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Ready or not, the holiday season is quickly approaching.



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Teams search for 1,000 missing in California's deadliest wildfire

PARADISE, Calif. (Reuters) - Forensic recovery teams searched for more victims in the charred wreckage of the northern California town of Paradise on Saturday as the number of people listed as missing in the state's deadliest wildfire topped 1,000.

President Donald Trump visited the devastated small community in the Sierra foothills, 175 miles (280 km) north of San Francisco, where authorities say the remains of at least 71 people have been recovered.

Paradise was home to nearly 27,000 residents before it was largely incinerated by the blaze on the night of Nov. 8.

"Nobody could have thought this would ever happen," Trump told reporters amid the charred wreckage of the town's Skyway Villa Mobile Home and RV Park.

"This is very sad to see. As far as the lives are concerned, nobody knows quite yet," Trump said. "Right now we want to take care of the people who have been so badly hurt."

Trump was flanked by California Governor Jerry Brown and Governor-elect Gavin Newsom. Brown said the federal government was doing what it needed to do, including supporting first responders and helping with clean-up and search for victims.

The disaster already ranks among the deadliest U.S. wildfires since the turn of the last century. Eighty-seven people perished in the Big Burn firestorm that swept the Northern Rockies in August of 1910. Minnesota's Cloquet Fire in October of 1918 killed 450 people.

Trump has blamed the recent spate of fires on forest mismanagement, and he said he discussed the issue with Brown and Newsom on the ride into Paradise.

U.S. President Donald Trump visits the charred wreckage of Skyway Villa Mobile Home and RV Park with Governor-elect Gavin Newsom



(L), Brock Long (R), Paradise Mayor Jody Jones (2nd R) and Governor Jerry Brown in Paradise, California, U.S., November 17, 2018. REUTERS/Leah Millis
"I don't think we'll have this again to this extent," Trump said of the fire. "Hopefully this is going to be the last of these because this was a really, really bad one."

Asked whether the scenes of devastation had changed his view on climate change, Trump said: "No. I have a strong opinion. I want great climate and we're going

to have that and we're going to have forests that are very safe."

Authorities attribute the high death toll from the blaze - dubbed "Camp Fire" - partly to the speed with which flames raced through the town with little warning, driven by howling winds and fueled by drought-desiccated scrub and trees.

President Donald Trump visits the charred wreckage of Skyway Villa Mobile Home and RV Park with Governor-elect Gavin Newsom Brock Long Paradise Mayor Jody Jones and Governor Jerry Brown in Paradise California

Pence vows no end to tariffs until China bows

PORT MORESBY (Reuters) - The United States will not back down from its trade dispute with China, and might even double its tariffs, unless Beijing bows to U.S. demands, Vice President Mike Pence said on Saturday. In a bluntly worded speech at an Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit in Papua New Guinea, Pence threw down the gauntlet to China on trade and security in the region.

"We have taken decisive action to address our imbalance with China," Pence declared. "We put tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods, and we could more than double that number."

"The United States, though, will not change course until China changes its ways."

The stark warning will likely be unwelcome news to financial markets which had hoped for a thaw in the Sino-U.S. dispute and perhaps even some sort of deal at a G20 meeting later this month in Argentina.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who is not attending the APEC meeting, is due to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in Argentina.

Pence's warning on Saturday contrasted with remarks made by Trump on Friday, when he said he may not impose more tariffs after China sent the United States a list of measures

it was willing to take to resolve trade tensions.

Trump has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports to force concessions on a list of demands that would change the terms of trade between the two countries. China has responded with import tariffs on U.S. goods.

Washington is demanding Beijing improve market access and intellectual property protections for U.S. companies, cut industrial subsidies and slash a \$375 billion trade gap.

There was no hint of compromise from Pence.

"China has taken advantage of the United States for many years. Those days are over," he told delegates gathered on a cruise liner docked in Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbour.

He also took aim at China's territorial ambitions in the Pacific and, particularly, Xi's Belt and Road Initiative to expand land and sea links between Asia, Africa and Europe with billions of dollars in infrastructure investment.

"We don't offer constricting belts or a one-way road," said Pence.

While not referring directly to Chinese claims over various disputed waters in the region, Pence said the United States would work to help protect maritime



rights.

Trump's summit no-show worries Asian leaders

"We will continue to fly and sail where ever international law allows and our interests demand. Harassment will only

strengthen our resolve."

Just minutes earlier, Xi had spoken at length about his initiative and the need for free trade across the region.

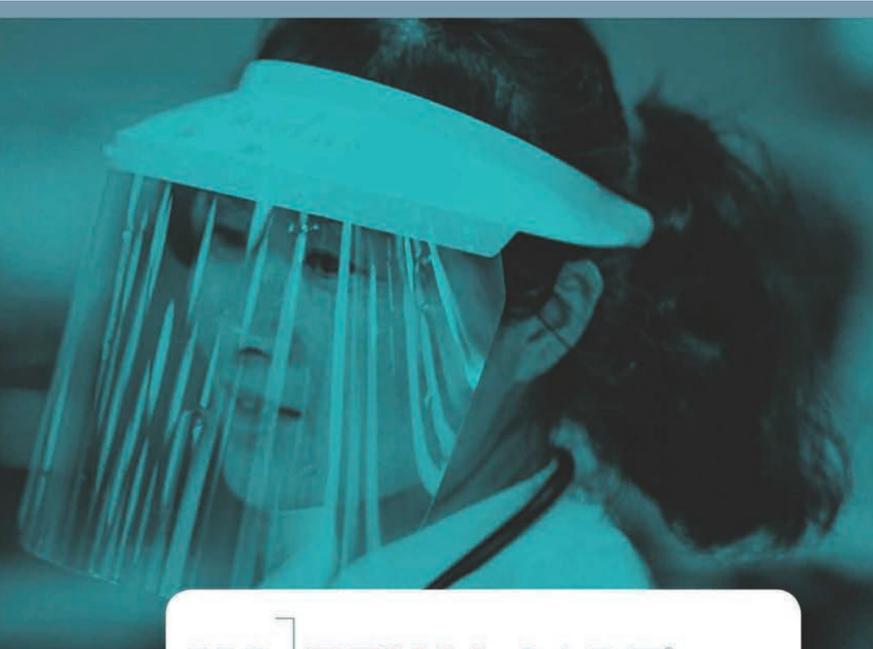
"It is not an exclusive club closed to non-members, nor is it a trap as some people have labeled it," Xi said of his brainchild project.

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Moody Gardens Offers the Coolest Holiday Experience in the Southwest

Ready or not, the holiday season is quickly approaching. In fact, the internationally-acclaimed CAA Ruijing Ice Carving Team has arrived at Moody Gardens, Galveston from Harbin China and is already creating the popular holiday attraction ICE LAND with chain saws, ice picks and two million pounds of ice, they will present new Pole-to-Pole ice sculpture theme with a frosty fantasy featuring everything from penguins to polar bears.

Seven Holiday Attractions Make this a Memorable Experience for the Whole Family

1. ICE LAND: Pole-to-Pole

Bundle up tight for nine degrees of frosted fun. Moody Gardens provides a parka this festive journey from the North to South Pole. See polar bears, penguins, humpback whales, snowy owls, reindeer of course and much more! Glide down the giant glacier ice slide and enjoy a festive drink inside a Northwest Trading Post at Shiver's Ice Bar made completely of ice.

MAKE PLANS!

See what the holiday season has in store at Moody Gardens. Get your tickets for Nov.17 - Jan. 6 here!

2. Festival of Lights

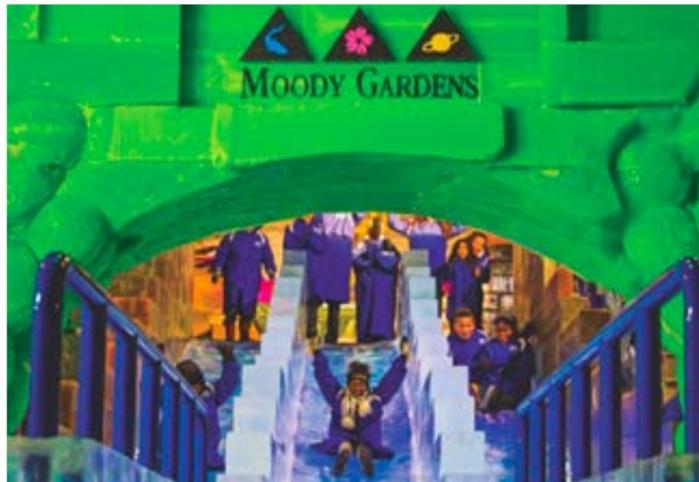
Embrace the holiday spirit with twinkling colored lights along this one-mile walking trail filled with sound-enhanced lighting and animated displays themed to holiday music with s'mores by the firepit, hot cocoa and other festive food. Guests can also enjoy the area's only outdoor ice skating rink.

3. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 4D

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and his friends will be at Moody Gardens to spread a little cheer and provide guests with a fully immersive experience that engages all of the senses, complete with falling snow inside the 4D Special FX Theater. Classic songs and dialogue are brought to life by loveable, iconic characters including the Abominable Snow Monster, Hermey the elf, Santa Claus and, of course, the most famous reindeer of all.

4. Arctic Slide, Holiday 3D Films, Festive Food, Hotel Packages and More!

Enjoy holiday films like Jersalem, the Light Before Christmas 3D and more on the largest screen in Texas at the MG3D Theater. Guests can squeal with delight gliding all the way down the 100-foot long Arctic Ice Slide. The kids can choo-choo along with a train ride for highlights of the Festival of Lights trail, while foodies will appreciate some of the festive fare or the holiday buffet that is offered nightly. Moody Gardens also offers



a variety of holiday hotel packages for the season. Be sure to ask for a pyramid view to enjoy spectacular views of the holiday lights from your cozy room.

5. Get Behind-the-Scenes: VIP Ice Carver Experience - Available through Nov. 10

Remarkably, Santa will parachute in to the property for opening day of ICE LAND, Festival of Lights and eight other holiday attractions in just a little over a month. But, guests have a rare opportunity to get up close to see some of the best ice sculpture artists in the world at work as they create ICE LAND with a VIP Ice Carver Experience available through November 10. Participants also get to have lunch with the ice carvers, meet a REAL penguin and admission to Festival of Lights and ICE LAND when the attractions open for the holiday season. Call 409-683-4375 for reservations or click here for prices and more details about this very special opportunity.

6. Cirque Joyeux Dinner and Show at the Moody Gardens Hotel - Dec. 21 - Jan. 4

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Editor's Choice



"Muslims Kill Jews" is written over a poster describing "What To Do If You Are Witnessing Islamophobic Harassment" in Boston



A counter-demonstrator is detained by law enforcement during the right-wing "We Are The People" rally in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta speaks before U.S. President Donald Trump at an event for "supporting veterans and military families" at the White House in Washington



Relatives of the 44 crew members of the missing at sea ARA San Juan submarine attend a demonstration outside the Argentine Naval Base where the submarine sailed from, in Mar del Plata



President Donald Trump speaks with California Governor Jerry Brown during a briefing with State officials while visiting the charred wreckage of Skyway Villa Mobile Home and RV Park in Paradise California



Tennis - ATP Finals - The O2, London, Britain - November 17, 2018 South Africa's Kevin Anderson before his semi final match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic Action Images via Reuters/Andrew Couldridge



President Donald Trump visits the charred wreckage of Skyway Villa Mobile Home and RV Park with Governor-elect Gavin Newsom FEMA head Brock Long Paradise Mayor Jody Jones and Governor Jerry Brown in Paradise California



The Northrop Grumman Antares rocket with Cygnus resupply spacecraft onboard launches from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia

Overview

A group of Whole Foods employees reportedly have sent an email to most workers urging them to back an effort to unionize, the Wall Street Journal has reported. They are pushing for better pay, benefits and profit-sharing.

A group of Whole Foods employees are trying to unionize to address concerns they have over the culture and compensation since Amazon bought the grocery chain last year, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

Whole Foods reportedly stopped granting stock options to lower-level employees after Amazon's acquisition last year.

The group reportedly plans to send an email Thursday to most employees at the company's 490 stores asking them to back their campaign. They want better pay, benefits and profit sharing, the WSJ said.

Whole Foods and Amazon didn't immediately return emails for comment.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which didn't immediately return a call and email for comment, is helping to organize employees, the WSJ said. The New York-based labor union has about 100,000 members.



A Whole Foods employee stocks produce in Oakland, California.

Related

Some Whole Foods employees want to unionize to address what they say are changes to corporate culture and diminished compensation under the ownership of Amazon.com Inc. AMZN -1.77%

A group of workers plans to send an email Thursday to workers at most of the 490 Whole Foods stores urging them to back their unionization drive.

A copy of the group's message to fellow employees, reviewed by The Wall Street

Whole Foods Employees Trying To Unionize Under Amazon Ownership

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



Journal, said organizers want to "collectively voice our concerns to Whole Foods Market and Amazon leadership."



The workers said they want to push Whole Foods and Amazon for better compensation, benefits and profit-sharing.

The unionization push presents a potentially high-profile challenge to Amazon, which has opposed past organizing efforts by warehouse workers and other employees that are less visible to customers than grocery-store clerks.

Amazon wants to deliver everything you want to your doorstep, anywhere in the world. But the e-commerce giant faces several challenges in its pursuit of a global empire.

Amazon workers in Germany, Spain and Poland held strikes around Amazon's

Prime Day promotion in July to demand better health protections and job-safety measures. Germany's powerful service-workers' union has held a number of job actions over pay and working conditions in recent years.

Amazon has fought those efforts. The e-commerce company has said that it treats its workers fairly and that reports of inhospitable conditions at its facilities are untrue.

"We offer competitive wages and benefits and are committed to the growth and success of our team members," a Whole Foods spokeswoman said.

An Amazon spokeswoman didn't respond to a request for comment.



Your groceries could be delivered by an Amazon drone any day now.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, a national organization headquartered in New York with 100,000 members, is assisting the effort. The union has been in touch with Whole Foods workers previously, but contact has become more frequent since Amazon bought the chain, according to the organization.

"The RWDSU stands with workers in precarious positions no matter what—Amazon and Whole Foods workers are no different," said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the union, which has also worked to represent Amazon workers.

"We will not back down until Amazon workers are treated with dignity and respect," he said.

Before Amazon bought it last year, Whole Foods resisted unionization efforts as well.

The chain has appeared near the top of lists ranking companies by the benefits they offer and the gap in pay between managers and workers. Whole Foods paid \$20.15 an hour and \$41,911 a year on average in 2016, according to a company filing, more than many other grocers.

But worker grievances started to multiply after Whole Foods laid off hundreds of workers in 2015 amid weak sales. Whole Foods eliminated hundreds of marketing jobs this year, deepening the discontent.



Workers say Whole Foods also stopped offering stock options to lower-level staff after Amazon took over. Whole Foods had for years offered most employees annual stock options. Around 94% had gone to nonexecutive employees since the program began in 1992, according to a company report before Amazon took over the

grocer.

"The clandestine nature of Amazon offering stock options to store leadership without informing [other employees] is beyond problematic," said the message from workers advocating unionization. "It is insulting and unethical." (Courtesy wsj.com)

Related

Next stop for Whole Foods delivery is NYC

Amazon's ongoing mission to spread organic produce countrywide continues

Amazon is expanding its Whole Foods Delivery service to five new cities. Prime Now subscribers in New York City, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Long Island will be able to sift through a variety of dairy, meat, everyday staples and seafood options.

Delivery times are still between 8AM to 10PM, and it's a two hour wait before your order arrives -- unless you're willing to spend \$8 extra for the quicker one hour option. Regardless, your minimum order needs to be \$35.



Originally kicked off in February, the partnership between Amazon and the Whole Foods Market was established to bring fresh produce to the table in a more convenient fashion, and if you're short on time, help dodge those seemingly endless grocery lines. Shoppers in Austin and Cincinnati were the first with access, but Amazon quickly expanded the service to Seattle and San Francisco. It's very likely additional cities -- according to the Prime Now website, 34 are currently being serviced -- will join the list soon, since Amazon has plans to spread deliveries nationwide. (Courtesy engadget.com)

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