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Shocking turnout for first day of early voting in Houston



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. warships pass through Taiwan Strait amid China tensions

TAIPEI/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait on Monday in the second such operation this year, as the U.S. military increases the frequency of transits through the strategic waterway despite opposition from China.

The voyage risks further heightening tensions with China but will likely be viewed in self-ruled Taiwan as a sign of support by President Donald Trump's government, amid growing friction between Taipei and Beijing.

Reuters was first to report U.S. consideration of the sensitive operation on Saturday.

"The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," Commander Nate Christensen, deputy spokesman for U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a statement.

"The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," he added.

Taiwan's defense ministry said it closely monitored the operation and was able to "maintain the security of the seas and the airspace" as it occurred.

There was no immediate comment from China.

The U.S. Navy conducted a similar mission in the strait's international waters in July, which had been the first such voyage in about a year. The latest operation shows the U.S. Navy is increasing the pace of strait passages.

Washington has no formal ties with Taiwan, but is bound by law to help it defend itself and is the island's main source of arms. The Pentagon says Washington has sold Taiwan more than \$15 billion in weaponry since 2010. China views Taiwan as a wayward province and has been ramping up pressure to assert its sovereignty over the island. It raised concerns over U.S. policy toward Taiwan in talks last week with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in Singapore.

As the United States prepared for a fresh passage through the strait, it told China's military that its overall policy toward Taiwan was unchanged. Mattis delivered that message to China's Defense Minister Wei Fenghe personally on Thursday, on the sidelines of an Asian security forum.

"Minister Wei raised Taiwan and concerns about our policy. The Secretary reassured Minister Wei that we haven't changed our Taiwan policy, our one China policy," Randall Schriver, a U.S. assistant secretary of defense who helps guide Pentagon policy in Asia, told reporters traveling with Mattis.

"So it was, I think, a familiar exchange." Taiwan is only one of a growing number of flash-points in the U.S.-China relationship, which also include a bitter trade war, U.S. sanctions, and China's increasingly muscular



AH-1W attack helicopters takes part in anti-invasion drill, simulating the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) invading the island, in Taoyuan

posture in the South China Sea. Taiwan's relations with China have deteriorated since the island's President Tsai Ing-wen from the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party swept to power in 2016. Beijing, which has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, responded to the July passage with a warning to the United States to avoid jeopardizing "peace and stability" in the strategic wa-terway.

It has also viewed U.S. overtures toward Taiwan with alarm, including its unveiling a new de facto embassy in Taiwan and passage of the Taiwan Travel Act, which encourages U.S. officials to visit the island. Military experts say the balance of power between Taiwan and China has shifted decisively in China's favor in recent years, and China could easily overwhelm the island unless U.S. forces came quickly to Taiwan's aid.

2018 Fair Shot Bus Tour Coming to a City Near You!

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(Houston, TX --)

Come meet Lupe Valdez and other candidates and local officials on October 25, 2018, at the International Trade Center, 11110 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 213, in Houston.

Lupe Valdez is former Sheriff of Dallas County and Democratic nominee for Governor. She is on the road with other statewide Democrats for a 10 day bus tour through Texas going to 38 cities, driving over 4,700 miles and attending 47 events.

Lupe Valdez is traveling around Texas to share her vision for a Texas that gives everyone a fair shot. She's fighting to expand Medicaid, fund our public schools and grow an economy that works for us all. Keep up with Lupe on tour and updates on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About Lupe:

In 2004, Lupe Valdez shook the political establishment in Dallas County, becoming one of the first Democrats elected countywide in many years. Lupe was ultimately elected to four terms as Sheriff of Dallas County and served from 2005-2017. The

daughter of migrant farmworkers, she was the only Latina Sheriff in the United States. Prior to becoming Sheriff, Lupe served as an officer in the Army National Guard and as a senior agent at US Customs and the Department of Homeland Security.

On May 22, 2018 she won the Texas Democratic Gubernatorial Primary.

On 10/25 the Harris County Democratic Party will be hosting Democratic Nominee for Governor Lupe Valdez as she listens to every Texan on her Fair Shot Bus Tour. Lupe has been going all over our great state talking with people all over Texas—not only about how much our elections matter, but about how much we have in common, and what we can do together to build on the great promise of our state.

Hope you can join us in welcoming Lupe to Houston at the Lupe for Governor HQ (11110 Bellaire Blvd Suite 213 Houston, Texas).

RSVP to attend the event here.



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Shocking turnout for first day of early voting in Houston

Thousands of people were already camped out at a key early voting location in Houston on Monday morning, hours before voting was even set to begin.

Nearly 2,000 people stood in line outside of the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray near River Oaks in a scene that looked more like a Black Friday shopping morning.

"This is one of the most important elections of our lifetimes," said Cody Pogue, who arrived at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday to make sure he'd be one of the first people to cast a ballot for Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke.

Whoa. This is the line for early voting in #Houston. Literally people camped out last night so they could be among the first to vote. "This is one of the most important elections of our lifetimes," Cody Pogue tells me

Just moments later, O'Rourke was across the street firing up his supporters with a bullhorn.

"Are y'all ready?" O'Rourke said to a cascade of cheers. "Houston, I love you."

Karen Bard, who was in line more than an hour before the polls opened, said she doesn't normally vote in midterms, but O'Rourke changed that.

"It's not about me, it's about my kids," Bard said. O'Rourke has a half-dozen rallies planned all over the Houston area on Monday to start early voting. Those rallies come as U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz brings in President Donald Trump for a rally to back his campaign at the 18,000-seat Toyota Center. Trump took to Twitter just as polls were opening in Texas.

"Big Night In Texas!!!!" Trump tweeted. On Sunday, Cruz brought in Gov. Greg Abbott for a rally in Houston to boost GOP turnout. Both warned that O'Rourke represents a national Democratic Party trying to turn Texas into a liberal state.

"Now there are a whole bunch of national Democrats that want to turn Texas into California," Cruz said calling on his supporters to turn out in big numbers to push back against them. Abbott said despite national Democrats wanting to turn Texas blue, he is convinced Cruz will prevail.



People cast their vote on the first day of early voting at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center on West Gray Street Monday, Oct. 22, 2018, in Houston.

Street closures in Downtown Houston for Trump's appearance

The Houston Police Department will be "fully mobilized" for President Donald Trump's Monday downtown rally, for which at least 70,000 people have signed up despite the venue's roughly 18,000-person capacity, Chief Art Acevedo said Friday.

Police began closing off streets around the Toyota Center Sunday evening, with closures on Bell, Jackson, La Branch and Polk streets near the arena.

By 7 a.m. Friday, 77,854 people had signed up for the rally, according to a person familiar with the matter. Attendees must have tickets to enter and will be admitted in the order in which they line up.

"Keep in mind that once the capacity is met, you won't get in whether you have a ticket or not," Acevedo said

Meanwhile, the Trump campaign was not considering moving to a bigger venue, the person familiar with the event said.

Trump is holding the rally with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who is facing a re-election challenge from U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso.

in Downtown planned during President Donald Trump's rally in Houston Monday. Acevedo said HPD had heard unconfirmed reports of a separate nearby rally for O'Rourke that could draw thousands more people.

"We will have many many officers out and about," Acevedo said. "We will have officers on the high ground, low ground, in the air. We will have officers in plainclothes, we will have undercover officers, we will have react teams."

He added that officers from the federal, state and county levels would lend support, with the usual Secret Service presence accompanying Trump.

The police department expects people to "exercise their First Amendment rights

in a lawful manner," Acevedo said, including protesters and counter-protesters.

"You would be foolish not to," he said. Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Trump's Texas campaign chairman, will also speak at the rally. Trump is set to begin speaking at 6:30.

People will likely line up overnight for the rally, Acevedo said, adding that the department expects large crowds around the Toyota Center and downtown. He advised people who work downtown to plan accordingly for delays.

The event will start around 5 p.m., Acevedo said, with doors opening two to three hours before then. The department will post specific road closures Friday night or over the weekend, he said.



Trump campaign volunteer Donna Hallonquist, of Pittsburg, TX, high-fives people waiting in line outside of Toyota Center to be let into a Trump campaign rally, Monday, October 22, 2018, in Houston.

Advertisement for Southern News Group (美南傳媒集團) with Chinese text: 美南傳媒集團 打造媒體文化航空母艦. Includes a list of services like New Media, Television, Newspaper, etc.

Advertisement for Vallution LLC hiring a Technical Field Service Engineer. Includes company description, job title, and requirements.

Large advertisement for Southern Chinese Weekly (美南周刊) featuring a 'BIG SALE' and 'Most economical' text. Includes images of the magazine cover.

Editor's Choice



U.S. President Trump talks to reporters as he departs for Texas from the White House in Washington



Farmer Charles Eckley carries a pumpkin through a field at Pumpkin Moon in Maidstone



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands from Central America en route to the United States, sleep in Tapachula, Mexico



Girl, part of caravan of migrants from Central America, sleeps next to donated bread in Tapachula, Mexico



Transgender rights activist protest the government's alleged attempt to strip transgender people of official recognition at the White House



FILE PHOTO: Yoghurt by French foods group Danone is seen on shelves in a Casino supermarket in Nice



German Chancellor Angela Merkel supports her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party colleague and Hesse State Prime Minister Volker Bouffier during an election campaign rally in Ortenberg



Wrestling - World Wrestling Championships - Papp Laszlo Budapest Sportarena, Budapest, Hungary - October 22, 2018 Men's Freestyle 79kg Gold medal bout - Kyle Douglas Dake of the U.S. celebrates REUTERS/Bernadett Szabo

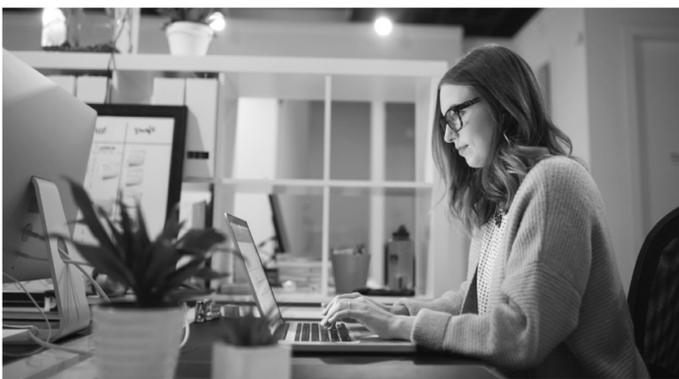
The 10 Best Companies For Working Moms

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

Seventy percent of mothers with children under the age of 18 are in today's workforce, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. In a tight labor market, it's a great time for companies to focus on creating work environments that empower working parents. Each year, Working Mother magazine releases a list of the 100 Best Companies for working mothers. To make the cut, companies submit an application that includes more than 400 questions about leave policies, workforce representation, benefits, childcare assistance, advancement programs and flexibility. The application also inquires about whether employees are actually taking advantage of a company's benefits. "That all of these programs and policies are offered is just half of it," Working Mother President Subha Barry tells CNBC Make It. "The other half is that you encourage people to use it, and don't penalize them."



Working Mother presents this list as a group of 100 companies, without assigning specific rankings to any of the companies with the exception of No. 1. They also identify the group of companies that fall in the top 10, which are presented here in alphabetical order. Barry praises Unilever for earning the top spot this year. Fifty-two percent of the company's managers are women, and Unilever offers paid maternity and paternity leave as well as paid adoption leave. The consumer goods company also offers employee reimbursement on in vitro fertilization and other fertility treatments. Also of note: Not all of these companies offer substantial maternity leave benefits. WellStar Health System offers just three weeks of paid maternity



leave, while most of the companies in this group offer at least 16 weeks. However, with fertility benefits and a high percentage of women employees and women managers, Working Mother still placed WellStar Health System among its best 10 companies. Check out the 10 best companies for working mothers:

1. Unilever
Percentage of employees who are women: 44 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 52 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 16 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 49 percent (Remaining companies in the top 10 presented in alphabetical order)



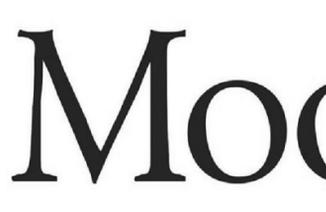
2. AbbVie

Percentage of employees who are women: 53 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 57 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 14 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 94 percent



4. Ernst & Young LLP

Percentage of employees who are women: 45 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 47 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 16 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 95 percent



5. IBM
Percentage of employees who are women: n/a
Percentage of managers who are women: n/a
Paid maternity leave offered: up to 20 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: n/a

6. Johnson & Johnson
Percentage of employees who are women: 45 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 46 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 15 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 75 percent



7. McKinsey & Company
Percentage of employees who are women: 46 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 45 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 16 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 100 percent



8. Moody's
Percentage of employees who are women: 40 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 38 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 16 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 95 percent

9. Proctor & Gamble
Percentage of employees who are women: 36 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 42 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 16 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 80 percent

10. WellStar Health System
Percentage of employees who are women: 81 percent
Percentage of managers who are women: 76 percent
Paid maternity leave offered: 3 weeks
Reimbursement on in vitro fertilization: yes
Percentage of workforce that has the option to telecommute: 15 percent (Courtesy <https://www.cnbc.com>)

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OVERVIEW Assuming that 2 percent of servers one day run on blockchain, Bank of America estimates the technology could be a \$7 billion market. The firm identified nine companies that stand to benefit from eventual mainstream adoption of blockchain, including Amazon, Microsoft and Oracle. "Amazon will benefit from incremental cloud services demand from blockchain implementation, while improved supply chain tracking should make Amazon's retail operations more efficient," says Bank of America research analyst Kash Rangan.

Blockchain adoption will eventually be a multi billion-dollar opportunity for tech companies like Amazon and Microsoft, according to new estimates from Bank of America.

Based on the analysis, the entire total addressable market for blockchain will eventually hit \$7 billion, though the analysts did not "attempt to put a time stamp" on it, as the technology is not yet widely adopted.

The potential beneficiaries could marry blockchain with existing cloud computing operations and improve supply chain operations, according to Bank of America research analyst Kash Rangan.

"Amazon will benefit from incremental cloud services demand from blockchain implementation, while improved supply chain tracking should make Amazon's retail operations more efficient," Rangan said in a note to clients Tuesday. The estimates assume that 2 percent of servers will be used to run blockchain, at \$5,000 per server, per year.

Blockchain is a software protocol that underpins cryptocurrencies like bitcoin. Also called distributed ledger technology, it shares data on a distributed, secure, and unalterable ledger in a way that "databases have not been able to in the past," Rangan said. Walmart became one of the first retailers to provide a near-term use case, and said last week it would require lettuce suppliers to upload data about their foods to blockchain within a year.

What Is Blockchain? Blockchain is the idea of decentralization. By design, the blockchain is a decentral-

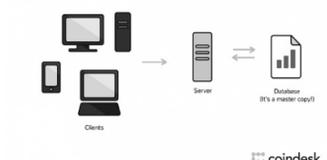
Potential Major Boost To Amazon And Microsoft, Reports Bank Of America Blockchain Could Be A \$7 Billion Market

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



ized technology. ... A global network of computers uses blockchain technology to jointly manage the database that records Bitcoin transactions. That is, Bitcoin is managed by its network, and not any one central authority.

Using Wikipedia As Example With a blockchain, many people can write entries into a record of information, and a community of users can control how the record of information is amended and updated. Likewise, Wikipedia entries are not the product of a single publisher. No one person controls the information.



On ground level, however, the differences that make blockchain technology unique

become more clear. While both run on distributed networks (the internet), Wikipedia is built into the World Wide Web (WWW) using a client-server network model.

A user (client) with permissions associated with its account is able to change Wikipedia entries stored on a centralized server.

Whenever a user accesses the Wikipedia page, they will get the updated version of the "master copy" of the Wikipedia entry. Control of the database remains with Wikipedia administrators allowing for access and permissions to be maintained by a central authority.

While it's not being used in many other consumer instances yet, blockchain could improve existing parts of "software as a service" or SaaS. Microsoft's Azure for example, could rely on what Rangan called "blockchain as a service" or "BaaS," on its popular cloud computing platform.

"BaaS on Azure offers services such as smart contracts and other third party apps,

and should benefit as use of blockchain on Azure increases," Rangan said.



Bank of America also said Oracle, IBM, Salesforce.com, VMware, and real estate and mortgage players like Redfin, Zillow, LendingTree stand to benefit from blockchain implementation.

To be sure, Bank of America said there are a wide range of blockchain estimates out there, and its money-making ability is still unproven.

"Many blockchain use cases have been identified, but full products/services have not yet been built out and are not used in production," Rangan said. (Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com/)

Related

Nearly \$13 billion wiped off of cryptocurrency market as major coins plunge The price of major cryptocurrencies bitcoin, XRP and ethereum plunged last Thursday.

The move came after the International Monetary Fund warned that cryptocurrencies "could create new vulnerabilities in the international financial system."

Around \$13 billion of value was wiped off of the cryptocurrency market in about three hours.

The price of major cryptocurrencies plunged on Thursday with nearly \$13 billion of value being wiped out in a matter of hours.



One Bitcoin

At approximately 10:23 a.m. HK/SIN on Thursday, bitcoin had fallen nearly 5 percent to \$6,303, while XRP and ethereum both tanked over 10 percent, according to data from Coinmarketcap.com. It's not unusual to see bitcoin lead other digital tokens lower.

In just three hours, nearly \$13 billion of value had been erased from the entire cryptocurrency market.

The drop comes amid fresh warnings from financial authorities about the rapid growth of digital coins and the potential threat to the economy.

"Continued rapid growth of crypto assets could create new vulnerabilities in the international financial system," the International Monetary Fund said in a recent report.

Many cryptocurrency enthusiasts hoped 2018 would be a year that regulators warmed up to the idea of professionalizing the trading of digital assets through new financial products like



exchange-traded funds. But the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has rejected several ETFs including a highly anticipated one planned by the Winklevoss twins. Other countries, including China, have come down hard on cryptocurrencies.

At the same time, the year has been marked by high-profile hacks on cryptocurrency exchanges as well as a number of scams tied to people carrying out so-called initial coin offerings.

All of those factors have meant that bitcoin, XRP and ethereum have not recovered to the record highs seen toward the end of 2017 and beginning of this year. On Thursday, bitcoin was more than 68 percent off of its record high of \$19,783.21, which it hit on Dec. 17 of last year. (Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com/2018/)

Advertisement for the 2018 Houston Travel Shopping Guide. It features a collage of images from the guide, including a map of Houston, a list of restaurants, and a photo of a stadium. The text includes '2018 休斯頓旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE VOLUME 5' and '免費取閱 Take One Free'. It also lists several locations for the guide: Katy, Kirby, Montrose, Pearland, and River Oaks. A large red banner at the bottom says '已經' (Already).

2018 休斯頓旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE

HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE

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