His panel is expected to approve the charges as soon as Wednesday ahead of the full House vote.

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham accused Democrats of engaging in a "baseless and partisan" attempt to undo his surprise victory in the 2016 election.

"WITCH HUNT!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi leads Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA) and other Democratic committee chairs through statuary hall to a news conference to announce articles of impeachment against U.S. President Donald Trump on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., December 10, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

Democratic President Bill Clinton was impeached in 1998 for lying about a sexual relationship he had with a White House intern, but he was acquitted in the Senate. Republican President Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 before he was impeached over his involvement in the Watergate scandal. Democratic President Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868 but not convicted in the

Senate.

Democrats have moved rapidly since launching their inquiry in late September after a whistleblower complaint about a July 25 telephone call in which Trump sought help from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading contender in the Democratic race to challenge Trump in next November's election.

The abuse of power charge accuses Trump of using nearly \$400 million in U.S. security aid and a possible White House meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart to solicit Ukraine to publicly announce the investigations of Biden and a debunked theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. election. The obstruction charge accuses the president of defying and impeding the House's efforts to investigate the scandal, adding that Trump would remain a threat to the U.S. Constitution if he remained in office.

Republicans argue Trump did nothing improper in his call with Zelenskyy and say there is no direct evidence he withheld aid or a White House meeting in exchange for a favor.

Top Democrats initially had been reluctant to pursue Trump's impeachment out of concerns that it could inspire a voter backlash in 2020.

According to Reuters/Ipsos polling, 44 percent of Americans support impeachment, with 42 percent opposed. Roughly three out of four Democrats support the effort,

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U.S., Canada and Mexico reach agreement - again - to replace

WASHINGTON/MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Top officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States signed a fresh overhaul of their quarter-century-old regional trade pact on Tuesday that aims to improve enforcement of worker rights and hold down prices for biologic drugs by eliminating a patent provision.



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador looks on next to Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer during a meeting at the Presidential Palace, in Mexico City, Mexico December 10, 2019.

"It's nothing short of a miracle that we have all come together. I think that is testament to how good the deal is," Lighthizer said. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was signed more than a year ago to replace NAFTA, but Democrats controlling the U.S. House of Representatives insisted on major changes to labor and environmental enforcement before bringing it to a vote.

independent labor experts. Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador looks on next to Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer during a meeting at the Presidential Palace, in Mexico City, Mexico December 10, 2019.

administration," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told a news conference, adding that USMCA was now ready for a House vote. Republican and Democratic U.S. lawmakers say there is broad support for revising the trade pact, which encompasses \$1.2 trillion in annual trade across the continent and supports 12 million U.S. jobs and a third of American agricultural exports, backers say.

on delivering on his 2016 campaign promise to replace what he has derided as the "worst deal ever." Canadian and Mexican leaders reluctantly agreed to join the negotiations with their largest trading partner "America's great USMCA Trade Bill is looking good. It will be the best and most important trade deal ever made by the USA. Good for everybody - Farmers, Manufacturers, Energy, Unions - tremendous support," Trump tweeted on Tuesday.

Advertisement for the 2019 Houston Travel Shopping Guide. It features images of the guide's cover and various sections, including CityPASS, Katy Asian Town, and Houston Zoo. Large Chinese characters read '已經' (Already) and '2019休斯頓發行旅遊購物指南' (2019 Houston Travel Shopping Guide). It also includes contact information for the publisher, Southern Chinese Daily News.

Advertisement for Medicare 101 sessions. It features a red header with the text 'Free Education on Understanding Medicare from Physicians Life Insurance Company'. Below is a blue section with 'Join us for Medicare 101\* Parts A, B, C & D'. A list of topics to be discussed includes: 'Making the most of your rights, options and entitlements', 'Parts A, B, C & D', 'How to enroll in Medicare', 'What Medicare does and doesn't cover', 'Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement insurance', and 'And much more!'. It also includes a photo of a hand holding a Medicare card, the date 'July 27, 2019', time '2 pm', and location 'Clear Lake Freeman Library'. Contact information for David Wang is provided.

# Editor's Choice



Inauguration of Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez in Buenos Aires



FILE PHOTO: A piece of ore containing rare earths is displayed during a tour of a California mine, June 29, 2015. REUTERS/David Becker/File Photo



A girl and her mother perform the song 'A rapist in your path' during a demonstration against gender violence at an anti-femicide monument in Mexico City



Demonstrators raise their hands during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago, Chile December 10, 2019. REUTERS/Andres Martinez Casares



Workers hang dry cured hams at a yard of a ham-processing company in Jinhua



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on USMCA trade agreement on Capitol Hill in Washington



Official commissioning ceremony of HMS Prince of Wales, in Portsmouth



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi attends a hearing at International Court of Justice in The Hague

**McDonald's Commits Half A Million Dollars To Establish A Scholarship Program For Asian And Pacific Islander American (APIA) Students**

**McDonald's Offers \$500,000 In Scholarships For Asian And Pacific Islander American Students**



izens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau are also eligible to apply  
3. Will be enrolling as an undergraduate student in a U.S. accredited college or university in the Fall 2020  
4. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) or have earned a GED



top 10% of APIAs earn more than ten times the bottom 10% of APIAs, which is why scholarship programs like the McDonald's/APIA Scholarship program are so crucial to the community. Emphasis will be placed on students who are first generation college attendees and demonstrate high financial need.



than \$150 million in scholarships with the support of partners.

"We are grateful to McDonald's for their longstanding support and partnership in our mission to make a difference in the lives of APIA students," said Noel S. Harmon, President and Executive Director, APIA Scholars. "There are tremendous disparities within the APIA community, both economically and educationally, that are often overlooked. As a founding sponsor of APIA Scholars, McDonald's has supported our efforts to address these disparities. We are grateful to McDonald's for recognizing the need and working with us to make a difference."

APIA Scholars is currently accepting online applications for the McDonald's/APIA Scholarship at [www.apiascholars.org/](http://www.apiascholars.org/). The application will be available for the 2020-2021 academic year until January 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST.

McDonald's also offers the HACER® National Scholarship for Hispanic students and the McDonald's Black and Positively Golden Scholarships to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In addition to the scholarships offered, McDonald's Archways to Opportunity program provides eligible employees at participating U.S. restaurants an opportunity to earn a high school diploma, receive upfront college tuition assistance, access free education/career advising services and learn English as a second language. For more information about McDonald's support of education, please visit <http://www.mcdonalds.com/people>. (Courtesy <https://nextshark.com/>) and <https://news.mcdonalds.com/>)

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

Last Wednesday, the fast-food giant announced its plans of providing \$500,000 to create the first-ever McDonald's/APIA Scholarship program. The program, created in partnership with APIA Scholars, will initially award 15 four-year scholarships and 40 one-year scholarships to rising college freshmen.

According to the announcement, the 55 scholarships will be awarded in Spring 2020.

"McDonald's is very excited to launch the McDonald's APIA Scholarship program to give a platform for APIA students to achieve their higher education dreams," Seattle McDonald's Owner/Operator William Cho was quoted as saying.

"We believe everyone deserves the chance to go to college, regardless of finances, and McDonald's is committed to making that happen."

APIA Scholars noted that while half of all APIAs do have a college degree, economical and educational disparities within the APIA community are significant.

Based on APIA figures, only 25% of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and

Southeast Asian Americans have college degrees. It also noted that the top 10% of APIAs earn more than 10 times the bottom 10% of APIAs.



These numbers are the reason why scholarship programs are so crucial to the community, according to APIA Scholars. For the McDonald's/APIA Scholarship program, students who are first-generation college attendees and demonstrate high financial need will be prioritized. The application for the McDonald's/APIA Scholarship will be available for the 2020-2021 academic year until January 22, 2020 at 5 p.m. EST. Applications can now be accessed at [www.apiascholars.org/](http://www.apiascholars.org/).

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the requirements below:

- 1. Be of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity as defined by the U.S. Census
- 2. Be a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States. Cit-

5. Must apply for federal financial aid for the 2020-2021 academic year using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by early April 2020

6. Submit one letter of recommendation online

In addition to the APIA Scholarship, McDonald's also offers the HACER® National Scholarship for Hispanic students and the McDonald's Black and Positively Golden Scholarships to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

McDonald's announced that it has committed \$500,000 to establish the first-ever McDonald's/APIA Scholarship program in partnership with APIA Scholars. Fifty-five Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) college students will benefit from the program, furthering McDonald's longtime support of providing educational and career resources to bright future leaders.

According to APIA Scholars, half of all APIAs have a college degree, compared to a third of all Americans, but there are tremendous disparities within the APIA community, economically and educationally. Only 25% of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Southeast Asian Americans have college degrees and the

"McDonald's is very excited to launch the McDonald's APIA Scholarship program to give a platform for APIA students to achieve their higher education dreams," said William Cho, a Seattle McDonald's Owner/Operator. "We believe everyone deserves the chance to go to college, regardless of finances, and McDonald's is committed to help make that happen."



Founded in 2003, McDonald's partner, APIA Scholars, is the nation's largest non-profit organization that provides college scholarships to APIAs with financial need and has distributed more



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Although three U.S. presidents have faced impeachment, none have been removed from office. Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were both impeached, but the Senate declined to remove them from office, and Richard Nixon stepped down before the House could vote.

The final section of Article II, which generally describes the executive branch, specifies that the "President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States" shall be removed from office if convicted in an impeachment trial of "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." Two clauses in Article I lay out the role of the House of Representatives and the Senate in impeachments and in trials of impeachment. In practice, impeachments by the House have been rare, and convictions after a trial by the Senate even less common. Two Presidents, one Senator, one cabinet officer, and fifteen judges have been impeached, and of those only eight judges have been convicted and removed from office.

This sparse history has given Congress relatively few opportunities to flesh out the bare bones of the constitutional text. The Impeachment Clause was included in the Constitution in order to create another check against abuses by government officials and to give Congress the ability to remove from power an unfit officer who might otherwise be doing damage to the public good. Unsurprisingly, most "civil officers of the United States" who have found themselves damaged by scandal have preferred to resign rather than endure an impeachment. The House and Senate have refused to act on impeachment charges against individuals who were not then holding a federal office.

The Senate early on decided that members of Congress should be expelled by their individual chambers rather than be subjected to an impeachment trial. Presidents have acted quickly to remove problematic members of the executive branch. As a practical matter, judges and Presidents have been the primary targets



The graphic above explains the typical procedures for impeachment and removal from office.

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

of impeachment inquiries.

**U.S. CONSTITUTION: CONGRESS & IMPEACHMENT**

- ▶ "The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.... [but] no person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two-thirds of the Members present."
- ▶ The House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" [make formal charges against]

Senate.gov

Much of the controversy surrounding the Impeachment Clause has revolved around the meaning of "high Crimes and Misdemeanors," a phrase that is unique to the impeachment context. The Clause seems to rule out the possibility of Congress impeaching and removing officials simply for incompetence or general unfitness for office. Impeachments are not a

remedy for government officials who are simply bad at their jobs. It is a remedy for abuses of public office. But the line between general unfitness and abuse of office can be blurry.

The first Senate conviction in an impeachment trial was of a federal judge, John Pickering, who was charged with issuing rulings that were "contrary to his trust and duty as a judge" and "in violation of the laws of the United States," as well as appearing on the bench "in a state of total intoxication" in a manner "disgraceful to his own character as a judge and degrading to the honor of the United States." The judge's son filed a petition with the Senate explaining the "real situation," that his father "has been, and now is, insane." The judge no longer had the mental capacity to commit high crimes. While the Senate preferred not to delve into that question in detail, it was uncomfortable voting on a resolution stating that the judge was "guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors." The senators simply concluded that he was "guilty as charged," and voted to remove him from

office. The Senate was not anxious to say that Pickering had committed a crime, but neither was it willing to leave him on the bench.

### How the impeachment process works

**House of Representatives**

- 1 Any member can introduce a resolution of impeachment if they suspect the president is guilty of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors".
- 2 The House of Representatives considers the set of charges. If a simple majority (51%) support impeachment, the process moves to trial.

**Senate**

- 3 The trial begins. The chief justice of the Supreme Court presides over it, while members of the House form the prosecution and Senators act as the jury. The president can appoint defence lawyers.
- 4 At the end of the trial, a Senate vote delivers the outcome. If at least two-thirds (67%) of Senators find the president guilty, he is removed from office and the vice president takes over for the remainder of the term.

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