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Emotional ceremony for Barbara Bush comes to a close



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Monday, April 23, 2018

www.today-america.com

Southern News Group

## U.S. Treasury chief may visit China as trade tensions simmer

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Saturday he may travel to China, a move that could ease tensions between the world's two largest economies, as international policymakers acknowledged Beijing needs to change its trade practices. The United States has threatened to impose tariffs on up to \$150 billion of Chinese imports to try to force changes in Beijing's industrial policies, which Washington says are aimed at acquiring American intellectual property. Mnuchin told reporters he was continuing to have discussions with his Chinese counterparts to try to resolve the differences over trade, but said he may go to Beijing.

"A trip is under consideration," Mnuchin said at a press conference during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank spring meetings in Washington.

"I am not going to make any comment on timing, nor do I have anything confirmed, but a trip is under consideration."

Mnuchin also declined to say what he wants from a trade deal with China, adding, "If we have a deal, you'll know what it looks like when we have it."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin speaks at a news conference during the IMF/World Bank spring meeting in

Washington, U.S., April 21, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

China has threatened retaliation against U.S. exports if Washington pushes ahead with the tariffs. The row cast a pall over the semi-annual gathering of the world's finance officials, with IMF Managing Christine Lagarde warning earlier this week that it could damage confidence, investment and growth in the global economy.

Lagarde told a press conference on Saturday that there would be no winners from such a conflict.

"It is important that as a global community we keep trade open, we ensure that we work within the multilateral system that we have to make sure if there are disputes, these disputes are resolved," she said. Mnuchin said he met with China's new central bank governor, Yi Gang, during the IMF and World Bank meetings and discussed the potential for China to open its markets to more foreign competition.

"I did meet with the Chinese here. The discussions were really more around the governor's actions at the PBOC (People's Bank of China) and certain actions they've announced in terms of opening some of their



Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin speaks at a news conference in Washington

markets, which we very much encourage and appreciate."

Beijing announced on Wednesday that it would gradually eliminate ownership caps on foreign manufacturers of autos, aircraft and ships.

A year after U.S. President Donald Trump first rankled multilateral finance meetings with his "America First" trade agenda, some officials are starting to acknowledge he has changed the conversation on trade, even if they disagree with his tariff plans. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin speaks at a news conference during the IMF/World Bank spring meeting in

Washington, U.S., April 21, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

"No one can be in any doubt that the U.S. has a valid point about intellectual property theft" by China, British finance minister Philip Hammond said on Friday. "It's been going on, on an industrial scale, over many years and we've been targets of it just as the U.S. has."

At the same time, Hammond said using tariffs was the wrong way to settle trade disputes, and he was urging China to do more to open its markets to foreign competitors, particularly in services.

A senior Japanese government official drew a clear distinction between Japan's trade issues with the United States and the U.S.-China dispute.

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# Schlumberger reports growing profit, long-term optimism

The world's largest energy services company, Schlumberger, posted growing profits and revenues from last year as its chief executive touted the need for more global oil and gas investments to meet future demand needs.

CEO Paal Kibsgaard said the company experienced growth in all its business segments except its Cameron Group subsidiary that primarily sells deepwater equipment and technology for the still-struggling offshore sector.

Kibsgaard cited some concerns with global oil supplies because of the free fall in Venezuela, production challenges in Africa and Asia, as well as temporarily declining output in much of Europe's North Sea.

The Middle East, Russia and U.S. shale are the only reliable growth sources, he said, and even U.S. shale faces challenges as the best acreage is depleted and the industry faces issues with closely drilled wells interfering with each other, as well as labor and pipeline bottlenecks.

Therefore, it's imperative for the industry to invest more in global exploration and production to meet the global oil and gas demand growth, he said.

"We remain optimistic about the outlook for sustainable activity growth in our global business over the course of 2018 and into 2019," he added.



## UH summit to focus on hiring and selling to millennials, Generation Z

This age group needs more time to buy houses and start families, which will trigger major purchases. And while they haven't become loyal to brands yet, millennials tend to be very loyal once they select a brand. So it's important to learn to market to them.

A good way to retain millennials is to have new technology, allow them to take enough time off and work from home. Sean Dowling (@seandowlingtv) has more.

This is something that Jason Dorsey, a researcher on millennial and Gen Z generations and co-founder of the Center for Generational Kinetics, will address during the UH summit.

Boyd William Nash-Stacey, senior economist at BBVA, will speak on millennial economic opportunity in the rapidly changing U.S. economy.

As for Gen Z, the Center for Generational Kinetics' 2017 study found that the majority of 14 to 21 year-olds are already working in some capacity, with 77 percent of those surveyed earning their spending money through

freelance work, part-time job or earned allowance.

When it comes to spending that money, Gen Z men buy products and Gen Z women buy experiences.

That doesn't mean they make purchases in a vacuum. The majority of Gen Z (78 percent) used ratings and reviews to purchase an item in the last 30 days. And 48 percent frequently ask the opinion of friends or family before making a purchase.

The University of Houston Bauer College Small Business Development Center will present The Generational Divide Summit on Tuesday at the Hilton Houston Westchase, 9999 Westheimer.



Houston Yellow Page is published by Southern News Group

# Walk in the History Plan for the Future



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Emotional ceremony for Barbara Bush In Houston



Woman is tended to by first responders after being rescued from clinic after explosion in Concepcion



Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin speaks at a news conference in Washington



Spanish King's Cup Final - FC Barcelona v Sevilla



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde attends IMFC press conference during the IMF/World Bank spring meeting in Washington, U.S., April 21, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas



Spanish King's Cup Final - FC Barcelona v Sevilla



An honour guard arrives for a wreath-laying ceremony with Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro at the Jose Marti monument in Havana



Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; speaks at a panel discussion in Washington



People march behind a banner reading "Prisoners To the Street, Now's The Time" during a rally in support of ETA prisoners in Bilbao



World Bank President Jim Yong Kim speaks at a panel discussion in Washington





**The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston and Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University offering a 2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan.**

The Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston and Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University are excited to offer a 2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan! Designed to promote Chinese-language learning, this summer camp offers elementary and middle school students in the Southern USA a chance to learn in a fun and effective way. In addition to language instruction, families can enjoy a range of cultural activities fit for everyone. Parents and kids can improve their language skills and embrace Taiwanese culture together in a relaxing and friendly environment.

**Overview**

**Camp Information:**

- 1.Duration: June 3 - June 10, 2018 (7-Night stay)
- 2.Location: Mandarin Studies & Culture Center of Ming Chuan University, Taiwan
- 3.Eligibility: Students ages 7-14 from the service area of the Education Division of TECO in Houston. (Arkansas,

2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan

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

Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas)  
4.Rate: USD 800 (per person), including ground transportation to/ from Taoyuan International Airport (TPE), 7-night double occupancy room, 2-meal during weekdays (breakfast and lunch), 15-hour Mandarin Classes divided into Children and Adult. A total of 5-cultural field trips will be arranged during weekday afternoon.  
5.Lodge: MCU Jihe Hotel, 7F-8F, No.130, Jihe Rd., Shihlin District, Taipei City,

Taiwan.

6.Calendar:

	08:30~ 09:00	09:00~ 12:00	12:00~ 14:00	14:00~ 16:00	16:00~ 18:00	18:00~ 20:00	20:00~ 22:00
Jun. 3 Sun	Airport pickup	Free Time					
Jun. 4 Mon	Breakfast	Mandarin Classes Adult/Children	Lunch	Taipei 101		Free Time	
Jun. 5 Tue	Breakfast	Mandarin Classes Adult/Children	Lunch	Yingge Ceramics or Sanxia Blue Dyeing Workshop		Free Time	
Jun. 6 Wen	Breakfast	Mandarin Classes Adult/Children	Lunch	National Palace Museum		Free Time	
Jun. 7 Thu	Breakfast	Mandarin Classes Adult/Children	Lunch	Pineapple Cake DIY Workshop		Free Time	
Jun. 8 Fri	Breakfast	Mandarin Classes Adult/Children	Lunch	Tamsui Old Street		Free Time	
Jun. 9 Sat	Breakfast	Free Time					
Jun. 10 Sun	Breakfast	Free Time				Airport Drop off	

- 7. Application Deadline: April 30, 2018
- 8. Application Package:
  - (1)Application form with photo (per person)
  - (2) Check of USD 800 (per person) for camp fee (flight ticket not included), please make payable to Education Division, TECO in Houston
  - (3) Flight information
- 9.Please submit the application package to:  
2018 Family Mandarin Camp in Taiwan  
Education Division  
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston

- 11. Greenway Plaza, Suite 2012  
Houston, TX 77046
- 10. Information will be sent to applicants by email upon acceptance into the program. If you have not received any notification by May 20, 2018, please contact us at houcul@houstoncul.org.
- 11.Contact information:

Elissa Chung  
Education Division  
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston  
Email: houcul@houstoncul.org  
駐休士頓教育組鍾慧敬上  
Elissa Chung  
Education Division, TECO in Houston  
Tel: 713-871-0851  
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The mission's purpose is to witness the complex Dike system that keeps the Netherlands from flooding and potentially bring valuable ideas to the city of Houston.

For more detailed information please contact Val Thompson at: 832.448.0537 or vthompson@houstontrade.org or Consul Geer Visser at: nabctx@gmail.com

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Orthopedic Surgery  
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Meet Dr. Amy En-Hui Chen



**Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.**  
Family Medicine  
**Mandarin**  
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Dr. Chen is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She completed her internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Her special clinical interests include women's health, preventive medicine, adolescent medicine, hypertension, and obesity management.

*“The goal of my practice is to establish a nurturing, positive environment where my patients feel comfortable to discuss their health issues and situations. I enjoy getting to know my patients and developing lifelong relationships with them. I believe in educating patients to better understand their health conditions and disease processes, while making them an active partner in their ongoing care. I emphasize preventive care and lifestyle changes to help improve their overall health and quality of life.”*

~ Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.

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## Report: ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ Has Grown to Twice the Size of Texas

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



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch now consumes a whopping 600,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.

nearly half of the plastic found in the great Pacific garbage patch—an area of the ocean where plastic tends to accumulate.(Courtesy The Ocean Cleanup)

Plastic is everywhere, from our homes and everyday lives all the way up to the illusorily pristine Arctic. The oceans are no exception—our high seas are accumulating plastic just as fast as we can push it out into the world.

In a new paper in Scientific Reports, researchers found that the infamous great Pacific garbage patch contains 16 times more plastic than previous estimates showed, and it seems to be increasing over time. The great Pacific garbage patch is one of six areas of the ocean known to accumulate plastic, located in the north Pacific Ocean. While there is a lot of plastic there, the debris aren’t clumped together like some floating landfill. Instead, the plastics (many of them broken down into teeny tiny pieces) are distributed widely across an area of about 617,000 square miles. This particular study didn’t just trawl the zone with screens to measure the damage. They also flew planes from California to

do aerial surveys of the patch. Part of the reason that this survey found so much more plastic than others was that it took into account ‘megaplastics’ instead of just focusing on ‘microplastics.’



“We did some research a few years back trying to assess how much plastic is floating on the ocean, and we found that using those methods we’re giving a bias to small debris,” says Laurent Lebreton, lead study author and oceanographer at The Ocean Cleanup. But ships also reported larger bits of plastic, so Lebreton and colleagues decided to look for those using aerial techniques.

The Ocean Cleanup is a foundation focused on removing debris from the oceans. They plan to deploy technology to scoop up manufactured debris, a plan that drew criticism when announced. The group anticipates launching trash collectors in the

Pacific this year.

But for now, the trash is still out there. And the birds-eye view helps give researchers an idea of what that debris actually is.



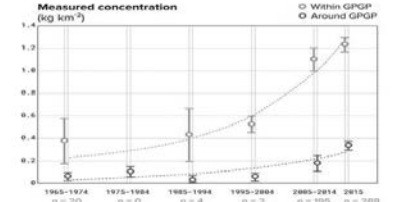
These larger pieces of plastic, like bottles, lids, and fishing nets, are all far denser than tiny particles of plastic. As a result, they add a lot to the total debris estimates. The authors suggest that somewhere between 45,000 and 129,000 tons of plastic are floating within this particular patch of ocean.

By weight, the larger plastics (two inches or more) make up most of that total. Microplastics were vastly more numerous—but being tiny, didn’t contribute nearly as much to the weight. Nearly half the garbage came in the form of fishing nets.

Plastic nets can continue to catch fish and other marine life long after they are abandoned to the sea. This is called ghost fishing, and becomes a larger problem with every net or trap that is tossed overboard.

“The prevalence of ghost nets and discarded fishing gear is well documented, so this is not necessarily surprising,” White said. “But the authors have done an excellent job of using a variety of survey methods to quantify this debris.” This type of debris can and should be prevented, White added, but efforts must be global; ocean currents can easily sweep waste all around the world.

The authors also found that the sheer mass of plastic in the oceans has gone up over time, from 0.88 pounds per 0.39 square miles in the 1970s to 2.7 pounds per 0.39 square miles in 2015. That mirrors the increase in plastic production over the past several decades, as the material has become increasingly ubiquitous. But there are several other factors to consider. One is the 2011 tsunami off the coast of Japan, which swept vast amounts of debris out to sea. The other is that previous studies primarily focused on small microplastics, not the larger ‘megaplastics’—so we don’t have a full understanding of how that part of the problem has changed in recent decades. But Lebreton and colleagues did find that microplastics, which have been examined for years, have increased in concentration.



Plastic concentrations in the oceans have increased over time. (Courtesy The Ocean Cleanup)

“One thing that has been increasing over time, really, is plastic consumption on a global scale,” Lebreton says. “We are using more and more plastic in our societies. I think without the help of proper waste management infrastructures, we can expect more and more plastic to be released into the environment in general, and down the line into the marine environment.” And there’s still plastic that hasn’t been tracked down yet.

Though the study found a lot more debris than previous estimates, it still doesn’t account for a lot of the plastic that makes its way out to the ocean only to disappear. Debris can sink into the sea or degrade, but researchers are still trying to make a grand accounting of all the trash we’re pushing offshore.

“The challenge with microplastics in particular is that it really is not feasible to clean them up,” White said. “Reducing the waste stream is the only current means to slow the inputs of plastic to our ocean.” (Courtesy <https://www.popsoci.com>)

The great Pacific garbage patch is even trashier than we thought –the ocean is flooded with plastic.



‘Ghost nets’ like these make up

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