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John Robbins 832-280-5815 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

E-mail: News@scdaily.com

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U.S. seeks to outshine China at Latam summit, without Trump

LIMA/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Latin American leaders arrived in Lima on Friday for a summit that U.S. President Donald Trump decided not to attend, even though Washington hopes to use the gathering to counter China's rising influence in the region.

Participants attend the Americas Business Summit in Lima, Peru April 12, 2018. REUTERS/ Mariana Bazo

The official theme of this year's Summit of the Americas in the Peruvian capital, where heads of state from across the Western Hemisphere will meet through Saturday, is corruption. Several countries attending also plan to condemn Venezuela's planned presidential election next month. But a heated trade dispute between the United States and China looms over the event.

Late on Thursday, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross took aim at Beijing's growing trade ties with the region, saying Latin America benefitted more from value-added exports to the United States than rising sales of raw materials to China. Ross told a regional gathering of business leaders in Lima that Washington had no intention of ceding leadership in Latin America to "authoritarian

But leaders from Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and other countries will meet in Peru without Trump, after the White House said he decided to skip his first visit as president to Latin America to focus instead on the crisis in

states."

In the opening speech at a joint business sum-

mit in Lima, Bolivia's left-leaning President Evo Morales said the days when foreign powers could dictate terms to Latin America were over.

"Many developing countries and transnational companies think the only thing that matters is making money," Morales said, calling instead for action on climate change. "The structural crisis of capitalism is threatening the survival of humanity itself."

Morales was the sole leftist Latin American president at the summit. Cuban President Raul Castro did not show up and host Peru uninvited Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro last month to pressure him to enact democratic reforms.

But even in the largely U.S.-friendly and pro-business crowd in Lima, many criticized Trump's approach to foreign policy and trade.

"Trump's plan seems to be to ensure the U.S. is no longer the world's leader," Gustavo Grobocopatel, chief executive of Argentine agricultural group Grupo Los Grobo S.A., told Reuters.

Ross said on Thursday it was too early to write off Trump. "This is an administration you should judge by its end results, not by theories about what may be the results," he told reporters.

In his speech, Ross urged Latin American countries to do more to reduce tariffs and red tape, saying regional economies would benefit by exporting more manufactured goods to the United States.

In the past week, Trump has threatened to slap more tariffs on Chinese goods, said he was in no hurry to reach a deal on the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA),



Acting U.S. Secretary of State Sullivan. Ivanka Trump and OPIC President and CEO Ray Washburne pose for a photo with attendees of a news conference at the Americas **Business Sum**mit in Lima

and ordered his advisors to study rejoining the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). Trump withdrew the United States from the TPP in one of his first acts as president. Former President Barack Obama had pitched the agreement as a way to give the United States an edge over China in a fast-growing region that includes large swaths of Latin America.

So far, it has been unclear what might replace it.

On Thursday, Trump's top trade official Robert Lighthizer also canceled his trip to Peru. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who will stand in for Trump at the summit, scheduled meetings that did not include a one-on-one with Mexico's president, dimming hopes progress might be made on NAFTA. "No one wants to do bilateral trade deals with the United States, and Trump had no Plan B," said Robert Manning, an Asia expert and senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

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Band performs Migration, a calm sampling of traditional and contemporary Chinese music.

Founded in 2006, HAYA Band is an award-winning world music collective representing a new era in folk music. The group has won many accolades, including from the China Music Awards (Best World Music Performance) and the Chinese Media Awards. Lead singer Daiging Tana was recently voted "The Most Beautiful Voice in China."

MIGRATION is about searching for one's own spiritual home, experiencing the beauty of life itself, and returning to a simplistic, survivalist lifestyle, HAYA

Band's "Migration" Concert employs innovative musical language alongside classic traditional songs, fusing a variety of musical elements such as chants, the Mongolian horsehead fiddle, plucked string instruments, throat singing, and shaman drums. Their music is refined and captivating. Their shows have a distinct "ceremonious" feel. Migration provides us with a path for escape from this fast-paced modern world, a contemporary migration to another realm, one surrounded by the wonders of nature and

This is a ticketed event for the covered seating area. Free tickets are available (4 per person over age 16 while they last) at the Miller Outdoor Theatre box office the day of the performance between the hours of 10:30 a.m. -1p.m. If tickets remain at 1p.m., the box office will re-open one hour before show time to distribute the remaining tickets. As always, open seating on the hill. The show goes on rain or shine.

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LOCAL NEWS

Texas and Gulf of Mexico lead rig count jump

By Katherine Feser

The active number of drilling rigs continues to grow thanks to increasing activity in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico.

The overall rig count grew by five - up to 1,008 - courtesy of four rigs added to the Gulf and three in Texas. The loss of two rigs drilling for natural gas kept the rig count from growing

As oil prices have risen for much of the last year or so, the rig count has steadily climbed, finally rising above 1,000 rigs a week ago for first time since April 2015.

Oil drilling currently accounts for 815 rigs of the total.

UC Davis Medical Center is preparing a flu triage center and other hospitals are seeing an influx in patients as the virus continues to worsen in California. There's been widespread flu activity throughout the state for the past six weeks, leading to 74 deaths so far. The total death count is more than five times the number seen at this point last year when 14 people died from the flu.

U.S. oil was selling above \$67 a barrel in early afternoon trading in New York. West Texas' Permian Basin now accounts for 445 rigs, which is more than half of all the nation's oil rigs. The next most active area is South Texas' Eagle Ford shale with 75 rigs. Texas is home to 501 rigs overall, while Oklahoma is second with 128 rigs. New Mexico is next with 89 rigs.

Despite this week's jump, the oil rig count is down 49 percent from its peak of 1,609 in October 2014, before oil prices began plummeting.

However, companies are producing more oil with fewer rigs by drilling more frequent and deeper wells, pushing U.S. oil production to record levels without requiring nearly as many rigs.



Houston's suburban cities tout growth and lament challenges

Officials from Sugar Land, Katy, Pearland and Conroe shared plans and concerns for economic growth in their respective cities Thursday during an annual conference on suburbs and development.

The officials cited mobility challenges and unease over legislative restrictions on growth, during a panel discussion at the Urban Land Institute's Suburban Marketplace. Flood control's effect on growth was also addressed.

Lance LaCour, president and CEO of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, said Harvey damaged 7,200 structures in Katy, most of which were residential.

"We have to really solve these flood-control issues. That's critical for business attraction in the future," he

Within the city limits of Conroe, about 200 homes were damaged from the storm, said Danielle Scheiner, executive director of the city's Economic Development Council, adding that she isn't aware of any plans to change the city's development rules. "We don't currently allow anything in

the 100-year floodplain," she said. The officials touted economic growth and expansion at the conference, which was held in Sugar Land. Scheiner said the city was set to close next week on 610 acres to expand its 1,045-acre Park North Industrial Park. Over the past decade, she said the park's tenant mix has diversified away from oil and gas. The largest employer there is a medical device manufacturer that grew to occupy four buildings. LaCour also cited the area's prominent industrial users, including Amazon and FedEx, which combined will employ well over 1,000 workers. A new office for Saudi petrochemical manufacturer SABIC also will bring about 1,000 jobs to Katy. "We're trying to target some higher-wage employment to come to Katy," LaCour

Sugar Land City Manager Allen Bogard said his city has one of the country's most diverse populations, with 37 percent primarily Chinese and Indian.

"That makes our population demographics very unique in the U.S.," he said. "The only city we can find with similar characteristics is Bellevue, Wash."

Sugar Land has limited land available for development, so new projects are more



often redevelopment, Bogard noted, citing the plaza in front of City Hall, First Colony Mall and the Imperial Sugar refinery site.

The city acquired the area's former central prison facility and is working with a developer for a new industrial park there.



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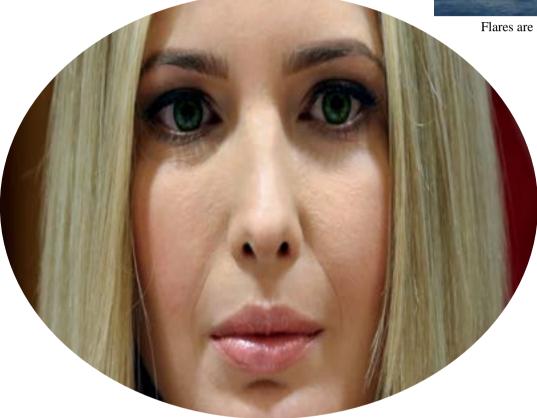
Editor's Choice Picturs



Honor guards take their position during the welcoming ceremony for Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing



Flares are set off from Cheng Kung-class frigate (1101) during a drill near Yilan naval base



Ivanka Trump attends a meeting at Lima Stock Exchange in Lima



Michael Thielen and Henning Laufer, two Karl Marx look-alike men, pose in front of a 4.4 metres (14 feet) high bronze statue of Marx, created by Chinese artist Wu Weishan and donated by China to the hometown of the German philosopher in Trier, Germany April 13,



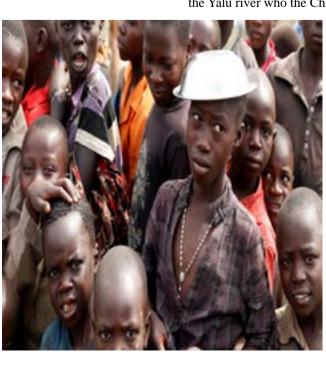
People take part in the annual "March of the Living" to commemorate the Holocaust, in Oswiecim



North Koreans are photographed from the Chinese side of the border as they stand in the freezing Yalu River near the town of Linjiang, China, November 22, 2017. On a road trip along China's side of its border with North Korea, reporters found a group of North Koreans diving in the Yalu river who the Chinese locals said were searching for gold.



Katrina Brooke, aged 73, interacts with Biscuit the robotic dog at Templeman House Residential and Dementia Care Home in Bournemouth



Children wait for food distribution at IDP camp in Bunia



A North Korean man is photographed from the Chinese side of the border near the town of Changbai, China, as he rides a bicycle along the Yalu River in the North Korean town of Hyesan, November 23, 2017. A week-long road trip along China's side of its border with North Korea showed places where it is porous.



COMMUNITY



There's no shortage of hot topics these

days: Syria, the soaring U.S. deficit, our porous online privacy, the president's personal lawyer having his office raided by federal agents...and of course, shingles. Jane Brody's health column on her experience with the shingles vaccine, headlined "Why You Should Get The New Shingles Vaccine," was one of the top trending articles in the New York Times on Tuesday. About a million people get shingles each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and even though the push to get vaccinated is geared to the over-50 crowd, anyone who has had

chickenpox can get shingles, even kids. While shingles is thought of as an older person's illness and the risk of contracting it increases with age, "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, a relative babe in the woods at 38, recently disclosed that he was diagnosed with shingles.

Preventing it is easier than ever. A new shingles vaccine, Shingrix, made by GlaxoSmithKlinePLC GSK, -0.53% recently became available in the U.S., and studies showed it to be superior to Zostavax MRK, +1.26% which has been in use since 2006. Possible side effects from Shingrix include sore arm, some redness and swelling in the injection area. Some who receive the vaccine people feel tired, have muscle pain, a headache, shivering, fever, stomach pain, or nausea, the CDC



The shingles virus causes a rash.

Most people only get shingles once in their lives, but subsequent outbreaks are possible, and they can occur when someone has a compromised immune system or is under a great deal of stress. Shingles presents as a painful rash that develops

New Shingles Vaccine Is 90% Effective

Shingles Vaccine Can Improve Your Health — Especially If You're Over 50

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

on one side of the face or body, complete with blisters that scab over, the CDC says. The rash can last two to four weeks and before it develops, people experience pain and tingling in the area where the rash will appear. Other symptoms include fever, headache, chills and an upset stomach.

People at higher risk of developing shingles include those with weakened immune systems or with cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma, and HIV, or who are on immunosuppressive drugs, such as steroids and drugs that are given after organ transplantation.

The Shingrix vaccine is administered by injection in two doses, between two and six months apart. The vaccine is available at doctors' offices, health clinics, and some pharmacies, offer it. Medicare Part D plans cover the vaccine, but costs vary by plan, and many private insurers cover recommended vaccines. (Courty https:// www.marketwatch.com/)

Related

New Shingles Vaccine Is 90% Effective

About one in three Americans will get shingles, the viral infection that causes a painful rash, and in some cases, more serious, long-term problems.

If you ever had chickenpox, you can get shingles. The virus that causes chickenpox hides in your body and reappears years later as shingles.

"Most people may have shingles for seven to 10 days, but if you have a weakened immune system, you're at much higher risk for complications which can be very severe," said Dr. Seth Cohen, chief of UW Medicine's infectious disease and travel clinics at Northwest Hospital.



FDA The recently approved a new shingles vac-

cine, grix, that is much better than the old one, Zostavax

Shingrix was found to be more than 90 percent effective in the first year and 85 percent or more effective three years after vaccination.

Health experts say anyone 50 or older should get the Shingrix vaccine, even if they've already been vaccinated against shingles. You need two shots, two to six months apart.

Many millions of Americans, especially those older than 40, are susceptible to an eventual attack of shingles, caused by the very same virus that causes chickenpox. Once this virus, varicella zoster, infects a person, it lies dormant for decades in nerve roots, ready to pounce when the immune system is weakened, say, by stress, medication, trauma or disease. One-third of Americans eventually get shingles, but the risk rises with age, and by age 85 half of adults will have had at least one outbreak of shingles.

Before the introduction of the chickenpox vaccine in 1995 in the United States, some four million cases of chickenpox, mostly in children, occurred annually. While you may not remember whether you had chickenpox as a child, chances are you did if you were never vaccinated against it.

(The chickenpox vaccine is usually given in two doses, with the first dose recommended at age 12 to 15 months and the second at age 4 to 6. Those 13 and older who were never vaccinated or had chickenpox should get two shots at least four weeks apart.)

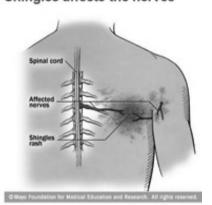


Studies have indicated that than more 99 percent of Americans aged 40 and have older had chickenpox even if they don't remember it, according to Dr. Rosanne M. Leipzig, geriatrician at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people 50 and older get the new shingles vaccine whether or not they remember having had chickenpox as

Those who never had chickenpox but did get the vaccine for it may also be susceptible to shingles because the vaccine contains a weakened live virus. However, the risk of shingles for those who had the chickenpox vaccine is much lower than for people who had the natural infection. If you are uncertain about your disease or vaccine history, you can get a blood test to check for immunity to chickenpox, though the result does not distinguish between protection via the disease or the vaccine. Thus, if the result is positive, Dr. Leipzig says you'd be wise to get the shingles vaccine because you could be harboring the live virus.

Lest you have doubts about the value of this vaccine, consider the effects of shingles. It is a painful infection of a single sensory nerve on one side of the body that can occur almost anywhere but most commonly involves the torso or face. Initial symptoms of tingling or burning pain within days develop into a red bumpy rash and very painful blisters.

Shingles affects the nerves



The blisters heal in a week or two to form crusty scabs that eventually fall off. But for about 15 percent of people, shingles does not end there. Instead, it leaves them with deep, searing nerve pain — a condition called postherpetic neuralgia, or PHN — that can last for months or years and has no treatment or cure. More than half the cases of PHN affect people over 60.

Other possible complications of shingles include pneumonia, hearing problems, blindness and encephalitis.

That's not all. Although most people get shingles only once, it can happen again, especially if you have a weakened immune system, which most everyone does with advancing age.

If you're lucky you may detect the onset of shingles before the rash appears. Years ago when I went to bed with what had been a daylong gnawing irritation on one side of my back, I awakened in the middle of the night with the thought, "I have shingles." First thing in the morning I got a prescription for the antiviral drug acyclovir, which halted progress of the disease.

Not willing to trust my luck a second time, I got the new vaccine. Here's how it compares to its predecessor Zostavax, which over all reduces the risk of shingles by 51 percent and of PHN by 67 percent. According to the C.D.C., Shingrix can protect 97 percent of people in their 50s and 60s and 91 percent of those in their 70s and 80s. It also reduces the risk of PHN by 86 percent, and it appears to be longer lasting than Zostavax, which starts to lose its protection after three years.



What makes Shingrix so much better is the inclusion of a substance called an adjuvant that boosts the body's immune response to the vaccine. Another difference is that Zostavax contains a live, weakened virus, making it unsuitable for people with poor immunity, whereas Shingrix contains a nonliving virus particle and may eventually be approved for those with compromised immunity, who are especially susceptible to a severe case of shingles. (Courtesy https://www.nytimes.com)

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BUSINESS

Tepco has confirmed it plans to release the radioactive material from the Fukushima plant into the ocean saying that the "decision has already been made". The decision has an upset local fisherman who says the decision will kill their industry as a result of a massive loss of sea life. (TEP-CO, is a Japanese electric utility holding company servicing Japan's Kantō region, Yamanashi Prefecture, and the eastern portion of Shizuoka Prefecture. This area includes Tokyo. Its headquarters are located in Uchisaiwaicho, Chivoda, Tokyo, and international branch offices exist in Washington, D.C., and London. It is a founding member of strategic consortiums related to energy innovation and research; such as JINED, INCJ and MAI.)

Under the controversial plan, which could be a massive environmental disaster, the radioactive material tritium, which is being used to cool reactors whose cooling systems were damaged in 2011 tsunami, will now be released into the ocean.

rt.com reports: "I'm very sorry that Tepco has been prolonging making a decision," the new chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) Takashi Kawamura told reporters on Thursday, reported Reuters. "We could have decided much earlier, and that is Tepco's responsibility." The plan still requires the approval of the Japanese government before TEPCO can proceed. Some 770,000 tons (metric) of tritium-containing water is currently stored in 580 tanks at the plant, reported the Japan Times. Toxic water at the plant is currently being treated through a processing system that can remove 62 different types of radioactive material, except tritium.





Plans By Tepco To Release Entire **Fukushima Waste Into Ocean Confirmed**

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



The local fishermen cooperative has hit out at the plan, saying it had not been discussed with local residents. "Releasing (tritium) into the sea will create a new wave of unfounded rumors, making our efforts all for naught," Kanji Tachiya, head of a local fishermen cooperative, told the Japan Times. Situated 10 meters above sea-level, three of the nuclear power plant's six reactors' cooling systems were crippled by flooding caused by the tsunami, making the disaster the worst since the Chernobyl catastrophe in the USSR in 1986. The plan still requires the approval of the Japanese government before TEP-CO can proceed.

Related

Fukushima Radiation: The Entire Pacific Ocean Has Been Contaminated, And It's Only **Going To Get Worse**

The nuclear disaster has contaminated the world's largest ocean in only five years and it's still leaking 300 tons of radioactive waste every day. What was the most dangerous nuclear disaster in world history? Most people would say the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine, but they'd be

In 2011, an earthquake, believed to be

an aftershock of the 2010 earthquake in Chile, created a tsunami that caused a meltdown at the TEPCO nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan. Three nuclear reactors melted down and what happened next was the largest release of radiation into the water in the history of the world. Over the next three months, radioactive chemicals, some in even greater quantities than Chernobyl, leaked into the Pacific Ocean. However, the numbers may actually be much higher as Japanese official estimates have been proven by several



scientists to be flawed in recent years. If that weren't bad enough, Fukushima continues to leak an astounding 300 tons of radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean every day. It will continue do so indefinitely as the source of the leak cannot be sealed as it is inaccessible to both humans and robots due to extremely high temperatures. It should come as no surprise, then, that Fukushima has contaminated

the entire Pacific Ocean in just five years. This could easily be the worst environmental disaster in human history and it is almost never talked about by politicians, establishment scientists, or the news. It is interesting to note that TEPCO is a subsidiary of General Electric (also known as GE), one of the largest companies in the world, which has considerable control over numerous news corporations and politicians alike.

Could this possibly explain the lack of news coverage Fukushima has received in the last five years? There is also evidence that GE knew about the poor condition

of the Fukushima reactors for decades and did nothing. This led 1,400 Japanese citizens to sue GE for their role in the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Even if we can't see the radiation itself, some parts of North America's western coast have been feeling the effects for years. Not long after Fukushima, fish in Canada began bleeding from their gills, mouths, and eyeballs. This "disease" has been



Japanese fishermen draw up a fishing net full of Echizen kurage, or Nomura's jellyfish, off the shores of Awashimaura, northern Japan. Japan is still struggling to convince consumers that fish from contaminated areas is safe. (Photo/ Reuters)

ignored by the government and has decimated native fish populations, including the North Pacific herring. Elsewhere in Western Canada, independent scientists have measured a 300% increase in the

level of radiation. According to them, the amount of radiation in the Pacific Ocean is increasing every year. Why is this being ignored by the mainstream media? It might have something to do with the fact that the US and Canadian governments have banned their citizens from talking about Fukushima so "people don't panic." Further south in Oregon, USA, starfish began losing legs and then disintegrating entirely when Fukushima radiation arrived there in 2013. Now, they are dying in record amounts, putting the entire oceanic ecosystem in that area at risk. However, government officials say Fukushima is not to blame even though radiation in Oregon tuna tripled after Fukushima.



Wakana Kumagai, 7, visits the spot in Miyagi prefecture where her house once stood, before it was washed away by the March 11, 2011 tsunami. (Photo: Reuters)

In 2014, radiation on California beaches increased by 500 percent. In response, government officials said that the radiation was coming from a mysterious "unknown" source and was nothing to worry about. However, Fukushima is having a bigger impact than just the West coast of North America. Scientists are now saying that the Pacific Ocean is already radioactive and is currently at least 5-10 times more radioactive than when the US government dropped numerous nuclear bombs in the Pacific during and after World War II. If we don't start talking about Fukushima soon, we could all be in for a very unpleasant surprise.... Read More: http:// www.whydontyoutrythis.com/2016/12/ fukushima-radiation-the-entire-pacificocean-has-been-contaminated-its-goingto-get-worse.html (Courtesy http://www. whydontyoutrythis.com)



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