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The 9th China Yangtze River Three hosted in Chongqing and Hubei



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Authorities search for missing in wind-whipped California wildfires

MALIBU, Calif. (Reuters) - Authorities searched on Monday for more than 200 people unaccounted for in one of the wildfires rampaging through parts of California, voicing concern about a possible rising death toll, as gusty, dry winds spurred the spreading flames.

The raging blaze in northern California known as the Camp Fire, the state's most destructive on record, had left at least 228 people missing as of early Monday, according to Kory Honea, sheriff of Butte County, site of the fire. That fire and one in southern California called the Woolsey Fire have killed at least 31 people.

The blazes left behind scenes of utter ruin, with homes and businesses reduced to charred wreckage and the winds also spreading large amounts of ash.

Both fires have been whipped up by hot dry winds. Winds of up to 40 miles per hour (64 km per hour) were expected to continue in southern California through Tuesday, heightening the risk of fresh blazes ignited by scattered embers, while the winds were forecast to begin diminishing later on Monday at the site of the Camp Fire. The wildfires flared in two new locations on Monday morning in southern California, officials said.

The fires have displaced more than 224,000 people, officials said. About 8,000 firefighters using fire fighting equipment including helicopters and air tankers were battling the flames, with assistance coming from out of state.

The Camp Fire, 40 miles (60 km) north of Sacramento, burned down more than 6,700 homes and businesses in the town of Paradise, more structures than any other wildfire recorded in California.

The fire had scorched more than 113,000 acres (45,729 hectares) and was 25 percent contained, officials said on Monday. Its death toll of 29 equals that of the Griffith Park Fire in 1933, the deadliest wildfire on record in California.

Firefighters battle the Peak Fire in Simi Valley, California, U.S. November 12, 2018. REUTERS/Eric Thayer

The blaze has probably caused between \$2 billion and \$4 billion in insured property damage, Morgan Stanley (MS.N) estimated in a report on Monday.



Fire-fighters battle the Woolsey Fire as it continues to burn in Malibu, California, U.S., November 11, 2018. REUTERS/Eric Thayer TPX IMAGES

Speaking on CNN, Honea said while he holds out hope that many people listed as missing will turn up safe, "given what we've dealt with so far with casualties as a result of this fire, I have concerns that it (the death toll) will rise."

In southern California, the Woolsey Fire had burned more than 91,000 acres (36,826 hectares) and was 20 percent contained, with 370 structures destroyed, officials said. The fire had forced authorities to issue evacuation orders for a quarter million people in Ventura

and Los Angeles counties and beachside communities including the Malibu beach colony, home to many celebrities.

At least two people have died in the Woolsey Fire, which is 20 miles (32 km) long and 14 miles (22 km) wide, threatening 57,000 structures, officials said. "These are extreme conditions. If there's a fire in your neighborhood, don't wait for an evacuation order, leave," Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief Daryl Osby told a news conference.

## Apple, Goldman Sachs send Wall Street tumbling

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street's major indexes tumbled on Monday as shares of Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS.N) dragged down the technology and financial sectors.

With Monday's losses, all three indexes erased the gains from their brief rally after the U.S. congressional elections on Nov. 6.

Apple shares fell 5.0 percent after several suppliers to the company, including Lumentum Holdings Inc (LITE.O), whose components power the iPhone's Face ID technology, cut their forecasts. Apple's decline impeded the tech-heavy Nasdaq, which fell more than 2 percent.

Lumentum shares plunged 33.0 percent. Shares of several chipmakers that sell to Apple, such as Cirrus Logic Inc (CRUS.O), Qorvo Inc (QROV.O) and Skyworks Solutions Inc (SWKS.O), dropped as well. The Philadelphia SE Semiconductor index .SOX dropped 4.4 percent.

"The concerns are all about global economic growth, specifically demands for the products of companies like Apple," said Kate Warne, investment strategist at Edward Jones in St. Louis. "Investors are becoming more concerned about faster-growing companies and whether they will continue to grow at that pace."

Goldman Sachs shares dropped 7.5 percent after Bloomberg reported that Malaysian Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the country was seeking a full refund of all the fees it paid to the Wall Street bank for arranging billions of dollars of deals for troubled state fund 1MDB. Goldman Sachs was the biggest drag on the Dow, which fell more than 2 percent.

Among the S&P 500's 11 major sectors, technology and financial stocks weighed most heavily. The S&P 500 technology sector index .SPLRCT fell 3.5 percent, and the financial sector index .SPSY fell 2.0 percent.

Energy stocks .SPNY also accelerated their decline toward the end of the session as oil prices fell.

"At the moment it seems the path of least resistance is down," said Peter Jankovskis, co-chief investment officer at OakBrook Investments LLC in Lisle, Illinois. The Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI fell 602.12 points, or 2.32 percent, to 25,387.18, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 54.79 points, or 1.97 percent, to 2,726.22 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC dropped 206.03 points, or 2.78 percent, to 7,200.87.



A holiday in the U.S. bond markets for Veterans Day kept trading volume muted. Volume on U.S. exchanges was 7.30 billion shares, compared with the 8.41 billion average over the last 20 trading days.

General Electric Co (GE.N) shares fell 6.9 percent after Chief Executive Officer Larry Culp said the company was saddled with too much debt and would urgently sell assets to reduce leverage. The shares dropped below \$8 for the first time since March 2009.

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# The 9th China Yangtze River Three Gorges International Tourism Festival hosted in Chongqing and Hubei

By Chongqing Commission of Tourism Development

The 9th China Yangtze River Three Gorges International Tourism Festival was held on December 8, 2018. The event is a joint effort on the part of Chongqing Municipal People's Government and Hubei Provincial People's Government and hosted by Chongqing Municipal Culture and Tourism Development Committee, Chongqing Municipal Water Conservancy Bureau, Hubei Provincial Tourism Development Committee and Chongqing Wanzhou District Government.

With the theme of "Magnificent Yangtze River • Poetic Three Gorges", the regional customs, culture and characteristics of Three Gorges were highlighted by this event. This event was launched on July 26, since then, it has gained widespread attention and welcome from tourists from all over the world. Tourists from every corner of the world will experience a poetic trip through Concert of the World's Great Rivers, Light Show, the New Three Gorges forum, "Back to the Three Gorges" and other activities.

## Concert of the World's Great Rivers

On the evening of November 8, Concert of the World's Great Rivers was held at the main venue of this event, which is a national River Culture-themed concert. It was divided into four parts: the preface, the first chapter (spirit), the second chapter (charm) and the third chapter (dream).

Bands from all over the world were invited to make performances here with the theme of major

river basins of the world, including the Mariachi Divas of Mexico, Selam Orchestra of Africa, Wanzhou Choir, Rhythm City of the United States, the Volga Choir of Russia and National Chamber Choir of Ireland, etc. Also present was Italian great singer Albano Carrisi, who gave a brilliant closing performance.

## The New Three Gorges Forum

On the afternoon of November 8, The Three Gorges forum, with the title of Ecological Priority Green Development, was held in Wanzhou, Chongqing, with the topic of "New Three Gorges: Pleasure comes from the beautiful landscape, good environment goes along with development".

Xiao Qianhui, Gao Shunli, Xu Bing and Rosenberg, these experts respectively delivered wonderful keynote speeches on the ecology and development of Three Gorges tourism. The topics of the four speakers were: "Three Gorges Tourism Upgrading", "Ecological Significance and Substitute Advantages of Tourism", "Three Gorges•New Horizon" and "Adhering to Green Development, Continuing the Legend of Three Gorges".

## Large City AR Lighting Show

On the night of November 8, as one of the key activities of the 9th China Yangtze River Three Gorges International Tourism Festival, a large AR lighting show was staged in Three Gorges Pinghu, Wanzhou.

This show is based on the theme of "Gorgeous Three Gorges•Brilliant Wanzhou", which includes the fluid-themed light show, the environmental light perfor-

mance, and the light&shadow interaction carnival. A new cultural and tourist landmark of the Three Gorges has been created by this event, based on a multi-sensory experience of technology, vision, hearing, and emotion. It ends on December 13.

## "Back to the Three Gorges" Activity

On November 6, 2018, the offline event of the "Back to the Three Gorges" tourism promotion activity officially started. After 20 years, nearly 200 foreigners who had visited the Three Gorges before, as well as front-line workers who served foreign visitors at that time, revisited the Three Gorges. They came from all over the world, gathered in Three Gorges, Chongqing, to recall memories of past.

Participants set out from Chongqing to start a five-day and four-night free revisit tour of the Three Gorges, including hot spring, Liangjiang International Movie City, Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum and so on. They can visit new attractions, take a five-star cruise and travel down the Yangtze River to view Baiheliang, Baidicheng (the White Emperor City) and the Three Gorges Dam.

The Three Gorges of the Yangtze River, with a grand area and long history, is a name card for tourism in Chongqing, Hubei and even China. It famous for its magnificent scenery and brilliant culture. For the greater brand influence of the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River in the world and the coordinated development of economy and society in Three Gorges region, Chongqing and Hubei began to co-host the "China Yangtze Three Gorges International Tourism Festival" with the leadership of the former National Tourism Administration since 2010. It has been held successfully eight times so far and has become a well-known national cultural tourism festival brand.

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# Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: Pedro Parente looks on during a meeting of the Council for Economic and Social Development (CDES) at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America en route to the United States, ride on a truck in Irapuato



FILE PHOTO: Supporters of ousted former Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra wait for her at the Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand



Former first lady Michelle Obama smiles as she begins her book tour with a stop at the Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago



FILE PHOTO - Marvel Comics co-creator Lee places his handprints in cement during a ceremony in the forecourt of the TCL Chinese theatre in Los Angeles



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby speaks as Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May looks on during the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall in London, Britain



FILE PHOTO - Stan Lee poses at the premiere of "Iron Man 3" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood



FILE PHOTO - Comic book creator Stan Lee kisses his wife Joan after she walked across his newly unveiled star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood

## China Introduces Robot News Readers

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

WUZHEN, China (Reuters) – Chinese news readers may have some new competition – artificially intelligent robot anchors that can mimic human facial expressions and mannerisms while reading out reports.

The AI anchor, developed by state news agency Xinhua and tech firm Sogou Inc <SOGO.N>, was on display at the World Internet Conference in the eastern Chinese town of Wuzhen, drawing in curious passers-by.

The anchor, modeled on real-life Chinese news reader Qiu Hao and sporting a black suit and red tie, is part of a major push by China to advance its prowess in AI technology, from surveillance equipment to self-driving cars.

In another video presentation from Xinhua, a different robot presenter said it was his “very first day” at the news agency and promised to “work tirelessly to keep you informed as texts will be typed into my system uninterrupted”.



**Xinhua news anchor Qiu Hao stands next to an AI virtual news anchor based on him, at a Sogou booth during an expo at the fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) in Wuzhen town of Jiaxing, Zhejiang province, China November 7, 2018. (Photo/Reuters)**

tightly control online content and censor or punish those who post material seen as opposed to “core socialist values”. (Courtesy <https://www.oann.com>)

**Related**

**CHINA CREATES AI NEWS-READERS WHO CAN WORK 24 HOURS A DAY AND READ WHATEVER EDITORS TYPE**

China’s state press agency has unveiled a virtual newsreader designed to deliver headlines 24 hours a day. Xinhua’s “artificial intelligence news anchor” is a lifelike digitised reporter which can read out text by mimicking the image and voice of a real human presenter.



The agency claims the virtual presenter – a realistic-looking man, sharply dressed in a suit – “can read texts as naturally as a professional news anchor”.

In an introductory video, it said: “I will work tirelessly to keep you informed as texts will be typed into my system uninterrupted.”

The technology synthesises the human presenter’s speech, lip movements and facial expressions. It was developed jointly by Xinhua and Chinese search engine Sogou.

The companies have developed a second anchor, modelled on a different

human presenter, to read headlines in Chinese.



**Live Anchors Worried As Chinese TV Employs Robot As Weather Reporter.**

Xinhua said the robotic anchors “can work 24 hours a day on its official website and various social media platforms, reducing news production costs and improving efficiency”.

The agency said the technology could be particularly useful for breaking news. But Michael Wooldridge, professor of computer science at the University of Oxford, said the AI anchor was “quite

difficult to watch for more than a few minutes”.

“It’s very flat, very single-paced, it’s not got rhythm, pace or emphasis,” he told the BBC. (Courtesy <https://www.independent.co.uk>)

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President Trump Likely To Support End To Blanket Federal Ban On Marijuana

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



investors have also proceeded cautiously. "If you are in the marijuana business ... you can't get a bank loan or set up a bank account because of concern over the conflict between state and federal law," Gardner said at a news conference Thursday to unveil the new bill. "We need to fix this. It is time we take this industry out of the shadows, bring these dollars out of the shadows."

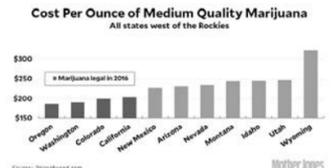
He called it a "public hypocrisy" that the firms are expected to pay taxes yet are barred from participation in the financial system.

A lifting of the federal prohibition also would bolster efforts to create uniform testing and regulatory standards for marijuana, and potentially free scientists to pursue research into the medical uses of marijuana.

Trump's support could potentially have a major impact, providing political cover for Republicans who worry about being tagged as soft on drugs. Still, the proposal faces a tough road in Congress.

Even though most lawmakers now repre-

sent areas where pot is legal for at least medical use — and public opinion polls show majorities of Democratic and Republican voters nationwide favor legalization — congressional leaders have shown little appetite for loosening restrictions. The House is blocking the District of Columbia from permitting sales of recreational pot, even after its voters chose to legalize. A 2014 budget amendment that protects medical marijuana businesses from Drug Enforcement Administration raids is perpetually under attack.



"It faces tremendous head winds," John Hudak, a marijuana policy expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said, referring to the Gardner-Warren bill.

Trump said he is likely to support the federal legalization effort despite a warning against it from a coalition of narcotics officer groups.

"We urge you to see through the smoke

screen and reject attempts to encourage more drug use in America," they wrote in a letter to Trump Thursday.

The marijuana industry continues to be whipsawed by mixed messages from the administration.

In January, the Justice Department sent pot businesses into a panic by rescinding an Obama-era policy that restricted prosecutors from targeting sellers who operate legally under state laws.

Sessions warned at the time that any pot business could find itself in the crosshairs of prosecutors — regardless of whether marijuana was legal in their state.

The move enraged Gardner, who said the administration had earlier given him assurances that there would be no such raids, at least in his state. At Gardner's behest, Trump in April ordered an abrupt retreat from the announced crackdown. Trump made the order without even consulting Sessions, a sign of their tense relationship.

Mother and marijuana activist Leah Maurer speaks with reporters about legalization surrounded by other members of the Moms for YES on Measure 91 group, Friday, Oct. 17, 2014 in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/Gosia Wozniacka)

But prosecutors did back off. During this administration, there have apparently been no federal raids or seizures of pot companies for sales that are legal under state law.

"Remarkably little, if anything, has changed," said John Vardaman, a former Justice Department attorney who helped draft the Obama-era rules, known as the Cole memo, after former Deputy Atty. Gen. James M. Cole, who issued it. "Almost every U.S. attorney in states where marijuana is legal has decided to apply the same principles as the Cole memo," said Vardaman, now an executive at Hypr,

which sells banking compliance software to marijuana companies.

Banking is the area in which the Gardner bill could most help pot companies.

The Senate proposal, and a companion bipartisan measure in the House, would amend the Controlled Substances Act so that its marijuana provisions do not apply to any person or business that is in compliance with state laws. To put bankers at ease, it specifies that such marijuana sales would not be considered trafficking and do not amount to illegal financial transactions.

"The very people you want involved in this market are the ones who have been most reluctant to get involved because of the banking issue," said Vardaman. "If you address that, you would have enormous beneficial effects for the industry."

While Trump's comments were welcomed by marijuana activists, they remain on edge, especially because of Trump's spotty record at actually pushing legislation through Congress.

"We have seen this president voice his support for a lot of things related to cannabis, but he has done absolutely nothing to move legislation," said Hudak. "This is just more empty rhetoric from a president who is vague on this issue."



Gardner is hoping he can persuade more of his conservative colleagues to join the crusade by framing the issue as one of state's rights. Several Republicans, including Reps. Dana Rohrabacher of Costa Mesa and Don Young of Alaska, are demanding an end to federal marijuana laws that intrude on the states. Their movement is slowly growing in Congress.

"This is a chance for us to express that federalism works," said Gardner, who like some other Republicans was not a proponent of marijuana but took up the cause after his state's voters endorsed legalization, "to take an idea that states have led with and provide a solution that allows them to continue to lead." (Courtesy latimes.com)



Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.)

"I support Sen. Gardner," Trump said when asked about the bill. "I know exactly what he's doing. We're looking at it. But I probably will end up supporting that, yes." The legislative proposal, which is also championed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), would reshape the legal landscape for marijuana if it becomes law.

California and eight other states, as well as Washington, D.C., have legalized all adult use of marijuana. An additional 20 states permit marijuana for medical use.

But even as states legalize, marijuana has remained a risky and unstable business because of federal law making it illegal. Concerns about federal law enforcement seizures have inhibited most lenders from working with marijuana businesses. And

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