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The City of Houston's highest paid public officials in 2018



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Trump touts economy, Georgia sees racist calls as U.S. vote nears

BELGRADE, Mont./ATLANTA (Reuters) - President Donald Trump touted U.S. economic growth and painted a grim picture on immigration in rallies with Republican candidates before Tuesday's elections as Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden urged voters to reject division.

In the latest injection of racial tensions into the campaigns, a wave of automated calls using racist and anti-Semitic language went out to voters in Georgia, where a Democratic candidate is vying to become the first black female governor in the United States.

Control of both houses of the U.S. Congress, currently dominated by Republicans, and 36 governors' offices will be at stake when Americans vote on Tuesday. Interest has been unusually high for a non-presidential election year, with early voting running well ahead of past cycles.

Opinion polls and nonpartisan forecasters generally show Democrats with a strong chance of taking the 23 additional seats they would need for a majority in the House of Representatives, which they could use to launch investigations into Trump's administration and block his legislative agenda.

Republicans are favored to retain control of the Senate, whose powers include confirming Trump's nominations to lifetime seats on the Supreme Court.

"America is booming. Republicans passed a massive tax cut for working families and we will soon follow it up with another 10 percent tax cut for the middle class," Trump said, standing in a Belgrade, Montana, airfield with Air Force One as a backdrop.

U.S. President Donald Trump arrives to attend a campaign rally for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Matt Rosendale at the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport in Belgrade, Montana, U.S., November 3, 2018. REUTERS/Carlos Barria
Last December, Trump signed into law the largest tax overhaul since the 1980s, which slashed the corporate rate to 21 percent from 35 percent and temporarily reduced the tax burden for most individuals as well.

The appearance was intended to boost the campaign of Matt Rosendale, the Republican state auditor challenging Democratic U.S. Senator Jon Tester. Trump called out Tester for his vote against his most recent Supreme Court nominee, saying "what he did was terrible."

Republicans in many competitive suburban districts have tried to focus their campaign messages on the robust economic growth, though in his campaign appearances Trump has also focused on his hard-line immigration stance as he looks to stem the illegal



U.S. President Donald Trump arrives to speak about the shooting in Pittsburgh, under the wing of Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, U.S., before traveling to Indiana and Illinois, October 27, 2018. REUTERS/AI Drago

and legal flow of people into the United States.

"The Democrats want to invite caravan after caravan to flood your communities, depleting our resources and flooding our nation," Trump told the Montana crowd. "We don't want that."

Biden campaigned in Ohio on Saturday in support of Democrats U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray.

"We're in a battle for America's soul," Biden, his voice faint and scratchy, told a crowd at a high school south of Cleveland. "We

Gunman at Florida yoga studio had been accused of harassment

(Reuters) - A gunman who killed two women at a Florida yoga studio and wounded five other people before taking his own life had previously been accused of harassing young women, police said on Saturday.

Authorities said they do not know why Scott Beierle, 40, opened fire on Friday afternoon after posing as a customer to join the class at the Hot Yoga studio in Tallahassee. Detectives are searching for links between him and the victims.

The bloodshed prompted the city's mayor, Andrew Gillum, who is also Florida's Democratic candidate for governor, to halt his campaign temporarily and return to Tallahassee.

The two women who died were identified as a student and a fac-

ulty member from Florida State University.

Police said Beierle was a graduate of FSU who served in the military, and that he had been the subject of calls to authorities in the Tallahassee area "related to harassment of young women."

In a statement, police said Beierle was staying in a local hotel at the time of the attack, and that investigators were also searching his home in Deltona, Florida, more than 200 miles (322 km) southeast of Tallahassee.

Police did not give more details on incidents involving Beierle and young women.

Citing court records, the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper reported that he was arrested in 2012 and 2016 on charges of grabbing women's buttocks, but both cases

were dismissed.

An attorney who previously represented Beierle could not be reached for comment.

Two women who were wounded in the shooting remained hospitalized in stable condition on Saturday, police said. Two other shooting victims and a man who was pistol-whipped by Beierle were treated and released. "There were indications that several people not only fought back but tried to save other people," Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo said at a news conference.

One of the women killed was identified as Nancy Van Vessel, 61, a doctor specializing in internal medicine who was a member of the faculty at Florida State University College of Medicine in Tallahassee.

The other was named as Maura Binkley, a 21-year-old student at FSU.

Their deaths were "just devastating to the FSU family," said the university's president, John Thrasher.

Van Vessel also worked as chief medical director for Capital Health Plan, which described her in a statement as a "guiding, visionary force" and "one of the most respected, inspiring, and accomplished medical professionals in the state and country."

Emergency vehicles are parked outside the Hot Yoga studio at a shopping center where a gunman opened fire in Tallahassee, Florida, U.S., November 2, 2018, in this still image taken from a video obtained from social media. Erin Vansickle/via REUTERS
FSU said her research was fo-

cus on restructuring healthcare for people with multiple chronic diseases.

According to the Miami Herald newspaper, Binkley had attended Dunwoody High School in suburban Atlanta, Georgia, and was a senior at FSU with an English and German double major. She participated in an FSU exchange program over the summer and spent four months studying at the University of Wuppertal, near Dusseldorf in Germany.

"It can be really scary at first knowing that you are going to spend a semester far away from home," Binkley told Florida State University News upon her return. "But in the end, the experience is so rewarding and makes the world seem so small."

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The City of Houston's highest paid public officials in 2018

Houston's top paid public employee is also the city's top cop, a new look at City of Houston employee salaries reveals.

In 2018, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo was joined by four other public officials whose bi-weekly earning were at least above \$10,000, or an estimated annual salary of \$260,000. The same city data shows that the average salaried City of Houston employee earns a bi-weekly paycheck of \$2,696, or about \$70,096 a year.

As shown in the gallery above, the wages of some of Houston's top officials are nothing to scoff at, but they come nowhere to those on state salaries, particularly those in academia. A Texas Tribune tool showing the most well-paid state employees shows the top three earners are football coaches for the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M.

1. Art Acevedo - Houston Police Chief
Bi-weekly pay: \$10,769
Estimated annual salary: \$279,990

2. Carol Haddock - Director of Department of Public Works and Engineering (tie)
Bi-weekly pay: \$10,580
Estimated annual salary: \$275,000

2. Mario Diaz - Director of Aviation Houston Airport System (tie)
Bi-weekly pay: \$10,580
Estimated annual salary: \$275,000

3. David Perse - City of Houston EMS Physician Director/Public Health Authority
Bi-weekly pay: \$10,013
Estimated annual salary: \$260,340

5. Chris Souders - Associate Medical Director at Houston Fire Department
Bi-weekly pay: \$8,343
Estimated annual salary: \$216,918



6. Eric Dargan - Deputy Director of Department of Public Works and Engineering
Bi-weekly pay: \$8,319
Estimated annual salary: \$216,290

4. Sylvester Turner - Mayor of Houston
Bi-weekly pay: \$9,084
Estimated annual salary: \$236,180

Southwest to provide free movies on its flights

Southwest Airlines, the largest carrier at Hobby Airport, is now offering free movies aboard its aircraft. The airline announced Thursday that it will provide up to 30 movies on its WiFi-enabled jets. These movies, previously requiring a payment, can be viewed through the Southwest mobile app downloaded onto travelers' personal devices. The free movies should be available to most customers by the end of this week. At HoustonChronicle.com: Southwest Airlines, citing passenger allergy concerns, bumps the peanut. Last month, Southwest began offering free messaging through iMessage or WhatsApp. And in May, it began providing access to the iHeartRadio library of music and podcasts.

"Our research shows that a positive experience on board the aircraft can greatly influence the decision to come back to Southwest," Ryan Green, vice president and chief marketing officer, said in the news release. "We listened to our customers." Democrats that Sayoc targeted. Sayoc sent explosive devices containing "shards of glass that could only have been intended to maximize harm to the defendant's victims," according to federal prosecutors.

Sayoc is accused of targeting Obama, former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, and former vice president Joe Biden, among others. Prosecutors have said Sayoc, a vocal Trump supporter, kept a list of more than 100 potential targets. It is unclear whether O'Rourke was on that list.



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Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks about the shooting in Pittsburgh



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks about the shooting in Pittsburgh, under the wing of Air Force One at Indianapolis International Airport, in Indianapolis, IN, U.S., October 27, 2018. REUTERS/AI Drago



People hold placards on the Mexican side of the border fence between Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, during a binational mass in support of migrants and in memory of those who died trying to cross illegally into the U.S., in Ciudad Juarez



Soccer Football - Serie A - Juventus v Cagliari Calcio - Allianz Stadium, Turin, Italy - November 3, 2018 Juventus' Juan Cuadrado celebrates scoring their third goal REUTERS/Massimo Pinca



Supporters of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum cheer in West Palm Beach, Florida



Singer Jimmy Buffett speaks with Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) in West Palm Beach, Florida



Carved pumpkins are seen before being launched during the Squash CF Pumpkin Launch fundraiser in Ottawa



Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) smiles in West Palm Beach, Florida

A New 'Solar City' -- Blueprint For Suburbia?

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



An aerial view of Babcock Ranch near Fort Myers, Florida, which is projected to have 50,000 residents by the time it's completed.

Overview People are starting to move into Babcock Ranch, an ambitious development in Florida more than a decade in the making.

BABCOCK RANCH, FLORIDA—Like a lot of Floridians, Syd Kitson loves the sun. But his passion is mainly for the energy it feeds to his new development, Babcock Ranch, which bills itself as the country's first solar-powered city.

This particular day in March turned out to be a milestone for Kitson, an NFL guard-turned-property developer who has been chasing his vision of a sustainable society for more than a decade.

Syd Kitson at Babcock Ranch, which he calls a "living laboratory" (Richard Luscombe)

His ultimate plan is for a solar-powered city of 19,500 homes with a downtown, schools, restaurants, shopping and leisure facilities.

The FPL solar farm is a cornerstone of the Babcock Ranch masterplan, and the 14 months between the farm's October 2015 groundbreaking and its 343,000 panels coming online last December reflect the quick pace of the development as a whole.

On weekends, electric self-driven shuttles ferry residents and visitors around as part of testing by the autonomous transportation company Transdev.

At a cursory glance, Babcock appears little different from numerous other planned communities around Florida. It has single-family detached houses arranged into neighborhoods.

from the \$190,000s to more than half a million dollars. The sales pitch rests on their high-tech and green features. These are Alexa-controlled smart homes with 1-gigabit fiber internet and wiring for electric cars in every garage.

Founder's Square, the development's town center, already has a health and wellness center, a co-working space, and a gastropub. (Babcock Ranch)

These are Alexa-controlled smart homes with 1-gigabit fiber internet and wiring for electric cars in every garage.

Additionally, homeowners are encouraged to grow vegetables in community gardens, landscaping is limited to native plants (with turf covering no more than 30 percent of yard space), and all irrigation water is reclaimed.

Kitson describes Babcock Ranch as "a living laboratory," with energy self-sufficiency at its core. All public and commercial buildings with good exposure have roofs covered with solar panels, and solar "trees" are dotted around the public areas to bolster the power supply and provide recharge stations for visitors' cell phones, tablets, and laptops.

Some outside analysts believe that Kitson's pursuit of that utility-scale solar is the key to the long-term viability of the project. "In the future, we're going to see almost all of our new developments powered by renewable energy, and to the extent this is a model for the future, especially in Florida, it's a good thing," said Ed McMahon.

One of the self-driving shuttles that Transdev is piloting in the town (Richard Luscombe)

Even before the upcoming solar-field expansion, Babcock Ranch is generating more electricity than it needs, Kitson said, and in a further innovation now has the capacity to store some of it.

The town's buildings, constructed to match or exceed the latest county codes, soaked up everything the furious 2017 hurricane season had to offer.

were a few trees down, but we just picked them right back up because we'd just planted them."

Kitson said the initial planning and design of the town was a community effort. In the mid-2000s, his team held meetings in community halls, city offices, and even at late-night social gatherings around Charlotte County to discuss what kind of town local people would want to live in.

The master plan was approved in 2006, but the project was put on hold through the economic downturn of the late 2000s, which Kitson admitted was "less of a curveball, more of a boulder."

Babcock Ranch is an approximately 17,000-acre planned community under development in Southwest Florida.

States offering residents the opportunity to purchase a piece of American history.

"We are in a place that ... just evokes that spirit of innovation and that engagement of people," Treece said. "It's easy to open a textbook and read and answer questions.

With guidance from the chef of the Tap and Table, Babcock's gastropub, students acted a recent solar cook-off tournament against other local schools.

When a larger school building opens in August, there will be twice as many children, teachers, and staff. Ultimately, there are plans for eight schools from pre-K to high school.

Two likely future students are the three-year-old son and newborn daughter of Matt Angerer. Angerer rents an office in The Hatcher for his online business, and can't wait to move his young family to Babcock when their home is ready in September.

family?" he said. "I'm an early adopter. I believe in technological innovation, but I also think we should leverage technology to help the environment and sustainability."

Angerer said that everything at Babcock Ranch "fit the bill for us, including the school. They're focusing on the family core, a comfortable and safe place to bring your children. (That is, apart from the alligators, which are "everywhere," he said.)

Babcock Ranch may be giving us a peek of tomorrow's suburbia.

Local criticism of the development so far has focused on the environmental impacts of its footprint.

When Kitson bought the 91,000-acre working ranch in 2006 for more than \$500 million, it had seen cattle ranching, alligator farming, the raising of crops including watermelons, and even rock mining and eco-tourism.

At a meeting of the Lee County commission in February, Kitson won approval for a land-use change from agricultural to planned development.

Kitson wants his critics to see the town firsthand before passing judgment. "They think they'll come in and [it'll be] like George Jetson, but it's not. It's an old-town feeling with all of those modern conveniences and technology of today."

He acknowledges that some will question the choices that were made for Babcock Ranch on environmental grounds, and whether it can call itself fully sustainable when, for example, residents still need cars to commute to jobs in other towns.

The houses at Babcock Ranch range from about 1,500 to 4,000 square feet. Built by a range of homebuilders, they are required to meet at least a bronze standard of certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition.

His answer is that he has made a laboratory out of a place where traditional models of community

and family life are central. New ideas can be developed and tested at Babcock Ranch, and expanded gradually toward sustainability, without wholesale changes that would be too radical for many people.

"Americans are not going to go from one car for every driver to no cars for every household overnight," Kitson said. "We start by making the cars just one option for getting around. When people can walk, bike, catch a shuttle, use a handheld device to summon an autonomous vehicle, or utilize a shared vehicle service for trips off-site, they will quickly realize they don't really need their own car."

"What we are creating," he continued, "is a suburban-urban environment with everything in walking distance, and [we're] working continuously to bring more jobs within our town footprint to achieve the goal of a real, multi-generational town where people live, work, and play."

McMahon believes that solar power, for Babcock, is the market differentiator that large, out-of-town developments need these days to prompt people to move there, as well as an environmental good. "It's a greenfield site; everybody has to drive there from somewhere else, [and] there's energy used in building the site and getting to it and from it," he conceded.

In the future, McMahon continued, "the most successful communities in Florida are going to be ones that are walkable, where you can reduce your transportation. There's no place that's probably perfect, but all these things are steps in the right direction."



Richard and Robin Kinley at their new home in Babcock Ranch. "It feels like you're gaining good karma, living here," Richard Kinley said. (Richard Luscombe)

For Richard Kinley and his wife Robin, Babcock's first residents, who moved into their house in January from Atlanta, the development is living up to its promise so far.

"We go days without needing air conditioning, because homes are built to green standards and are well insulated. The metal roof helps decrease costs. I also have an electric car charging in the garage, so I'm using solar energy to drive around the state," he said.

All of which is music to Kitson's ears. "If I come back in 20 years," he said, "and see families, empty nesters, and retirees all mingling together; autonomous vehicles taking people from place to place; kids using technology outdoors; a respect for nature where the air is clean and the water is pure—that those things we talked about from Day One have come to fruition—then it will all have been worth it." (Courtesy citylab.com)

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SPECIAL REPORT

Homeless In US: A Deepening Crisis On The Streets Of America

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

They seem to be almost everywhere, in places old and new, no age spared. Sleeping on cardboard or bare ground, the homeless come together under bridges and trees, their belongings in plastic bags symbolising lives on the move.

Many have arrived on the streets just recently, victims of the same prosperity that has transformed cities across the US West Coast. As officials struggle to respond to this growing crisis, some say things are likely to get worse.

Vibrant Portland, Oregon's largest city, has long lured many. It is the City of Roses, of pleasant climate, rich culture and progressive thinking. It is also an innovation hub, part of what is called Silicon Forest, and new residents have moved here in these post-recession years attracted by its high-tech companies and their well-paid jobs.

But the bonanza, unsurprisingly, has not come to everyone.

Booming demand in an area with limited housing offers quickly drove the cost of living up, and those who were financially on the limit lost the ability they once had to afford a place.

How well US counties are doing

Vitality Index by US county



Source: The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institute

Many were rescued by family and friends, or government programmes and non-profit groups. Others, however, ended up homeless. The lucky ones have found space in public shelters. Not a few are now in tents and vehicles on the streets.

"Even though the economy has never been stronger," Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, said, "inequality [is] growing at an alarming rate and the benefits from



a [growing] economy are increasingly concentrated in fewer and fewer hands... We have increasing disparity all across the United States, and that's definitely impacting people."

His city is indeed not alone. Homelessness has increased in other thriving West Coast cities that are destinations for young, well-educated workers, like San Francisco and Seattle, where the blame has also largely fallen on rapidly rising costs and evictions.

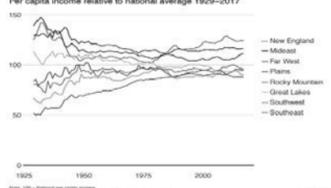
Exact numbers are always hard to come by but 553,742 people were homeless on a single night across the US in 2017, the Department of Housing and Urban Development said, the first rise in seven years. (The figure, however, was still 13% lower than in 2010.)

Declines in 30 states were overshadowed by big surges elsewhere, with California, Oregon and Washington among the worst. Los Angeles, where the situation has been described as unprecedent-

ed, had more than 50,000 people without homes, behind only New York City, which had some 75,000.

Prosperity across US regions

Per capita income relative to national average 1929-2017



Source: The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institute

Joseph Gordon, known as Tequila, has lived in a homeless camp called Hazelnut Grove since its creation in 2015, when Portland first declared a state of emergency over the crisis. "It's very scary. [The] people I have come across," said the 37-year-old, "are from every single walk of life. And the homeless population is getting bigger and bigger." Multnomah County reported 4,177 people homeless on a single night last year, a 10% rise from 2015 - many believed the number was even higher. Exposing

tensions, the president of Portland Police Association controversially said in July the city had become "a cesspool", a comment the mayor dismissed as "ridiculous".

Tequila arrived from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2011 and said they (Tequila is a transgender man and asks to be referred by this pronoun) became homeless after losing the apartment they shared with a former violent partner.

"Being out on the street you deal with all sorts of things [like] having to relax with living with rats. You also start to appreciate running water or when you can go to the bathroom anytime you want," said Tequila. (People usually thought they were Mexican because of the colour of their skin, and the nickname was in reference to Jose Cuervo, the tequila brand.)



The self-governed community of small wooden structures next to a highway had more than a dozen residents, half of them with some sort of income, Tequila said. "If there was access to actual affordable housing they would take it." In Portland, the rent of a one-bed flat is, on average, \$1,136 (£867), which is out of reach for those who rely on Social Se-

curity checks, topped at \$735 locally, or earn the minimum wage, \$12 per hour. (Officials said half of the 1,300 units to be created would be reserved to those with extremely low income.)

Elderly people and minorities have been disproportionately affected, according to a study by Portland State University, which said technology could result in thousands of low-paid jobs being cut, probably making things even worse.

"We have a housing market that's really unaffordable for folks at the lowest income level," said Shannon Singleton, Executive Director of Join, a charity that helps homeless people return to permanent housing. "There's a real lack of hope. Folks are struggling to see the ability to end their homelessness and get back in the [market]."

While some defend Tequila's camp as a model for an alternative solution, authorities have said it will, eventually, have to go. No date has been set yet but there have been troubles with nearby neighbours recently.



Homelessness, in Portland and beyond, seems to be more visible than ever. Residents are growing frustrated with the smell of urine, human feces and abandoned objects littering public spaces and, sometimes, their own doorsteps. In certain places, there is the feeling that this is a fight being lost.

But this is a crisis long in the making. Cuts by the federal government to affordable housing programs and mental health facilities in the last few decades helped send many to the streets nationwide, officials and service providers said, as local authorities were unable to fill the gaps. The current affordability problem is now adding to it. (Courtesy bbc.com)

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主播高航

休士頓Anya Tish Gallery和舊金山The Secondbedroom Gallery 代理畫家，休士頓大學（美國）繪畫系碩士，首都師範大學（中國）油畫、影視技術雙學士。曾任教休士頓大學繪畫基礎部，Art League Houston美術中心。作品曾多次展覽於美國休士頓、達拉斯、洛杉磯等城市，中國北京、江蘇、上海、廣州等城市以及韓國。

美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響；為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。