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Sam's Club abruptly closes some stores in Houston and nationwide, reports say



Inside C5

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Lower taxes and tight labor market prompt Walmart to hike U.S. wages

NEW YORK (Reuters) -

Walmart will raise entry-level wages for U.S. hourly employees to \$11 an hour in February as it benefits from last month's major overhaul of the U.S. tax code and competes for low wage workers in a tight labor market. The world's largest retailer and private employer, officially called Wal-Mart Stores Inc, announced the hike on Thursday, saying it would also offer a one-time cash bonus, based on length of service, of up to \$1,000, and expand maternity and parental leave benefits. The pay increase, Walmart's third minimum wage increase since 2015, and bonus will benefit more than 1 million U.S. hourly workers, it said. Separately on Thursday, Walmart's Sam's Club unit said on Twitter that it was shutting a series of stores following a review. It did not say how many. The Walmart wage hike, taking minimum pay up from the current \$10 an hour after in-house training, is aimed at helping the company attract workers at a time when the U.S. unemployment rate is at 4.1 percent, a 17-year low, making it harder to attract and retain minimum wage employees. Walmart is likely to save billions of dollars from the new tax law, which slashed the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent, and the wage hikes will cost the retailer only a fraction of those gains, analysts said. "Given how low unemployment is, they would have had to hike wages anyway, the tax bill just made that move easier," said Edward Jones ana-

lyst Brian Yarborough. Rival retailer Target Corp raised its minimum wage to \$11 in September, and said it would raise its minimum wage to \$15 by 2020. Walmart and Target's new minimum wage levels exceed the state minimum wage, in all but three states, according to a research note from financial services firm BTIG. Eighteen U.S. states increased their minimum wage on Jan.1 but the federal minimum wage has been \$7.25 since 2009. Walmart's announcement follows companies like AT&T Inc, Wells Fargo & Co and Boeing Co, which have all promised more pay for workers since the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress passed the biggest overhaul to the U.S. tax code in 30 years. Democrats have slammed the legislation, which also temporarily reduced tax rates for most individuals, as a giveaway to the wealthy that will widen the rich-poor income gap. President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans have argued that the corporate tax cut will benefit workers and lead to more investment by U.S. companies. Retailers, in general, have one of the highest average effective tax rates because a majority of their operations are in the United States. Walmart said the new tax law will create "some financial benefit for the company" and that it is in the early process of assessing additional investments. A worker prepares the frozen food section at a newly built Walmart Super Center prior to its opening in Compton, California, U.S., January 10, 2017. REUTERS/Mike Blake



FILE PHOTO Cashier smiles beyond a Walmart logo during the kick-off of the 'El Buen Fin' (The Good Weekend) holiday shopping season, at a Walmart store in Monterrey

"We are in the early stages of assessing the opportunities tax reform creates for us," President and Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon said in a statement, adding the law is an opportunity to be more competitive globally and to accelerate investment plans for the United States. Walmart employs about 2.2 million people globally, with more than 1.5 million in the United States, and had total global revenue of nearly \$500 billion last year. Ninety percent of Americans live within 10 miles

of Walmart's 4,700 U.S. stores, which sell everything from food and clothes to electronics and sports gear. Sam's Club reported the store closures in a tweet after a series of reports from local news outlets said some Sam's Club stores were closed abruptly on Thursday, with employees learning of the move as they arrived for work. (bit.ly/2DjkkWv) The increase in wages will cost approximately \$300 million on

top of wage hike plans that had been included in next fiscal year's plans, the company said. The company is offering a one-time bonus to full and part-time employees based on their length of service, rising to \$1000 for employees with 20 years of service. The one-time bonus will amount to \$400 million in the current fiscal year and the company will take a one-time charge in the fourth-quarter of the current fiscal year to account for the charge. Shares of the company were up 0.46 percent at \$100.13 in afternoon trade.

HCC designs cookie cutter for Houston Marathon Foundation

HOUSTON [Jan.10, 2018] -

When it comes to innovation, a Houston Community College design has found the sweet spot with a cookie cutter created by a 3D printer for the Houston Marathon Foundation. The 3-inch cookie-cutting mold, which mirrors the design of the HMF logo, will be used for a Jan. 12 luncheon for middle and high school students in the Houston area, said Alyson Whitaker, a coordinator at the Houston Marathon Foundation. "We have an after-school running program for students,



and our goal was to make cookies for their luncheon," she said. "We wanted a brand of cookies to have our name out there." 3D printing is a vital part of the high tech-infused HCC Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, with its heavy emphasis on the application

of high technology. With confection perfection in mind, Whitaker contacted HCC, its community partner, to design the cookie cutter for the Chevron Houston Marathon. Fred Lemme, senior technician at HCC Southwest College's Innovation Lab in Stafford, said he jumped at the opportunity to design the kitchen tool. "I looked at the (Marathon) logo and I said, 'I can design it for you. I can make it,'" said Lemme, who began with the basic logo design and added the needed digital axis points to create the 3D rendering. The digital information was inputted into a 3D printer at the fabrication lab, a process that took about eight hours

to create the new cookie cutter. The baking tool was designed to accommodate different cookie sizes. "It feels good to contribute," Lemme said of the project. "Any contribution I can make to help out the community, I'm happy to do it. We at HCC are more than willing to work with anybody in the local area." HCC Southwest President Madeline Burillo-Hopkins called the project a win-win for both HCC and the Houston Marathon Foundation. "HCC Southwest College is proud to support the Houston Marathon Committee through the HCC Center of Excellence Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Lab 3D design and printing resources," she said. "It's

another example of how 3D technology impacts every aspect of our daily lives." **About HCC** Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly-accredited, open-admission, community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.hccs.edu.



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There are over 700,000 miles of submarine cable worldwide, a network that has been growing ever since 1858 when the first transatlantic cable was laid between Newfoundland and Ireland.

Until recently, national defense experts counted on "security through obscurity," that is, the expectation that vital communications arteries far beneath the surface of the world's oceans would go largely unnoticed. Now, it appears that calculus is changing.



Three small bundles of fiber optics, each containing 12 fiber strands, are unraveled for

testing after the cable was brought to shore in Haines, Alaska, for the Alaska Power and Telephone Company. (Michael Penn/AP)

Russian submarines and spy ships are now aggressively operating near the vital undersea cables that carry almost all global Internet communications, raising concerns among some American military and intelligence officials that the Russians might be planning to attack those lines in times of tension or conflict.

The issue goes beyond old worries during the Cold War that the Russians would tap into the cables — a task American intelligence agencies also mastered decades ago. The alarm today is deeper: The ultimate Russian hack on the United States could involve severing the fiber-optic cables at some of their hardest-to-access locations to halt the instant communications on which the West's governments, economies and citizens have grown dependent.

While there is no evidence yet of any cable cutting, the concern is part of a growing wariness among senior American and allied military and intelligence officials over the accelerated activity by Russian armed forces around the globe. At the same time, the internal debate in Washington illustrates how the United States is increasingly viewing every Russian move through a lens of deep distrust, reminiscent of relations during the Cold War.

Inside the Pentagon and the nation's spy agencies, the assessments of Russia's growing naval activities are highly classified and not publicly discussed in detail. American officials are secretive about what they are doing both to monitor the activity and to find ways to recover quickly if cables are cut. But more than a dozen officials confirmed in broad terms that it had become the source of

Russians Could Stop Internet By Attacking Transatlantic Cables

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

significant attention in the Pentagon.



The Russian submarine Dmitry Donskoy, the world's

largest in active service, arrives at Kronstadt Navy base, outside St. Petersburg, in July. (Olga Maltseva/AFP/Getty Images)

"I'm worried every day about what the Russians may be doing," said Rear Adm. Frederick J. Roegge, commander of the Navy's submarine fleet in the Pacific, who would not answer questions about possible Russian plans for cutting the undersea cables.

Cmdr. William Marks, a Navy spokesman in Washington, said: "It would be a concern to hear any country was tampering with communication cables; however, due to the classified nature of submarine operations, we do not discuss specifics."

In private, however, commanders and intelligence officials are far more direct. They report that from the North Sea to Northeast Asia and even in waters closer to American shores, they are monitoring significantly increased Russian activity along the known routes of the cables, which carry the lifeblood of global electronic communications and commerce.

Just last month, the Russian spy ship Yantar, equipped with two self-propelled deep-sea submersible craft, cruised slowly off the East Coast of the United States on its way to Cuba — where one major cable lands near the American naval station at Guantánamo Bay. It was monitored constantly by American spy satellites, ships and planes. Navy officials said the Yantar and the submersible vehicles it can drop off its decks have the capability to cut cables miles down in the sea. "The level of activity," a senior European diplomat said, "is comparable to what we saw in the Cold War." (Courtesy <https://www.nytimes.com>)

Related

Russian submarines are prowling around vital undersea cables. It's making NATO nervous.

BRUSSELS — Russian submarines have dramatically stepped up activity around un-

dersea data cables in the North Atlantic, part of a more aggressive naval posture that has driven NATO to revive a Cold War-era command, according to senior military officials. The apparent Russian focus on the cables, which provide Internet and other communications connections to North America and Europe, could give the Kremlin the power to sever or tap into vital data lines, the officials said. Russian submarine activity has increased to levels unseen since the Cold War, they said, sparking hunts in recent months for the elusive watercraft.

"We are now seeing Russian underwater activity in the vicinity of undersea cables that I don't believe we have ever seen," said U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Andrew Lennon, the commander of NATO's submarine forces. "Russia is clearly taking an interest in NATO and NATO nations' undersea infrastructure."

NATO has responded with plans to reestablish a command post, shuttered after the Cold War, to help secure the North Atlantic. NATO allies are also rushing to boost anti-submarine warfare capabilities and to develop advanced submarine-detecting planes. Britain's top military commander also warned that Russia could imperil the cables that form the backbone of the modern global economy. The privately owned lines, laid along the some of the same corridors as the first transatlantic telegraph wire in 1858, carry nearly all of the communications on the Internet, facilitating trillions of dollars of daily trade. If severed, they could snarl the Web. If tapped, they could give Russia a valuable picture of the tide of the world's Internet traffic.



"It's a pattern of activity, and it's a vulnerability," said British Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach, in an interview. "Can you imagine a scenario where those cables are cut or disrupted, which would immediately and potentially catastrophically affect both our economy and other ways of living if they were disrupted?" Peach said in a speech in London this month.

The Russian Defense Ministry did not respond to a request for comment about the cables.

The Russian sea activity comes as the Kremlin has also pressed against NATO in the air and on land. Russian jets routinely clip NATO airspace in the Baltics, and troops drilled near NATO territory in September. Russia has moved to modernize its once-decrepit Soviet-era fleet of submarines, bringing online or overhauling 13 craft since 2014. That pace, coming after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula set off a new era of confrontation with the West, has spurred NATO efforts to counter them. Russia has about 60 full-size submarines, while the United States has 66.

Among Russia's capabilities, Lennon said, are deep-sea research vessels, including an old converted ballistic submarine that carries smaller submarines.

"They can do oceanographic research, underwater intelligence gathering," he said. "And what we have observed is an increased activity of that in the vicinity of undersea cables. We know that these auxiliary submarines are designed to work on the ocean floor, and they're transported by the mother ship, and we believe they may be equipped to manipulate objects on the ocean floor."

That capability could give Russia the ability to sever the cables or tap into them. The insulated fiber-optic cables are fragile, and ships have damaged them accidentally by dragging their anchors along the seabed. That damage happens near the shore, where it is relatively easy to fix, not in the deeper Atlantic, where the cost of mischief could be far greater.

Lennon declined to say whether NATO believes Russia has actually touched the cables. Russian military leaders have acknowledged that the Kremlin is active undersea at levels not seen since the end of the Cold War, when Russia was forced to curtail its submarine program in the face of economic turmoil and disorganization.

"Last year we reached the same level as before the post-Soviet period, in terms of running hours," said Adm. Vladimir Korolev, the commander of the Russian Navy, earlier this year. "This is more than 3,000 days at sea for the Russian submarine fleet. This is an excellent sign."

The activity has forced a revival of Western sub-hunting skills that lay largely dormant since the end of the Cold War. Lennon said NATO allies have long practiced subma-

rine-hunting. But until the last few years, there were few practical needs for close tracking, military officials said.



In recent months, the U.S. Navy has flown sorties in the areas where Russia is

known to operate its submarines, according to aircraft trackers that use publicly available transponder data. On Thursday, for example, one of the planes shot off from Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, headed eastward into the Mediterranean. It flew the same mission a day earlier.

The trackers have captured at least 10 missions carried out by U.S. submarine-tracking planes this month, excluding trips when the planes simply appeared to be in transit from one base to another. November was even busier, with at least 17 missions captured by the trackers.

NATO does not comment on specific submarine-tracking flights and declined to release data, citing the classified nature of the missions. But NATO officials say that their submarine-tracking activities have significantly increased in the region.

Submarines are particularly potent war-fighting craft because they can generally only be heard, not seen, underwater. They can serve as a retaliatory strike force in case of nuclear war, threaten military resupply efforts and expand the range of conventional firepower available for use in lower-level conflicts.

The vessels are a good fit for the Kremlin's strategy of making do with less than its rivals, analysts say: Russia's foes need vast resources to track a single undersea craft, making the submarines' cost-to-mischief ratio attractive. Even as Russia remains a vastly weaker military force than NATO, the Kremlin has been able to pack an outsize punch in its confrontation with the West through the seizure of Crimea, support for the Syrian regime and, according to U.S. intelligence, its attempts to influence the U.S. election.

"You go off and you try to add expense for anything that we're doing, or you put things at risk that are of value to us, and submarines give them the capability to do it," a senior NATO official said of the Russian approach, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence assessments.

Russian military planners can say, "I can build fewer of them, I can have better quality, and I can put at risk and challenge and make it difficult for NATO," the official said. (Courtesy <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world>)

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陳述師老先生，一九二二年陰曆正月初八日出生於江西省萍鄉縣。勤於二零一八年陽曆一月七日，晚上十點零七分在休士頓安然辭世，安返天家，歸於母懷。

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A Snapshot Of The World



FILE PHOTO: A pharmacist holds prescription painkiller OxyContin at a local pharmacy in Provo



FILE PHOTO: A customer counts his cash at the checkout lane of a Walmart store in the Porter Ranch section of Los Angeles



Britain's Foreign Secretary Johnson attends a news conference after meeting Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif in Brussels



People watch as aircrafts perform during an airshow at Saudi Aviation Forum at Thumamah airport, in Riyadh



A damaged house is surrounded by large boulders and debris following mudslides due to heavy rains in Montecito



U.S. President Donald Trump attends a signing ceremony for the Interdict Act into law, to provide Customs and Border Protection agents with the latest screening technology on the fight against the opioid crisis, in the Oval Office of the White House in W



Wheelchair-bound Lai Chi-wai climbs the Lion Rock in Hong Kong, China December 9, 2016. Picture taken December 9, 2016. Wong Wai-kin/Handout via Reuters



Mudflow and damage from mudslides are pictured in this aerial photo taken from a Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit Fire Copter over Montecito



Saudi women are seen at the first automotive showroom solely dedicated for women in Jeddah

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan announced Wednesday his office has filed a lawsuit against 21 drug manufacturers and distributors, four doctors and one pharmacist because of the opioid epidemic. All of them operate in Harris County.

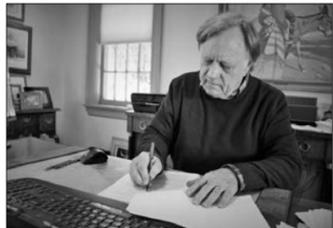
The companies Purdue Pharma L.P., Cephalon Inc. and Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. are three of the defendants and they are referred to in the lawsuit as manufacturers, distributors and sellers of opioids in Harris County and the rest of the United States.



Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan announces plans to file lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies and doctors.

The doctors the county is suing are: Gazelle Craig, Arun Shmma, Karin Sharma and Richard Arthur Evans. The lawsuit also lists pharmacist David Devido as one of the defendants. The lawsuit contends the “defendants knew that the use of opioids had the potential to cause addiction and other health maladies” and adds that “driven by profit, defendants engaged in a campaign of lies, half-truths, and deceptions to create a market that encouraged the over-prescribing and long-term use of opioids even though there was no scientific basis to support such use.” (Find the document of the lawsuit at the bottom of the story).

As for the impact the opioid epidemic has in Harris County, the lawsuit indicates that opioid prescribing rates in the county “historically have been above average and as high as 79.4 prescriptions per 100 persons.” The lawsuit adds that “of the more than 33,000 opioid-related deaths in the United States in 2015, 2,588 were in Texas” and adds that “Harris County bore its share of this burden, with 318 (12.3%) of these deaths occurring in the county.”



“I would never say the pharmaceutical companies dropped the ball,” lawyer Tommy Fibich said. “The

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan Sues 21 Manufacturers And Distributors, 4 Doctors, And 1 Pharmacist Operating In The Area

Harris County Sues Pharmaceutical Companies, Doctors For ‘Opioid Epidemic’

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

pharmaceutical companies blew up the ball, and kicked it out to the public, for it to explode.”

During a news conference held in downtown Houston, Ryan blamed pharmaceutical companies for promoting opioids too widely. Being addicted to painkillers, or opioids, is a serious health issue in Houston and nationwide. In October, President Trump even declared the opioid crisis a “national public health emergency, under federal law.” It’s the first presidential administration to do so.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioid prescribing has fueled the epidemic. It said nearly half of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription. And a recent government report said the US economy lost over 500 billion dollars from opioid abuse, in 2015.

When it comes to the question of who should pay for the losses, Harris County has said that the drug companies should; just like tobacco companies were made to pay for smoking-related health care and prevention.

“It’s exactly pharmaceutical’s tobacco moment,” said lawyer Tommy Fibich. He’s one of the several lawyers representing Harris County against the pharmaceutical companies mentioned in the lawsuit.

“These are the most addictive drugs on our planet. They knew that. They promoted them in a way that caused people to be addicted to them,” said Fibich. “The problem is the companies that manufactured opioids went against every statute in law designed to protect the consumer.”

Fibich said the regulations in place should have worked, but they weren’t enforced.



“The manufacturers and distributors, primarily, managed to disregard them. They did it with impunity. And everybody was making so much money that they were willing to do it and take the risk,” said Fibich.

The Harris County’s lawsuit is not the first of its kind. Lawsuits of this nature have been popping up across the country. Upshur County, in East

Texas, filed a similar lawsuit in September. Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA) is a national trade association that represents wholesale distributors, some of whom are involved in the lawsuit.

In a statement, HDA spokesman John Parker said:

“As distributors, we understand the tragic impact the opioid epidemic has on communities across the country. We are deeply engaged in the issue and are taking our own steps to be part of the solution – but we aren’t willing to be scapegoats.

Distributors are logistics companies that arrange for the safe and secure storage, transport, and delivery of medicines from manufacturers to pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and others based on prescriptions from licensed physicians. We don’t make medicines, market medicines, prescribe medicines, or dispense them to consumers.

Given our role, the idea that distributors are solely responsible for the number of opioid prescriptions written defies common sense and lacks understanding of how the pharmaceutical supply chain actually works and how it is regulated.



We are ready to have a serious conversation about solving a complex problem and are eager to work with political leaders and all stakeholders in finding forward-looking solutions.”

AmerisourceBergen, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., also involved in the suit, provided Houston Public Media with statements:

Janssen Pharmaceuticals: Responsibly used opioid-based pain medicines give doctors and patients important choices to help manage the debilitating effects of chronic pain. At the same time, we recognize opioid abuse and addiction is a serious public health issue that must be addressed. We believe the allegations in lawsuits against our company are both legally and factually unfounded. Janssen has acted in the best interests of patients and physicians with regard to its opioid pain medicines, which

are FDA-approved and carry FDA-mandated warnings about possible risks on every product label. According to independent surveillance data, Janssen opioid pain medicines consistently have some of the lowest rates of abuse among these medications, and since 2008 the volume of Janssen opioid products always has amounted to less than one percent of the total prescriptions written per year for opioid medications, including generics. Addressing opioid abuse will require collaboration among many stakeholders and we will continue to work with federal, state and local officials to support solutions. - William Foster, spokesperson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

AmerisourceBergen: AmerisourceBergen and other wholesale drug distributors are responsible for getting FDA-approved drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers to DEA-registered pharmacies, based on prescriptions written by licensed doctors and health care providers. Our role in doing so is quite widespread across different therapies, with the distribution of opioid-based products constituting less than two percent of our sales. We are dedicated to doing everything within our power as a distributor to mitigate the diversion of these drugs without interfering with clinical decisions made by doctors, who interact directly with patients and decide what treatments are most appropriate for their care. Beyond our reporting and immediate halting of tens of thousands of potentially suspicious orders, we refuse service to customers we deem as a diversion risk and provide daily reports to the DEA that detail the quantity, type, and the receiving pharmacy of every single order of these products that we distribute. We are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders, including in Texas, on ways to combat opioid abuse



Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.: Teva is committed to the appropriate use of opioid medicines, and we recognize the critical public health issues impacting communities across the U.S. as a result of illegal drug use as well as the misuse and abuse of opioids that are available legally by prescription. To that end, we take a multi-faceted approach to this complex issue; we work to educate communities and healthcare providers on appropriate medicine

use and prescribing, we comply closely with all relevant federal and state regulations regarding these medicines, and, through our R&D pipeline, we are developing non-opioid treatments that have the potential to bring relief to patients in chronic pain. Teva offers extensive resources for prescribers, patients and pharmacists regarding the responsible pain management and prevention of prescription drug abuse. Teva also collaborates closely with other stakeholders, including providers and prescribers, regulators, public health officials and patient advocates, to understand how to prevent prescription drug abuse without sacrificing patients’ needed access to pain medicine.

Marc Fleming, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, said while there is an issue in Harris County, there’s responsibility and blame all around.

“From a societal stand point, to the individual patients, to unscrupulous doctors that enable these patients with unethical prescribing of these medications,” said Fleming.



Marc Fleming, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, said responsibility and blame reaches further than only the pharmaceutical companies.

Fleming also said there are many factors contributing to opioid abuse; one being lyrics to popular songs referencing prescription medication abuse.

“These medications are commonly talked about in some of these lyrics, and so forth.” said Fleming. “One of my concerns is that we have a generation of kids that has grown up very accustomed to taking medications. So there’s nothing taboo, for this generation, about taking a medication.”

Fleming said if damages are awarded to Harris County, it would be best spent in rehabilitation, and other alternatives to help pain management; like yoga and physical therapy.

“Does your insurance cover that? Typically not,” said Fleming. “How are you going to pay for that? These are things that are not being addressed.”

Lawyers say a trial date could come in the next year. (Courtesy www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news)

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現在就訂

Buyer beware: Flood-damaged cars for sale



by Colleen Tressler Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

The floodwaters from last year's hurricanes receded months ago, but their wrath could still affect used car buyers across the nation.

- Look for water stains, mildew, sand, or silt under the carpet, floor mats, and dashboard... •Do a smell test. A heavy aroma of cleaners and disinfectants is a sign that someone's trying to mask a mold or odor problem.

Sam's Club abruptly closes some stores in Houston and nationwide, reports say



Sam's Clubs closed a number of stores nationally, including three locations in the Houston area. Local store closures, effective immediately, are 13331 Westheimer and 1615 S. Loop W in Houston...

John Furner, the new president and CEO of Sam's Clubs, said last fall that he was reviewing the com-

pany's national portfolio of stores amid the growing popularity of



online shopping. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based wholesale retailer is looking at building more online fulfillment centers in 2018.

The company has two online fulfillment centers, including one in Fort Worth. "The online piece of our business is growing, and our company is investing heavily in e-commerce," spokeswoman Anne Hatfield said.

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