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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Flight disruptions could last days after FAA outage snarls U.S. travel

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO, Jan 11 (Reuters) - U.S. flights were slowly resuming departures and a ground stop was lifted after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) scrambled to fix a system outage overnight that had forced a halt to all U.S. departing flights.

More than 7,300 flights were delayed and 1,100 canceled according to the FlightAware website in the first national grounding of flights in about two decades, industry officials said.

The total was still rising and officials said the outage could cause delays through at least Thursday, if not longer, according to several airlines.

The cause of the problem with a pilot-alerting system was unclear, but U.S. officials said they had so far found no evidence of a cyberattack. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told CNN an issue with overnight "irregularities" with safety messages sent to pilots prompted the outage.

Russia's Aeroflot bought 10 Boeing 777 from Russian bank VEB, sources say  
He said the ground stop was the "right call" to make sure messages were moving correctly and there is no direct evidence of cyberattack.

The outage occurred at a typically slow time after the holiday travel season, but demand remains strong as travel continues to recover to near pre-pandemic levels.

The FAA said in a tweet that normal air traffic operations were resuming.

The outage could impact traffic through Friday, said Captain Chris Torres, vice president of the Allied Pilots Association.

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"This thing was lifted at 9 a.m. Eastern. That doesn't mean the problem stops at 9 a.m. This is going to cause ripple effects," said Torres, whose members fly for American Airlines.

One issue airlines are facing is trying to get planes in and out of crowded gates, which is causing further delays. Crew time limit rules may also play a factor.

At an airport in Greenville, South Carolina, Justin Kennedy abandoned a work trip to nearby Charlotte. He said confusion reigned as airline employees weren't aware what the FAA was saying, and many passengers were initially unaware of the delays.

"I sat in a Chick-fil-A dining area that had a good view of the TSA exit," the 30-year-old information technology employee said. "I saw at least four people sprinting to gates because they thought they were going to miss their flight, only to come back to the food court, out of breath."

'CATASTROPHIC' FAILURE  
Planes resume flights following an FAA system outage at



Laguardia Airport in New York

The FAA had earlier ordered airlines to pause all domestic departures after its pilot alerting system crashed and the agency had to perform a hard reset around 2 a.m., officials said. Flights already in the air were allowed to continue to their destinations.

Shares of U.S. carriers rebounded after the market opened as flights resumed. The S&P 500 airlines index (.SPLR-CAIR) was up 1% in afternoon trading.

A trade group representing the U.S. travel industry, including airlines, called the FAA system failure "catastrophic."

"America's transportation network desperately needs significant upgrades," Geoff Freeman, president of the U.S. Travel Association, said in a statement. "We call on federal policymakers to modernize our vital air travel infrastructure."

'COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE'

U.S. flyers have few alternatives. Driving distances are too great, and the country's passenger rail network is thin compared to those in other countries.

The outage appeared to have limited impact on transatlantic routes, with European carriers including Lufthansa, Air France, Iberia and British Airways saying flights are continuing in and out of the United States. Virgin Atlantic cautioned some flights might be delayed.

Senate Commerce Committee chair Maria Cantwell, a Democrat, said the panel would investigate. Republican Senator Ted Cruz called the failure "completely unacceptable" and the issue should lead to reforms as part of the

FAA reauthorization due by September.

An operational meltdown at Southwest at the end of last year stranded thousands. A severe winter storm right before Christmas, coupled with the Texas-based carrier's dated technology, led to over 16,000 flight cancellations.

The DOT, FAA's parent agency, criticized Southwest's failures and pressured the airline to compensate passengers. Buttigieg on Wednesday rejected the suggestion the FAA should reimburse travelers for delays caused by the FAA issue.

The FAA suffered another significant computer issue on Jan. 2 that led to significant delays in Florida flights.

A total of 21,464 U.S. flights were scheduled to depart Wednesday with a capacity of nearly 2.9 million passengers, data from Cirium showed.

Rodney Allen was on his way with friends to vacation in Puerto Rico from Cincinnati but got stranded in Newark.

"Once we landed, passengers on the plane were saying flights were grounded," the 25-year-old entrepreneur said. He still had the option to check in for his flight to Puerto Rico, but his friends had been offered travel credits.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/11/2023

## Unbelievable Crime -- Six-Year-Old Shoots Teacher

A 6-year-old student at a Virginia elementary school opened fire and shot his teacher last Friday. The police chief told reporters that, "This is not an accidental shooting."

A woman in her 30's suffered a life-threatening gunshot wound and was taken to a hospital. The boy was taken into custody. Mayor Jones said, "It is a dark day for us, and it really hurts my heart."

This is a real tragedy for all of us. We really need to find out how this six-year-old got possession of the gun in the first place, and we need



to seriously ask his parents or guardian how this is even possible.

Is there a metal detector in this school? How could this child bring a loaded firearm into a public elementary school undetected? Were there any level of security precautions in place? These and other

questions must be answered. This student endangered his teacher and all of the other teachers and students at the school.

This is a big social issue for our community. Educators and politicians, we really need to take action now to address this type of problem. Otherwise, many shootings caused by minors will happen again.



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**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A child reaches for Spring Festival ornaments in a park ahead of Chinese Lunar New Year festivities in Beijing, China. REUTERS/Thomas Peter



Ukrainian members of the military fire an anti-aircraft weapon, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the front-line city of Bakhmut, Ukraine. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne



Local residents remove debris and carry belongings out of a shop destroyed in recent shelling in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict in Donetsk, Russian-controlled Ukraine. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Antonio Cascio



Eddie Murphy poses next to Tracy Morgan with the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 80th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Police officers stand guard as an activist lies in a hammock connected to a structure, as activists demonstrate at Luetzerath, a village that is about to be demolished to allow for the expansion of the Garzweiler open-cast lignite mine of Germany's utility RWE, Germany, January 10, 2023. REUTERS/Thilo Schmuellen



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.

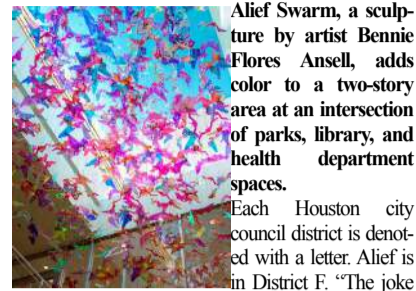
Key Point The New Alief Neighborhood Center Amenities Include A Skate Park, Health Center, and Library That Will Open Under One Innovative Roof

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.



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.

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.

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 Dreggorn, 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-Counselman Hunsaker, Structural Engineer-Daily, 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 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.

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.

New Alief Neighborhood Center Represents Future Cultural Reality Of Area

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



Alief Neighborhood represents the future reality for cultural, ethnic and economic diversity in urban centers.

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.

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.

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.

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

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



FOSTER A CULTURE OF HEALTH

To Foster A Culture Of Health



CREATE A HEART FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

To Create A Heart For Civic Engagement



All In A Spirit Of Shared Collaboration



With The Biggest Front Porch In Texas!

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.



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.

