

The deadly Camp Fire continues to burn; Democratic gains increase in the House; a number of races remain uncalled

Week in Review: November 12 – November 16, 2018

Mon

Nov.

12

- The Camp Fire in Northern California is now the deadliest wildfire in modern California history, with at least 29 confirmed dead
- Mississippi Democratic Senate candidate Mike Espy criticized his Republican opponent Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith after a video emerged of her joking about attending a “public hanging”
- A Florida judge ruled against Senate candidate Rick Scott’s lawsuit alleging voter fraud in Broward County
- In Georgia, gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams filed a lawsuit on Sunday to block two counties from rejecting absentee ballots with minor mistakes, potentially pushing the election into a run-off

Tues

Nov.

13

- President Trump is considering replacing several senior administration officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Chief of Staff John Kelly
- CNN filed a lawsuit against Trump and several White House aides after the administration suspended CNN journalist Jim Acosta’s press pass last week

Wed

Nov.

14

- House Republicans elected Kevin McCarthy as minority leader; Senators Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer were reelected to their respective positions as Senate majority leader and minority leader; House Democrats will vote for Speaker later this month
- Democrat Andy Kim officially defeated GOP Rep. Tom MacArthur in New Jersey’s 3rd District, bringing Democrats’ total House seat gain to 34 seats
- Trump announced his support for The First Step Act, a criminal-justice reform bill that has already passed the House

Thurs

Nov.

15

- A federal judge in Florida has ordered the state’s deadline to validate votes be extended until Saturday
- The Trump administration has reportedly been looking for a way to remove a Turkish exile living in the U.S. in an effort to persuade Turkish President Recep Erdogan to ease pressure on the Saudi government, after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi
- Hundreds of Central Americans traveling in a migrant caravan, many of whom are seeking asylum in the U.S., have started to arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border

Fri

Nov.

16

- A federal judge has ordered the White House to reinstate CNN journalist Jim Acosta’s press credentials, pending further litigation
- Federal prosecutors mistakenly revealed that criminal charges had been filed against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, in a case that could have broader implications for press freedoms
- Two Khmer Rouge leaders have been convicted of genocide, following an 11-year long trial by a UN-backed tribunal

Sources: The Atlantic Politics and Policy Daily; The Hill; The New York Times; Politico