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Southern News Group

Memorial Towers unveils new piece by 'artist in residence'



Monday, May 28, 2018

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

www.today-america.com

U.S. auto import probe fans tariff fears, riles Asia, Europe

(Reuters) - A U.S. threat that it may introduce tariffs on foreign auto imports drew strong criticism on Thursday from the country's main business lobbying group, which warned of a "staggering" blow to the industry and the prospect of a global trade war.

Automobiles are on a truck for delivery to a car lot in Oueens, New York, U.S., May 24, 2018. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

President Donald Trump's administration opened a trade investigation on Wednesday into whether vehicle imports had damaged the American auto industry. That could lead to tariffs of up to 25 percent on the same "national security" grounds used to impose U.S. steel and aluminum duties in March.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Thursday the investigation was still in its early stages but that other countries' high, artificial barriers, such as tariffs and other interventions, have skewed the marketplace.

"Now it's very difficult to get back to a reciprocal arrangement," Ross said in an interview on CNBC, a day after announcing the probe, which could lead to new U.S. tariffs on imported vehicles.

The probe, launched under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, will look at whether vehicle and parts imports are threatening the industry's health and ability to research and develop advanced technologies, Ross said on Wednesday."If this proposal is carried out, it would deal a staggering blow to the very industry it purports to protect and would threaten to ignite a global trade war," chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas Donohue said in a statement. He urged the government to reverse course.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the U.S. move was based on flimsy logic and clearly linked to talks to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA partner Canada is the largest exporter of auto products to the United States.

Germany's DIHK Chambers of Industries and Commerce dismissed as farfetched the national security justification for a probe. "We almost have to take this as a provocation," DIHK President Eric Schweitzer said.

Together German carmakers BMW (BMWG.DE), Daimler AG (DAIGn.DE) and Volkswagen AG control more than 90 percent of the North American premium auto market.

Tariffs would hit Germany particularly hard and shave 0.16 percent off the economic output of Europe's largest economy, the influential Ifo think tank said. "No other country has higher absolute losses to fear than Germany," said Gabriel Felbermayr, foreign trade expert at Ifo.

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said the European Union should be united in its response to the threat of U.S. tariffs.

The probe comes ahead of midterm elections in the United States in November that will determine whether Republican President Donald Trump's party retains control of Congress. It is seen as part of Trump's "America First" promise to win back manufacturing jobs lost to overseas competitors.

United Auto Workers President Dennis Williams said he supports Trump's trade policies and his efforts to protect American workers from competition from low-wage countries. But that did not mean the UAW was ready to support Republicans running for Congress in the midterms. "The Republican Congress and Senate, they have totally ignored the needs of working men and women in this country," Williams said. U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said possible auto tariffs are "deeply misguided," and urged the



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igan

administration "to remain focused on addressing China's trade practices."

Pointing to a mixed bag of effects on U.S. producers after the metals tariffs, analysts were cautious about predicting major gains for U.S. companies and workers from the process.

"Measures like this are ultimately about protecting American manufacturing jobs in states that voted for Trump rather than national security," Morningstar analyst David Whiston said in a note.

"We don't see these tariffs (if proposed) lasting forever and we think (they) will ultimately cost American jobs."

Shares of General Motors Co (GM.N) rose 1.5 percent and Ford Motor Co (F.N) was up 1.7 percent in early afternoon

In Europe, BMW (BMWG.DE) and Daimler (DAIGn.DE) shares dropped as much as 3.5 percent during the session, while Volkswagen AG (VOWG p.DE) closed down 2.5 percent. Together the three automakers control more than 90 percent of the North American premium auto

Renault SA (RENA.PA), exposed to the U.S. market via its 43.4 percent stake in Nissan, fell as much as 2.1 percent. Europe's auto sector index .SXAP lost 2 percent and was on track for its worst day in 10 months.

Higher tariffs could be particularly painful for Asian automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T), Nissan Motor Co (7201.T), Honda Motor Co (7267.T) and Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS), which count the United States as a key market. The probe sparked a broad sell-off in automakers' shares across the region. [MKTS/ GLOB]

Toyota, which has 10 U.S. plants and 1,500 U.S. dealers, said in a statement that any tariffs "could hurt American jobs" and raise costs for consumers.

The governments of Japan, China and South Korea said they will monitor the situation, while Beijing, which is increasingly eyeing the United States as a potential market for its cars, added that it would defend its interests.

In addition to tariffs, Commerce Secretary Ross cited other non-tariff barriers such as standards, licensing and "all kinds of other games."

"The stupidity is that we let ourselves get into this box of extremely low rates," he told CNBC.

The United States imported 8.3 million vehicles in 2017 worth \$192 billion, including 2.4 million from Mexico, 1.8 million from Canada, 1.7 million from Japan, 930,000 from South Korea and 500,000 from Germany, according to U.S. government statistics. At the same time, the United States exported nearly 2 million vehi-



Automobiles are on a truck for delivery to a car lot in Queens

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LOCAL NEWS

Memorial Towers unveils new piece by 'artist

in residence'

The owner of the Memorial Towers apartments will unveil a local art installation by one of its residents Wednesday as the latest improvement to the midcentury midrise.

Artist Lance Flowers created mixed media paintings to be displayed in the lobby at 5400 Memorial Drive, a 50-year-old building owned by Houston-based Barvin Group.

"It's pretty unique to have a resident contributing to the structure of the building and the atmosphere of it," said Eric Barvin of the Barvin Group. "We hope other residents will appreciate what Lance has created."

The pieces, which incorporate a collage of luxury shoe boxes, shopping bags and Champagne labels, show scenes of residents in the building and their pets.

The owners of Chicago's Tribune Tower have un-

veiled plans to build a skyscraper next to the neo-gothic building that would be the city's second tallest.

"The pieces depict different aspects of the Memorial Tower's perspective and living experience," Flowers said in an announcement. He described it as "vibrant, innovative, inclusive, environmentally friendly and all custom to Memorial Towers."

Flowers, a native Houstonian and longtime resident of Memorial Towers, did work for the Houston Super Bowl committee and participated in Project Rowhouses. He approached Barvin Group with the idea.

Since Barvin Group acquired the 112-unit building in 2016, Memorial Towers has been restored with a midcentury decor and updates reminiscent of when it was built. The 8-story building is at Memorial and Detering, just east of Memorial Park.



Sanford Steinberg of Steinberg Dickey Collaborative handled the exteriors, while Abby Garrett of Abby Garrett Interiors designed the interiors. BG Construction, Barvin's construction management division, completed the renovations in April 2017. Houston-based Asset Plus Cos. manages the apartments.

Katy homeowner shot in garage

A Katy homeowner was shot Tuesday night by two men who approached him in his open garage. Around 10 p.m., the homeowner was in his "man cave" in his garage, near Williamschase and Elrod. He had his garage door open, and two unknown men approached on foot, according to a Harris County Sheriff's Office captain.

Katy area man shot in driveway

Deputies are unsure if anything was said, but the two men pulled out a gun and started shooting. The homeowner was shot several times and moved to the hospital by Lifeflight, deputies said. He is in critical condition





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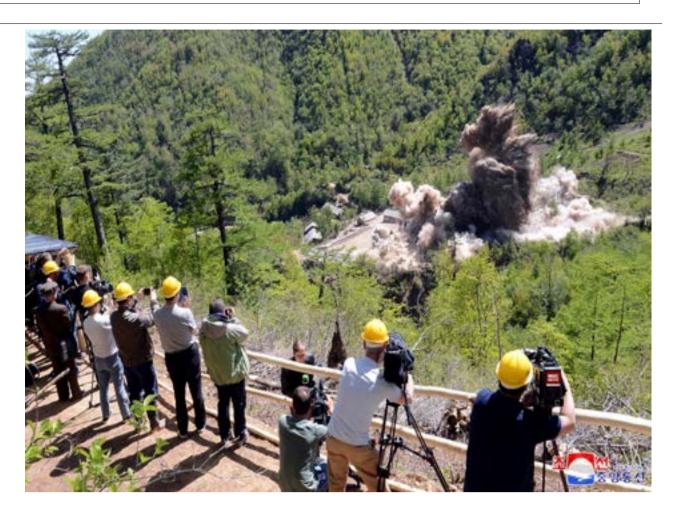
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Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: French President Macron speaks during a news conference after the talks with his Russian counterpart Putin in St. Petersburg



North Korea's nuclear test center was completely dismantled in accordance with the decision of the 3rd Plenary Meeting of the 7th General Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency



2018 Mercedes-Benz luxury vehicles are seen at the Mercedes-Benz of Novi auto dealership in Novi, Michigan



FILE PHOTO: Harvey Weinstein arrives at the 89th Academy Awards in Hollywood



A 2018 Toyota 4Runner vehicle is seen for sale at the Toyota Suburban auto dealership in Farmington Hills, Michigan



Riot policemen face students from the UPEA (Public University of El Alto) during a protest to demand an increase in their budget in El Alto,



Arthur Sadoun, CEO of Publicis Groupe SA attends the Viva Tech start-up and technology summit in Paris



Federal deputy Jair Bolsonaro, a pre-candidate for Brazil's presidential election, is greeted by supporters as he arrives at Luis Eduardo Magalhaes International Airport in Salvador



Niklas Zennstrom, founding partner and CEO at Atomic and co-founder and former CEO at Skype attends the Viva Tech start-up and technology summit in Paris



COMMUNITY



Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the U.S. that honors soldiers and is observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, this day annually commemorates U.S. soldiers who died while in the military service. The day was first enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the American Civil War, then it was extended after World War I to honor Americans who have died in all wars. Memorial Day often marks the start of the summer vacation season, and Labor Day its end.

Begun as a ritual of remembrance and reconciliation after the civil war, by the early 20th century, Memorial Day was an occasion for more general expressions of memory, as ordinary people visited the graves of their deceased relatives, whether they had served in the military or not. It also became a long weekend increasingly devoted to shopping, family gatherings, fireworks, trips to the beach, and national media events such as the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 auto races. One of the longest-standing traditions, the Indianapolis 500, has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911. It runs on the Sunday preceding the Memorial Day holiday. The Coca-Cola 600 stock car race has been held later the same day since 1961. The Memorial Tournament golf event has been held on or close to the Memorial Day weekend since 1976.



Memorial Day - 2018

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



Throughout Our History



Day Tradition

The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War. A claim was made in 1906 that the first Civil War soldier's grave ever decorated was in Warrenton, Virginia on June 3, 1861, implying the first Memorial Day occurred there. There is authentic documentation that women in Savannah,

Georgia decorated soldiers' graves in 1862. In 1863, the cemetery dedication at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was a ceremony of commemoration at the graves of dead soldiers. Local historians in Boalsburg, PA, claim that ladies there decorated soldiers' graves on July 4, 1864. As a result, Boalsburg promotes itself as the birthplace of Memorial Day.



The Tomb of the al Cemetery.

Following

Abraham ident Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, there were a variety of events Unknowns Located of commemoration.
In Arlington Nation—The first welnown observance of a Memorial Day-type observance after the Civil War was in Charleston, South Carolina on May 1, 1865.

During the war, Union soldiers who were prisoners of war had been held at the Charleston Race Course; at least 257 Union prisoners died there and were hastily buried in unmarked graves. Together with teachers and missionaries, blacks in Charleston organized a May Day ceremony in 1865, which was covered by the New York Tribune and other national papers. The freedmen had cleaned up and landscaped the burial ground, building an enclosure and an arch labeled, "Martyrs of the Race Course."

Nearly ten thousand people, mostly freedmen, gathered on May 1 to commemorate the dead. Involved were 3,000 schoolchildren newly enrolled in freedmen's schools, mutual aid societies, Union troops, and black ministers and white northern missionaries. Most brought flowers to lay on the burial field. Today the site is used as Hampton Park. Years later, the celebration would come to be called the "First Decoration Day"in the North

On Memorial Day the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

Memorial Day observances in small New

England towns are often marked by dedications and remarks by veterans, state legislators and selectmen.

The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.



The National Memorial Day Concert takes place on the west lawn of the United States Capitol. The concert is broadcast on PBS and NPR. Music is performed, and respect is paid to the men and women who gave their lives for their country. For many Americans, the central event is attending one of the thousands of parades held on Memorial Day in large and small cities all over the country. Most of these feature marching bands and an overall military theme with the National Guard and other servicemen participating along with veterans and military vehicles from various wars. Because Memorial Day is generally associated with the start of the summer season, it is common tradition to inaugurate the outdoor cooking season on Memorial Day with a barbecue.



Memorial Day Photos From Past Years











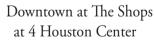
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Meet Dr. Amy En-Hui Chen



Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D. Family Medicine Mandarin Meverland Plaza

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."

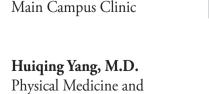
~ Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.

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BUSINESS

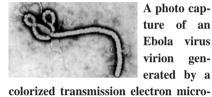
Officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have said the Ebola outbreak in the vast central African country has entered "a new phase" after a case of the deadly virus was detected in the northwest city of Mbandaka.

The first urban case significantly escalates the risk of an epidemic, and has prompted the UN World Health Organization to convene an emergency committee on Friday to consider the danger of the disease spreading to other countries.

Health officials warn that a new case of Ebola in central Africa is a "major, major game-changer." Two years after the worst Ebola epidemic in history finally subsided, the virus is surging again. A now-deadly breakout in Democratic Republic of Congo has now spread to a city.

A report of an Ebola case in the city of Mbandaka means the virus has arrived in a densely populated area. Until recently, the 44 possible cases and 23 deaths have been limited to the remote rural area of Bikoro. But Bikoro lies near the heavily traveled Congo River, which connects travelers not only to Mbandaka to the north, but to the capital city of Kinshasa, with more than 9 million residents, to the south.

The fear is if the virus reaches large urban areas, it could spread quickly, with devastating consequences.



A photo capture of an Ebola virus virion generated by a

graph (TEM) is seen on a handout from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This time, health officials are all over this. They are coordinating their efforts - and that includes not only tracking down and

monitoring contacts of infected people, but a plan to give those contacts the experimental vaccine. Health officials are determined to do everything possible to avoid repeating the mistakes of 2014. Late last Thursday, the country's ministry

of health announced 11 new confirmed Ebola cases and two deaths, taking the total number of cases to 45 (14 confirmed, 10 suspected, 21 probable). The deaths

Ebola Reaches DRC City, Raising Epidemic Fears As Eleven New Cases Confirmed

New Ebola Cases In Central African City Prompt Fears Virus Is Surging

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



in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. EPA Officials to consider danger of Ebola spreading to other countries after disease reached Mbandaka, home to a million people. (Photo / Unicef)

have occurred in Bikoro, a rural area about 150km from Mbandaka.

So far, the deaths believed to have been caused by the outbreak have been detected in more isolated areas, giving authorities a better chance of ring-fencing the virus. The WHO's expert committee will decide whether to declare a "public health emergency of international concern", which would trigger more international involvement, mobilising research and resources, the WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said on Thursday.

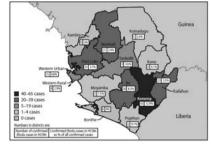


The agency, which on Wednesday deployed the first experimental vaccines in the vast central African country, expressed concern about the disease reaching Mban-

The city of a million is located on the banks of the Congo river, a major thoroughfare for trade and transport into Kinshasa, though experts said that transport on the river from Mbandaka to the capital could take several weeks, slowing any potential spread of the disease. Air transport is limited and very expensive.

"We are entering a new phase of the Ebola outbreak that is now affecting three health zones, including an urban health zone," Oly Ilunga Kalenga, the health minister, said in a statement on Wednesday evening. "Since the announcement of the alert in Mbandaka, our epidemiologists are working in the field to identify people who have been in contact with suspected

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Kalenga said authorities would intensify population tracing at all air, river and road routes out of the city.

"We estimate that more than 300 people might have been in direct or indirect contact with individuals contaminated with the Ebola virus in Mbandaka," the AFP news agency quoted one doctor in the city. There were signs of panic in the Mbandaka by mid-afternoon.

"I'm looking for a boat to leave," said Constantine Boketshu, a soldier's wife. "If the authorities have allowed the disease to arrive here, we all risk being killed ... because hygiene is bad."

It is the ninth time Ebola has been recorded in Congo since the disease made its first known appearance near its northern Ebola river in the 1970s. The disease is most feared for the internal and external bleeding it can cause in victims owing to damage done to blood vessels.



In the frontline of the fight against the disease is a newly developed vaccine. The

first batch of over 4,000 shots was sent by the WHO to Kinshasa on Wednesday. The health ministry said vaccinations would start by early next week.

The vaccine, developed by Merck, is still not licensed but proved effective during limited trials in west Africa in the biggest-ever outbreak of Ebola, which killed 11,300 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 2014 to 2016.

Before the latest confirmed case, Peter Salama, the WHO's deputy director general for emergency preparedness and response, said the current number of suspected, probable or confirmed cases stood at 42. He said another 4,000-vaccine batch was expected soon.

Health workers have identified 432 people who may have had contact with the disease, the WHO said.

Supplies sent to Congo included more than 300 body bags for safe burials in affected communities. The vaccine will be reserved for people suspected of coming into contact with the disease, as well as health workers.

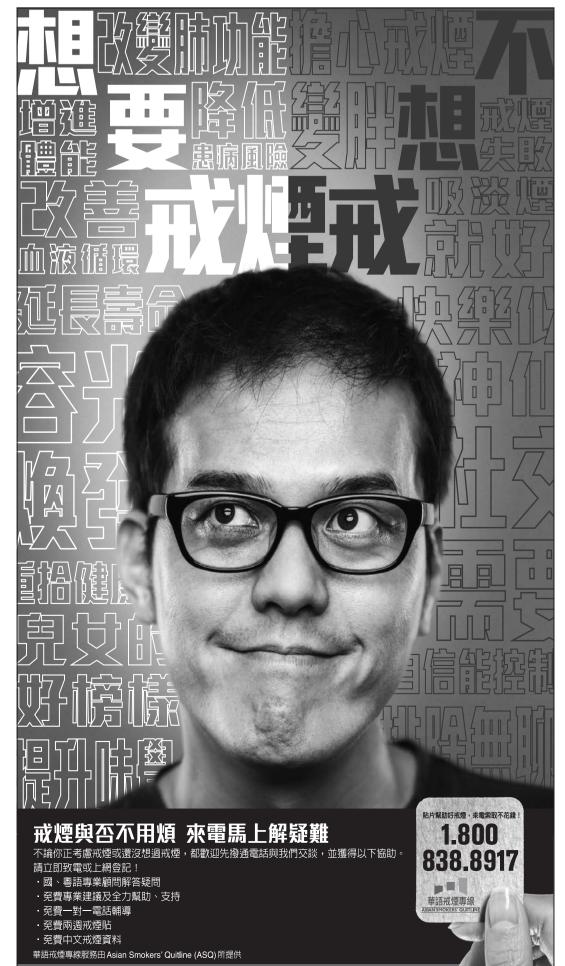


The vaccine requires storage at a temperature between -60C and -80C, tricky in a country with unreliable electricity.

"We are now tracing more than 4,000 contacts of patients and they have spread out all over the region of north-west Congo, so they have to be followed up and the only way to reach them is motorcycles," Salama said.

Ben Shepherd, an expert on the DRC at London's Chatham House, said the country had managed earlier outbreaks of the disease "pretty well".

"The lack of infrastructure can act as a natural firebreak slowing the spread of the disease. But the cities have very little planning, water, sanitation or electrification. If Ebola was to reach Kinshasa, it would be beyond apocalyptic," he said. (Courtesy https://www.theguardian.com/world)



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