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Southern News Group

Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

Saturday September 26 2020

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Southern

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Wea H. Lee Appointed Republic of Guinea Honorary Consul In Houston





Houston (Souther News Group) - Chairman Wea H. Lee of Southern News Group and the Houston International Trade Center has been appointed as the Republic of Guinea Honorary Consul In Houston.

Guinea Ambassador Kerfalla Yansane to the United States today sent a formal letter to Mr. Wea H. Lee Chairman of Southern News Group and the Houston International Trade Center to congratulate him on becoming the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Guinea in Houston, Texas.

In the letter Ambassador Yansane wrote, "As requested by President Alpha Conde, at the occasion of his historic

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visit in the United States of America, I am pleased to report to you eral of Ethiopia Gezahgen Kebede, ITC sponsored a very that the State Department has approved your accrediting as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Guinea in Houston, Texas, with all privileges attached to the function. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my warm congratulations and also to commend you for your keen interest in establishing fruitful cooperation with the Republic of Guinea."

In the past several years Hon. Consul Lee was the founder of the Houston International Trade Center and Chairman of the International District in southwest Houston. He has long been a strong promoter and advocate of trade and friendship between Texas and Africa. With the leadership of ITC's President Hon. Consul Gensuccessful Texas African Summit with Rice University.

Hon. Consul Lee told reporters that he will organize a business and education group to visit Guinea after the pandemic is over. He believes we can help Guinea to develop in the areas of agriculture and education as well as in other national projects.

The Consulate of the Republic of Guinea will be open soon at the International Trade Center, 11110 Bellaire Blvd., Houston Texas 77072.

Some 3,500 U.S. companies sue over Trump-imposed Chinese tariffs

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - About 3,500 U.S. companies, including Tesla Inc, Ford Motor Co, Target Corp, Walgreen Co and Home Depot tariffs within a required 12-month have sued the Trump administration in the last two weeks over the imposition of tariffs on more than \$300 billion in Chinese-made goods. The suits, filed in the U.S. Court of International Trade, named U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and the Customs and Border Protection agency and challenge what they call the unlawful escalation of the U.S. trade war with China Dana Corp. through the imposition of a third and The suits challenge tariffs in two fourth round of tariffs.

The legal challenges from a wide variety of companies argue the Trump administration failed to impose period and did not comply with administrative procedures.

The companies challenge the administration's "unbounded and unlimited trade war impacting billions of dollars in goods imported from the People's Republic of China by importers in the United States," according to a suit filed by auto parts manufacturer

separate groups known as List 3 and List 4A." List 3 includes 25% tariffs on about \$200 billion in imports. while List 4A included 7.5% tariffs on \$120 billion in goods.

One suit argues the administration cannot expand tariffs to other Chinese imports "for reasons untethered to the unfair intellectual property policies and practices it originally investigated."

Companies filing suit include heavy truck manufacturer Volvo Group North America, U.S. auto parts retailer Pep Boys, clothing company Ralph Lauren, Sysco Corp, guitar manufacturer Gibson Brands, Lenovo's U.S. unit, Dole Packaged

Foods, a unit of Itochu Corp and golf equipment manufacturer Callaway Golf Co.

Home Depot's suit noted it faces tariffs on bamboo flooring, cordless drills and many other Chinese-made products. Walgreen, a unit of the Walgreen Boots Alliance, said it is paying higher tariffs on products like "seasonal novelties; party, first aid, and office supplies; and household essentials."

Lighthizer's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

On Sept. 15, the World Trade Or-

吴南新闻

ganization found the United States breached global trading rules by imposing multibillion-dollar tariffs in Trump's trade war with China.

The Trump administration says tariffs on Chinese goods were justified because China was stealing intellectual property and forcing U.S. companies to transfer technology for access to China's markets.

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星期六 2020年9月26日 Saturday, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

WEALER'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/25/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

The Battle On Capitol Hill

President Trump will nominate a woman as a successor to the late Justice Ginsburg who died last Friday of pancreatic cancer at age 87. With only six weeks remaining before the election, Republicans are pushing to move quickly on a successor while Democrats want to keep the seat open until after the election. Replacing the liberal icon with a conservative jurist could further entrench the high court's rightward shift.

During a news conference, President Trump was asked if he would commit to a peaceful transfer of power whether he won or lost in November. He replied, "Well, we will have to see what happens. I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots. The ballots are out of control, but Congressional Republicans say they are committed to a peaceful election process and transfer of power if the Democrats win."

Today our nation faces a lot of serious challenges. With the national election coming soon, we as the model for free democratic nations can't even agree on what our leader said about the transfer

> of power. When Republicans rush to nominate a new justice for the Supreme Court, conservatives and liberals will be out of balance for the important issues that face our country like the Affordable Care Act and the abortion issue



and we will be faced with very different results from the highest court in the land.

We urge the Congress, especially the

Senate, to make the right decision and to watch out for the majority interests of the people.





Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

New Cases And Deaths Are Down From 10,000 Per Day To Under 600 Per Day

COVID Death Toll Devastates Front Line Personnel



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

Sept. 22, 2020 -- Just over 6 months after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the United States has reached a grim milestone: the novel coronavirus death toll has climbed to a staggering 200,000. The grim numbers have hit the families and front line personnel very hard.

"It's sobering. It's a large number, and clearly it tells us that everything we're doing right now to contain it needs to continue," says Erica Shenoy, MD, associate chief of the Infection Control Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. "Especially heading into the fall, where we don't know if there will be a second surge, or if this will be compounded by other respiratory illnesses."

Doctors and scientists say the number sends a clear message: Although people are itching to return to pre-pandemic life, Americans should continue to wear masks, practice hand-washing hygiene, and keep physical distance from others. While the high death toll is a bleak glimpse into how severe the illness is,

there are two silver linings: The numbers

seem to be trending in the right direction,

and researchers have had time to discov-

er more about a virus that at first baffled

even the world's leading scientists. According to Shenoy, the best way to gauge whether mortality is dropping is the CDC's report of "excess deaths" -the bulk of deaths above historically normal levels. About 246,600 more people died than usual from March 15 to Aug. 22. That number continues to decline, Shenoy says, which is promising.



"That might be a sign that it's going in the right direction," she says.

New cases and deaths are slowing. For example, New York saw a sharp rise before reaching more than 170,000 total cases in April. But new cases are down

from 10,000 per day to under 600 per day. The dip could be related to several things. More young people are contacting the virus now, and they are less vulnerable to severe illness than older adults. Doctors and caregivers are also learning more about how to treat and manage the illness, leading to better out-

The buildup of knowledge over the last several months has shed light on which patients are most vulnerable. An August study in Lancet Oncology found that blood cancer patients are especially high-risk, with 57% higher odds of severe symptoms than people who have other types of cancer.

The things that most determine risk have consistently been age and underlying conditions. A study out this month in the journal Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology examined COVID-19 patients admitted to the hospital with non-critical illness. It found that the biggest drivers for deadly outcomes were age and diabetes.



"Age is one of the most important risk factors for severe disease. There is increasing morbidity and mortality, highest in patients over the age of 85," Shenoy says. "There is also a subset of underlying medical conditions that lead to worse outcomes, including COPD, obesity, heart disease, sickle cell disease, and diabetes."

Despite the growing body of information on COVID-19, attempting to predict what the flu season will be like is often considered "a fool's errand," Shenoy says. With schools opening this fall and states easing up on regulations, the numbers of COVID-19 cases, and other respiratory viruses, the numbers could begin to trend in the wrong direction, depending the practices of U.S. residents in the coming months.

'As of August, COVID-19 was on track to be the third leading cause of death in the United States. Thomas Frieden, MD, former director of the CDC, said the novel coronavirus only lagged behind heart disease and cancer. The virus is now on par with death rates from Alzheimer's and dementia. Shenov says.

The biggest question mark -- and perhaps the main factor in how the rest of the year plays out -- is how severe this flu season will be, she says. There could either be a perfect storm of deadly respiratory illness that leads to another spike in cases, or a mild flu season and a decrease in COVID-19 deaths.



Shenoy says it's important to get the flu vaccine as soon as it's available. Aside from that, she says, wearing masks, thorough hand-washing, and social distancing remain crucial to decreasing infection. She also encourages people to stay home if they don't feel well.

"Some things we can't control, but some things are within our control," she says. "We need to continue to do what we can to curb this." (Courtesy https://www. webmd.com/)

Related

NIH Expands Clinical Trials on Convalescent Plasma

The National Institutes of Health is expanding enrollment in two clinical trials to see if convalescent plasma helps the recovery of people hospitalized with the coronavirus

"The evidence on convalescent plasma as a treatment for severe cases of COVID-19 is promising but incomplete. We need to carry out rigorous random-

ized control clinical trials to determine how this therapy can improve outcomes," NIH Director Francis S. Collins, MD, said in a news release. "While the world waits for an effective vaccine, it is vital that we simultaneously expand the options for available treatments for those currently suffering from the worst effects



The decision comes less than a month after an NIH expert panel said there's no evidence to support the use of convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19 patients. The panel said doctors should not consider it a standard of care until more research is completed.

In the latest news release, the NIH said observational studies indicate that convalescent plasma may help people severely ill with the virus, but "prospective, well-controlled randomized trials" are needed to determine if it really works. Convalescent plasma is taken from people who've recovered from COVID-19. It contains antibodies and other components that may help people recover from the coronavirus. The FDA earlier granted emergency use authorization for the use of convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19.

Operation Warp Speed, the federal program to expedite the battle against COVID-19, including development of a vaccine, is providing \$48 million for the plasma testing.

Both randomized, placebo-controlled trials were launched in April, one by NYU Langone Health in New York and the other at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. (Courtesy (Courtesy https://www.webmd.com/)

Saturday, September 26 , 2020



Editor's Choice



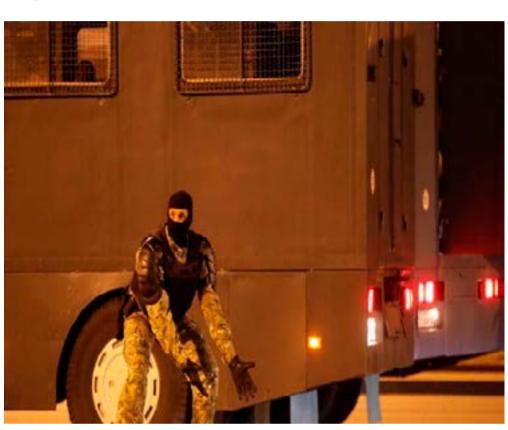
Locals harvest their potatoes as Mount Sinabung spews volcanic ash, after more than a year of inactivity, in Karo, North Sumatra province, Indonesia, August 10, 2020. Antara Foto/Sastrawan Ginting/via REUTERS



People gather in front of the Supreme Court following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in Washington, September 18, 2020. Ginsburg died on September 18 of complications from pancreatic cancer at age 87. Ginsburg's death gives Trump and his...MORE



People react after a decision in the criminal case against police officers involved in the death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, September 23, 2020. Protests erupted after the state attorney general announced



A Belarusian law enforcement officer gestures next to injured protester Yevgeny Zaichkin during clashes after presidential election polls closed in Minsk, Belarus, August 9, 2020. Zaichkin, who was reported to have died during bloody clashes with police after the presidential election, told Reuters he had survived a brutal police beating and that he expected to be detained



The Japanese bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio that ran aground on a reef is seen at Riviere des Creoles, Mauritius, in this handout image obtained August 10, 2020. The tanker struck a coral reef on Mauritius' southeast coast on July 25 and began leaking 1,000 tonnes of oil across the Indian Ocean island's most pristine beaches, raising fears of a major ecological crisis. French Army command/Handout via REUTERS



While FaceTiming her siblings, Angelica Mendez says goodbye to her mother, Catalina Salazar, 86, who was struggling to fight COVID-19 and died later in the day at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, Texas, September 8, 2020.



A woman pulls a baby on a pallet as they prepare to move to a new temporary camp for migrants and refugees, on the island of Lesbos, Greece, September 21, 2020. Thousands of asylum-seekers have moved into a new temporary facility



Lyra Conley hugs therapy llama Caesar McCool at the site of ongoing protests against police violence and racial inequality, in Portland, Oregon, August 6, 2020. Caesar, the six-year-old "No Drama Llama," has become a fixture in the city, extending his wooly neck to nuzzle both Black Lives Matter activists and law enforcement officers in body armor lining up to take selfies with him. REUTERS/Nathan Howard



COMMUNITY

Tik Tok's New Headquarters -A Move To The Lone Star State?



Trump approved the new Tik Tok deal and the new headquarters could possibly be in Texas. (Photo/Barker/Future Publishing via Getty Images)

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

Last week, the White House made the decision to ban Chinese-owned apps Tik Tok and WeChat from U.S. app stores. As of yesterday, the apps are no longer available for download. The apps were being removed due to security concerns related to user data and propaganda. According to Zak Doffman at Forbes, in recent weeks reports have emerged suggesting that TikTok is "Chinese spyware," alleging that the app steals data from users' devices and sends it to China.

While those claims haven't been proven to be true, TikTok does occasionally release software with security vulnerabilities that need to be fixed.

President Trump told reporters Saturday said a new deal currently being brokered would result in a new company called TikTok Global that will likely be based in

The proposed deal is between U.S.-based tech company Oracle and Walmart for the U.S. operations of TikTok.

"If they get it done, that's great," Trump told reporters. "If they don't, that's OK,

"We are pleased that the proposal by

TikTok, Oracle, and Walmart will resolve the security concerns of the U.S. Administration and settle questions around TikTok's future in the U.S.," TikTok said in a statement.

The news of the new Tik Tok headquarters moving down south comes after Governor Greg Abbott tweeted Saturday that he pitched Trump on moving the TikTok headquarters to the Lone Star state. In the tweet he says, "Today I talked to @ realDonaldTrump about the @tiktok us deal," Abbott tweeted. "I let him know that if he approves the deal Texas would be the perfect place for the HQ. We'll



see."

Greg Abbott

@GregAbbott_TX Today I talked to @realDonaldTrump about the @tiktok_us deal. I let him know that if

he approves the deal Texas would be the perfect place for the HQ. We'll see. #TikTok

1:13 PM · Sep 19, 2020

ByteDance Announces IPO For TikTok Global

TikTok Global, the firm that is to control US operations of the video app TikTok, will launch an initial public offering, China's ByteDance has announced. It said the move is intended to increase transparency. TikTok Global, a new company to be launched to allow the popular Chinese video sharing app to continue operations in the US, plans to launch an initial public offering (IPO), TikTok parent company ByteDance announced in a statement shared Monday. ByteDance did not say how much money the new company plans to raise.

"TikTok Global will also launch a listing plan to further enhance its corporate governance structure and transparency," ByteDance said.



According to Trump, the Texas location would potentially hire 25,000 employees.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday announced he had approved a deal between TikTok and US companies Oracle and Walmart that would resolve data security concerns on the part of the US and secure the popular app's future in the country. The US president had accused TikTok of collecting user data to share with China's government and in August demanded that ByteDance sell the app's US operations to a local company within 90 days or risk becoming banned

Details contradict Oracle and Walmart announcement

TikTok Global will conduct a pre-IPO round that will leave ByteDance with an 80% stake in the company, the statement said. The statement contradicted an earlier announcement from Oracle and Walmart, who on Saturday had said that the majority of the company would be American-owned.

Oracle and Walmart have agreed to buy stakes in TikTok Global of 12.5% and 7.5%, respectively. The company's board of directors will include ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming, as well as its current directors and the CEO of Walmart, the statement said. The deal "does not involve the transfer of any algorithms and technologies" to the US, it said, though Oracle will have the authority to conduct security checks on TikTok's source code there.

ByteDance

The Monday statement was intended to clarify "rumors" about the deal, ByteDance

A "so-called tax payment of \$5 billion (€4.2 billion) to the US Treasury" is a forecast of estimated income and other taxes the company will need to pay in the coming years and is not related to the deal with Oracle and Walmart, the company said.

If TikTok makes a move to Texas with its headquarters, Austin could very well come out on top, though the Dallas area may be a contender. The state's capital already has its advantages with a sizable presence of consumer-focused companies that include Apple and Facebook. TikTok has opened an office there and has hired people.

"I would think Austin and its high growth sub-markets to be front runners," said John Boyd, principal, The Boyd Co., which provides location consulting.

Yet North Texas wouldn't be clearly out of the running. It's an area that's been attracting more interest from tech companies and it boasts a massive tech workforce. "Dallas cannot be ruled out at this point," Boyd said. "Tech-centric Dallas sub-markets like Richardson, Plano, Frisco and Irving could very well meet the demanding requirements of a TikTok head office and



The speculation game is on after news over

TikTok after months of talk about what could happen to the app. The service that's used on smartphones has grown popular around the world – especially among teens - with its quirky tools and slick video tricks. It's among the top services in the iPhone App Store and on Google Play. All sides have agreed that Oracle and Walmart would take a combined 20 percent stake in TikTok Global, the new U.S.-based company planned as part of deal to save the app from a ban threatened by President Donald Trump over national-security concerns, according to The Wall Street Journal on Monday. However, the structure of the remaining stake was being disputed, it reported.

the weekend about a new deal involving

Trump told reporters Saturday the deal would result in a new company that will likely be based in Texas. The state location would likely hire "at least" 25,000 people, Trump said.

"Austin would be the obvious choice for TikTok to establish its headquarters." said Bryan Chambers, vice president of Accelerator and Investment Fund at Capital Factory. "The creative culture of Austin's community and density of a large and young college population create stronger alignment with TikTok." (Courtesy AFP, Reuters and the Dallas Business Journal)





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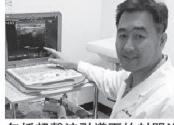
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