

As Waters Took Mother, a Child Held on to Life

Amid Harrowing Tales, One Rescue Haunts

By SIMON ROMERO and JULIE BOSMAN

HOUSTON — Shivering from hypothermia, little Jordyn Grace was clutching her mother's unresponsive body as the floodwaters rose around her. A rescue team in a Zodiac boat, on the lookout for those in distress in Beaumont, Tex., spotted the small pink backpack the girl was wearing and pulled her and her mother aboard.

"Mama was saying her prayers," the 3-year-old, recovering on Wednesday in a Beaumont hospital, told a relative, Antionette Logan, 38.

"Jordyn told me they were in the yucky water for quite a while," Ms. Logan said. "It's a tragedy that her mama died, but it's a miracle that Jordyn survived."

With the death toll from Hurricane Harvey climbing to 38, those who survived the storm are just now learning the names of those who did not and the terrible ways in which they died. Some episodes are particularly haunting, like the tale of Jordyn and her mother Colette Sulcer, 41, a nurse who died on Tuesday in the flooding in Beaumont, about 100 miles from waterlogged Houston, as her daughter clung to her body.

Most of the victims identified so far also drowned: Agnes Stanley, 89, who was found floating in four feet of water inside her Houston home, where she lived alone; Alexander Sung, 64, a clockmaker in South Houston, who died in his beloved store after trying to rescue merchandise; Joshua Feuerstein, 33, who the police said drove around a barricade, a fatal mistake. Sgt. Steve Perez, 60, a veteran police officer in Houston, drove into a flooded underpass on his way to the station.

Then there were the deaths of Manuel Saldivar, 84, and Belia Saldivar, 81, and their four great-grandchildren: Daisy, 6; Xavier, 8; Dominic, 14; and Devy, 16, who were found in a partly submerged van in Greens Bayou.

The couple's son, Sammy Saldivar, was driving the van and managed to escape through a window, watching helplessly as it disappeared.

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A LIMITLESS CITY, NOW ENVISIONING NEW LIMITATIONS

PROGRESS, WITH A PRICE

A History of Sprawl in Houston Is at Odds With Nature

By MANNY FERNANDEZ and RICHARD FAUSSET

HOUSTON — Not long after a pair of New York real estate speculators founded this city on the banks of a torpid bayou in the 1830s, every home and every business flooded. Though settlers tried draining their humid, swampy, sweltering surroundings, the inundations came again and again, with 16 major floods in the city's first century.

And yet somehow, improbably, Houston not only survived but prospered — and it sprawled omnivorously, becoming the nation's fourth-largest city and perhaps its purest model of untrammeled growth.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the disaster played out in an eccentric anachronism, a city of modest economic heft proudly tethered to its exotic past. But Harvey has inundated a city perpetually looking to the future, a place built on boundless entrepreneurialism, the glories of air conditioning, a fierce aversion to regulation and a sense of limitless possibility.

The result has been a uniquely American success story, the capital of the world's petroleum industry, and the place that sent a man to the moon, built the world's biggest medical center and became a model of dizzying multiculturalism, with 145 languages spoken.

But Harvey's staggering flooding is raising very un-Houstonian questions about whether there are, in fact, limits to the Houston model of perpetual growth, and whether humans can push nature only so far before nature pushes back with catastrophic force.

Though its breakneck development culture and lax regulatory environment have been lauded for giving working people affordable housing — and thus a shot at the American dream — many experts

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Storm Churns East, Soaking Gulf Region With a Wider Band of Ruinous Flooding



TAMIR KALIFA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The sun came out in Houston on Tuesday, a welcome sight to Texans at the convention center.



ALYSSA SCHUKAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Wednesday at the convention center, Houston residents waited to speak with FEMA officials.



MICHAEL CIAGLO/HOUSTON CHRONICLE, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

A crowd of hopeful volunteers lined up on Wednesday outside the NRG Center in Houston.

Unrelenting Rain Spreads Past Houston

This article is by Campbell Robertson, Rick Rojas and Shaila Dewan.

NEWTON, Tex. — For the streets of Newton, a small town on the Texas side of the Louisiana state line, to become impassable, "the flood would have to be biblical," Kristen Rogers was told when she peeked into the sheriff's office looking for guidance.

"That's what they said about Houston," replied Ms. Rogers, who was looking for a dry way out of rural Texas on her way to Florida.

Houston, the urban behemoth that has so far been the focal point in the unfolding drama of Hurricane Harvey, began gingerly to assess the devastation. But the storm marched on to conquer a vast new swath speckled with small towns that are home to millions of people who were shocked anew by Harvey's tenaciously destructive power. Officials faced a population in dire need, but far more difficult to reach.

Flooding and rain, topping 47 inches in some areas, pounded 50 counties in southeast and lower central Texas with a combined population of roughly 11 million people. The area includes more than 300 towns and smaller cities that felt the storm's punishing force, even as Harvey was downgraded to a tropical depression on Wednesday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency began to send out heavy-lift military helicopters carrying tons of food and drinking water, delivering it to people who could not evacuate.

Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas said officials were "immediately deploying far more" members of the National Guard to southeast Texas, increasing the total Guard deployment to 24,000, including 10,000 troops from other states.

In contrast to Houston, where the weather began to clear and a few children even returned to playgrounds, many people in these remote areas are still in desperate need of rescue. "There are a lot of places that are not accessible by car or truck or boat, and we need to get to the survivors to get them critical aid," said Deanna Fraser, a FEMA spokeswoman.

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Death of Diana Transformed Monarchy, and Britain Itself

By SARAH LYALL

After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, 20 years ago, London felt like a city on the verge of a revolution. Suddenly everything was up for grabs, even the monarchy itself. For a few crazy weeks, this most enduring of institutions looked as if it might actually implode under the weight of so much emotion.

For anyone there at the time, it was as electrifying as it was bewildering. The mood was febrile, angry, reckless. Flowers were piled knee-deep at the gates of the royal palaces; grown men wept openly in the streets; mild-mannered citizens inveighed against the usually blameless queen for what they believed was an inadequate response to a national crisis. Cen-

turies of stiff-upper-lipped repression boiled over in a great howl of collective anguish.

Eventually the public regained its grip, and the monarchy — chastened and battered, but a monarchy nonetheless — endured. But as Britain on Thursday marks the 20th anniversary of Diana's death with commemorations, documentaries and books, a central, if unlikely, piece of her legacy is how she reshaped the monarchy that rejected her, and how she reshaped Britain, too.

Diana in life was a loose cannon, an unpredictable wild card; in death, she had a galvanizing effect. Britain is already very different from what it was in Diana's

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Google-Funded Think Tank Ousts Its Own Google Critic

By KENNETH P. VOGEL

WASHINGTON — In the hours after European antitrust regulators levied a record \$2.7 billion fine against Google in late June, an influential Washington think tank learned what can happen when a wealthy tech giant is criticized.

The New America Foundation has received more than \$21 million from Google; its parent company's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt; and his family's foundation since the think tank's founding in 1999. That money helped establish New America as an elite voice in policy debates on the American left and helped Google shape those debates.

But not long after one of New America's scholars posted a state-

ment on the think tank's website praising the European Union's penalty against Google, Mr. Schmidt, who had been chairman of New America until 2016, communicated his displeasure with the statement to the group's president, Anne-Marie Slaughter, according to the scholar.

The statement disappeared from New America's website, only to be reposted without explanation a few hours later. But word of Mr. Schmidt's displeasure rippled through New America, which employs more than 200 people, including dozens of researchers, writers and scholars, most of whom work in sleek Washington offices where the main conference

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Trump Plan to Lift Workers' Pay: Slash the Tax Rate for Businesses

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS and BINYAMIN APPELBAUM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — President Trump on Wednesday pitched a sweeping tax overhaul that he said would unleash the American economy and help ordinary people, promising that a large corporate tax cut and trims to individual income tax rates would boost the middle class.

The president wrapped his message in the populist rhetoric that powered his presidential campaign. But he described a plan that on its surface appears to offer relatively little to ordinary Americans, granting instead huge tax cuts — "the biggest ever," he said — to corporations and their shareholders.

Mr. Trump gave few specifics beyond a goal of slashing the cor-

porate tax rate to 15 percent, from 35 percent, and eliminating "loopholes and complexity that primarily benefit the wealthiest Americans and special interests," a reference to his call to scrap some itemized deductions.

The politically difficult legislation has yet to be drafted despite months of private negotiations among members of the Trump administration and Republicans on Capitol Hill. Time is running out for enactment of the bill before year's end, and the White House is keenly aware that if Mr. Trump fails to deliver his promised tax cuts, he will emerge from his first year in office devoid of any major legislative accomplishments.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Trump Cools on North Korea

The president seemed to reverse course on negotiating with the reclusive country's dictator, saying on Twitter, "Talking is not the answer!"

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NATIONAL A12-17

A Lift for Sanctuary Cities

A federal judge temporarily halted a Texas law that blocks cities from adopting policies to limit immigration enforcement.

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SPORTS THURSDAY B9-14

Football Analyst Resigns

Ed Cunningham, who called games for ESPN and ABC, said: "I just don't think the game is safe for the brain. To me, it's unacceptable."

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THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Art Lovers at the Table

Unclebrother, in the Catskills town of Hancock, N.Y., is part community kitchen, part social experiment and part art gallery.

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EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Nicholas Kristof

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EVERYONE IS FEELING THE HEAT OF THE YEAR'S SEXIEST THRILLER

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BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL AND THE WHITE QUEEN

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