



Hurricane Irma raked San Juan, P.R., on Wednesday as it cut a brutal path across the Caribbean, with South Florida in its track.

Vicious Storm, Roaring West, Hits Caribbean

This article is by Frances Robles, Kirk Semple and Richard Pérez-Peña.

SAN JUAN, P.R. — Hurricane Irma struck the northeast Caribbean with terrifying force Wednesday, its battering rain and winds of up to 185 miles per hour leaving a trail of chaos, wreckage and flooding from Barbuda to Puerto Rico, before taking aim at islands farther west and, beyond them, Florida.

Already one of the most powerful storms ever recorded, Irma could become one of the most destructive as well, depending on its path, and officials from Turks and Caicos to Florida pleaded with people to heed advisories to evacuate to shelters and higher ground. The National Hurricane Center described the hurricane as "potentially catastrophic."

The storm made direct hits on Barbuda, St. Barthélemy, St. Martin, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, and raked the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with hurricane-force wind and torrential rain. Gaston Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, said Irma had destroyed 90 percent of the structures on Barbuda, an island with about 1,600 people.

The authorities confirmed that the hurricane had killed at least one person in Antigua and Barbuda; one on Anguilla, a British possession; and two in French territory, which includes St.

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BATTLE-TESTED Hurricane Andrew in 1992 transformed how Miami deals with storms. PAGE A14

ILL PREPARED As Irma rages, Puerto Rico's crippled finances leave it in a tight spot. PAGE B4

Funeral of 2 Friends: Secret War's Toll on C.I.A.

By ADAM GOLDMAN and MATTHEW ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON — On a sweltering day this summer, operatives with the Central Intelligence Agency gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to bury two of their own. Brian Ray Hoke and Nathaniel Patrick Delemarre, elite gunslingers who worked for the C.I.A.'s paramilitary force, were laid to rest after a firefight with Islamic State militants near Jalalabad in Afghanistan, close to the border with Pakistan.

There had been scant mention of Mr. Hoke's death in local news reports in Leesburg, Va., his home, and nothing at all about Mr. Delemarre in news accounts in the Florida Panhandle, where his family lives. Their deaths this past October were never acknowl-

Agency Has Paid Heavy Price in Afghanistan Since Sept. 11

edged by the C.I.A., beyond two memorial stars chiseled in a marble wall at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Va.

Today there are at least 18 stars on that wall representing the number of C.I.A. personnel killed in Afghanistan — a tally that has not been previously reported, and one that rivals the number of C.I.A. operatives killed in the wars in Vietnam and Laos nearly a half century ago.

The deaths are a reflection of the heavy price the agency has paid in a secret, nearly 16-year-old

war, where thousands of C.I.A. operatives have served since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The deaths of Mr. Hoke, 42, and Mr. Delemarre, 47, show how the C.I.A. continues to move from traditional espionage to the front lines, and underscore the pressure the agency faces now that President Trump has pledged to keep the United States in Afghanistan with no end in sight.

"We are going to be fighting this war for a very long time," said Ken Stiles, a former C.I.A. counterterrorism analyst who worked closely with paramilitary officers in Afghanistan and who lost three friends in the war.

Mr. Hoke grew up in Park River, S.D., played violin and football in high school, graduated from the United States Naval Academy

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ILVY NJIOKIETJEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Investing in Pedal Power

Bikes of all sizes pack the world's largest parking garage for them in the Dutch city of Utrecht, where politicians say spending on cycling infrastructure pays for itself. Utrecht Journal, Page A10.

Sale of a Complex, Needing U.S. Approval, Would Enrich Trump

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

The longtime owners of Starrett City, the sprawling Brooklyn housing complex overlooking Jamaica Bay, are selling the development for more than \$850 million, and among those who stand to benefit is President Trump, a partial owner.

Starrett City is the largest federally subsidized housing develop-

ment in the country, and the sale will require the approval of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and state housing officials, raising potential conflicts of interest for Mr. Trump and his family. Mr. Trump owns a 4 percent stake in the complex, according to his federal financial disclosure forms; other members of the Trump family also own stakes in the partnership. The buyer is a joint venture of

the Brooksville Company, a recently formed residential real estate firm, and Rockpoint Group, a private equity firm that invests in real estate. The pending deal, which is expected to close early next year, was announced to tenants, employees and elected officials on Wednesday.

Representatives Hakeem Jeffries, whose district includes Starrett City, and Elijah E. Cummings, a member of the House Commit-

tee on Oversight and Government Reform, highlighted the potential conflict of interest in July when rumors circulated in New York that Starrett City would be refinanced.

"The president is on both sides of the negotiation — he oversees the government entity providing taxpayer funds and he pockets some of that money himself," they wrote in a July 7 letter to the Don-

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Trump Bypasses G.O.P. To Strike a Deal on Debt

Agreement Includes Aid for Storm Victims but Sets Up a Year-End Showdown

This article is by Peter Baker, Thomas Kaplan and Michael D. Shear.

WASHINGTON — President Trump struck a deal with Democratic congressional leaders on Wednesday to increase the debt limit and finance the government until mid-December, blindsiding his own Republican allies as he reached across the aisle to resolve a major dispute for the first time since taking office.

The agreement would avert a fiscal showdown later this month without the bloody, partisan battle that many had anticipated by combining a debt ceiling increase and stopgap spending measure with relief aid to Texas and other areas devastated by Hurricane Harvey. But without addressing the fundamental underlying issues, it set up the prospect for an even bigger clash at the end of the year.

In embracing the three-month deal, Mr. Trump accepted a Democratic proposal that had been rejected earlier in the day by Speaker Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin. Mr. Trump's snap decision at a White House meeting caught Republican leaders off guard and reflected friction between the president and his party. After weeks of criticizing Republican leaders for failing to pass legislation, Mr. Trump signaled that he was willing to cross party lines to score some legislative victories.

The deal to keep the government open and paying its debts

until Dec. 15 represented an extraordinary turn for the president, who has for much of his term set himself up on the right flank of the Republican Party. But it remained unclear whether Mr. Trump's collaboration with Democrats foreshadowed a more sustained shift in strategy by a president who has presented himself as a master deal maker or amounted to just a one-time instinctual reaction of a mercurial leader momentarily eager to poke his estranged allies.

Mr. Trump not only accepted the spending-and-debt plan advanced by Senator Chuck Schumer of New York and Representative Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic leaders, but also aligned himself with them on immigration. A day after rescinding President Barack Obama's program protecting younger illegal immigrants on the grounds that it

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TOM BRENNER/THE NEW YORK TIMES
Senator Chuck Schumer of New York and Representative Nancy Pelosi of California.

States Sue to Save 'Dreamers,' Claiming Bias Drove Decision

By ALEXANDER BURNS and VIVIAN YEE

President Trump's immigration policies faced a renewed legal onslaught on Wednesday, as a coalition of Democratic attorneys general, nonprofit groups and private companies announced they would oppose his rollback of Obama-era protections for people who entered the country illegally as children.

In an echo of the campaign against Mr. Trump's effort this year to ban travelers from parts of the Muslim world, a group of 16 attorneys general — representing 15 states and the District of Columbia — filed suit in Federal District Court in Brooklyn, claiming that Mr. Trump had improperly upended the policy known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA.

Led by Attorneys General Eric

T. Schneiderman of New York, Maura Healey of Massachusetts and Bob Ferguson of Washington, they alleged Mr. Trump's shift was driven by racial animus toward Mexican-Americans and that the Trump administration failed to follow federal rules governing executive policy making.

On Tuesday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Trump administration would phase out DACA beginning next March. The decision came as a group of Republican attorneys general threatened to sue the administration if it did not end the program.

Announcing the legal challenge Wednesday alongside a crowd of young immigrants and immigration advocates, Mr. Schneiderman

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Fake Russian Facebook Accounts Planted \$100,000 in Political Ads

By SCOTT SHANE and VINDU GOEL

Providing new evidence of Russian interference in the 2016 election, Facebook disclosed on Wednesday that it had identified more than \$100,000 worth of divisive ads on hot-button issues purchased by a shadowy Russian company linked to the Kremlin.

Most of the 3,000 ads did not refer to particular candidates but instead focused on divisive social issues such as race, gay rights, gun control and immigration, according to a post on Facebook by Alex Stamos, the company's chief security officer. The ads, which ran between June 2015 and May 2017, were linked to some 470 fake accounts and pages the company said it had shut down.

Facebook officials said the fake accounts were created by a Rus-

sian company called the Internet Research Agency, which is known for using "troll" accounts to post on social media and comment on news websites.

The disclosure adds to the evidence of the broad scope of the Russian influence campaign, which American intelligence agencies concluded was designed to damage Hillary Clinton and boost Donald J. Trump during the election. Multiple investigations of the Russian meddling, and the possibility that the Trump campaign somehow colluded with Russia, have cast a shadow over the first eight months of Mr. Trump's presidency.

Facebook staff members on Wednesday briefed the Senate

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Silenced by Bullets in India

Friends of Gauri Lankesh, an outspoken journalist, said she had gotten countless threats but laughed them off. PAGE A4

Targeting North Korea at U.N.

The United States is seeking consent from the United Nations to interdict North Korean ships at sea. PAGE A7

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Friendship or Corruption

In opening statements in the trial of Senator Robert Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, prosecution and defense differed over his motivation. PAGE A20

Charges Dropped in the Bronx

Prosecutors say they found inconsistent evidence in a case against a teenager who says he was framed. PAGE A20

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Breaking Ranks on Districting

Some top Republicans, opposing party leaders, asked the Supreme Court to rule gerrymandering illegal. PAGE A18

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What It's Like to Be a Model

"Every day that you're working as a model, you're objectified somehow." Twelve models talk about racism, body shaming and other issues. PAGE D1

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No Dream Showdown at Open

Juan Martín del Potro of Argentina will face Rafael Nadal in the semifinals after toppling Roger Federer. PAGE B9

Increasingly Potent Weapon

In the W.N.B.A., as in the N.B.A., the 3-point shot has become a more important part of teams' arsenals. PAGE B9



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Attacked by Rotten Tomatoes

Hollywood says the website and its Tomatometer scores hurt sales. Its staff, above, says it helps filmgoers. PAGE B1

Liberal, With a Big Exception

A study found that the tech elite are well left on most issues, but not on regulation. State of the Art. PAGE B1

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Latin Pop Is Looking Up

Artists and executives say the hit song "Despacito" and the world of streaming have broken down barriers. PAGE C1

Playhouse for the Instagram Set

An annual pop-up space for interactive installations attracts the likes of Emma Roberts and Jake Gyllenhaal. PAGE C1

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Gail Collins

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