

BRIEFS

Vernon ISD trustees

Vernon ISD trustees will hold a business meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 21, 2018, at the VISD Administrative Center.

WGH directors

Wilbarger General Hospital board of directors will hold a monthly business meeting at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in the hospital board room.

City Commission

Vernon City Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, <May 22, 2018.

Commencements

Vernon High School commencement exercises will be at 8 p.m. Friday, May 25 at Lion Stadium.

Harrold High School commencement exercises will be at 7 p.m. Friday, May 25 in the HHS gym.

Chillicothe High School commencement exercises will be at 7 p.m. Friday, May 25 in the school auditorium.

Northside High School baccalaureate services will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 27 in the NHS gym. Commencement exercises will be at 7 p.m. Friday, June 1 in the school gym.

Weekly meetings:

New Hope Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., each Sun., Tues., Fri., 2606 McKinney Santa Rosa Belles, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Wilbarger Street Church of Christ

Rotary Club, 12 noon, Tues., Wilbarger Auditorium.

Vernon Bridge Club, 12:15 p.m., Wed., & Fri., Herring Bank

Kiwanis Club, 12 noon, Wed., Vernon College

Celebrate Recovery, 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 6 p.m.

Grief Recovery Group, 6 p.m., Thurs., Second Baptist Church

TOPS Club, weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Wilbarger Auditorium

Lions Club, 12 noon, Fri., Wilbarger Auditorium

# Economic talks between U.S., China lead to trade war truce

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday hailed his administration's temporary truce with China on trade, even as his Treasury secretary and China struck a note of caution on the latest agreement.

After high-level talks in Washington last week, Beijing has agreed to "substantially reduce" America's trade deficit with China.

"On China, Barriers and Tariffs to come down for first time," Trump tweeted.

Farmers, he promises, will come out on top.

"Under our potential deal with China, they will purchase from our Great American Farmers practically as much as our Farmers can produce," he tweeted.

Both sides, however, have said there are no guarantees trade tensions are over. China hasn't said how much it's willing to reduce the U.S. trade gap. The Trump administration had sought to slash the deficit by \$200 billion.

Also left unclear is the issue of intellectual property. The U.S. has long accused Beijing of secretly stealing U.S. technology from American businesses. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Monday those issues "are part of our framework. These things cannot be fixed overnight."

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who has been part of the U.S. negotiating team, is expected to go to China soon to follow up on last week's discussions.

A day after declaring the trade war "on hold," Mnuchin told CNBC Monday that Trump is reserving the right to reimpose tariffs against Chinese goods if the two countries can't agree on specifics to bring down the massive trade deficit with Beijing.

Likewise, China's foreign ministry said details still have to be worked out.

"Given the increasing interaction between the two countries, we cannot assure you they will not encounter more frictions or disputes in the future," said spokesman Lu Kang.

Last year, the U.S. had a record \$376 billion deficit with China in the trade of goods; that was the largest by far with any nation.

Mnuchin has said to expect to see a big increase — 35 percent to 45 percent this year alone — in U.S. farm sales to China. Mnuchin also forecast a doubling in sales of U.S. energy products to the Chinese market, increasing energy exports by \$50 billion to \$60 billion in the next three years to five years.

Farm sales could be key politically, as many Trump supporters in rural states say they feared a U.S. trade war with China would hurt their export business.

Trade analysts were not surprised that China refused to agree to a numerical target for

cutting the trade gap, but they said the talks probably were more successful in easing trade tensions.

"The Trump administration seems eager to engineer at minimum a temporary peace with China to ensure a smooth run-up to the Kim-Trump summit in June," Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad said, referring to the June 12 meeting scheduled between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

If there is success in the U.S.-China discussions, analysts suggest it likely would involve the countries' presidents this fall before the November elections.

"Part of the good news for markets: As long as both sides continue to be 'constructively' engaged, imposition of additional tariffs by either side is very unlikely," analysts at investment management firm Evercore ISI said in a research note. "There is no reason for either side — particularly the U.S. — to destroy the process that both sides are building, which is what imposing tariffs would do."

Trump also pressed China to seal its border with North Korea "until a deal is made" — an apparent reference to his upcoming summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

His early morning tweets underscore the complexity and importance of America's relationship with China. For months, Trump railed against China to cut its trade surplus with the United States and threatened higher tariffs. China counterpunched with tariffs on U.S. products, rattling the market.

Throughout, the looming trade war has overshadowed Trump's efforts to pressure North Korea on its nuclear program. The U.S. needs China's help in sealing its border so

Pyongyang can't quietly skirt international sanctions.

"China must continue to be strong & tight on the Border of North Korea until a deal is made," he tweeted. "The word is that recently the Border has become much more porous and more has been filtering in. I want this to happen, and North Korea to be VERY successful, but only after signing!"

Last August, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer began investigating Beijing's strong-arm tactics to challenge U.S. technological dominance.

These include outright cybertheft of U.S. companies' trade secrets and China's demands that American corporations hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese markets.

# U.S. issues steep demands for nuclear treaty with Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Monday issued a steep list of demands to be included in a nuclear treaty with Iran to replace the deal scuttled by President Donald Trump and threatened "the strongest sanctions in history" if Iran doesn't change course.

Drawing sharp contrasts with the 2015 deal, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said a stronger pact should require that Iran stop enrichment of uranium, which was allowed within strict limitations under the previous deal. Iran would also have to walk away from core pillars of its foreign policy, including its involvement in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

"This list may seem long to some, but it is simply a reflection of the massive scope of Iranian malign behavior," Pompeo said. "America did not create this need for changed behavior. Iran did."

Pompeo vowed that Trump's approach would ensure "Iran has no possible path to a nuclear weapon, ever." As he called for a better agreement to constrain Iran's activities, he said the U.S. would "apply unprecedented financial pressure" to bring Tehran back to the table.

"These will end up being the strongest sanctions in history by the time we are complete," Pompeo said at the conservative Heritage Foundation in his first major policy speech since taking over as top diplomat.

At the same time, Pompeo offered Iran a series of dramatic potential U.S. concessions if it agrees to make "major changes." Under a new agreement, the U.S. would be willing to lift all sanctions, restore full diplomatic and commercial ties with Iran, and even support the modernization of its economy, Pompeo said.

"It is America's hope that our labors toward peace and security will bear fruit for the long-suffering people of Iran," Pompeo said.

Still, Pompeo's list of 12 requirements included many that Iran is highly unlikely to consider. He said Iran must allow nuclear "unqualified access to all sites throughout the country," Pompeo said, alluding to military sites that were off-limits under the 2015 deal except under specific circumstances. To that end, he also said Iran must declare all previous efforts to build a nuclear weapon, reopening an issue that the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency has already deemed a closed matter.

Pompeo also demanded that Iran cease from a range of activities throughout the Middle East that have long drawn the ire of

the U.S. and its allies. He said Iran must end support for Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen, "withdraw all forces" from Syria, halt support for its ally Hezbollah and stop threatening Israel.

Iran must also "release all U.S. citizens" missing in Iran or being held on "spurious charges," he said.

Taken together, the demands would constitute a wholesale transformation by Iran's government, and they hardened the perception that what Trump's administration really seeks is a change in the Iranian regime. A longtime Iran hawk, Pompeo has spoken positively about regime change in the past, but in his confirmation hearing last month he sought to soften that stance.

Laying out Trump's new approach Monday, Pompeo said he couldn't put a timeline on how long the strategy might take.

"At the end of the day, the Iranian people will get to make their choice about their leadership," Pompeo said. "If they make the decision quickly, that would be wonderful. If they choose not to do so, we will stay hard at this until we achieve the outcomes that I set forward today."

In another departure from the Obama administration's approach, Pompeo said that "a treaty is our preferred way to go." Former President Barack Obama did not seek a Senate-ratified treaty with Iran because of the dim prospects for getting approval from a Republican-run Congress.

Pompeo's speech came after Trump earlier this month infuriated U.S. allies in Europe by withdrawing from the 2015 deal brokered by President Barack Obama, Iran and world powers. Europeans allies had pleaded with Trump not to scuttle that deal and are now scrambling to keep the deal alive even without the U.S.

But the Trump administration has held out hope that those same allies will put aside that frustration and work with the U.S. to ramp pressure back up on Iran through sanctions in a bid to bring Tehran back to the negotiating table for a stronger deal.

Pompeo said he understood that Trump's decision "will pose financial and economic difficulties for a number of our friends." But he warned them that the U.S. planned to follow through with threats to punish European companies that continue doing business with Iran that is allowed under the deal but will violate reimposed U.S. sanctions.

"I know our allies in Europe may try to keep the old nuclear deal going with Tehran. That is their decision to make," Pompeo said. "They know where we stand."

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that GREENBELT SSA intends to destroy records of students who received special education services prior to 2012. These records include only those located at 405 South Main Street, Quanah, Texas. Records herein described include students receiving special education services in the following school districts: Childress ISD, Crowell ISD, Memphis ISD, Chillicothe ISD, and Quanah ISD. Legal parent/guardian or adult student with disabilities may request copies of these records by contacting Rusty Brawley, Director of Special Education, at GREENBELT SSA office at 405 South Main Street, Quanah, Texas 79252, phone number (940) 663-6321 by May 25th, 2018. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE RECORDS MAY BE NEEDED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PURPOSES.

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-Shelby McCormick

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