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Puerto Rico presses for shipping waiver



A woman carries bottles of water and food during a distribution of relief items, after the area was hit by Hurricane Maria in San Juan

REUTERS

As Puerto Rico struggles with a lack of fuel, water and medical supplies following the devastation of Hurricane Maria, it is pressing the Trump administration to lift a bar on foreign ships delivering supplies from the U.S. mainland.

The island's governor is pushing for the federal government to temporarily waive the Jones Act, a law requiring that all goods shipped between U.S. ports be carried by U.S. owned-and-operated ships. The Trump administration has so far not granted this, saying it is evaluating the issue.

Many of the U.S. territory's 3.4 million inhabitants are queuing for scarce supplies of gas and diesel to run generators as the island's electrical

grid remains crippled a week after Maria hit. Government-supplied water trucks have been mobbed.

Puerto Rico gets most of its fuel by ship from the United States, but one of its two main ports is closed and the other is operating only during the daytime.

Residents are scrambling to find clean water, with experts concerned about a looming public health crisis posed by the damaged water system.

On Tuesday, hundreds of people crowded around a government water tanker in the northeastern municipality of Canovanas with containers of every size and shape after a wait that for many had lasted days.

"We expect them to waive it (the Jones Act)," Governor Ricardo Rossello told CNN on Wednesday, noting there was a brief waiver issued after Hurricane Irma, which was much less devastating as

it grazed past the island en route for Florida earlier this month.

Members of Congress from both par-

ties have supported an emergency waiver, he said.

The U.S. government has issued periodic Jones Act waivers following severe storms in the past, to allow the use of cheaper or more readily available foreign-flagged ships.

Cash demand 'extraordinarily high' in hurricane-hit Puerto Rico: Fed
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which waived the law after Irma and after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas in August, said on Wednesday it was considering a request by members of Congress for a waiver, but had not received any formal requests from shippers or other branches of the federal government.

"We are considering the underlying issues and are evaluating whether a waiver should be issued," a senior DHS official told

reporters in a teleconference.

On Monday, several members of the U.S. House of Representatives had asked the DHS to waive the act for a year to help relief efforts. The official said a request from a member of Congress was not the usual pathway for waiver requests.

While the Trump administration has not formally denied the request, the DHS suggested earlier this week a waiver was not needed.

Gregory Moore, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, an office of Homeland Security, said in a statement on Tuesday that an agency assessment showed there was "sufficient capacity" of U.S.-flagged vessels to move commodities to Puerto Rico.

Housing Market

Harvey, Irma expected to
slow 2017 home sales



Fewer home closings in areas impacted by hurricanes Harvey and Irma will likely pull the nation's tally of homes sales in 2017 below last year's level, a new report showed.

Pending home sales sank by 2.6 percent in August from the same period a year earlier, according to a National Association of Realtors report released Wednesday. The trend reflects an index measuring existing home sales contracts that have been signed but not yet closed. The index reached its lowest level since January 2016.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, projects existing-home sales to total 5.44 million in 2017, down 0.2 percent from last year's pace of 5.45 million. The median price is anticipated to rise by 6 percent, on top of a 5.1 percent gain last year.

"The supply and affordability headwinds would have likely held sales growth just a tad above last year, but coupled with the temporary effects from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, sales in 2017 now appear will fall slightly below last year," Yun said in an announcement.

"The good news is that nearly all of the missed closings for the remainder of the year will likely show up in 2018, with existing sales forecast to rise 6.9 percent."



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Map shows EIG's distress scores by county. (Images via EIG)

Looking at national statistics, the U.S. economy has bounced back from the Great Recession but a detailed new report from the Economic Innovation Group (EIG), a Washington, D.C., think tank, shows that the recovery is almost entirely concentrated in a small number of prosperous communities. Those urban and suburban centers — many of which are buoyed by thriving tech industries — are educated and experience strong job growth. Outside of these communities, economic distress is pervasive, a phenomenon that significantly influenced the 2016 election.



“America’s elite zip codes are home to a spectacular degree of growth and prosperity. However, millions of Americans are stuck in places where what little economic stability exists is quickly eroding beneath their feet.”

Distress is based on an evaluation of seven metrics.

- No high school diploma
 - Housing vacancy rate
 - Adults not working
 - Poverty rate
 - Median income ratio
 - Change in employment
 - Change in business establishments
- The trend is well-represented in Washington state. Seattle — which is the seventh most prosperous large city in the country based on EIG’s data — and its surrounding communities are considered prosperous. They have low rates of unemployment, a highly educated population, and residents invest wealth back into public services. But that prosperity is largely concentrated around the state’s denser metropolitan areas with thriving industry. Washington’s more rural communities are grappling with moderate to high economic distress.

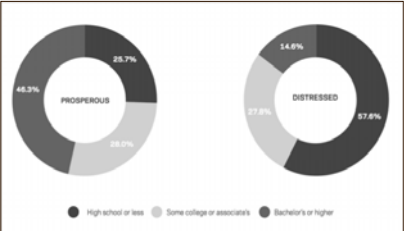
Seattle’s prosperity is driven in-part by big, wealthy employers, like Amazon. The e-commerce giant’s relationship with its hometown is complicated but it has had an undeniable effect on job opportunities and wealth in the city.

SPECIALREPORT

When It Comes To Economic Prosperity In America, A Rising Tide Does Not “Lift All Boats”

America’s Lopsided Recovery: Study Shows Pockets Of Economic Prosperity, Leaving Millions Behind

That impact is the reason communities across the country — many of them experiencing the economic struggles outlined in the EIG report — are vying to become Amazon’s second North American headquarters. One in six Americans lives in an economically distressed zip code and a quarter of them are under 18, according to the report, which was first spotted by Axios. More than half of the country’s population living in distressed zip codes resides in the South, though Rust Belt cities and other communities with industrial legacies are also struggling. “This trend represents a fundamental shift in the geography of economic growth in the United States,” the report says. “Geographic disparities have, of course, always existed in this country, but the prospects of different communities used to rise or fall together to a far greater extent than they do today.” The report suggests that the number of new businesses established, changes in employment rates, and gaps in educational attainment are the leading factors for this growing opportunity gap between prosperous and distressed communities.



Highest level of educational attainment for adults in prosperous and distressed zip codes.

EIG studied seven key metrics from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2011-2015. They include the percent of the population over 25 without a high school diploma, percent of habitable housing that is unoccupied, adult unemployment, the poverty rate, the local median income compared to state’s, change in employment rates, and change in the number of new businesses created. EIG is an advocacy group focused on building a more entrepreneurial U.S. economy.

Its founders include big names from the tech world, like Napster co-founder Sean Parker. That world, from which EIG’s leadership hails, has seen strong economic growth and prosperity over the past few years. Fast-growing western communities and tech hubs dominate the report’s list of the most prosperous cities in the country, while older, industrial cities and rural towns tend to be on the lower end of the spectrum. That discrepancy translates to growing resentment toward regions that are benefiting from the knowledge economy by those left behind by it. Of the five tiers of economic prosperity included in the study, distressed zip codes were the only group that saw the number of jobs and new business establishments decline between 2011-2015. On the other hand, 88 percent of prosperous zip codes experienced job growth and 85 percent saw rising numbers of new businesses. “Simply put, residents of prosperous communities are surrounded by a level of economic vibrancy that would be unrecognizable to the vast majority of Americans elsewhere,” the report says.

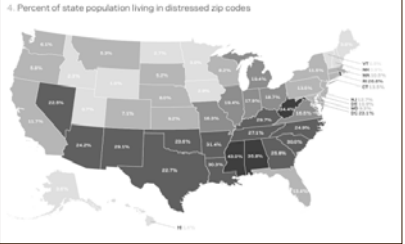


The 10 most prosperous of the country’s 100 largest cities.

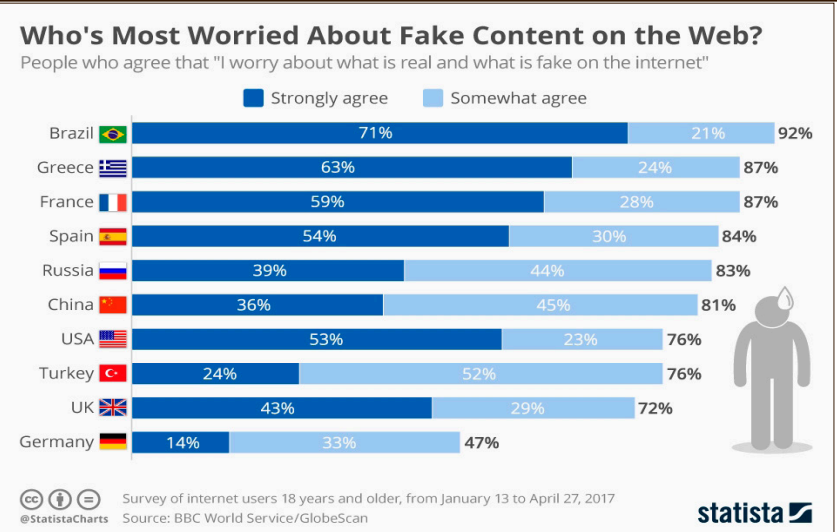
This economic inequality is driving a populist movement among people who are left behind by the rapid changes in the U.S. economy and EIG contends it tipped the scales in the 2016 election in President Donald Trump’s favor. The rift between the nation’s haves and have-nots has led some, like investor and political rabble-rouser Nick Hanauer, to predict massive destabilization of our democracy. ‘The real threat to our republic is an alarming breakdown in social cohesion, and the cause of this breakdown is obvious: radical, rising economic inequality, and the anger and anxiety it

engenders. “The real threat to our republic is an alarming breakdown in social cohesion, and the cause of this breakdown is obvious: radical, rising economic inequality, and the anger and anxiety it engenders,” Hanauer wrote in an essay titled, To My Fellow Plutocrats: You Can Cure Trumpism. “The truth is that over the span of decades, American lawmakers (at the behest of economic elites like us!) have enacted policies that have depressed wages, stoked economic insecurity and exacerbated cultural angst and social dislocation. At the same time, a tiny minority of mostly urban elite (again, us!) have benefitted obscenely from our growing economic, political and legal power.” Many see the tech industry as the problem but there are also those who believe it could be part of the solution. As the world watches to see which city Amazon will select for its second headquarters, many are hoping the Seattle-based tech giant will bring those 50,000 jobs to a struggling community like Pittsburgh or Detroit. Amazon has the opportunity to establish a new model for big tech companies to inject the prosperity that has been siloed in a handful of urban regions into a community that sorely needs it. But narrowing the gap between the country’s struggling and prosperous regions will require

more than one decision by one company, no matter how monumental. EIG is calling for collaboration between the public and private sectors to create an environment where jobs, innovation, and wealth are shared by communities across the country.



It’s a worthy goal, as the economic inequity outlined in the report affects the health, life expectancy, and political behavior of communities that have never truly come out of the recession. People in distressed counties die nearly five years sooner than those in prosperous regions, according to the study. Minorities are disproportionately affected, representing more than half the population in distressed communities. “It is fair to wonder whether a recovery that excludes tens of millions of Americans and thousands of communities deserves to be called a recovery at all,” the report says. **Key Findings** Over half the population in distressed communities are minorities, compared to only about a quarter of the population in prosperous ones. Asians and whites are more likely to live in a prosperous zip code than any other type of community. Blacks and Native Americans are more likely to live in a distressed zip code than any other type of community, while Hispanics are most likely to reside in an at risk one. Blacks and Native Americans are three times more likely to live in a distressed community than a prosperous one. Majority-minority zip codes are two times more likely to be distressed than the average zip code. (Courtesy geekwire.com)



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Dr. Hwang is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He earned his undergraduate and medical degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei. He completed residency programs at National Taiwan University Hospital and St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, Penn. In addition, he earned a postgraduate degree of Master of Public Health in maternal and child health from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Md. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Texas Medical Association and Harris County Medical Society.

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A Snapshot Of The World



People queue to fill containers with water from a tank truck at an area hit by Hurricane Maria in Canovanas, Puerto Rico, September 26, 2017. Picture taken on September 26, 2017. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins



The logo and trading information for RYB Education Institution are displayed on a screen during the company's IPO on the floor at the NYSE in New York(Bundestagswahl)



Residents and cars make their way around and under obstacles blocking a main road nearly a week after Hurricane Maria raked the island, in Frederiksted, St. Croix



U.S. President Donald Trump arrives on the Marine One helicopter to board Air Force One for travel to Indiana from Joint Base Andrews



A demonstrator is detained during a rally to request change in the education system in Santiago,



Urince Harry holds the crutches for Thomas Stuber of Germany after presenting him the bronze medal during the Invictus Games in Toronto



Confederate flag poster with cotton attached found at American University in Washington



A student memorizes the Koran at a madrassa in Murree, Pakistan September 27, 2017. REUTERS/Caren Firouz

Hundreds of thousands of Americans whose homes were damaged or destroyed by flooding from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma don't know how they will pay for repairs, rebuilding or replacement. Likewise, the nation as a whole needs a plan for fixing the deeply flawed federal system for managing and financing flood risks. The National Flood Insurance Program insures almost five million homes and businesses against flood risks and handles related services such as flood risk mapping and floodplain management. It nearly ran out of funding before Congress voted to temporarily extend its authorization in early September. This reprieve means it can keep renewing and issuing new policies through December 8 – instead of being frozen at an inconvenient juncture.

As an expert on the structure and performance of insurance markets, I was relieved to see the program at least get patched. But I'm also concerned because lawmakers are making too little progress toward a long-overdue overhaul of the program that would make it solvent and more effective.

What's wrong?

As House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling put it recently, Congress must “finally get serious about fixing the NFIP because it is not only broke, it is broken.” After years of struggles, its problems worsened considerably after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Along with other flooding programs and policies, it's failing in four main ways.

First, too few of the property owners who need flood insurance are buying it, and in some cases their coverage can't cover their losses. That leaves too many Americans saddled with uninsured losses – which in turn puts more pressure on the government to step up its assistance.

Second, the NFIP doesn't charge premiums high enough to cover its costs.

Third, since Congress hasn't officially filled the gap through appropriations, the program is running a big deficit.

Finally, the NFIP is forced to cover previously flooded homes and properties in very risky places. This mandate takes advantage of taxpayers since no private insurer would voluntarily cover those properties. Without leeway, the program – and by extension all taxpayers – is subsidizing the owners of homes and businesses that have been repeatedly flooded. Representing about 1 percent of all insured properties, they account for roughly 30 percent of NFIP claims.



Separately, measures aimed at reducing flood risk and losses aren't working. Local authori-

National Flood Insurance Program Is 'Not Only Broke, It Is Broken'

The Four Major Failures
Of Flood Insurance



Harvey's floodwaters envelop houses in Vidor.

ties allow too much building – and rebuilding – after disaster strikes in high-risk areas, such as barrier islands along the Southeast and Gulf coasts. And too many people are moving into those areas or staying put when they shouldn't.

Expanding coverage

The Insurance Information Institute estimates that only about 12 percent of homeowners currently have flood insurance policies. Without vouchers – or a similar approach – even fewer Americans who need flood insurance will buy it if premiums rise.

The NFIP and other insurers will cover only an estimated 30 percent of the flood losses from Harvey's record rainfalls and storm surges, real estate data company CoreLogic estimates.

Roy Wright, who runs the NFIP, blames premium increases stemming from the Biggert-Waters Act, which Congress passed in 2012, for a recent decline in the number of flood insurance policies purchased. He says the number of policies in the U.S. should double to 10 million. Even more properties would have lacked flood insurance had Congress not rolled back Biggert-Waters two years later. The law was supposed to make the NFIP more self-sufficient by raising premiums and instituting other changes. Homeowners in high-risk areas pressured lawmakers to scrap it, though some rates were still allowed to rise.

Currently, people with mortgages are required to carry flood insurance only when their properties are located in high-risk areas. Like the General Accountability Office, I support extending

this requirement to everyone with a mortgage.



Problematic premiums

So why doesn't the NFIP charge enough to cover its costs? One reason is subsidies.

The GAO estimates that the government subsidizes about one in five homeowner flood insurance policies.

These subsidies tend to help the people who need it least – like those with expensive mansions in coastal areas – at taxpayer expense. (Some of the subsidies are being phased out.) Many experts and policymakers want the government to grant a new kind of subsidy by giving the homeowners who can't afford flood insurance means-tested vouchers to help pay for it.

In addition, experts at the Wharton School and elsewhere also argue that the NFIP miscalculates premiums, charging homeowners too little or too much. Adopting the latest technology and methods would make it more accurate. I believe that the NFIP should also charge higher premiums for policies that cover properties that are especially susceptible to catastrophic

losses from severe floods.

Forgiving the program's debt

Unless premiums start covering the program's costs or Congress appropriates more money for it, the NFIP will keep running deficits. It already owed the Treasury nearly US\$25 billion before the latest hurricanes made landfall. Harvey and Irma could add \$10 billion or more to this tab based on my broad-brush analysis of National Flood Insurance Program projections. The GAO has argued that the NFIP should not have to repay its debt. I agree.

Private sector insurance pricing is prospective, not retrospective. Since private insurers cannot recoup losses from prior years by charging current and future policyholders more than what they owe, public sector insurers like the NFIP cannot either.

How Congress wants to fix it

Lawmakers have floated several flood insurance bills, all offering to fix different problems. So far, none of them would forgive the NFIP's debt, as a House bill introduced last year would have done.

The House bill that Texas Rep. Hensarling supports would make it easier for some homeowners to get and pay for flood insurance. It would also help put the NFIP on firmer fiscal footing by ruling out coverage for homes and businesses that have had claims amounting to more than twice their replacement cost and other reforms.

In the Senate, there are two bipartisan bills that would instead tighten the caps on annual rate increases, forcing taxpayers to pay more for flood losses at a time when scientists expect climate change to make bouts of extreme weather more common.

While the House bill would not solve all of the program's problems, the Senate bills fall even shorter. However, the Senate bills would substantially increase funding for flood-prevention efforts such as mapping that gauges the risk of flooding in coastal and inland areas.

They also call for boosting spending on floodplain management and risk mitigation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which runs the NFIP.

In practice that means the government could do more to encourage flood-prone areas to strengthen their zoning and building ordinances. As a result, more homeowners in risky areas might elevate their dwellings to make them less prone to flooding or communities could use zoning to discourage construction vulnerable to storm damage.

Many lawmakers also want to expand the role of private insurers, which underwrite only a small fraction of the flood policies now in place, by making it easier for them to sell flood policies. Some provisions in pending legislation that would do this would be helpful, but others could create problems such as allowing private companies to sell policies with substantial coverage gaps.



A FEMA warning sign at a home damaged by floodwaters in Patton Village.

What about the Trump administration?

Unfortunately, the White House isn't helping. Trump's proposed budget would cut NFIP spending on flood mapping by \$190 million. In August, shortly before Harvey made landfall, he rescinded an Obama-era executive order to establish a federal flood risk management standard for public infrastructure.

Clearly, there is no magical way to fix flood insurance while cutting what homeowners and the government spend on it.

But there are ways to make the program more sustainable and capable of doing more for the people who need help more than the affluent beneficiaries whom it now subsidizes. The Trump administration and Congress just have to be willing to do what it takes. (Courtesy chron.com)

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Army Corps should have bought easements to make room for flood pools, lawsuit says

By Lise Olsen

A federal lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims government officials knew for years that water impounded behind Addicks and Barker dams would flood thousands of suburban homes during an extreme storm - and yet did nothing to advise or compensate property owners.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Christina Micu, a homeowner in the Canyon Gate neighborhood in Cinco Ranch, a subdivision that essentially became part of the Barker Reservoir during Harvey. The case is pending in the Washington D.C.-based U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Canyon Gate was inundated for more than a week when the Army Corps allowed water impounded behind the dams, called the "flood pool," to reach record size as more than 50 inches of rain fell between August 25 and 29th.

The suit was filed as a class action on behalf of everyone who owns property that flooded behind both dams. Though other lawsuits have been filed on behalf of those whose properties were flooded by dam releases, this is the first case filed on behalf of those whose property flooded directly from what engineers call "reservoir pools" or "flood pools."

More than 30,000 people own property and more than 140,000 people live in areas that Harris and Fort Bend county officials have identified as subject to inundation from those flood pools, according to a Chronicle analysis of evacuation orders issued during Harvey.

Addicks and Barker dams were built in the 1940s to protect downtown Houston after flooding in 1935 wrecked the city and caused eight deaths. The dams hold back floodwaters from Buffalo Bayou, which forms the Houston Ship Channel downstream, and from creeks that enter the city from the northwest.

For decades, the two dams were basically country bumps -- earthen barriers surrounded by a vast high-grass prairie, a few scattered settlements, rice farms and rural ranches, including an operation that helped rescue Texas' Longhorns from extinction.

Unlike traditional "lake-forming" dams, Addicks and Barker do not have clearly defined reservoirs and are dry much of the year. The water they impound stretches west into what used to be prairie. The extent of the flood pool varies, depending on rainfall and on Army Corps decisions about how much water to release from the reservoirs through the dams' gates. During Harvey, the corps deliberately allowed the flood pool to build up to a record 250,000 acre feet in an attempt to prevent flooding downstream on Buffalo Bayou and protect downtown Houston from catastrophe.



Members of Cinco Ranch Church of Christ help hand out collected and donated supplies to homeowners cleaning up in the aftermath of tropical storm Harvey in Katy, Texas REUTERS/Mike Blake

Related Coverage

In the process, thousands of homes were damaged in Houston and in Fort Bend and Harris Counties, though a full tally has not yet been released. At least 4,000 properties - including single family homes, apartment complexes and businesses - were damaged by water from Barker reservoir alone, both counties said.

Elsewhere in the United States, the Army Corps has blocked development around its reservoirs - at times purchasing land for "flood storage easements" around dams or levees in areas where it expects to divert or store floodwater, said Charles W. Irvine, the Houston-based lead attorney in the lawsuit. That never happened here, and now homeowners are owed compensation, Irvine argues.

"The corps has been discussing this but no one took it beyond that - not in term of disclosing it to the neighborhoods and certainly took no steps to offer to purchase a federal flood easement in exchange for some money," Irvine said.

A recent informational meeting about the case drew more than 100 homeowners from Canyon Gate and from other subdivisions that flooded during Hurricane Harvey, attorneys said.

Irvine said that only five raised their hands when he asked who had flood insurance.

In Mississippi and Louisiana, the Corps has taken steps to inform people and compensate those whose property could be subject to inundation in areas near levees and rivers, Irvine said.

That was never done with the West Houston dams. The reason may be that such a step in the 1980s or in the '90s would have stopped the march of development, said attorney Jim Blackburn, who has filed other lawsuits arguing that the region's flood control rules were insufficient to protect homeowners and the environment.

The Corps' original plans included a third dam and additional property that was never acquired. In the 1940s, it didn't matter much if, in a downpour, a large pool suddenly spread across the grasslands of the Katy Prairie to spare the Bayou City downstream from harm.

Over the years, public officials continued to approve developments around both reservoirs even after the Corps' own measurements recorded

record flood pools time after time. Ten of the 11 largest pools in the reservoirs' history have been measured since 1990. Harvey generated the largest.

The Corps allowed the city of Houston, Harris and Fort Bend counties and the state to build major roads and parks inside the reservoirs. George Bush and Bear Creek are the largest parks. Barker Reservoir includes a smaller War Memorial developed by Fort Bend County. Then there's Millie Bush Bark Park; Bill Archer Dog Park; the Bear Creek Community Center; a 54-hole golf course; a zoo with a bison; a shooting range; a model airplane facility; paved parking; and a YMCA camp.

Fort Bend County officials added small-print warnings about the flood pools to subdivision maps beginning in 1994: "This subdivision is adjacent to Barker Reservoir and is subject to extended controlled inundation under

the management of the U.S. Army Corps of engineers," Harris County Commissioner

Steve Raddack said he didn't believe warnings were necessary. He said all Harris County homeowners should be aware of risks of flooding posed by the area's many creeks and bayous - and by the reservoirs. Raddack said that for 20 years he had been warning constituents about the flood pool - but most paid little attention.

"We knew the water would leave the federally controlled land and would flood neighborhoods in Fort Bend and Harris counties. The reservoir had never been tested to capacity," he said.



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早春，空气中弥漫着丝丝凉意。在公司一块草坪中央有一棵小树孑然独立，树枝上系着一条明亮的粉色丝带，在冷风中飘扬。这是一棵为纪念某个已逝同事栽下的树，这样的树在其他草坪上还有几棵。

美国是个移民国家，怀念和祭祀逝者的方式多种多样。为亡人种一棵树，是比较流行的纪念方式。可以直接种在地上，也可以在骨灰上种。树通常种在家人朋友们比较容易去看望的地方，树枝上往往会系上丝带，树边可立小牌子写上亡人名字，也可以在树底置放一小块纪念性石头——非正式石碑。美国也有机构专门帮人种纪念树，比如 Arbor Day 基金会。你选好树种，告诉亡人名字和寄语，该基金会帮你把树种到国家森林里去。看小树生长在四季中，叶发叶落，花开花凋，亡人

仿佛依然与亲友们在人世间同沐阳光雨露，不失为纪念的好办法。而在骨灰上种，就是开始另一个生命的轮回，对生者死者，都有非同寻常的意义。

纪念亡故亲友另一个非常流行的方式就是设立基金。比如患癌症去世的，很有可能支持某个癌症研究的基金。亡人生前热衷某事的，也可为其项目设立基金，支持鼓励同道中人坚持做下去。基金无大小，大的可以很大，比如美国最有名的 Susan G. Komen 乳腺癌基金，是 Susan 的妹妹为纪念患乳腺癌去世的姐姐创建的。小的可以很小，笔者孩子的小学就有一个为纪念一位去世数学老师而设立的基金。每年毕业班有一个数学最突出的孩子会得到此基金颁发的 25 美元的书店礼品卡。除了设置基金，也可以在亡人喜爱的公园或别的公共场所捐一张长椅，一块砖。

美国人纪念亡故亲友还有别的诸多方式。一个小朋友在河里亡故了，河边草地上放置一块融于环境的小小石头，刻上名字和纪念的短语或年月。有些方式比较奇特，比如，把亡人的名字文在身上，把亲人的骨灰做成钻石项链或装进别的珠宝戴在身上，用印着亡人照片的布料以及亡人的衣服拼成被子。亲人虽离去，仍能感到他们常伴左右。

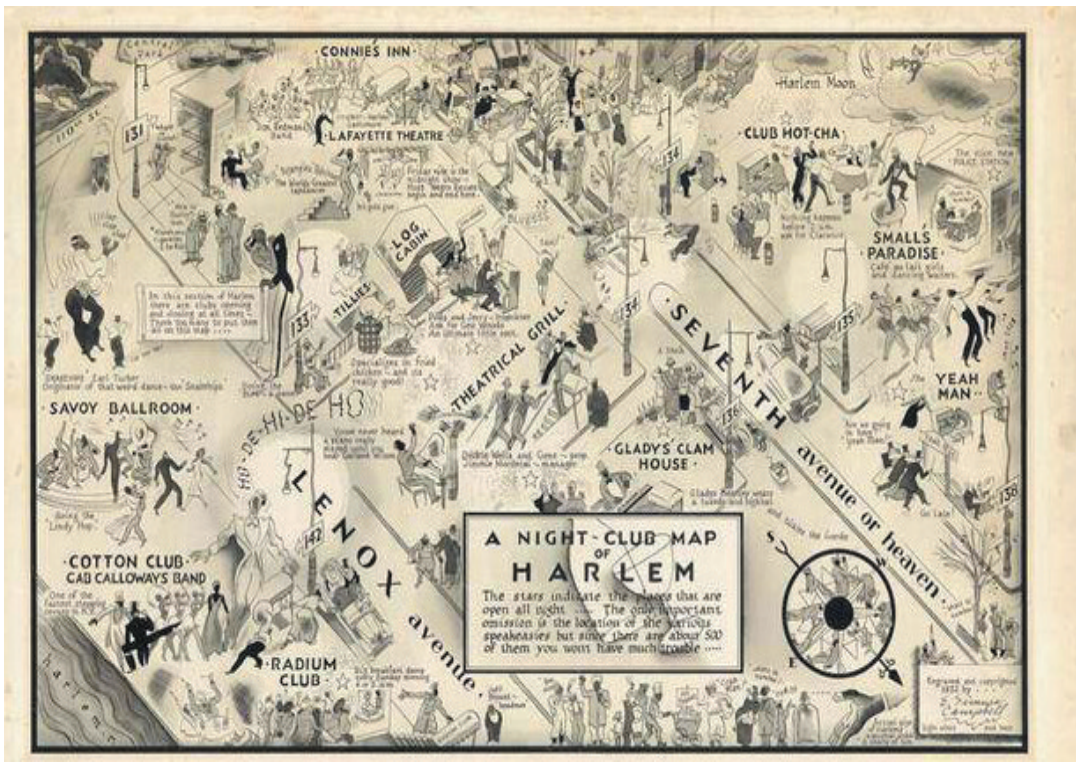
也有的把骨灰做成烟花，在烟花升空时将亲人送入天堂，绽放出生命最后的绚烂。有的纪念方式脑洞开得比较大，非一般人所能做。比如把亲人的骨灰带入太空，或者埋进深海的礁石底下，让亲人安息在无人打扰的地方。当然追思时只能遥想，深藏于心中。美国没有清明节或者别的专门祭祀亡故亲人的节日。亲友们



自己约定一个日子，共同怀念亡人。人们也可以选 5 月底阵亡将士纪念日去扫墓，献上一束鲜花。

笔者最喜欢的纪念方式是种一棵花树。因为花开的时候，逝者仿佛与我们一起，笑沐春风。

禁酒令时期的哈莱姆区夜生活



20 世纪 20 年代到 30 年代初期，美国大部分地区的酒精销售额都因禁酒令而下滑，但这对哈莱姆区却没有产生太多影响。上面的这幅地图绘制于 1932 年，展示了棉花俱乐部和塞瓦依舞厅等纽约爵士乐娱乐场所丰富多彩的夜生活。地图中描绘了许多著名音乐家和貌似外来居民的卡通形象，还为社交聚会常客准备了一些实用建议。

“这张地图简直太棒了，涵盖了大量信息。” Melissa Barton 这样说道，Barton 是耶鲁大学贝内克图书馆的美国文学集之

戏剧和散文管理员。这张地图“告知”读者，在 Hot-Cha 俱乐部，所有的精彩活动都在凌晨两点之后开始，建议大家详细咨询 Clarence。在棉花俱乐部，Cab Calloway 带领着纽约最受欢迎的一只乐队为观众表演。而在附近的塞瓦依舞厅，Earl Tucker 正在表演非常怪异的“蛇臀”舞，这种先扭动而后停止的舞姿由 Tucker 首创，后来被视为嘻哈文化的一部分（幸运的是，至今仍可以在 YouTube 上找到相关视频）。虽然非法经营的酒吧没有在地图

上没有标注出来。“反正这类酒吧有近 500 个，找到一个并不是什么难事。”但是，地图上却打出了这样的标注来消除读者的疑虑。图中右下角的罗盘上“徘徊”着各种醉酒的人，似乎在暗示此言不虛。

地图上几乎涵盖了人们所需的一切信息，甚至在警察局内也是如此。人们以各种方式相互打听“中奖号码是多少”——其实大家谈论的是不法分子经营的一种非法彩票。这种彩票与现今的“选 3”有些类似，Barton 这样说道。玩家选出 3 个数字，中奖号码由当天道琼斯工业平均指数的收市行情决定，或者是与股市相关的其它数字（在计算机出现之前是一种很好的生成随机数字的方法）。

E. Simms Campbell 绘制了这幅地图，他在《Esquire》杂志（时尚类杂志）工作了 25 年，其作品经常在多家出版物上同时发表。“他被认为是首个取得商业成功的非裔美国插画家。” Barton 这样说道。这幅图是 Campbell 为一家名为《曼哈顿：不眠纽约人周刊》的短命杂志创作的，两年之后他便开启了《Esquire》杂志的职业生涯。

Barton 表示，《曼哈顿：不眠纽约人周刊》的读者群与《Esquire》相似，都是“中年曼哈顿人，主要是中产阶级白人。”读者们可能会认为自己是 Campbell 笑话中的主要人物，同时也是这些笑话的攻击目标。而 Campbell 则可能觉得他们充满好奇心的同时又有些愚蠢无知。

此外也对那些穿着皮衣、匆忙前往哈莱姆区俱乐部享受夜生活的市民进行了调侃。” Barton 说道。

Cab Calloway 在棉花俱乐部接受粉丝的“朝拜”，而在附近的塞瓦依舞厅，人们则在尽情的跳着林迪舞。

Campbell 的地图似乎还影射了一些更黑暗的话题。在这张地图绘制的年代，哈莱姆区受到大萧条的重创，Barton 表示，“到了 1932 年，多达 50% 的非裔美国人处于失业状态。”

在这张地图上，一位拄着拐杖的失明男子在莱诺克斯大道上卖报。在地图的上部，一辆装满货物的货车正在行驶，里面或许装的就是一个家庭在失去房屋后的全部家当。

去年，贝内克图书馆获得了这张地图的一份副本，目前正在 Barton 策划的哈莱姆文艺复兴展览中公开展出。通常来讲，很多学者将哈莱姆文艺复兴视为一次文学运动，通过这次运动才让非裔美国作家和视觉艺术家的作品获得了主流社会的认可，但实际上，哈莱姆的爵士乐俱乐部对这项运动的发展起到了很大的促进作用，它们让更多的美国人对非裔美国文化产生了兴趣，令非裔美国文化看起来更富有魅力。

除此以外，Barton 还表示，这些作家和艺术家之所以会来到哈莱姆区，就是因为受到丰富多彩的夜生活的吸引。“那段时期，哈莱姆如此受欢迎的一个很重要原因就是因其夜生活丰富多彩，吸引力十足。”

看看 Campbell 的这张卡通地图，相信你自然会明白。

音乐爱好者的音乐之城西雅图游览指南

“翡翠之城”西雅图因其风光旖旎的美景、众多浪漫咖啡厅以及现代高科技而闻名遐迩。然而，除此之外，西雅图还是一座著名的音乐之城，在城中的许多地方都会找到音乐的元素。如果你是一位音乐爱好者，那一定不要错过对西雅图的音乐探索。在夜晚，西雅图的很多街区都可以找到活力四射的酒吧，可以感受充满激情的爵士、摇滚、重金属等多种音乐的现场表演。从 5 月份开始，西雅图开始举办各种音乐狂欢盛会。快到西雅图一起和音乐狂欢吧，带给你的惊喜一定超乎想象！

伴随着一首吉米·亨德里克斯（Jimi Hendrix）的代表之作《轴：像爱一样勇敢》（Axis: Bold As Love, 1969），西雅图的音乐之旅就此开启。这位被公认为摇滚音乐史上最伟大的电吉他演奏家和歌手，就出生于西雅图。另一位摇滚界的巨星——涅槃乐队（Nirvana）的主唱科特·柯本（Kurt Cobain）也同样是西雅图之子。吉米·亨德里克斯以及涅槃乐队的音乐曾在上个世纪风靡全球，至今仍有无数的歌迷推崇他们的音乐。他们的人生充满着无限的传奇，如果你想探索他们的传奇人生，那么一定不要错过位于太空针塔脚下的流行文化博物馆（MoPOP）。这里最著名的就是用近 700 支吉他制成的吉他雕塑，其中就有亨德里克斯和柯本使用过的吉他。

在这座博物馆的一层是“Wild Blue Angel: Hendrix Abroad, 1966-1970”展览，展出了关于亨德里克斯音乐生涯中鼎盛时期的故事。涅槃乐队的展览“Nirvana: Taking Punk To The Masses”则展示了他们的乐器、原创音乐手稿、相册、以及关于涅槃乐队的一切。在这里还可以看到西雅图摇滚音乐的历史，热爱摇滚的你一定不要错过。

地址：325 Fifth Ave N;
网址：www.mopop.org
如果你近期就有去西雅图的计划，那幸运的是可以赶上即将在 5 月 11 日-13 日举办的 Upstream 音乐节，将有全球著名音乐人，包括洛杉矶当代 beat 之王 Flying Lotus，伦敦的电子二人组 AlunaGeorge



，以及 200 位太平洋西海岸新兴的音乐人齐聚先锋广场。今年是第二年举办，Upstream 音乐节上会充满了“高科技、设计元素、新兴音乐”等各种炫酷元素。

地址：Pioneer Square CenturyLink North Plaza
网址：www.upstreammusicfest.com

对于曾在 1962 年举办过世博会的西雅图中心（Seattle Center），更是音乐迷们不可错过之处，著名摇滚巨星猫王 Elvis 曾在此拍摄了音乐电影《猎艳情歌》（It Happened at the World's Fair）。在影片中，猫王从这里搭乘单轨电车从市中心到达太空针塔下的镜头已成为电影史上的经典。快跟随猫王的脚步重游于此吧。

在天气更加暖和的时候，8 月份的每个周五下午，这里将会上演夏季音乐节系列——Mural 音乐会，所有的游客都是免费参与。音乐、美食、啤酒、世界级乐队与你共同相聚在太空针塔脚下，一起狂欢吧！

如果你觉得 Mural 音乐会还不够刺激，那么有更加大型的狂欢盛会等着你的到访。9 月 1-3 日在西雅图中心举办的 Bumbershoot 是西雅图一年一度最大且最文艺的狂欢盛会，每年都有成千上万粉丝从全球各地赶来参加，今年已是第 47 年举办。除了现场音乐以外，还有戏剧表演、电影、视觉艺术等多种类型活动。

地址：305 Harrison St
网址：http://www.seattlecenter.com/concertsatthemural/http://bumbershoot.com/ 这就是西雅图，无论何时何处，带给你的除了浪漫、文艺、高科技，还有音乐与摇滚！让我们一起去西雅图 Rock 'N' Roll！

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透纳致信州政府盼动用应急基金 避免地税提高

（记者黄相慈／休士顿报导）为加速重建工作进行及减轻财政负担，休士顿市长透纳(Sylvester Turner)已向德州州长艾伯特(Greg Abbott)要求使用州政府的「应急」基金(rainy day fund)来支付哈维飓风造成的损失和遗留下来的重建工作。

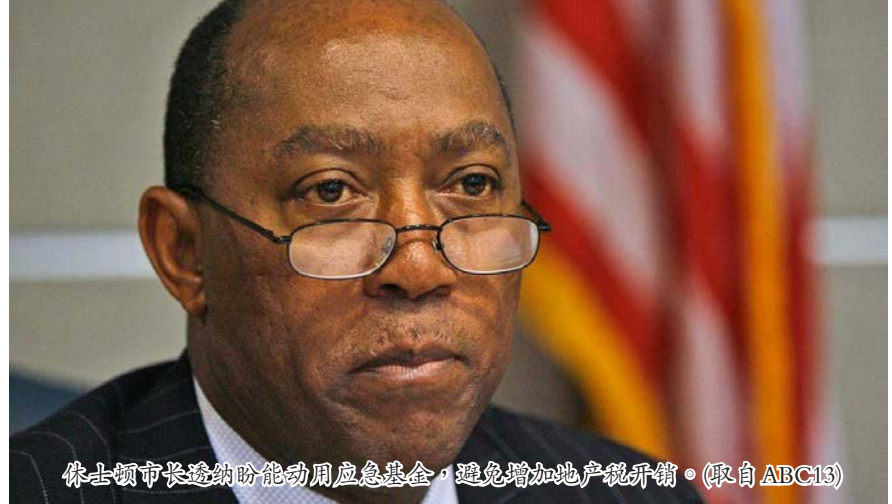
这项请求，在周一经由官方正式的信件发出，目的试图避免城市临时提高12个月的地产税。

在官方信件中，透纳概述了休士顿部分预计用来处理哈维飓风造成损失的费用。这些经费包括2500万清除工作、1000万用于洪水保险政策，用以负担1亿元日后洪水灾害发生及1500万的保险来扣除市政损失支出。

透纳说，目前市政府已集结2000万的储备金，「若没有获得州政府的支援，休士顿或许会被迫提高地产生税，才能来满足这些费用支出」。

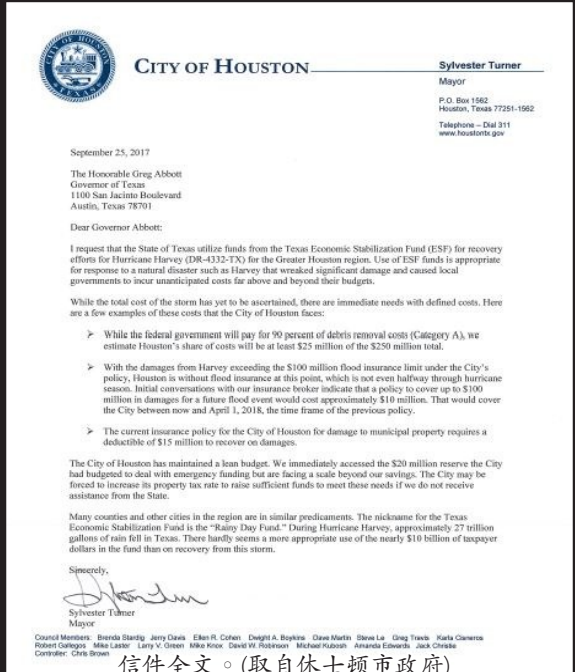
透纳向市议会提案，每户住宅平均每月税收为4.3元，这项提议高于现有的税收，受到市民的反弹和冲击。

根据该信件指出，德州经济稳定基金(Texas Economic Stabilization Fund)或「紧急基金」包含超过100亿元的纳税人开销。



休士顿市长透纳盼能动用应急基金，避免增加地产生税开销。(取自ABC13)

有兴趣阅读全文的可参考休士顿市政府网站文章连结 <http://hous-tontx.gov/govtrelations/rainy-day-letter.pdf>。



信件全文。(取自休士顿市政府)

休斯顿周末 啖海鲜赏纹身看车展乐趣多

（记者高思/休斯顿报道）这周末休斯顿将会有所降温，何不趁著凉爽的天气出门活动。本周活动看点：岛上虾节、德州纹身艺术博览会、休斯顿德国啤酒节、艺术车展等。大家周末愉快。

1. 盖文斯顿鲜虾节 (Galveston Island Shrimp Festival)

这周末连续两天将在 Galveston 举办第8届年度岛上虾节，届时各方海鲜饕客将共聚于此，除了美味可口的鲜虾、香味馥郁的海鲜浓汤、热情动感的现场音乐外，周六早上九点还有5K马拉松及极具特色的 Lil's

Shrimps 游行。

时间：9月29日（星期五）7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

9月30日（星期六）12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

地址：Galveston Island, Galveston, TX 77554

门票：\$10

官网：<http://www.galvestonislandshrimpfestival.com/>

2. 德州纹身艺术博览会 (Texas Ink & Art Expo)

喜爱纹身文化的朋友们不要错过这周末将在 Galveston 举办的德州纹

身艺术博览会。届时除了可以看到很多富有创意的纹身图案，获取灵感，还可现场纹身，观看纹身比赛。

时间：9月29日（星期五）12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

9月30日（星期六）10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

10月1日（星期天）10:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.

地址：5600 Seawall Blvd, Houston, TX 77554

门票：\$20/一天；\$35/三天

3. 《神奇女侠》露天电影 (Wonder Woman Movie Screening)

Memorial City Mall 看一场免费露天电影，共享美好亲子时光。除此之外，附近的 Memorial City Center 也是吃饭、逛街、散步的绝佳地方。

时间：9月29日（星期五）8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

地址：303 Memorial City Way, Houston, TX 77024

门票：免费

4. 休斯顿德国啤酒节 (Houston Oktoberfest)

每年十月可谓是德国啤酒节的天下，各地相关活动如火如荼地开展起来。这周末在休斯顿市中心 The Water Works 将举办德国啤酒节，届时手工啤酒、波尔卡音乐、德式经典烤肠及众多有趣游戏和比赛将悉数呈现，等你来玩！

时间：9月30日（星期六）11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

地址：The Water Works, 105 Sabine Street, Houston, TX 77007

门票：\$25

5. 涂鸦艺术骑行 (BCO Graffiti Art & Bike Ride)

周五的晚上，不如和家人一起来想要探索休斯顿街头涂鸦风情的朋友们这周就请来加入休斯顿BCO组织的骑行部队吧！参与者将统一在国家历史地 (Market Square Park) 的 Niko Niko's 前集合，现场可以租车，参加者需提前上网注册哦。

时间：10月1日（星期天）1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

地址：301 Milam St, Houston, TX 77002

门票：免费

官网：<http://www.bayoucity-outdoors.com>

6. 艺术车展 (16th Annual Village Art Car Show)

这周末将在 Traders Village 举办第16届年度艺术车展，届时你将有机会看到超过75辆各式各样的艺术车。它们有的车身布满彩色涂鸦，有的则直接被改装成特定形状。还等什么，带上你的相机出发吧。

时间：10月1日（星期天）12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

地址：7979 N Eldridge Pkwy, Houston, TX 77041

门票：免费

停车：\$4



盖文斯顿鲜虾节。(取自网路)



艺术车展。(取自网路)

休城讀圖

天津民族乐团 < 风雅国乐 > 民族音乐会休市两场演出记盛



赵存才先生精湛的唢呐功力，加上长笛合奏的「百鸟朝凤」，成为整晚节目的亮点。



天津民族乐团次日在 Safari Texas Ranch 农场再演一场。



罗立妮演唱《梨园风雅》由京胡伴奏。



琵琶、古筝、箫三重奏「春江花月夜」。

秦鴻鈞攝
本報記者



主持人崔菁华率领观众合唱「月亮代表我的心」。



「僑灣社」社长蒲浩德（右二）与福遍县共和党主席（左二）等政要在大会上合影。



「百鸟朝凤」弦乐的精彩片段。