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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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NATO pledges more aid to Kyiv as air raid sirens blare again across Ukraine

KYIV, Nov 29 (Reuters) - NATO allies promised on Tuesday more arms for Kyiv and equipment to help restore Ukrainian power and heat knocked out by Russian missile and drone strikes, as air raid sirens blared across Ukraine for the first time this week.

Ukrainians fled the streets for bomb shelters, although the all-clear later sounded across the country. In the eastern Donetsk region Russian forces pounded Ukrainian targets with artillery, mortar and tank fire.

Foreign ministers from the NATO alliance, including U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, began a two-day meeting in Bucharest, seeking ways both to keep Ukrainians safe and warm and to sustain Kyiv's military through a coming winter campaign.

"We need air defence, IRIS, Hawks, Patriots, and we need transformers (for our energy needs)," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters on the sidelines of the NATO meeting, enumerating various Western air defence systems.

"In a nutshell: Patriots and transformers are what Ukraine needs the most."

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev warned NATO against providing Ukraine with Patriots and denounced the Atlantic alliance as a "criminal entity" for delivering arms to what he called "Ukrainian fanatics".

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russian President Vladimir Putin was "trying to use winter as a weapon of war" as Moscow's forces lose ground on the battlefield.

In a statement, NATO ministers condemned Russia's "persistent and unconscionable attacks on Ukrainian civilian and energy infrastructure" and confirmed a 2008 decision that Ukraine will eventually join the alliance. But it announced no concrete steps or timetable that would bring it closer to NATO.

U.S. and European officials said ministers would focus in their talks on non-lethal aid such as fuel, medical supplies and winter equipment, as well as on military assistance. Washington said it would provide \$53 million to buy power grid equipment.

The yuan's the new dollar as Russia rides to the redback Exclusive: U.S. weighs sending 100-mile strike weapon to Ukraine

Russia's Medvedev warns NATO over supplying Ukraine with Patriot systems

The foreign minister of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, urged his NATO colleagues to take the political decision to send modern battle tanks to Ukraine to give them a military edge against Russian forces. Western powers have been reluctant to go down that road for fear of stoking direct conflict with Russia.

ACCUMULATING DAMAGE

Russia has been carrying out huge attacks on Ukraine's electricity transmission and heating infrastructure roughly weekly since October, in what Kyiv and its allies say is a deliberate campaign to harm civilians, a war crime.



Moscow says hurting civilians is not its aim but that their suffering will end only if Kyiv accepts its demands, which it has not spelled out. Although Kyiv says it shoots down most of the incoming missiles, the damage has been accumulating and the impact growing more severe with each strike.

A senior U.S. military official said on Tuesday Russia was firing unarmed cruise missiles that were designed to carry nuclear warheads at targets in Ukraine to try to deplete Kyiv's stocks of air defences.

A view shows the city without electricity after critical civil infrastructure was hit by Russian missile attacks in Kyiv

The worst barrage so far was on Nov. 23, leaving millions of Ukrainians in cold and darkness. President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told Ukrainians at the start of this week to expect another soon that would be at least as damaging.

There are no political talks to end the war. Moscow has annexed Ukrainian territory which it says it will never relinquish; Ukraine says it will fight until it recovers all occupied land.

Kyiv said it wants weapons to help it end the war - by winning it.

"No eloquent speech will say more than concrete action. 'Patriot', 'F-16', or 'Leopard' for Ukraine," tweeted presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, referring to U.S. anti-aircraft missiles and fighter jets, and German tanks.

'RISKS ARE GROWING'

Russia called off nuclear talks with the United States this week at the last minute. Moscow said it had "no

choice" but to cancel the talks, aimed at resuming inspections under an arms control treaty, because Washington refused to address its wider concerns about strategic stability.

Russian news agencies quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as warning Washington of unspecified risks because of its support for Kyiv against what Russia calls a "special military operation" to disarm its neighbour.

"We are sending signals to the Americans that their line of escalation and ever deeper involvement in this conflict is fraught with dire consequences. The risks are growing," Ryabkov was quoted as saying.

In Kyiv, snow fell and temperatures were hovering around freezing as millions in and around the capital struggled to heat their homes. After a week of trying to restore electricity from the last attacks, national grid operator Ukrenergo said the system was still suffering a 30% shortfall of needed power.

Ukraine's military General Staff said on Tuesday evening Russian forces in the Donetsk region were continuing to focus their efforts on taking the towns of Bakhmut and Avdiivka. A Russian missile strike on Lyman killed one person and injured three others, it said.

Ukrainian aircraft carried out nine strikes targeting Russian servicemen and equipment, notably in the southern central Zaporizhzhia region, the General Staff said.

In the southern Kherson and Kriviy Rih regions, it added, Russian forces are consolidating their defences and keeping up artillery attacks, including on the city of Kherson which Ukraine recently recaptured.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

11/28/2022

The Election In Taiwan And The Future Relationship Between The United States, China And Taiwan



Today we invited leaders from the Chinese Asian community to a seminar on the new situation in Taiwan and the future relationship between the United States, China and Taiwan at our TV studio and produced a global live broadcast through STV, Facebook and YouTube.

Just two weeks ago we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the International Trade Center. We were very honored to invite Elaine Chao, the former Secretary

of Labor and Transportation, and many U.S. government representatives, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Japan, Korea, Angola, India and Pakistan consuls general and business leaders attended the Gala. This event really represented the status of our Chinese Asians in the nation and the world.

Our dear community leaders, we all came from both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Most of us spent our whole lives

and contributed to both sides. Most of your successful careers have become models of our community. Just look at the recent election when you organized the Chinese Voters Association in order to advocate to the people to go out and vote in the election. But in our hearts, we will never forget our birthplace. As Secretary Chao always said, we are very proud as Chinese Americans in this country.

Today's discussion may be seen as two topics. First of all, we want you to talk about whether the defeat of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party last week will lead to a KMT return to power in the 2024 presidential election.

The second topic is how can we express our willingness to promote the peaceful co-existence between China and Taiwan through our congressmen and the U.S. government?

We will definitely have the responsibility and influence and will send our concern to Washington, Beijing and Taipei.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee
 Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
 Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
 Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Portugal's Bruno Fernandes celebrates scoring their second goal against Uruguay during the FIFA World Cup, Lusail Stadium, Lusail, Qatar. REUTERS/Lee Smith



A protester lies on the ground after being pushed during a protest over COVID-19 restrictions in mainland China, during a commemoration of the victims of a fire in Urumqi, in Hong Kong, China November 28, 2022. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu



A boy looks on as Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants march in a rally marking the 35th anniversary of the movement's foundation, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip October 4. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa



A pitch invader runs onto the pitch wearing a respect for Iranian woman shirt and holds a rainbow colored flag during the Portugal v Uruguay match, Lusail Stadium, Lusail, Qatar. REUTERS/Matthew Childs



Workers Alexander, 41, Semen, 40, and Alexey, 44, dig out a tractor tire from the rubble of a destroyed storage building at a grain processing center so they can use it for repairs even as their town continues to take incoming shelling in Siversk, Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pays his respects at the graves of the victims of a September stabbing spree at the James Smith Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, Canada. REUTERS/Nayan Sthan-kiya

The Center Has A Goal Of Fostering Intergenerational Connections

New Alief Neighborhood Center Is The New Model For What A Community Center Can Be

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



Alief Neighborhood Center



The main entry at Alief Neighborhood Center features bleacher seating, expansive views of the park, and artwork from the Red Thread Collective.

Key Point
The New Alief Neighborhood Center Amenities Include A Skate Park, Health Center, and Library That Will Open Under One Innovative Roof

A grove of 22 mature live oaks is about the only thing left from the old Alief Community Center in Houston. The building and the rest of the site were scrapped to make way for a new, multipurpose neighborhood center and park, but the value of old-growth shade in Texas is on display in the front yard of the two-story building that's nearing completion after two years of construction. An entry drive swoops up and around the grove, in deference to the trees, and meets up with a first level that's been elevated above the five-hundred-year flood mark. A soaring roof covers the massive entry patio. Jonas Risen, lead designer for the building's architect, Page calls it "the biggest front porch in Texas." Sixteen-foot tall aluminum letters hang above that porch, spelling out "ALIEF" like a welcome sign to the surrounding neighborhood, announcing the structure to Texas as the first multipurpose center of its kind. The 70,000-square-foot Alief Neighborhood Center combines the functions of the sixty-year-old recreation hall it replaces, with the added bonuses of a public library, a senior center, and a women, infants, and children (WIC) clinic run by the Houston Health Department. The strikingly modern building—clad in glass, battleship-gray aluminum panels, and brick that's a shade lighter than black—rises two stories above a 38-acre park. A public pool, a skate park, soccer fields, and courts for tennis, pickleball, and basketball are arranged around a massive playground behind the building. "We hope that this will be a model that will be replicated across the city," said Richard Vella, assistant director of Houston's General Services Department (GSD), who conceived of the massive project and is overseeing its completion.

It might seem obvious to combine so many services for neighborhood residents in one structure, but it's a rarity for publicly funded buildings. The GSD manages the construction and maintenance of more than three hundred facilities in the city, from fire stations to city parks, but every entity requests its own funding for its own buildings to be renovated or rebuilt as they reach the ends of their useful lives. It's a process designed to be territorial rather than collaborative, and it isn't unique to Houston. But in Alief, the GSD recognized that three public buildings in the neighborhood were all due for replacement. Vella had studied the multipurpose MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and he decided the time was right for a similar project in Houston—one in which the Alief WIC Center, the library, and the community center would join forces. "By combining those departments, we were able to be more efficient and provide more than we would have if it were three independent buildings," said Dimitri Karavias. He's the division manager of capital planning and operations for GSD, and he managed this project personally. Of the three old buildings, it was the community center that had been ignored for far too long. "[Residents] advocated for this project for over twenty years," Karavias said. One of those locals was Tiffany Thomas. She grew up in the neighborhood, graduated from Alief Elsie High School, then went on to represent the next generation on the Alief ISD school board. In 2019 she won the city council seat for Alief. "One of my first votes was to authorize the funds for

the construction of the building," Thomas said of her participation in the unanimous vote in January 2020. There was no federal or state help for the \$59 million project, which was entirely supported by city funds. Thomas credits the Alief Super Neighborhood Council for keeping the pressure on the city to provide the funding, and said it felt good for her vote to help give Alief a win like that.



Alief Swarm, a sculpture by artist Bennie Flores Ansell, adds color to a two-story area at an intersection of parks, library, and health department spaces.

Each Houston city council district is denoted with a letter. Alief is in District F. "The joke is that the 'F' stands for forgotten," Thomas said. That's due somewhat to Alief's location outside the beltway, west of Sam Houston Parkway, but it's also because Alief is a low-income neighborhood with a majority-minority population. It is home to first-generation immigrants from across the world and to refugee communities, including those from one state over. After Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Louisiana natives sought shelter here, many permanently. Thomas's neighbors when she was growing up were from Vietnam, Guatemala, Iraq, and Ghana. More than eighty languages and dialects are spoken in Alief ISD schools.

"We are the cultural currency of the city," Thomas often says. It has become her tagline for the community she represents, and it's meant to remind people that Alief is a big reason Houston enjoys its much-celebrated cultural diversity. Thanks to the forgotten district, the city's residents enjoy experiences like traditional Chinese lion dance ceremonies in a local park, specialty foods imported to Wazobia African Market, and immigrant artwork exhibited at Alief Art House. There's also a diverse selection of restaurants, like the famed Crawfish & Noodles a block east of the neighborhood center and the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai restaurants that surround the Hong Kong City Mall. James Beard Award finalist and Texas Monthly Top 50 BBQ restaurant Blood Bros. BBQ is too far down Bellaire to be in Alief proper, but it's run by a trio of pitmasters proud of their Alief upbringings. Hell, Lizzo and Kelly Rowland both attended Elsie, the same high school as Thomas, and comedian Mo Amer attended Hastings, their rival high school in Alief. Still, she said, "no one has really championed us."



The exterior children's area at Alief Neighborhood Center. In February 2014, Thomas decided it was time for the community to champion itself. She had just won

the school board election, and she had some leftover campaign funds that she used for a robo-call to neighborhood residents. "I want to invite you on Saturday to the Alief Community Center," she remembers recording. A hundred residents arrived, not knowing exactly why they'd been summoned, and she asked them for input on a new community center. It didn't yet have funding or an architect, but Thomas wanted the neighborhood to envision its own future. "We get to create what we want it to look like," she told them. Thomas is a natural at this sort of organizing. She teaches courses on community planning and development at Prairie View A&M University. That early meeting was the first of many, and they were eventually led by GSD and the architecture firm. "Their attitude was positive and enthusiastic," Risen of Page said of the residents he and his team worked with. (Risen was a classmate of mine at Tulane's architecture school.) "There was some concern, as you might expect, that they wouldn't be able to provide the services they were used to providing in a shared space," he said, but the design team was able to show how residents would have access to more services, not fewer.

Rethinking The Future AWARDS



The Alief Neighborhood Center combines three City of Houston departments (Library, Parks, & Health) to create a civic center at the heart of the redeveloped 37-acre urban park. Raised out of the floodplain, the building's elevated 'front porch' frames a space for the diverse community to come together, share ideas, and express an identity unique to Alief. The Center is a model for resilient design in a post-hurricane Harvey environment—a 'Lilly-pad' for those seeking shelter from the storm.

Rethinking The Future Awards 2020 First Award | Public Building (Concept)
Project Name: Alief Neighborhood Center
Studio Name: EYP Inc.
Design Team: John Smith, Jonas Risen, Peter Dreghom, Robert Burrell, Yuliana Hernandez, Guillermo Andrade
Area: 70,000 GSF
Year: 2021
Location: Alief Neighborhood, Houston Tx
Consultants: MEP Engineer – Collaborative En-

gineering. Fire Protection -Addleman, IT/AV/Security - 4b Technology, Landscape Architect - SWA, Cost Estimator - Project Cost Resources, Food Services-Worrell Design Group, Aquatics-Councilman Hunsaker, Structural Engineer-Dally, Skate Park Design-Action Sports Design

He gave me a few examples as we walked around the construction site: Parents waiting for WIC services downstairs could send their kids up to the library. Seniors could watch healthy cooking classes aimed at treating diabetes in the WIC demonstration kitchen. Children in after-school enrichment programs would have use of what's called the TechLink space, which has a green screen and video equipment for making films, audio-recording and mixing equipment for music, and a garment center with sewing and embroidery equipment for designing clothing and costumes. The hope is that by offering all these services in one place, the neighborhood center will be a home to residents of all ages. A dad who stops by for a pickup basketball game might return with his kids who want to record music, or a senior who comes to watch a grandkid play soccer might decide to take up pickleball. The building's plan is meant to foster real community connections between generations that would normally use separate facilities. The surrounding park's design was just as important as that of the building. Architects designed around the grove of oaks that shaded the front of the old building, which will remain a quiet outdoor space away from the sports facilities. The site was dead flat when design began, and the team searched for ways to create elevation. The building already had to be raised at least seven feet to meet new post-Harvey flood regulations, so the architects decided to put the parking lot underneath. (Athletes returning from the basketball court or the soccer fields to their shaded cars in summer will certainly applaud that decision.)



The views from the higher floors across the site are stunning. A climbing wall rises from behind the playground, with a skate park beyond. (Between the two is a crest that project leaders have dubbed Mount Alief, from which the full site can be surveyed. It's where Karavias said he starts all of his site tours.) A local skate shop was so excited about the skate park that it shared a drone shot of the park on social media. Local skaters arrived, but they were asked to be patient and wait until it was no longer a construction zone before perfecting their kickflips. Thomas was excited to tell the skate park's designer about the buzz he'd created, especially since he's her neighbor.

More than seven years after that first meeting, Thomas will be there to help cut the ribbon when the doors open in late October. "Other districts are now saying, 'We want one of those,'" she said with a giddy laugh. She knows her neighborhood now has a jewel it'll soon be able to enjoy, as well as an iconic building that will draw people in from around the region. Being the envy of the rest of Houston is a position Thomas feels plenty comfortable with, and she hopes it will help change the negative perception of her home. She said simply, "It's what we deserve." (Courtesy Texas Monthly)

COMMUNITY

New Alief Neighborhood Center Represents Future Cultural Reality Of Area

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



The Alief Neighborhood Center combines three City of Houston departments (Library, Parks, & Health) to create a civic center at the heart of the redeveloped 37-acre urban park. Raised out of the floodplain, the building's elevated 'front porch' frames a space for the diverse community to come together, share ideas, and express an identity unique to Alief. The Center is a model for resilient design in a post-hurricane Harvey environment—a 'Lilly-pad' for those seeking shelter from the storm. **BUILDING AWARDS-** Rethinking The Future Awards 2020 First Award | Public Building (Concept) The \$52 million, 63,000-square-foot multi-purpose facility at 11903 Bellaire will combine a health clinic, community center and library into one space. The structure, which will sit in 37-acre Alief Park, will consolidate the Hennington-Alief Regional Library at 7979 South Kirkwood and the park's existing community center, both of which are aging. It also will replace the area's Women, Infants and Children Center, which today leases space at 12660 Beechnut. City council passed one item appropriating \$4.8 million for contractor EYP Inc. to begin construction on the new center, and another item giving Manhattan Construction \$100,000 for construction management services. The 70,000sf 2-story new building is elevated over a parking area providing convenient access to the building programs directly above. Health Department programs provided include W.I.C. (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), DAWN (Diabetes

Awareness Network) that provides support for a variety of chronic illnesses, and a Senior Center. The Parks Department programs include a full-size competition gymnasium with a perimeter elevated walking track above, a community fitness center and spaces to support youth after-school and summer programs.



The library, located on the second floor, and accessed through a grand 'stair-a-torium' in the lobby contains light-filled stack-space and reading

areas with expansive views both to the park to the south and to the existing grove of preserved trees on the north. Directly adjacent to the library, HPL's technology-rich TechLINK youth maker-doer program contains spaces for collaboration, the 'Tiny Techs' children's area, music recording studio, virtual reality stations, photo/video lab, and a maker space.

Site amenities include a competition soccer field, two full-size practice soccer fields, two futsal courts (fast-paced soccer played on a hard-surfaced smaller court) baseball field, skate park, tennis courts, children's playground, outdoor swimming pool facility, community gardens, a marketplace venue, and outdoor event space areas. The Alief Neighborhood Center is

scheduled to open in early 2022.

The Mission Of The Alief Neighborhood Center



To Foster A Culture Of Health



To Create A Heart For Civic Engagement



All In A Spirit Of Shared Collaboration



With The Biggest Front Porch In Texas!

Related

Community Resource Center Opens

Sponsored by the ITC Community Empowerment Organization with the collaboration of the SEONE Corporation, the Community Resource Center opens its door on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at the Southern News Group building. The mission of the Community Resource Center is to serve as a "one stop-shop" for the underserved minority population in the southwest area of Houston. The Center will provide members of the community with information that will empower them to improve their quality of life and to also serve as a way for participants to access the rich pool of resources avail-

able to them.



Southern News Group, Houston, Texas

Members of the community who have questions about any of the variety of issues the Center will address are encouraged to schedule interviews with the Center. The Center will link the person with a professional who can best address their needs.



Community Empowerment Organization's Community Resource Center

Building a stronger community through information and access to resources

The areas the Center will address include disaster assistance, loans and grants, small business development, tax information, immigration, legal issues, workforce, housing and renting, veterans issues, medical, healthcare service, education, skills development, children and child welfare and city services. The Center's services will be led by senior educator, Dr. Tina Agosa and many other assistants.

