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Cold front to bring thunderstorms, heavy rain to Houston



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Sunday, November 11, 2018 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Malibu threatened and nine dead from monster wildfires in California

PARADISE, Calif. (Reuters) - Two monster wildfires in California, including the most destructive in state history, burned out of control on Saturday, having already killed at least nine people, destroyed scores of buildings and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. Nine people were found dead in and around the Northern California town of Paradise, where more than 6,700 homes and businesses were burned down by the 100,000-acre (40,470-hectare) Camp Fire, the state's most destructive on record, authorities said. In Paradise, which had about 26,000 residents, the fire destroyed most homes and half the businesses, the town's mayor Jody Jones said on CNN, describing a long period of recovery ahead. "It's going to be a process, a lot of hard work, a lot of coming together, but we want to see Paradise be paradise again," Jones told CNN. About 500 miles (800 km) to the south in the posh enclave of Malibu, the Woolsey Fire was threatening thousands of homes after triggering mandatory evacuation orders for a quarter million people in the oceanside city as well as other communities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The fire has destroyed "a lot of homes," with a full count still under way, and it doubled in size overnight to 70,000 acres, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby said. "Our firefighters have been facing some extreme, tough fire conditions that they said that they've never seen in their lives," Osby said at a news conference.

A woman reacts as the Woolsey Fire burns in Malibu, California, U.S. November 9, 2018. The fire destroyed dozens of structures, forced thousands of evacuations and closed a major freeway. REUTERS/Eric Thayer All 13,000 residents of Malibu, which is 30 miles west of downtown Los Angeles, were told to get out on Friday. The bodies of two people were discovered in Malibu but it was too early to determine if they died from fire or another cause, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials said. Firefighters have been unable to build any containment lines around the Woolsey Fire, but officials said they hoped to take advantage of a lull in winds on Saturday to make progress.



Firefighters try to save a structure as the Woolsey Fire burns in Malibu

President Donald Trump, weighing in on the emergency during a trip to France, said early on Saturday that "gross mismanagement of forests" was to blame. "There is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly forest fires in California except that forest management is so poor," he wrote in a Twitter post. "Billions of dollars are given each year, with so many lives lost, all because of gross mismanagement of the forests. Remedy now, or no more Fed payments!" he added.

Trump, a Republican, has previously blamed Cali-

fornia officials for fires and threatened to withhold funding, saying the state should do more to remove rotten trees and other debris that fuel blazes. Officials in the state have countered that climate change is the main culprit and have pointed out that many of the burn areas have been in federally-managed lands. "Our focus is on the Californians impacted by these fires and the first responders and firefighters working around the clock to save lives and property - not on the President's inane and uninformed tweets,"

Whitaker's friendship with Trump aide reignites recusal debate

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump's pick for acting attorney general, Matt Whitaker, is a close friend of Trump's 2016 election campaign co-chair, and a former government ethics chief said the friendship makes Whitaker unable to oversee impartially a politically charged investigation into the campaign. Matthew Whitaker, named on Wednesday to replace Jeff Sessions, will directly oversee Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller's investigation into possible links between Trump's campaign team and Russian officials. Whitaker publicly criticized Mueller's investigation before he was hired as Sessions' chief of staff last year. Sam Clovis, who was co-chair of Trump's 2016 campaign and has testified before the grand jury in the Mueller investigation, said he and Whitaker became good friends when they ran against each other as Republicans in a 2014 Senate primary campaign in Iowa. Whitaker also later served as the chairman of a Clovis campaign for state treasurer. In an interview with Reuters, Clovis said Whitaker is "a wonderful man" and "a dear friend." He added that Whitaker was a "sounding board" for him when Clovis worked for Trump's campaign. Walter Shaub, who was director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics for four years before resigning in July

2017, said the friendship between Whitaker and Clovis should disqualify Whitaker from supervising the Mueller investigation. "Whitaker has to recuse himself under DOJ's regulation requiring recusal if you have a personal or political relationship with someone substantially involved in conduct that is the subject of the investigation or prosecution," Shaub told Reuters. Department of Justice spokesperson Sarah Isgur Flores declined to comment. A DOJ regulation cited by Shaub states that employees "may not supervise prosecutions or investigations that involve someone with a personal or political relationship." It says the possible conflict can be set aside if the employee's supervisor judges that the relationship does not affect the official's impartiality or create the public perception of a conflict. Trevor Potter, a former Republican commissioner on the Federal Election Commission who now leads the Campaign Legal Center, which advocates for more transparency in elections, said the question of whether Whitaker should recuse himself depends on Clovis' status in the Mueller investigation.



"If he has a close personal friendship with someone who is involved in the investigation because of his role in the Trump campaign, then that would present a recusal issue," Potter said.

Mueller has not publicly identified any of the targets of his investigation. Mueller's team has netted convictions and guilty pleas from several Trump campaign staff members and advisers.

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Cold front to bring thunderstorms, heavy rain to Houston

Jackets and umbrellas are required personal effects this weekend, as a cold front brings rain and lower temperatures to much of the Houston area.

A cold front will come across southeast Texas early Friday, but thunderstorms could bring much rain to the area as early as Thursday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

There's a 30 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms until Thursday night, where chances for thunderstorms increases to 90 percent.

Throughout the day Friday, there's an 80 percent chance of thunderstorms, which

diminishes to 20 percent chance of rain showers through Saturday.

Rain chances increase to 60 percent on Sunday, then go back down to 30 percent Sunday night and 30 percent Monday.

The storm system's saving grace for Houstonians will be the cool weather that it brings along with it.

By Friday morning, temperatures will be down to the 50s. Rain and cloud cover are expected to keep the highs in the upper 50s, according to the National Weather Service.

On Saturday, lows will fall even further to the lower and mid-40s. And with more rain, temperatures will only rise to the 50s on Sunday, meteorologists said.



Turner announces \$4.9M plan for City Hall beautification, repairs

Mayor Sylvester Turner stood on McKinney Street, and pointed the toe of his shoe at the lifted and jagged pavers that line much of the perimeter of City Hall.

The sidewalk will look entirely different a few months from now, Turner said, with level walkways that will not trip up pedestrians or cause problems for people with disabilities.

That work will be just one part of a \$4.9 million effort announced Thursday to beautify and improve pedestrian safety at City Hall and Hermann Square, the small park that rings the reflecting pool in front of the 80-year-old building that houses the seat of Houston government.

"There's no question that there's a lot of work that needs to take place here," Turner said. "If we can get this right, it will enhance the pride that all of us have about our city, and this is the epicenter."

The initiative will serve as the first phase of a beautification project that will draw from a mixture of public and privately raised funds, Turner said. All of the public funds that will be used for the project — more than \$1.9 million, mostly from bonds and the parks construction fund — already have been

earmarked, mayoral spokeswoman Mary Benton said.

City officials used Thursday's announcement to make a plea to the public to help about \$3 million for the effort. Houston Parks and Recreation Director Steve Wright asked public and private stakeholders to put aside any differences to collaborate on the initiative.

"This is about people," Wright said. "And when people come together, regardless of what side, and work together on projects like this, we can elevate this for the city of Houston and it reflects the heart of what I think that we stand for."

The project also brings together Turner and Elyse Lanier, whose late husband was former Houston mayor and one-time Turner political rival Bob Lanier.

The former first lady approached Turner with the idea to beautify the City Hall building at 901 Bagby, the mayor said.

In addition to the new pavers, plans call for new curbs and gutters, access ramps and improved landscaping and irrigation, Turner said. Improvements also will be made to flower beds, drainage,



A general view of city hall and Hermann Square at the Houston Women's March in Houston, TX on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

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Editor's Choice



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America en route to the United States, make their way to Queretaro from Mexico City



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America en route to the United States, make their way to Queretaro from Mexico City



Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of the First World War



Boys play on a historic cannon at 35 Battery Museum in Sevastopol



Copa Libertadores Final - First Leg - Boca Juniors v River Plate



Premier League - Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur



Britain's Prince William and Catherine, Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, attend the Tusk Conservation Awards in London, Britain November 8, 2018. Jeff Spicer/Pool via REUTERS



Soccer Football - Europa League - Group Stage - Group F - Olympiacos v F91 Dudelange - Karaiskakis Stadium, Piraeus, Greece - November 8, 2018 Olympiacos' Roderick in action with Dudelange's Bryan Melisse REUTERS/Costas Baltas

The Houston West Chamber of Commerce's annual Salute to Veterans luncheon will honor women who served, the event is titled "Honoring Women Veterans: They started in the factories, now they are in the air, land and sea."

This year's luncheon is Friday, Nov. 2, from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the West Houston Institute at HCC Alief-Hayes campus. The keynote speaker is Regina Mayor, former officer of the U.S. Army Reserve.

The Heart of Service awards will be presented by Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale to Mayor, Joan Neuhaus, retired naval officer, director of the Texas Security Forum and former fellow in homeland security and terrorism at the Baker Institute; Carol Eggert, Comcast senior vice president, Military and Veteran Affairs and retired army brigadier general; and U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Diana Tran-Yu, Houston's Navy Medical recruiter.

Salute to Veterans begins with a flyover by the Commemorative Air Force-Houston Wing. Shara Fryer, KTRH radio morning anchor, will emcee the event. Those wanting to support the event may sponsor a seat for a pre-registered veteran. For more information, call 713-718-4922 or visit hwcoc.org/events.



Southwest Community Honors Our Veterans



HOUSTONWEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE In Business. For Business.

HWCOC's Salute To Veterans Honors Women Who Served

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



ment to graduation. More information on the programs HCC offers for veterans is available at hccs.edu/veterans.

WHAT: Veterans Day ceremony, reading of proclamation and pinning of HCC veteran students

WHEN: Friday, Nov 9, 10 a.m. The event will be available for viewing by livestream here: https://www.hccs.edu/departments/media-room/livestream/

WHERE: 3100 Main, 2nd floor, Auditorium, Houston, TX 77002

WHO: HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, HCC Board Chair Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, HCC Board of Trustees, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, HCC Veteran & Military-Affiliated Student Services, HCC Student Veterans Association



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HCC To Honor Veterans

(Livestream will be available)

HOUSTON (Nov 7, 2018) - Houston Community College will pay tribute to those who have served in the armed forces at its annual Veterans Day observance.

HCC serves about 3,000 veteran students and their families every semester. In addition, more than 200 members of HCC's faculty and staff are veterans. HCC understands the unique challenges veterans face and has a dedicated team of professionals focused on providing coordinated resources and services designed to support a student from enroll-

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society.

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Veterans Day celebrations in the United States. As a city, Houston is proud to pay tribute to our men and women in the military by providing an annual "Houston Salutes American Heroes Veterans Day Celebration". This civic celebration honors and celebrates the brave men, women, and families who fight for our liberty and freedom.

The celebration this year will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2018 with the US Family Health Plan Health Fair surrounding the reflection pool in Hermann Square at City Hall.



The traditional Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 10:45 a.m. starting with a 21 Gun Salute followed by a Moment of Silence in memory of the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the WWI Armistice. We will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women in the Marines and as tradition, we will recognize our local heroes.



The American Heroes Parade sponsored by H-E-B, will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas and Bagby, and proceed east on Dallas, north on Louisiana, west on Walker, south on Smith, west on Lamar. Parking is free in the Theater District Tranquillity Parking Garage. Please use entrances #2 and #5 in order to receive the complimentary parking.



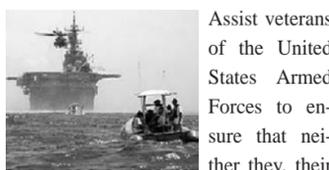
Veterans Day Celebration In Houston, Texas, November 11, 2018

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



Related

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE IN HOUSTON
The City of Houston Office of Veterans Affairs' mission is to assist Houston in becoming the best city in the nation through unparalleled service to our serving military, veterans, and their families.



Assist veterans of the United States Armed Forces to ensure that neither they, their dependents, nor survivors are denied access to the entitlements promised them by a grateful nation.

Why Is Houston Such a Great Place for Veterans to Live?
Jobs: Houston has a robust economy and companies are looking to hire veterans. The Oil and Gas Industry, the Port of Houston, the Medical Center, IT firms, Auto Sales and Maintenance,

Construction, Banking, the Service Industries, Real Estate and the list goes on. Houston is growing and we are looking to hire veterans. Click on the employment logo for more info.



Housing: The American Dream of owning a home can easily be realized in the Houston Area. This dream come true can be realized in both NEW and resale homes at affordable prices. Houston has historically had one of the stronger metropolitan markets in the country, mainly due to lower homes prices. Check out <https://har.com/> and compare to see for yourself.

Health Care: A Veterans Affairs Regional Hospital with additional clinics in the local area, Tri-Care providers, US Family Health Plan, a world renown Medical Center (that has veteran hiring programs), Private and Public hospitals and clinics galore.

Entertainment/Restaurants: Houston, like the military, is a demographic melting pot of diverse cultures and people. So are our food and our entertainment.

If you like to eat it...it's here. Check out this site: <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/> to see what we are talking about.

Patriotism and love of our veterans: We get it. Houston is the second largest provider city for the all volunteer military in America. Over 300,000 veterans call the Greater Houston Area home. We veterans reach out and take care of each other and our community embraces us. And we have lots of connecting services. Just click on the directory in the left hand column to get an idea. Do an internet search of the words "Houston & Veteran" and see what all pops up.



Returning Veterans Initiative
Since June of 2007, when Harris County and the City of Houston joined together to launch the Returning Veteran Initiative (RVI) in an effort to ease the transition home for the thousands of veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq returning to the Greater Houston Area services have consistently improved for our returning heroes.

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