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SABAN SURGERY

Alabama football coach will have hip replacement surgery on Monday



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EXPECT CLOSURES

Interstate 20/59 bridge work will affect traffic on part of McFarland Boulevard next week

The Tuscaloosa News



Saturday, April 20, 2019

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Rash of vehicle fires reported

Fire department offers prevention tips

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

The Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service has responded to 18 vehicle fires in the last two months, prompting the department to reach out to the public.

"We would like to stress the importance of car fire safety and address what to do if your car is on fire, how to prevent a car fire and the danger signs that take place," said Holly Whigham, TFRS Fire and Life Safety Educator.

To prevent a car fire, drivers

should have their vehicles serviced regularly by professionally trained mechanics. If leaks are spotted, the vehicle is not running properly and should be checked, Whigham said.

When transporting gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.

Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment. Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter. Drive safely to avoid accidents.

If the vehicle is on fire, Whigham said the drivers should

pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so. Turn off the engine once the vehicle is stopped and get everyone out of the vehicle. Never return to a burning car for any reason, she said.

Stay at least 100 feet away from the burning car and well away from traffic and call 911.

Signs that a vehicle is in danger of catching fire include cracked or loose wiring and other electrical problems, including a fuse that has blown more than once. Oil or fluid leaks, an oil cap that's not secured or rapid changes in fuel or fluid levels or engine temperatures are other warning signs.



A Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue firefighter extinguishes a car fire in this photo provided by the department. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Storms ravage South

At least 5 fatalities from same storm system, 1 in Alabama

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A strong storm system barreling through the South on Friday killed an 8-year-old girl in Florida and threatened to bring tornadoes to large parts of the Carolinas and southern Virginia.

A tree fell onto a house in Woodville, Florida, south of Tallahassee, killing the girl and injuring a 12-year-old boy, according to the Leon County Sheriff's Office. The office said in a statement that the girl died at a hospital while the boy suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Their names weren't immediately released.

The same storm system was blamed for the deaths a day earlier of three people in Mississippi and a woman in Alabama.

The threat on Friday shifted farther east, where tornado warnings covered parts of northeast Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

The national Storm Prediction Center said 9.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were at a moderate risk of severe weather. The



Delores Anderson, 63, center left, looks toward the wreckage of her house while comforted by friends and neighbors who came to support and help pull belongings from her home after it was destroyed by a tornado Friday in Franklin County, Va. [PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU/THE ROANOKE TIMES VIA AP]

region includes the Charlotte, North Carolina metro area.

Torrential downpours, large hail and a few tornadoes were among the hazards, the National Weather Service in Raleigh, North Carolina, warned.

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The leveled house of Delores Anderson is viewed Friday after a tornado touched down in Franklin County, Va.

Two-wave US flu season is now the longest in a decade

By Mike Stobbe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Three months ago, this flu season was shaping up to be short and mild in the U.S. But a surprising second viral wave has made it the longest in 10 years.

This flu season has been officially going for 21 weeks, according to reports collected through last week and released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That makes it among the longest seen since the government started tracking flu season duration more than 20 years ago.

Some experts likened the unusual double waves to having two different flu seasons compressed, back-to-back, into one.

"I don't remember a season like this," said Dr. Arnold Monto, a University of Michigan researcher who had been studying respiratory illnesses for more than 50 years.

The previous longest recent flu season was 20 weeks, which occurred in 2014-2015.

Flu can cause a miserable, relatively mild illness in many people and a more severe illness in others. Young children and the elderly are at greatest risk from flu and its complications. Flu vaccinations are recommended annually for all but the very young.

The current season began the week of Thanksgiving, a typical start time. At the beginning, most illnesses were caused by a flu strain that tends not to cause as many hospitalizations and which is more easily controlled by vaccines.

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Demos subpoena Mueller report

Calls for impeachment start to swirl in some Democratic circles

By Lisa Mascaro
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee issued a

subpoena Friday for special counsel Robert Mueller's full report as Democrats intensified their investigation of President Donald Trump, but leaders stopped short of liberal demands for impeachment proceedings.

House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi has insisted on a methodical, step-by-step approach to the House's oversight of the Trump administration, and she refuses to consider impeachment without public support, including from Republicans, which seems unlikely. But in light of Mueller's findings,

Democratic leaders are under mounting pressure from the party's rising stars, deep-pocketed donors and even a presidential contender to seize the moment as a jumping-off point for trying to remove Trump from office.

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