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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Tuesday, April 04 2023

Trump flies to New York for court surrender, opposes TV coverage

NEW YORK/PALM BEACH, Florida, April 3 (Reuters) - A plane carrying former U.S. President Donald Trump flew from Florida to New York City on Monday to face charges stemming from an investigation into hush money paid to a porn star while his lawyers argued against allowing cameras in the courtroom.

With New York taking security precautions and the mayor telling any potential rabble-rousers to behave, Trump was due to surrender at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office on Tuesday and will likely be fingerprinted prior to appearing before a judge for an arraignment where he will plead not guilty.

Trump, a Republican seeking to regain the presidency in 2024, is the first former U.S. president to face criminal charges.

Beefing up his legal team, Trump hired Todd Blanche, a prominent white-collar criminal defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor, to lead his defense, two sources familiar with the matter said. Blanche and other Trump lawyers on Monday urged the judge not to allow videography, photography and radio coverage of the arraignment.

In a letter to the court, they argued against allowing such coverage, saying it would "exacerbate an already almost circus-like atmosphere around this case" and "detract from both the dignity and decorum of the proceedings and courtroom."

Justice Juan Merchan was expected to decide the matter on Monday.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said it would leave it to the discretion of the judge, but noted that Merchan allowed a limited number of still photos prior to last year's criminal trial in which Trump's real estate company was convicted of tax fraud.

Before the indictment, a Manhattan grand jury heard evidence



Former U.S. President Donald Trump gestures in a vehicle as he leaves his Mar-a-Lago resort after he was indicted by a Manhattan grand jury following a probe into hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels, in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., April 3, 2023. REUTERS/Marco Bello

about a \$130,000 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels in the waning days of the 2016 presidential campaign. Daniels has said she was paid to keep silent about a sexual encounter she had with Trump at a Lake Tahoe hotel in 2006. Trump denies having had any such relationship with her.

Blanche previously represented Paul Manafort, Trump's 2016 campaign chairman, when Manafort was hit with New York state fraud charges after being sentenced to prison for federal crimes. The state charges were eventually dismissed and Trump pardoned Manafort before leaving office. Blanche also previously represented Igor Fruman, who was an associate of former Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani.

The specific charges in the indictment by a grand jury convened by Bragg, a Democrat, have yet to be disclosed. Trump has said he is innocent. He and his allies have portrayed the charges as

politically motivated.

A motorcade of several vehicles took Trump from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach to the airport in nearby West Palm Beach. Trump climbed out of an SUV vehicle before he and members of his entourage climbed a set of stairs to enter his plane, painted in red, white and blue with "TRUMP" in big letters on the side and an image of the American flag on the tail.

"WITCH HUNT, as our once great Country is going to HELL!" Trump posted on social media right before he departed.

"OUR COUNTRY HAS FALLEN," TRUMP CAMPAIGN ASSERTS
 Trump's campaign raised \$7 million in the three days after word of the indictment emerged last Thursday, senior adviser Jason Miller said. The campaign on Monday issued the latest in a series of fundraising emails, taking aim at the media's reporting on his indictment.

Remarks attributed to Trump in the email stated: "Our country has fallen. But I'm not giving up on America. We can and we will save our nation in 2024."

Former U.S. President Trump indicted by Manhattan grand jury

A court official said the arraignment was planned for 2:15 p.m. (1815 GMT) on Tuesday. Trump then will return to Florida and deliver remarks from Mar-a-Lago at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday (0015 GMT on Wednesday), his office said. The New York case is one of several probes Trump faces.

Trump said earlier on social media he would go to Trump Tower in Manhattan after arriving in New York, then would head to the courthouse on Tuesday morning.

A few dozen Trump fans cheered at the Florida airport and along the route he took to get there, carrying signs and flags.

"Our country needs him," said Cindy Falco, 65, of Boynton Beach, Florida. "He's pro-God, pro-family and pro-country."

Falco predicted exoneration, saying: "Nothing is going to stick to him."

Trump's detractors also weighed in. "Isn't it ironic that they couldn't get Donald Trump for all of the crimes he's committed, except payment to a porn star?" said New Jersey resident Robert Hoatson, 71, outside of Trump Tower. "It always comes down to the lowliest of charges."

"It's a terrific day. I hope it goes well and that he is eventually found guilty," Hoatson added. MAYOR CALLS FOR PROTESTERS TO BE ON 'BEST BEHAVIOR'
 New York police over the weekend began erecting barricades near Trump Tower and the Manhattan Criminal Court building. Demonstrations were expected at those sites on Tuesday.



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主持人: 王潔



主持人: 馬健

主持人: Sky

主持人: 蓋軍

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- 每周一晚7點: 主持人: 黃梅子, 《生活》節目(《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出)
- 每周二晚7點: 主持人: 陳鐵梅, 《美南時事通》
- 每周三晚7點, 主持人: 王潔, 《美南時事通》
- 每周四晚7點, 主持人: Sky《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》
- 每周五晚7點, 主持人: 蓋軍, 《美南時事通》

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

04/01/2023

We Are All In The Same Family



One of the favorite things in my life is to join our granddaughter's activities in her school, especially at their international cultural expo where I had the opportunity to perform Chinese calligraphy.

Thursday afternoon was a beautiful spring day. My daughter and granddaughter brought me a brush and ink and we went to the hall of the Westchester Elementary School. Many students and parents were packed in as the lion dance kicked



off the party while more than thirty booths representing thirty different countries with their cultural displays and foods made it a truly international event.

My granddaughter prepared the rice paper and ink for me at the booth and we gave away red envelopes and chopsticks to the students who visited our booth. I wrote their Chinese names for them and everyone smiled and thanked to me.

I often think of the vitality of this land because we have integrated the most talented people to come here to grow and develop. The children we saw here today all looked like little angels. Their hearts are full of innocence and there is no hatred.

We all have this land as our home and we must live in harmony. We all have the same goal to work together toward the same goals and to be a peaceful community and let our next generation live a very happy life.



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Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Eliza Jose of Doherty Petri School of Irish Dancing in New York has her hair fixed prior to her performance at the World Irish Dancing Championship in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. REUTERS/Christinne Muschi



A woman gestures while being sprayed by a water canyon during a demonstration against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his nationalist coalition government's plan for judicial overhaul, in Tel Aviv, Israel. REUTERS/Ronen Zvulun



A woman takes bread out of the rubble of her house, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Kahramanmaras, Turkey. REUTERS/Nir Elias



A supporter of former U.S. President Donald Trump wears a choker necklace that says "Trump Girl" outside his Mar-a-Lago resort after he was indicted by a Manhattan grand jury following a probe into hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels, in Palm Beach, Florida. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo



Filipino Catholics wave their palm fronds for blessing during a Palm Sunday mass at the Antipolo Cathedral in Antipolo City, Rizal province, Philippines. REUTERS/Lisa Marie David



A drag performer dances at the end of the "Rally for Our Rights", ahead of the 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court election, outside the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

End Of An Era As U.S. Retail Giant Reports Closure Of All Remaining Stores

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



OVERVIEW
Sears is permanently closing the spin-off chain Sears Hometown, signaling a further downturn for what was once one of America's biggest retailers. Amid its filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, Sears is shutting down all 115 of its remaining Hometown locations, Footwear News reported. The outlet had shuttered 600 other locations in only a few years in an effort to cut costs.

A bankruptcy judge decided last year to give Sears Chairman Eddie Lampert another chance to buy the retailer out of bankruptcy and save roughly 50,000 jobs. Sears Holdings had planned to reject Lampert's bid to save the 126-year-old company, which would have put it on a course to liquidation. Lampert had put forward a \$4.4 billion bid to save Sears through his hedge fund ESL Investments. One of the biggest unresolved issues had that it fell short of covering the fees and vendor payment it owes, making it "administratively insolvent." Ultimately, the bankruptcy judge gave Lampert more time — but at a cost. ESL will now be required to pay a \$120 million deposit by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday. Sears will allow Lampert to participate in a previously scheduled auction Monday, when it will compare ESL's offer to others by liquidators. But it's unclear where he will get the funds to back his offer. A person familiar with the situation told CNBC Lampert has been working to get the financing. Sears Hometown focused on appliances,

tools and outdoor equipment in locations that maintained only about 10,000 square feet, a fraction of the average 160,000 square feet of a regular Sears location, CNN Business reported. Hometown was taken over by Transformco in 2019 after Sears' last bankruptcy, and industry insiders had initially given the spin-off high prospects for survival since it focused on a tighter inventory. But the chain was not able to live up to expectations.



"Instead, it has followed the similar pattern of continual decline that has been the hallmark of Sears, with hundreds of stores closing earlier this year," said Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail, according to CNN. "The benefits of having access to unique merchandise via exclusive products has also been lost as the various brands Sears once owned have been sold off and are now distributed more widely across retail." Sears Hometown will begin liquidating

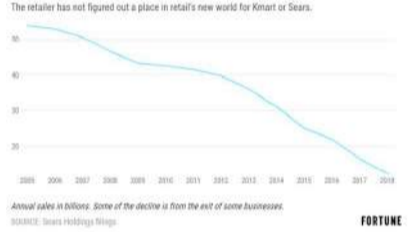
soon. The Hometown website says that "every item in every store" is for sale and "all locations are selling off to the bare walls."

Sadly, Sears has been struggling to survive for years. In 2018, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after failing to balance its holdings. It closed 142 stores upon the announcement of the bankruptcy filing at the time. Sears had tried closing another 100 stores earlier in 2018 to staunch the bleeding, but it just wasn't enough.



Sears is not alone. Kmart, also at one time one of America's biggest department store chains, may be on its last legs, having closed several hundred locations over the last few years. Bookseller Barnes & Noble also recently closed locations in an effort to stay afloat. The chain also sold out to a hedge fund to try to get ahead of market woes. Not all retailers have been suffering, though. The country's largest, Walmart, is still thriving. While it is sad to see long-standing chains such as Sears (founded in 1893) and Kmart (founded in 1899) fading from the scene, it is the natural way of capitalism. With its "creative destruction" aimed at serving the marketplace, capitalism is a dynamic and changing force. Some businesses will fail when they no longer serve their customers, but others will rise to replace them.

Sears Holdings Revenue Has Been In Free Fall Since Its Creation



The people requested anonymity because the information is confidential. A liquidation remains a possibility, and even if it comes to that pieces of the storied retailer could still be salvaged, like its home services business. Lampert's grand plan was to fortify two

struggling retailers, Sears and Kmart, by combining them in 2005. But the combined companies became victim of savvy competition, changing shopping habits and, many have argued, poor management.

Lampert's background as a hedge fund manager, once deemed the next Warren Buffett, proved to be poor preparation for battling retail titans like Walmart, Target and Amazon. Lampert believed that a strong loyalty program and data made investing in stores and advertising optional, people familiar with the situation have said. As Sears' losses piled up, it didn't have a choice, it couldn't invest. Sears' last profitable year was in 2010. For the past five years, the ratio of Sears' capital expenditures to sales has been less than 1 percent, even as its sales have more than halved in the same time period. Without proper attention, Sears lost relevancy and its customers' loyalty. Sears had a little under 700 stores when it filed for bankruptcy in October, but it has since whittled that down to an expected footprint of roughly 400. It employed 68,000 workers at the time of its filing.



ESL declined to comment. Sears did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Proof of failure
At the time Sears and Kmart merged, Sears was looking for more products to sell in its stores to counterbalance the infrequency with which people bought its hallmark appliances like dishwashers. Kmart had access to apparel brands that previously refused to sell in Sears. It also offered Sears valuable suburban and urban real estate to get it out of the mall. Kmart, which filed for bankruptcy in 2002, needed scale to help compete against Walmart. The Bentonville, Arkansas, retailer had invested in technology Kmart had long neglected. Walmart's sophisticated operations allowed scale and the ability to sell at a deep discount that Kmart could not keep up with.

Lampert saw opportunity in both. The former Goldman Sachs intern had wowed investors with his ability to turn around the auto parts store AutoZone. Armed with his hedge fund ESL Investments and the confidence of a man nicknamed "the next Warren Buffet," Lampert believed he could concoct a similar turnaround in Kmart and Sears. He believed he saw value where others didn't. Lampert bought Kmart out of bankruptcy through ESL and ultimately combined it with Sears, to create Sears Holdings Corporation.



But Lampert was battling a national decline in the department store industry, as shoppers abandoned the mall and favored casual over formal wear. Department stores accounted for 14.5 percent of all North American retail purchases in 1985 but only 4.3 percent last year, according to Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail. Sears' peers, like Bon-Ton and Mervyn's, whittled away, while rivals like Macy's and Kohl's poured money into their businesses to be among the ones left standing.

Walmart and Target proved relentless in their competition. The companies scaled quickly and poured money into private label brands, which were better in quality than those sold at Sears and Kmart. As Sears' competitors invested in its stores, Sears took a different approach. Lampert believed that a strong loyalty program and data made investing in stores and advertising optional, people familiar with the situation have said. Then, as Sears' sales fell and its losses piled up, it no longer had a choice — investment fell out of reach. Sears shrank its store-base, in a desperate attempt of to regain profitability. The stores that remained were in disarray, with outdated fixtures, dark lighting and piles of unwanted clothes. Sears lost relevancy and its customers' loyalty. Then Amazon arrived. Shoppers' attention — and dollars — shifted to the newer and better "everything store." (Courtesy cnbc.com)

The Top 20 Cities For The World's Ultra-Wealthy

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



How many millionaires, centimillionaires, and billionaires live in the world's wealthiest cities? While such metrics are not all encompassing, these measurements of private wealth do help put the financial health and economic activity of some of the world's wealthiest cities into perspective.

The infographic shown here uses information from the Henley Global Citizens Report, in partnership with New World Wealth, to rank the world's wealthiest cities. It leverages a comprehensive data set that tracks the movements and spending habits of high-net-worth individuals in over 150 cities around the world.

Which cities and regions have the biggest concentrations of millionaires around the world, each with a net worth greater than \$1 million (USD)?

In the latest edition of the ranking, North America has a strong showing with seven of the wealthiest cities, by number of millionaires.

(Courtesy <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-20-cities-ultra-wealthy/>)

