

Houston's flood zone, by boat: Guinea pigs, guns and despair

KINGWOOD, Texas (AP) — Stewart Lawrence stood on a bridge that barely cleared the raging floodwaters below. He held two guinea pigs in a cage and seven rifles he'd rescued from his ruined home, and waited for a boat to come by and deliver him to dry land.

He'd been evacuated Tuesday after feet of water from the Harvey-fueled San Jacinto River washed through his home in the tony northeast Houston community of Kingwood. In the scurry to get out, he'd left his son's prized pets and had to come back for them.

"My son was a little devastated when I told him I'd left them behind. They're a little traumatized," the 56-year-old retiree said of Jenny and Penny, the guinea pigs huddled together under straw in their cage. He wore shorts with Crocs on his feet, and he lifted the pets into the boat along with his guns.

"I've got one for every occasion," he said of his arsenal, which he worried would have been found by looters. "This is Texas."

As the boat chugged down Kingwood's main street, the large trees that provided a charming canopy from the now-missing hot Texas sun moved overhead slowly.

The ghosts of normal daily life lined the street: Radio Shack, Wing Stop, Whataburger, the bank, a library, doctors' offices — all were underwater with cars in their parking lots, many of the trunks open and filled with household items that never made it out.

It was eerily quiet, except for the ringing of home security alarms that sounded like cicadas or a roar of airboats in the distance.

The air smelled slightly sour from the floodwater, which had a rainbow-colored oily sheen atop it along with family photos, a Christmas card, a framed diploma and other keepsakes now lost.

Explosions rock flood-crippled chemical plant

HOUSTON (AP) — At least 2 tons of highly volatile chemicals used in such products as plastics and paint exploded and burned at a flood-crippled plant near Houston early Thursday, sending up a plume of acrid black smoke that stung the eyes and lungs.

The blaze at the Arkema Inc. chemical plant burned out around midday, but emergency crews continued to hold back because of the danger that eight other trailers containing the same compound could blow, too.

No serious injuries were reported. But the blast added a new hazard to Hurricane Harvey's aftermath and raised questions



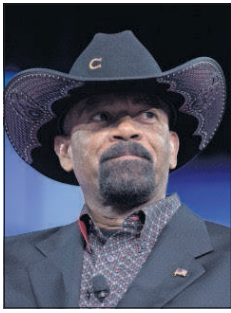
Blas Castillo carries water-soaked items out of his house after flood waters receded Thursday in Houston.

about the adequacy of the company's master plan to protect the public in the event of an emergency in the flood-prone Houston metropolitan area of 5.6 million people.

"This should be a wake-up call (for) all kinds of plants that are storing and converting reactive chemicals in areas which have high population densities," said Nicholas Ashford, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology expert.

Milwaukee sheriff, Trump supporter Clarke resigns

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Outspoken Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, who built a following among conservatives nationally with his provocative social media presence and strong support of Donald Trump, resigned on Thursday.



David Clarke

Clarke submitted his resignation in a one-sentence letter to the county clerk that gave no reason for his departure more than a year before his term is up. In a brief statement a couple of hours later, Clarke also didn't explain.

"After almost forty years serving the great people of Milwaukee County, I have chosen to retire to pursue other opportunities," the statement said. "I will have news about my next steps in the very near future."

Clarke's most recent Twitter post from Thursday afternoon showed him posing with law enforcement officers at the National Fraternal Order of Police convention in Nashville.

Protests to escalate against Midwest pipelines

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Protests are ratcheting up against Enbridge Energy's plan to replace its Line 3 crude oil pipeline from Canada to Wisconsin, and against a separate aging Enbridge pipeline under the waterway linking Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas.

Six protesters were arrested this week near Superior, Wisconsin, where Enbridge began work in June on a 12.5-mile segment amid plans to eventually replace Line 3, which carries Canadian tar sands crude from Alberta across North Dakota and northern Minnesota to its terminal in Superior. The protesters briefly shut down construction Tuesday.

The protest near Superior, by activists describing themselves as "water protectors," echoes opposition by American Indians to the Dakota Access pipeline. The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota witnessed more than a year of protests against the \$3.8 billion project, which began moving North Dakota oil to Illinois this summer. Honor the Earth and other indigenous groups say Line 3 could become the next Standing Rock.

"I think we're seeing things coming to a head, with Enbridge proceeding to construction in Wisconsin and Canada despite lacking approval of the major segment that runs through Minnesota," said Tara Houska, of Honor the Earth.

U.S. stocks jump after spending report

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rose again Thursday as investors were pleased with a report that showed spending by

U.S. consumers grew in July, along with wages and salaries. Health care and technology companies lead the way and the Nasdaq composite closed at a record high.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending grew at its fastest pace in three months. Companies that sell everything from cosmetics to toys to shoes advanced as investors bet Americans would shop more. Biotech drug companies, drug distributors, and scientific equipment companies made some of the biggest gains in health care. Technology companies advanced for the fourth day in a row and closed at record highs. Gasoline futures continued to spike as Tropical Storm Harvey left large parts of oil drilling and refining and pipelines out of commission.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending rose 0.3 percent in July, the best showing in three months, as wages and salaries increased. Stocks climbed a day ago after the government raised its estimate of second-quarter economic growth. On Friday investors will look at the government's monthly jobs report for data on employment and wages.

UN nuclear agency rejects Iran on military sites

VIENNA (AP) — The top U.N. official monitoring Iran's nuclear program on Thursday rejected Tehran's claim that its military sites were off-limits to inspection, saying his agency needs access to all "relevant locations" if suspicions arise of possible hidden atomic activities.

The comments by International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano are significant — his agency is policing the deal capping atomic activities that Iran says are peaceful but the U.S. suspects are a covert pursuit of nuclear arms.

Adding to their weight is their timing. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized the deal as too soft on Tehran and has left open the option of pulling out of the treaty that Washington and five other world powers agreed to with Iran just over two years ago.

Although Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany also signed on to the pact, Iran and the U.S. were the key players. A U.S. pullout could effectively kill the agreement, and lead Iran to quickly ramp up programs that could be used to make weapons.

In added U.S. pressure on Iran, Nikki Haley, Washington's U.N. ambassador, met with Amano last week to underline the American view that military sites are part of any IAEA monitoring. Iranian officials from President Hassan Rouhani down have rejected that option, with government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht this week dismissing any push for military inspections as a "dream."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM, 12:30, 1 PM, 1:30, 2 PM, 2:30, 3 PM, 3:30, 4 PM, 4:30, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various channels (FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, NBC, KNDU, KGW, ABC, KATU, PBS, KTNW, OPB).

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FRIDAY LATE NIGHT & SATURDAY MORNING

Table with columns for time slots (12 AM, 12:30, 1 AM, 1:30, 2 AM, 2:30, 3 AM, 3:30, 4 AM, 4:30, 5 AM, 5:30, 6 AM, 6:30, 7 AM, 7:30, 8 AM, 8:30, 9 AM, 9:30, 10 AM, 10:30, 11 AM, 11:30) and rows for various channels (FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, NBC, KNDU, KGW, ABC, KATU, PBS, KTNW, OPB) listing programs and their descriptions.