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Southern News Group

Gasoline prices continue to rise in Houston



Inside C5

Market

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

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Dow briefly falls more than 10 percent from high

Stock

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow briefly fell more than 10 percent from its Jan. 26 record high on Monday before paring losses to trade

above its lows of the day.

Both the Dow and S&P 500 were last down more than 3 percent, while the Cboe Volatility index .VIX jumped more than 100 percent on the day and hit its highest since August 2015. U.S. equity options traders bought contracts to protect against declining stock prices, driven by the biggest surge in volatility in months, but trading activity on Monday suggested traders are not necessarily hitting the panic button just

U.S. stocks slipped sharply on Monday as

rising yields for bonds, which signal higher borrowing costs and are an alternative investment option for traders, continued to fuel the selloff in equities. [.N] The CBOE Volatility Index .VIX, better known as the VIX, is the most

widely followed barometer of expected near-term volatility for the S&P 500 Index .SPX. On Monday, the index was up 4.89 points at 22.2, after earlier rising to 22.88, its highest level since NovemWall Street has been under pressure from rising bond yields, which led to the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI last week posting their worst weeks since early January 2016 while the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC recorded its worst week since early February 2016.

Options trading activity on Monday was strong with about 8.5 million contracts changing hands in the first hour of trade, roughly 1.6 times the usual pace, according to options analytics firm Trade Alert data.

By 1 p.m. EST (1800 GMT), overall options trading volume hit 16.5 million, with contracts changing hands at 1.3 times the usual pace,

> according to Trade Alert. Options on popular hedging vehicles - VIX, SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (SPY.P) and S&P 500 Index .SPX drew notable activity. VIX call options, which profit from a rise in stock market gyra-

tions, were traded at about twice their usual pace. SPY put contracts, which protect against a drop in the S&P 500, changed hands at twice their usual pace.

The robust activity was in line with a spike



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

in equity market volatility rising to a level not seen in months, Jim Strugger, derivatives strategist at MKM Partners in New York,

'We have come through such a statistically anomalous period that even if we just go back to average it is going to scare people," he

The VIX's long-term average stands at 19.34. Through Friday, the VIX had lingered below that level for 312 consecutive sessions. Still, there is little to suggest that market participants are panicking just yet, Strugger said. "Anecdotally, I am not seeing people really rushing in to put on protection," he added. The absence of panic can also be seen in the S&P 500 index skew, a measure of relative

demand for puts versus calls.

"Skew has remained fairly stable," said Mandy Xu, derivatives strategist at Credit Suisse. One reason why investors may not be more concerned is that while higher bond yields have occasionally driven the VIX up, the effect is typically short-lived, Xu said. "In order to get sustained high volatility, you need a deterioration in the fundamental outlook which we do not anticipate," she said. The Republican retreat, an opportunity for lawmakers to discuss legislation and politics in the run-up to November's congressional elections, was scheduled to run until midday Friday. President Donald Trump was due to attend on Thursday. Vice President Mike Pence went as scheduled on Wednesday.

## U.S. forces begin reducing numbers in Iraq: Iraqi spokesman rising

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - U.S. forces have begun reducing their numbers in Iraq after Iraqi authorities declared victory over Islamic State, an Iraqi government spokesman said on Monday.

Iraqi forces backed by a U.S.-led international coalition last year captured all the territory that fell under Islamic State control in 2014 and 2015, including the northern city of Mosul, which served as the militants' de facto capital.

"The American forces have begun reducing their numbers as victory has been achieved over Daesh," the spokesman told Reuters, referring to the Islamic State militant group. "Coordination continues, to maintain (U.S.) assistance to the Iraqi forces in accordance with their requirements."

The United States is believed to have around 7,000 troops in Iraq, even though the Pentagon has only acknowledged 5,200 troops.

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The troops have been mostly training and advising Iraqi forces.

In a statement, the coalition said it would "shift its focus in Iraq from enabling combat operations to sustaining military gains against" Islamic State militants.

"The Coalition will tailor our forces in consultation with our Iraqi partners in order to ensure the lasting defeat of Daesh," the director of operations for the coalition, Brigadier General Jonathan Braga, said.

Braga said that even if the composition of the force changes, the coalition would maintain the capabilities and presence to continue to train, advise and equip Iraqi forces to ensure that Islamic State does not re-emerge.

U.S. officials say that while Islamic State has lost most of the territory it once controlled in Iraq and Syria, there is concern about the remaining fighters returning to insurgency tactics.

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A Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35C Joint Strike Fighter is shown on the deck of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier

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## **BUSINESS**

HOUSTON [Feb.1, 2018] – Small business owners ready to take their business to the next level have an opportunity to apply and participate in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program set to launch in May at the Houston Community College Southwest College's Missouri City campus.

This national program was brought to Houston in 2011 through a partnership among HCC, the city of Houston and Goldman Sachs Foundation. It supports small businesses with strategies for growth and sustainability with business education and application and support of business advisors. The three-month program lets participants gain practical skills such as negotiation, marketing and management that can immediately be put into action.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is a \$500 million public-private partnership initiative aimed at unlocking the growth and job creation potential of small businesses across the United States by providing them with greater access to practical business education, financial capital and business support services.



Participants study a specialized business and management curriculum designed for entrepreneurs, and developed by Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

The program has served 6,100 small businesses consisting of 80,000 employees. The total revenue of participants' businesses is \$5 billion-plus.

The program was launched at Tri-C in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2012, and the alumni list for the program now surpasses 500.. According to a current program progress report, networking is strengthened through the course, as 85.3 percent of graduates conduct business together.

Growth is not limited to a specific industry or demographic as business owners of different ages and education levels comprise participants.

"The program is fantastic and commits

National Program Is Designed To Help Small Business Grow

### Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program Kicks Off At HCC Missouri City Campus

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





## 10,000 small businesses

to a variety of comprehensive modules across all business concepts and disciplines," a recent participant stated. "It's industry-wide, from restaurant owners to construction to landscaping to manufacturing — they leave nothing out."

The program has been attended by many women, young people and business owners of all ethnicities.



"This program at HCC helps businesses past the start-up phase and in position for growth," said Cathy Landry, executive director of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses at HCC. "An owner is typically hands-on in day-to-day operations. This program helps the owner step back and work on a strategy for growth rather than just maintain operations."

Participants spend 13 weeks, roughly 100 class hours, at HCC studying the business curriculum. Since 2011, 552 small business owners have graduated from the Goldman Sachs program at HCC. These graduates represent more than 40 industries including information technology, manufacturing and hospitality.

Graduates receive a certificate of com-

pletion of the Goldman Sachs program and a certificate of completion from HCC Corporate College Continuing Education. The graduates are now ready to implement their customized growth plan developed throughout the program and become members of the local and national Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses alumni network, which offers them ample opportunities to do business with each other



In order to be accepted into the program, participants must generally meet four criteria: they must be the owner or co-owner; they must have business revenues of at least \$150,000 in the most recent fiscal year; they must have at least four employees on staff including the program par-

ticipant; and their businesses must be in operation for at least two years.

"This is not a spectator sport. Participants come prepared to work on a growth strategy that is ready to implement when they graduate," said Liz Lara-Carreno, outreach director of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses at HCC. "Eighty-five percent of program alumni do business with each other, demonstrating the power of the peer-to-peer network created in the classroom."

Stafford-based RPC Global is one of the companies transformed thanks to the Goldman Sachs program at HCC. In 2011 when owner Abe Gonzalez enrolled in the program, growth at his information technology and computer recycling company had stagnated.



"I learned I had to take responsibility, which meant taking over the leadership role from my father, and it changed our bottom line," Gonzalez said. "I became decisive in the employees I kept. I cut strategies that weren't working and we made a big decision to close the brick-and-mortar store and become an e-commerce business. Once we trimmed the fat, we could focus on what worked."

Seven years after graduating from the program, Gonzalez has seen his company grow more than 400 percent. RPC Global now lives up to its name, doing business all over the world, thanks to the addition of an eBay storage room to handle these transactions.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses at HCC offers three sessions a year, in spring, summer and fall, at various HCC campuses. There is no cost to participate in the program, which is funded through the Goldman Sachs Foundation.



The program is accepting applications for the summer session at the HCC Missouri City campus that runs from May 16 through mid-August. The deadline to apply is Thursday, February 15. Apply at hccs.edu/hcc-in-the-community/10ksb/ or call 713.718.8348.

#### 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. HCC is one of the country's largest singly-accredited, open-admission, community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www. hccs.edu.



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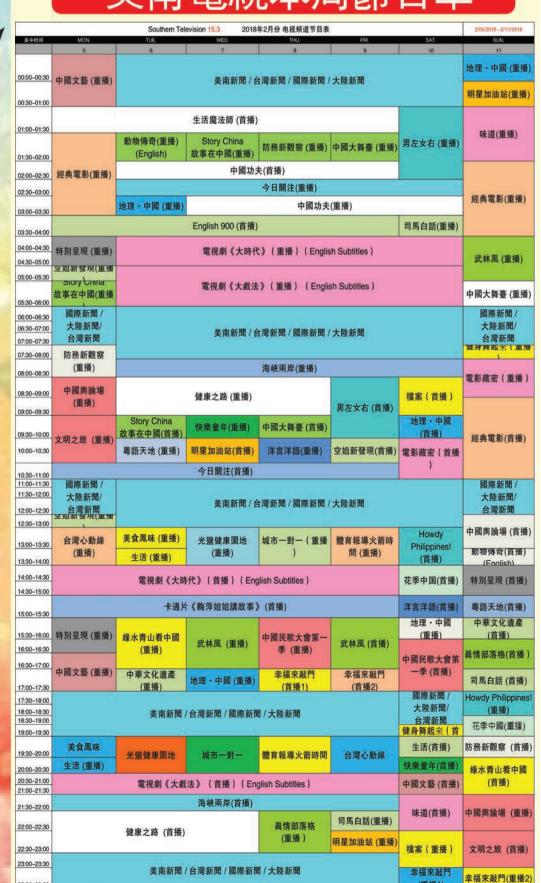












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Tuesday, February 5. 2018



## A Snapshot Of The World



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro dances during a rally to commemorate the 26th anniversary of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez failed coup attempt in Caracas



NFL Football - Philadelphia Eagles v New England Patriots - Super Bowl LII - U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. - February 4, 2018 Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles celebrates with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after winning Super Bowl LII REUTERS



Nihira Bajracharaya, 5, is pictured after being appointed as the Living Goddess Kumari of Lalitpur



90th Oscars Nominees Luncheon– Arrivals – Los Angeles, California, U.S., 05/02/2018 – Actor Timothee Chalamet (L) and director Paul Thomas Anderson. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Michael Ellis, French chef Pierre Gagnaire and Claire Dorland-Clauzel attend the ceremony at the Seine Musicale center in Boulogne-Billancourt near Paris



First Lady of the United States Melania Trump plays with a child from Cincinnati Children's Hospital



An expert holds a cat during the "World Golden Cat" international exhibition in Minsk, Belarus



The 132nd IOC Session ahead of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games



A supporter is seen thorough the flag of Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI (M) during a protest against what they say is an anti-people budget, in New Delhi



## COMMUNITY

honored.

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt was named the 2017 Walter Payton Man of the Year at the NFL Honors on Saturday in Minneapolis.

The league bestowed Watt with the honor over fellow finalists Greg Olsen of the Carolina Panthers and Benjamin Watson of the Baltimore Ravens.

The NFL's official Twitter account put out the following regarding Watt's win:



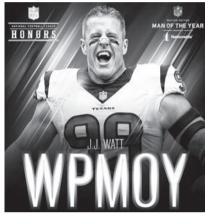
Congratulations to @JJWatt! The 2017 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, presented by @Nationwide! #WPMOY 7:22 PM - Feb 3, 2018

According to NFL.com, the Walter Payton Man of the Year award "recognizes an NFL player for his excellence on and off the field."

It was established as the NFL Man of the Year award in 1970 before being renamed the Walter Payton Man of the Year award in 1999 to honor the 1977 recipient and late Chicago Bears running back

The 28-year-old Watt missed all but five games in 2017 due to a tibial plateau fracture. He also played in only three contests in 2016 because of back surgery.

Prior to that, Watt was named a Pro Bowler and First Team All-Pro in four consecutive seasons. That included Defensive Player of the Year awards in 2012, 2014



J.J. Watt on using his NFL platform to give back: "If I'm remembered as a football player, and a good football player...and that's all I'm remembered for, then I did a poor job in my life." #WPMOY 8:04 PM - Feb 3, 2018

By virtue of Watt's win, the NFL will donate \$250,000 to a charity of his choice, and \$250,000 will be donated in his name Texans Player Recognized For His Efforts On And Off The Field

## Houston's J.J. Watt Wins NFL's 2017 Walter Payton Man of the Year Award

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



toward Character Playbook, which is a charity for middle school children created by the NFL and United Way.

The league will also donate \$100,000 to separate charities of Olsen's and Watson's choice, and \$100,000 each in their names to Character Playbook.

Per NFL.com, Watt went above and beyond to help Houston during a time of crisis in 2017.

Following Hurricane Harvey, Watt started a fundraising campaign that raised a remarkable \$37 million, which was used to help those impacted by the tropical storm.



Watt is also the founder of the Justin J. Watt Foundation, which helps under-served children, and he is a contributor to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. (Courtesy http://bleacherreport.com/articles)

J.J. Watt's Relief Efforts Following Hurricane Harvey Carried Him "Over The Goal Line" As He Was Named The 2017 Winner Of The Walter Payton Man Of The Year

Award Even having suffered a broken leg and a losing season, 2017 might have been J.J. Watt's finest hour.

The Houston Texans star defensive end previously had been praised for his tre-mendous football skills and playfully mocked for his blue-collar shtick, but that all changed last August. Watt stepped up to the plate to start relief fund for Hurricane Harvey in his new hometown.

The original goal Watt set was for \$200,000. He ended up raising more than



J.J. Watt was a "Hands-On Hero" during Harvey relief efforts.

That's why Watt was named the Walter Payton Man of the Year — honoring players' charity work, plus excellence on the field — on Saturday night at the 7th Annual NFL Honors.

"It's an incredible honor," Watt said during his acceptance speech. "To be mentioned ... even in the same breath as Walter PayThe finalists for the 2018 Walter Payton Man of the Year Award

Walter Payton Man of the Year finalists, from left, Houston Texans' J.J. Watt, Baltimore Ravens' Benjamin Watson and Carolina Panthers' Greg Olsen. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

Olsen's work with the HEARTest Yard Fund, supporting families of children with congenital

heart disease, is noble. Watson's charity and civic work has been well-documented, and his One More Foundation was founded "to carry the hope and love of Christ to those in our community who need it most." It has both assisted existing charities and started new programs, last year aiding the fight against sex trafficking in the Dominican Republic.

But Watt took home the award for his almost spur-of-the-moment relief after Harvey touched shore off the coast of Texas last Aug. 17. The damage to the Gulf Coast region was incredible, and the Texans' Week 4 preseason game against the Cowboys was cancelled in the aftermath. The Texans couldn't ride the wave of sup-



ton and everything he meant to pro football on the field, and more importantly off the field, I'm incredibly humbled and

Watt suffered a broken leg in Houston, and the Texans went south in what would

be a 4-12 season. But his work in not only raising the collosal sum of money but also helping revitalize a city that suffered 82 casualties and \$125 billion in damages

pretty much wrapped up this award before

last season even started.

#### J.J. Watt holding his Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

'This award is called the Man of the Year award, but I promise you it is so much bigger than just one man," Watt said. "This award is about the inherent good that lies within humanity. It's about the city of Houston and its ability to overcome adversity at a time when it all seemed lost.

"It's about the hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country, all over the world, who donated to a city they may never have been to ... to people they may never meet. But they donated simply because they saw their fellow human going through a difficult time, and they wanted to help out.

The other finalists for the award, given out annually since 1970 (and renamed for the late Payton in 1999), were Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen and Baltimore Ravens tight end Ben Watson. Both were deserving, and in any other year they could have been considered favorites.





— baseball's Houston Astros picked up the slack there. But Watt's efforts were the kind of thing any Texans fan, and re-ally any American, could feel immensely proud of. Especially in a season in the NEL when pegativity seamed to be at an NFL when negativity seemed to be at an all-time high, Watt's work and his words of support were badly needed. "Whether we realize it or not, we're affecting every one around us with our every move." Watt said in his acceptance speech. "The more we can shine a light on the positivity and the good in this world, the better off we are going to be. We all have to go through this crazy journey together, so why not this crazy journey together, so why not help each other out and make it as great of a journey as possible?" (Courtesy USA Today Sports and http://www.profootball-weekly.com/)

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## **BUSINESS**

# Exxon stock having worst two days since 2015

By Kevin Crowley

The plunge follows fourth-quarter results that missed expectations on Friday, disappointing investors who had hoped the oil giant would have cashed in more from crude's rally. Additionally, the Irving, Texas-based company said share buybacks that were halted in 2016 remain suspended.

"It's a follow up trade from Friday, there's nothing incremental that's come out since the earnings call," said Jason Gammel, a London-based analyst at Jefferies LLC, with a 'hold' rating on the stock. "There were pretty weak cash flow numbers. It was a pretty big miss."

Stock in the world's biggest oil explorer by

market value traded down 4.7 percent to \$80.53 at 1:42 p.m. in New York, compounding Friday's 5.1 percent decline. The slump was the driller's steepest two-day plunge since August 2015. Trading volume exceeded the three-month daily average by 23 percent at 1:42 p.m. in New York. Exxon has an "aggressive" growth strategy in each of its upstream, downstream and chemicals businesses that will be detailed to investors on March 7, Jeff Woodbury, Exxon's vice president of investor relations, said during a call with analysts on Friday. Key to its upstream expansion is a more than 3 billion barrel discovery in Guyana, a ramp up in U.S. shale fields plus recent acquisitions in Mozambique and Papua New Guinea, he said.



## Gasoline prices continue to rise in Houston

By Katherine Blunt

The cost of gasoline in Houston and across the country again increased at the start of the month, a sign that above-average prices will likely continue through the start of the summer driving season.

The average cost of a gallon of regular unleaded in the Houston area increased about 1 cent last week to \$2.31, while the national average rose 2 cents to \$2.60 a gallon, according to GasBuddy, which tracks fuel prices nationwide.

In Houston, fuel prices are more than 24 cents higher than they were at this time last year, when oil prices were lower. Nationally, prices have increased by about 34 cents during the same period.

Cheaper, winter-grade fuels typically



reduce the cost of gasoline in January, when demand is lower, but rising oil prices have pushed up prices. Further increases are expected even before refiners switch to pricier, summer-grade fuels next month.

Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy, said that average prices could increase by as much as 50 cents a gallon by Memorial Day.
"High oil prices continue to push gasoline prices to territory that
Americans haven't seen for years, aside from Hurricane Harvey last
September," he said. "The damage could get even worse as refinery maintenance season and summer gasoline is on the horizon."

#### Oil slides as stock markets crumble

Oil's decline accelerated as the deepening slump in equity and debt markets undermined the outlook for energy demand against the backdrop of swelling U.S. crude production. Futures fell as much as 2.7 percent in New York on Monday. Stock markets tumbled around the world, and confidence crumbled in emerging markets and the riskiest forms of debt. Meanwhile, the number of rigs searching for crude in American shale fields jumped to the highest in more than five months last week, a harbinger of ever-greater oil output. "This is an everything-getting-sold kind of situation," John Kilduff, founding partner at Again Capital LLC, said in a phone interview. "The selloff in the equity market is bleeding over to commodities on fears of economic prospects going forward."

West Texas Intermediate crude, the U.S. benchmark, topped \$66 a barrel this year for the first time since 2014, extending a rally driven by the extension of production caps by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and allied producers. While crude's strong start to the year was also helped by dwindling American inventories and a weakening dollar, analysts have been cautioning about the potential for a surge in U.S. shale output.

"There is more supply coming to this market, and we are entering the period of the refineries' maintenance," Kilduff said. "We are going to see a hit to demand globally that is lowering global prices today."

## 美南電視轉換新頻道15.3操作指南

美南國際電視網STV Channel 已由55.5 轉換至15.3,並正式擴大為十個頻道,廣大收視觀眾只要透過遙控器轉台至15.3,即可收看到美南電視節目,如果您家中的電視遙控器轉到15.3頻道,依然無法收看到美南電視,請依以下中英對照操作指南方式調整。

點選遙控器內的Menu頻道設定,重新掃描,注意智能型電視可能有一個聰明的按鈕用於設置MENU選項。通常會有廠商的LOGO標誌。尋找頻道設置選項。確認頻道是以天線收視。從MENU中,選擇數位頻道搜索(Channel Scan 或 Channel Search 或是Auto program),進行頻道掃描搜索或頻道自動設定。當電視完成自動搜索後,你會看到電視列出已有多少個頻道重新被發現。頻道重新設定過程有時可能長達一個小時。頻道設定完成後,按確認然後退出。如果頻道重新搜尋仍無法接收或是收視情況不佳,請購買天線調整最佳收視角度。如仍有相關問題,請致電美南新聞281-498-4310,聯繫Daniel。

## How to complete a channel scan on your Digital TV to add Channel 15.3

Please note: All TV manufacturers differ, so menu options, wording and other items may vary. The best way to complete the channel scan is to refer to the TV owner's manual. If that is unavailable, the following general steps should guide you through the process.

- 1.Using your television's remote control, press the Menu or Settings option.Note: a "Smart TV" may have a smart button that must be used to access the settings menu. It will generally have the manufacturer's logo on it.
- 2.Locate Channels or Tuner Set Up option.
- 3. Check the menu for an option of Antenna Type or Connection Type followed by either Antenna or Cable.
- 4.Make sure that the designated setting is Cable (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Digital Cable, CATV or Cable STD)
- 5.From the menu, choose Digital Channel Search (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Channel Scan, Channel Search or Auto program.)
- 6.Allow the TV to complete the search. You will see a bar listing how many channels have been found. The process may take up to an hour.
- 7. Once complete, confirm the menu prompt, then press an exit or guit option.

