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Southern News Group

Former Houston Texans player arrested on suspicion of DWI in Pearland



Inside C2

Thursday, August 9, 2018

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Chinese exports accelerate even as Trump escalates trade war

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's exports surged more than expected in July despite U.S. duties and its closely watched surplus with the United States remained near record highs, as the world's two major economic powers ramp up a bitter dispute that some fear could derail global growth.

In the latest move by President Donald Trump to put pressure on Beijing to negotiate trade concessions, Washington is set to begin collecting 25 percent tariffs on another \$16 billion in Chinese goods on Aug. 23.

In a statement on its official website late on Wednesday, China's commerce ministry criticized the U.S. move as being "unreasonable", saying it had no choice but to adopt the same measure on an equal amount of American goods ranging from fuel and steel products to autos and medical equipment.

Wednesday's Chinese data provide the first readings of the overall trade picture for the world's second-largest economy since U.S duties on \$34 billion of Chinese imports came into

All the same, China's exports for July rose a bigger than expected 12.2 percent year-on-year, showing little tariff impact for now and beating June's 11.2 percent rise and analysts expectations in a Reuters poll for 10 percent growth.

Of more direct consequence in the Sino-U.S. trade war, China's surplus with the United States shrank only marginally to \$28.09 billion last month from a record \$28.97 billion in June. Washington has long criticized China's trade surplus with the United States and has demanded Beijing cut it.

Those demands could get even more strident if the yuan's sharp drop in recent months raises the ire of the United States, which has in the past repeatedly criticized Beijing for manipulating its currency to gain an unfair trade advantage.

Economists say China appears to be taking a more hands-off approach to the yuan, which marked its worst 4-month fall on record between April and July and has provided some reprieve for exporters in the face of the rising trade tensions.

ANZ senior China economist Betty Wang said Beijing will likely resist using its closely managed currency as a tool in the

"Currency devaluation, which may have helped exports to



Cars to be exported sit at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China August 8, 2018. REUTERS/Stringer

some extent, has been largely market-driven in our view and is not a preferred policy tool by Chinese policy makers as part of the retaliation measures," Wang said.

China's trade with the U.S. also continued to rise in July despite the tariffs, with exports up 11.2 percent year-on-year, and imports increasing 11.1 percent.

Analysts still expect a less favorable overall trade balance for China in coming months given it's early days in the tariff brawl.

After a strong start to the year, growth in the world's second-largest economy trade war, rising corporate bankruptcooled slightly in the second quarter, partly hit by the government's years-

long efforts to tackle debt risks. China's imports rose 27.3 percent year-on-year in July, in a sign domestic demand remains solid, but the worry is that the escalating Sino-U.S. cies, and a steep decline in the yuan could put a significant dent on the economy.

China to slap additional tariffs on \$16 billion worth of U.S. goods

BEIJING (Reuters) - China is slapping additional tariffs of 25 percent on \$16 billion worth of U.S. imports from fuel and steel products to autos and medical equipment. the Chinese commerce ministry said, as the world's largest economies escalated their

The tariffs will be activated on Aug. 23, the ministry said, the same day that the United States plans to begin collecting 25 percent extra in tariffs on \$16 billion in Chinese goods.

The United States published its final list of goods subject to the new tariffs on Tuesday. China's final list announced on Wednesday differs from an earlier draft it published in June, which included crude oil. The number of categories of goods subject to tariffs rose to 333 from 114 in the June draft, although

the total value is unchanged.

The U.S. action that prompted the Chinese retaliation was the latest by President Donald Trump to put pressure on China to negotiate trade concessions, after Washington imposed tariffs on \$34 billion in goods last month. China has vowed to retaliate with equivalent tariffs against any U.S. action "This is a very unreasonable practice," the

Chinese commerce ministry said of the U.S. action on Wednesday as it rolled out China's counter-tariffs

Representatives for the White House, the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Commerce did not immediately reply to requests for comment.



LNG trucks are seen at Sinopec's Beihai LNG terminal in Guangxi

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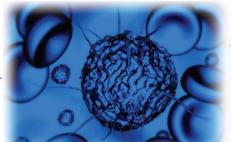
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LOCAL NEWS

Former Houston Texans player arrested on suspicion of DWI in Pearland

By Katherine Blunt

Former Houston Texans offensive lineman Fred Weary was arrested twice in Pearland in July, most recently for allegedly driving while intoxicated, according to police reports.

About 3 a.m. July 31, a patrol officer came upon a vehicle parked at a Pearland park and observed Weary, 40, asleep at the wheel of the vehicle, Pearland Police Officer Jason Wells said Tuesday. The officer woke Weary and observed signs of intoxication, Wells said. After an investigation, Weary was arrested on suspicion of DWI. He was released from jail the same day on \$2,000 bond, Brazoria County Jail records show.

Weary is also free on bond for a previous arrest on July 3. That arrest stems from a car accident that was linked to Weary following an investigation, Wells said.

On June 30 at about 3:30 a.m., a patrol officer saw an unoccupied black Cadillac Escalade that had struck a power pole on Kirby Drive in west Pearland.

The pole was significantly damaged, and Centerpoint responded to the scene that night for repairs, Wells said. The vehicle also had damage to the front end on the driver's side, and a spiderweb-like crack in the windshield that was believed to be caused by the driver striking the windshield.

Investigators later connected Weary to the vehicle and the crash, Wells said. He was arrested and charged with duty on striking fixture, a misdemeanor. His bond in that case was set at \$1,500.

That case is still pending in Brazoria County court. Weary played for the Texans from 2002 to 2007. He was released in 2008 while still recovering from broken leg he sustained in a December 2007 game. He was later signed by the Cleveland Browns in 2009, but quickly released.

Weary sued the City of Houston and two Houston police officers in 2007, alleging he was unlawfully stopped, shocked with a Taser and arrested by HPD in 2006. He dropped the lawsuit in 2009.

Weary is now a Pearland resident, court records show.



Kinder's Pacific Coast pipeline project's cost jumps 26 percent

Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd. said the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion will cost 26 percent more than estimated and take a year longer to complete.

The project is now expected to cost C\$9.3 billion (\$7.1 billion), Kinder said in a filing on Tuesday. The company had hinted that a revision was coming late last month, based on the uncertainty the investment had encountered.

The revised cost estimate may mean the Canadian government will have to shell out more money to get the controversial expansion finished after it moved to buy the pipeline for C\$4.5 billion in May.

When that deal was announced, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said there'd be no fiscal impact of the plan -- suggesting he

didn't expect to make or lose money on the deal. At the time, he declined to say what construction costs would be for the expansion and downplayed concerns about finding a new buyer.

The Trans Mountain development has been beset by legal woes, environmental protests and provincial opposition. As of April 9, Kinder had invested C\$1.1 billion, including funds spent upgrading the Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, British Columbia.







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DISCOVER NEW BUSINESS









Thursday, August 9 , 2018



Editor's Choice



President of Swiss workers union UNIA Alleva addresses a news conference as president of Swiss SEV transport workers union Tuti and president of Swiss Federation of Trade Unions Rechsteiner sit beside, in Bern



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits a factory in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency



August 8, 2018; St. Louis, MO, USA; Jon Rahm hits out of the bunker on the sixth hole during the Wednesday practice round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club. Mandatory Credit: Kyle Terada-USA TODAY Sports



A chain store of Chinese low-cost lifestyle and consumer product retailer "Miniso" is pictured in Singapore



A Huawei shop is pictured in Singapore



A man passes by an Oppo shop in Singapore August 8, 2018. REUTERS/Edgar Su



Britain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, delivers a speech at a religious ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the World War I (WW1) Battle of Amiens, at the Cathedral in Amiens



2018 European Championships - Diving, Mixed Synchronised 3m Springboard, Final - Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh, Britain - August 8, 2018 - Nadezhda Bazhina and Nikita Shleikher of Russia in action. REUTERS/Russell Cheyne



COMMUNITY

HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Asia Cargo News named Port Houston the Best Seaport in North America, after tallying results from thousands of shippers and industry experts around the globe, Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther told the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority during its May

Asia Cargo News announced the results at an awards ceremony held in Shanghai, China, Guenther said, adding that 10,000 shippers and industry experts participated in the survey, according to the publication. The honor is particularly significant because the "nomination and voting results were determined by industry service users, rather than judges," noted Guenther.

In other business news, Guenther announced that Port Houston had been added to MSC's existing Indus service. That container service, which employs nine 8,400 TEU vessels, already calls the U.S. East Coast, India, and the Middle East via the Suez Canal, and will begin calling the Bayport Container Terminal in early June. Guenther also reported that Port Houston's Barbours Cut Terminal is the first U.S. port of call for a new all-water service between the U.S. and Latin America. The new Gulf Ocean Express service is operated jointly by SeaLand and MSC. "...nomination and vot-

ing results were determined by industry service users, rather than judges"

Reporting on business results, the executive director stated that April was "another strong month:" steel imports increased by 17 percent and container activity grew by 3 percent over 2017. Guenther added that container import growth continues to be driven by business from the east Asia trade lanes, and a year-to-date total of 13 million tons of cargo has passed through Port Houston terminals, reflecting a 2 percent annual growth.



International trade buoyed Houston economy during energy slump

Port Houston Named Best Seaport in North America

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



PORT HOUSTON



DNV GL representatives congratulated Port Houston for its continued achievements in environmental stewardship and presented a plaque, recognizing its recertification to the Environmental Management System ISO 14001 standard. In 2002, Port Houston became the first U.S. port authority to achieve the EMS ISO 14001 standard. From left: Kelli Gallagher, llana Harris, Ryan Dixon, DNV GL representatives, Trae Camble, Chairman Janiece Longoria and Chief Infrastructure Officer Rich Byrnes. (Photo: **Business Wire)**

International investments and trade, primarily exports, buoyed the Houston economy during recent downturns in the energy sector, a new report from the Greater Houston Partnership shows.

"Trade is becoming as important as oil and gas in Houston," partnership senior vice president of research Patrick Jankowski said of the findings released on Friday.

The 2018 Global Houston report outlines the ways in which Houston has increasingly tied itself to the global economy, while also addressing impending threats to the future of trade agreements such as NAFTA.



The Port of Houston and the Houston Ship Channel expect a surge in exports as new plastics and petrochemical plants come online over the next several vears. The MSC Oriane container ship is shown at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal last summer.

"Ours is the most diverse city in the na-

spoken," partnership president and CEO Bob Harvey said. "But there are risks that come with being such a high-profile international hub and this report gives us some insight into what to look out for in Houston's near future."

The report noted among its key findings that the rate of growth in exports from Houston is nearly three times the growth rate of the region's GDP.

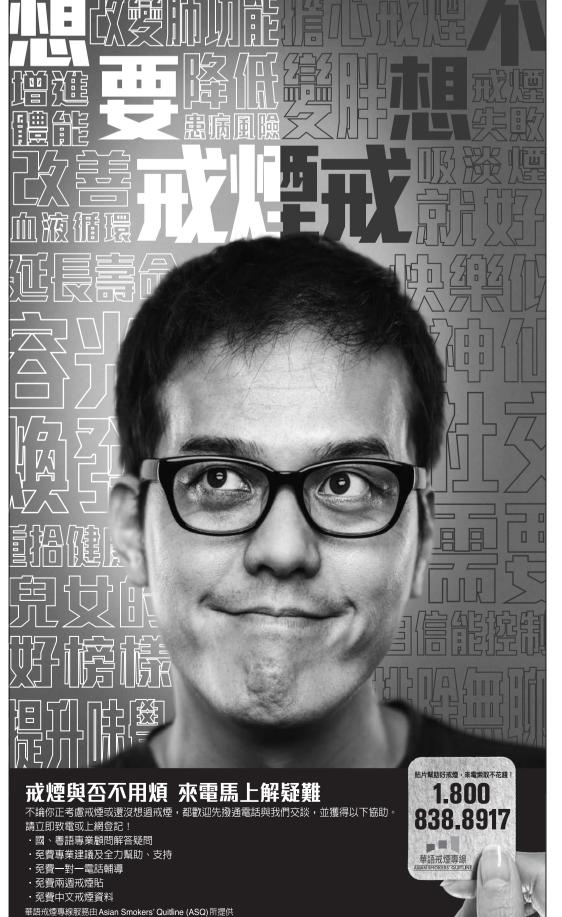
Houston's exports last year were valued at \$109 billion, up 19 percent from the year

prior. Metric tons of exports out of the Houston/Galveston Customs District also grew by 19 percent. (Courtesy Houston BusinessWire)

About the Port Houston

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BUSINESS

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky met with Russian politicians during a trip to Moscow on Monday and invited members of the country's upper house of parliament to visit Washington, D.C., this

Paul has become one of the few defenders of President Donald Trump's controversial summit meeting with Russia's president Vladimir Putin in Finland last month. He said he traveled to Moscow with the goal of fostering dialogue between Russia and the United States.

Paul led a small delegation of Americans in meetings with officials from Russia's parliament and the Federation Council, the equivalent of the U.S. Senate, where he met with members of its international relations commit-

Paul's visit comes following a historic summit between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Senator Paul recently defended the president's meeting, citing overlapping interests for both countries.

The head of the Russian Foreign Affairs Committee praised the Republican, saving other politicians would refer to talks with Russia as "toxic."

"I am one who believes in more engagement, that we need to have more cultural exchange, more exchange between our legislative bodies, more open lines of communication, and the world is a complicated place, we are in close proximity to Russia in Syria and in other places and I think it would be a very big mistake not to have open lines of communication," stated Paul "And so part of my trip here and my purpose to come to Russia is to say that we need to have dialogue."

The Kentucky senator also announced that members of Russia's Foreign Relations Committee have agreed to visit Washington, D.C. where meetings are expected to continue.

Sen. Rand Paul Meets Russian Senators In Moscow, Invites Them To The U.S.



Sen. Rand Paul speaks during his meeting with Russian lawmakers in Moscow, Aug. 6, 2018.

Speaking after the meeting with

Sen. Rand Paul Leads U.S. Delegation In

Talks With Russian Officials In Moscow

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



as Peter Hettler, Texas Sen. Don Huffines, Sen. Rand Paul and his communications director Sergio Gor attend a meeting with Russian lawmakers in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Aug. 6, 2018. (Photo/AP Photo)

the senators that lasted about an hour, Paul said it had been "wonderful" and announced he had invited members of the Russian committee to meet with their counterparts in the U.S. from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on which

"My goal in coming to Russia is to say that we want to have open lines of communication," Paul said at a press conference after the meeting. "I'm pleased to announce that we will be furthering this conversation. We have invited members of the foreign relations committee of Russia to come to the United States and meet with us in Washington."

In addition to the invitation to the U.S., Paul said he'd like to organize a larger, future meeting.

"We've also agreed, if it can be arranged, to meet as well in a neutral country with all of our committees," Paul said.

The chairman of the Russian international relations committee, Konstantin Kosachev, thanked Paul and said he hoped the meetings could happen before the end of the year. Kosachev said a preliminary agenda had already been agreed upon, which would focus on arms control, improving economic ties and establishing better contacts on terrorism and cyber-se-

"We know you as an authoritative, independent American politician," Kosachev told Paul as they began their meeting, saying his visit was "especially valuable given the attitudes of other American politicians," who he said presented any contact with Russian officials as "toxic."

The delegation with Paul included Phillip Huffines, a Texas Republican who ran unsuccessfully in a primary race this spring, and Peter Goettler, president and CEO of the Cato Institute, the conservative Washington-based think tank.



Sen. Rand Paul, center, and his communications director Sergio Gor, right, enter a

hall during their meeting with Russian lawmakers in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Aug. 6, 2018. Paul said he invited Russian lawmakers to visit the United States to help foster inter-parliamentary contacts. (Photo/AP)

Among the Russian senators sitting across from Paul was Moscow's former ambassador to the U.S., Sergey Kislyak, whose meetings with members of the Trump campaign provoked uproar in 2016.

Paul's was the second unusual diplomatic overture to Russia by Senate Republicans in a month, following the visit of a larger delegation led by Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama that traveled to Moscow around

Shelby's delegation said it had come with the similar goal of reviving communications with Russia, but had also delivered a warning to the Russians not to interfere in the U.S. mid-terms this November.

Paul, known for some of his unorthodox positions in the Senate, has recently emerged as a champion of Trump's outreach to Russia. He was one of the very few on Capitol Hill to defend Trump after the Helsinki summit. Trump was heavily criticized by both Republicans and Democrats for being too deferential to Putin in his remarks and appearing to side with him over U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

In the days after the summit, Paul called the criticism partisan and overblown, saying it was too dangerous not to seek dialogue when relations were so tense.

"The hatred of the president is so intense that partisans would rather risk war than give diplomacy a chance," Paul said in a long defense of Trump on the Senate floor, days after the summit. "It's crazy."

In Moscow, he made a similar case for engagement.

Sen. Rand

Paul, left,

speaks with

Chairman

of the Rus-



sian Federation Council Committee on International Affairs Konstantin Kosachev during their meeting in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Aug. 6, 2018. Paul said he invited Russian lawmakers to visit the United States to help foster inter-parliamentary contacts. (Photo AP)

"Those that believe, in either country, that we should not have diplomacy are greatly

mistaken," Paul said. "It does not mean we don't have differences. But discussions are incredibly important."

In Russia, Paul was received warmly by officials who have eagerly called for the U.S. to embrace the detente proposed by Trump in Helsinki, condemning the criticism of Trump had faced over Helsinki as politically motivated. Leonid Slutsky, a Russian MP, urged Paul to call for the release of Maria Butina, a 29 year-old Russian woman arrested in the U.S. on charges that she was acting as an undeclared agent of the Kremlin to infiltrate the NRA and Republican establishment circles.

"If you, Senator Paul, are able to raise your voice in defense of Maria Butina, to help at least change her pretrial detention...you would show yourself to be a man with a capital 'M'," Slutsky said, the news agency Interfax reported.

Paul's trip comes amid fresh anxiety in Congress over warnings from U.S. intelligence that Russia is seeking to influence the midterm elections using similar tactics, such as social media campaigns, as in 2016.

This week, both Democratic and Republican senators introduced a bill that would impose the harshest sanctions yet on Moscow as punishment for its U.S. election interference, as well as its activities in Ukraine and Syria. The bill would place restrictions on Russia's sovereign debt transactions, as well as oil and energy projects. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham told reporters earlier in the week that he wanted "a sanctions bill from hell." Paul suggested he did not believe raising the issue of election interference would have been productive in his meetings with Russian officials.

"We had general discussions about a lot of issues and basically we've decided that, right now, what we're trying to do is have dialogue," he said. "The biggest issue right now is no dialogue. So we're not going to get into any of the differences other than we are trying to agree to have dialogue."

Kosachev was less reserved, telling reporters that Russia's position was simple -- there had been no Russian interference in the 2016 election "and consequently, there won't be any in this year either." (Courtesy abcnews.go.com)



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