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Houston Area Businesses Win Big When UH PTAC Helps With Government



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Trump says high court nominee 'on track,' accuser offers to testify

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Monday his nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court remains "on track" despite a woman's allegation that the judge sexually assaulted her in 1982, while the accuser and the nominee both offered to testify publicly.

In careful remarks at the White House in which he did not offer his view on the actual allegation against his nominee, Trump called for the Senate to go through a "full process" and accepted a small delay in the process, though warned that "it shouldn't certainly be very much." "If it takes a little delay, it will take a little delay," said Trump, who dismissed as a "ridiculous question" a reporter's query about whether Kavanaugh, who earlier in the day issued a fresh denial of the allegation against him, had offered to withdraw his name from consideration. "I think he's very much on track," Trump said.

While Democrats demanded a delay in a scheduled Thursday vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the nomination to allow the FBI to investigate, Senate Republicans struggled with how to proceed. Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Judiciary Committee overseeing the high-stakes nomination, said Christine Blasey Ford, a university professor in California who made the allegation, "deserves to be heard."

Grassley and some other senior Senate Republicans stopped short of calling for a public hearing or for delaying the panel's vote. Moderates in both parties including pivotal Republican Senator Susan Collins and Democratic Senator Joe Manchin said Kavanaugh and Ford should be given the chance to testify before the committee, a move that could delay the confirmation process.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh testifies before Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington

Florence's drenching rains kill 23 in the Carolinas



A search and rescue task force patrols a flooded region by boat over a fully submerged road in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence in Castle Hayne, North Carolina

WILMINGTON/FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (Reuters) - Deeper flooding loomed in the hours and days ahead from rivers in the Carolinas swollen by Tropical Depression Florence, which has killed 23 people, even if rain-weary residents got a brief glimpse of sunshine on Monday. The slow-moving storm, a hurricane when it hit the North Carolina coast, has dumped up to 36 inches (91 cm) of rain on the state since Thursday, displacing thousands. The flooding could persist for several weeks in some areas. Residents of the Carolinas were starting to confront the storm's after-effects, including power outages, impassable roads, and sewage spilling into flooded areas, while the hurricane's remnants headed north.

Second ash leak reported at retired Duke plant in Florence's wake
"For many parts of North Carolina, the danger is still immediate," North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said at a news conference Monday. "Flood waters are rising as rivers crest and they will for days."

The coastal city of Wilmington was largely cut off due to flood waters from the Cape Fear River, with one single road available for emergency workers and those bringing food and water. Officials were discouraging people from returning, however. Further inland, the same river, running through Fayetteville, a city of 200,000, was expected to reach major flood levels later on

Monday, and would not crest until Tuesday. Cooper will meet with Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen in Raleigh on Monday. President Donald Trump also plans to visit the state this week.

Major rivers are expected to remain flooded for the next two to three weeks, said Steve Goldstein, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration liaison to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The dead included a 1-year-old boy swept away from his mother as they tried to escape their car amid floodwaters. The woman had driven around barricades to reach a closed road, the sheriff's office in Union County, near North Carolina's border with South Carolina, said on Facebook.

"Don't drive around barricades. We're seeing this happen now and the result is not good," Cooper said.

North Carolina officials reported 1,200 road closures, including a stretch of Interstate 95, a major transportation artery on the U.S. East Coast.

About 509,000 homes and businesses were without electricity in North and South Carolina and surrounding states.

Rex Gehring, 62, was unsure what he would do with the house he bought outside Fayetteville after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 forced its previous owner into foreclosure.



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MKT 6012 C (08/18)

Houston Area Businesses Win Big When UH PTAC Helps With Government Contracts

e've all heard about businesses that land profitable contracts with federal, state, or local government. Yet for many business owners, being able to sell their products or services to the government feels out of reach, with the daunting registration process and the challenging certification application requirements. Fortunately, the University of Houston Procurement Technical Assistance Center (UH PTAC) is available to for-profit businesses within the 32-county area surrounding Houston; specifically to help them compete for government contracts.

In 2017 alone, UH PTAC advisors provided assistance to business owners resulting in \$79 million in contract awards with federal, state, and local government. The UH PTAC staff offers a full complement of government procurement services, from one-to-one client advising to training workshops. After submitting an application and becoming a client of the Center, an individual receives business advising at no cost! They also offer government procurement workshops in a variety of subjects at a nominal cost to help individuals understand how to sell to the government. The workshops are open to anyone, whether they are a client of the Center or not. The UH PTAC provides their clients a "bid-match service" also at no cost that provides daily notifications of current government opportunities matching a business's goods and services.

The program's foundation emphasizes the Three "R"s of Government Contracting – Register, Research, and Respond. Understanding these three key components is essential to succeeding in selling to government. For example, although "register" may seem obvious, the requirements to do business with government agencies can be cumbersome to a business owner. A UH PTAC advisor helps you select the proper industry codes and complete vendor registrations.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

September 25, 2018: How To Do Business With The State Of Texas

The advisors are also knowledgeable about the government certification programs for socio and economically-disadvantaged individuals including minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans. They can advise you in the eligibility and application process for the Small Business Administra-

tion 8(a) Program, HUBZone Program, and the Women-Owned Small Business Program. The UH PTAC advisors are certified Department of Veteran Affairs Verification Assistance Counselors and can assist you with the certification programs for veterans who want do business with government. They are also knowledgeable in the variety of certification programs available with state and local government.

The "research" component entails gathering information to help you locate opportunities. Working with you on a one-to-one basis, your advisor identifies exactly where government agencies advertise their solicitations. The PTAC staff will show you how to develop a government marketing strategy, so you can market your company to government representatives to establish name and brand recognition to improve your chances of winning contracts.

Discovering opportunities is an unproductive exercise if the business owner doesn't know how to submit a compliant offer to a government solicitation. There are many ways to err when submitting an offer to the government. In this case, the "respond" component of the three R's is the most important of all.

UH PTAC's advisors will educate you in how to prepare and submit offers in response to government opportunities. During this process, business owners will learn how to read and interpret government solicitations, make a bid/no-bid decision, and submit offers that meets all the government's requirements.

Responding to solicitations is considered one of the most challenging aspects of pursuing government contracts, but when you get it right, selling to the government can be highly rewarding. Learn exactly how to Register, Research, and Respond with the UH PTAC, and you'll be prepared for contracting success. Visit their website today at www.ptac.uh.edu to submit your online application to become a client and start your path toward increasing your revenue by becoming a government contractor.core value. We will never tolerate inappropriate actions on the part of any district employee who endangers or harms our students. These allegations, if true, are a complete breach of the trust our children, our community, and we place in our educators." Counselors will be available to speak with students at Cornerstone.

Anyone with more information about this case is encouraged to contact the Houston Police Department at 832-394-5500 or the Spring Branch ISD Police Department at 713-984-9805.



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Editor's Choice



Public workers block the street giving access to Juan Santamaria Airport during an indefinite strike against the tax proposal in Alajuela



Hurricane Florence damage seen from air in Lumberton, North Carolina



Houses sit in floodwater caused by Hurricane Florence, in this aerial picture, in Lumberton



Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church is seen in floodwater caused by Hurricane Florence in Lumberton



Ultra-Orthodox Jews perform the Kaparot ritual in Jerusalem



An ultra-Orthodox Jew takes part in the Tashlich ritual ahead of Yom Kippur in Ramat Gan, Israel



A man takes part in a protest outside the Congress in Buenos Aires



A man holds up a sign during a protest against the government's austerity measures outside the Congress in Buenos Aires

BA Apologizes After 380,000 Customers Hit In Cyber Attack

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

LONDON (Reuters) – British Airways apologized on Friday after the credit card details of hundreds of thousands of its customers were stolen over a two-week period in the most serious attack on its website and app.

The airline discovered on Wednesday that bookings made between Aug. 21 and Sept. 5 had been infiltrated in a “very sophisticated, malicious criminal” attack, BA Chairman and Chief Executive Alex Cruz said. It immediately contacted customers when the extent of the breach became clear.

Around 380,000 card payments were compromised, the airline said, with hackers obtaining names, street and email addresses, credit card numbers, expiry dates and security codes – sufficient information to steal from accounts.

The attack came 15 months after the carrier suffered a massive computer system failure at London’s Heathrow airport, which stranded 75,000 customers over a holiday weekend.

Shares in BA’s parent, International Airlines Group, were down 2 percent in afternoon trading on Friday.

Cruz said the carrier was “deeply sorry” for the disruption caused by the attack which was unprecedented in the more than 20 years that BA had operated online.



British Airways logos are seen on tail fins at Heathrow Airport in west London, Britain, February 23, 2018. (Photo/REUTERS)

He said the attackers had not broken the airline’s encryption but did not explain exactly how they had obtained the customer information.

“There were other methods, very sophis-

icated efforts, by criminals in obtaining the data,” he told BBC radio.

IT security company Avast said that based on the limited information available the attackers had probably targeted a gateway between the airline and a payment processor because no travel details had been stolen.

“Quite often, when it’s just a hack of a database somewhere it is hard to identify when something has been compromised,” Avast’s consumer security expert Pete Turner said.

“This feels much more like a transaction-type attack, where data is moving about within the system.”

COMPENSATION

Britain’s government said authorities including the National Cyber Security Centre and the National Crime Agency, part of the country’s police, were piecing together what happened.

“Specialist officers from the NCA’s National Cyber Crime Unit are managing the ongoing investigation and are on site working with BA to gain a better understanding of the incident,” the NCA said.



The country’s Information Commissioner’s Office said it had been alerted by BA and it was making enquiries. Under new GDPR data regulations companies must inform regulators of a cyber attack within 72 hours.

BA advised customers to contact their bank or credit card provider and follow their recommended advice. It also took

out ads in national newspapers on Friday. Cruz said anyone who lost out financially would be compensated by the airline.

Data security expert Trevor Reschke said that like any website which sees large volumes of card transactions, BA was a ripe target for hackers.

“It is now a race between British Airways and the criminal underground,” said Reschke, head of threat intelligence at Trusted Knight.

“One will be figuring out which cards have been compromised and alerting victims, whilst the other will be trying to abuse them while they are still fresh.”

NatWest, one of Britain’s biggest card issuers, said it was receiving higher-than-usual call volumes because of the breach.

It said in a recorded message that its security systems would likely stop any fraud as a result of the hack but anyone affected should look out for unusual activity on their accounts.



American Express said clients did not need to take any action and the company would alert anyone with unusual activity on their cards.

IAG said the data breach had been resolved and the website was working normally, and that no travel or passport details were stolen.

After the computer system failure in May 2017, BA said it would take steps to ensure such an incident never happened again, but in July it was forced to cancel and delay flights out of the same airport due to problems with a supplier’s IT systems.

(Courtesy oannews.com)



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