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Gasoline prices on the rise in Houston



Inside C2

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Hurricane Michael heads toward Florida Panhandle, 13 deaths in its wake

(Reuters) - Florida's governor mobilized National Guard troops and ordered Gulf Coast residents to head inland or evacuate as Hurricane Michael churned toward shore on Monday, with the storm forecast to strengthen rapidly before making landfall on Wednesday.

Michael was expected to strengthen to a major Category 3 storm by Tuesday with winds over 100 miles per hour (160 km per hour), making it one of the most powerful storms to hit the Panhandle of Florida in decades, state officials said.

The storm was expected to bring up to 12 inches (30 cm) of rain with storm surges up to 12 feet (3.7 meters), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC). Michael was currently a Category 1 hurricane, at the bottom of the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale.

Hurricane Michael dumps heavy rainfall on western Cuba: NHC

Michael likely to strengthen into major hurricane Tuesday: NHC

Gulf of Mexico offshore platforms evacuated ahead of hurricane

Florida Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency in 26 counties along the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend. Locally ordered evacuations of thousands of homes have begun, with 1,250 National Guard soldiers aiding the process and over 4,000 troops on standby, Scott tweeted. "The FL panhandle needs to be prepared for a direct hit with sustained hurricane force winds," Scott wrote on Twitter on Monday. "Hurricane Michael is forecast to be a Category 3 storm when it makes landfall and the impact could be devastating. Get prepared NOW."

The NHC said in a tweet that a "life-threatening" storm

surge and flash flooding is likely in areas of the Florida Panhandle and described the storm as "dangerous".

KILLS 13 IN CENTRAL AMERICA

As the storm moved north it battered Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and western Cuba with drenching rains and winds of up to 80 mph (130 kph), forecasters said. Heavy rains at the weekend caused 13 deaths in Central America after Michael formed off the coast of northern Honduras. In Florida, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who is also the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in the Nov. 6 election, canceled campaign events and returned to Tallahassee, the state capital, to focus on storm preparations.

Florida State University said its campuses in Tallahassee and Panama



City would be closed from Tuesday through

A satellite image of Tropical Storm Michael taken Monday. NOAA/via REUTERS Mandatory evacuation orders were issued on Monday for residents in Florida's Gulf and Bay counties, according to a statement from emergency officials.

Jeff Hanson, the owner of Paisley Cafe in Tallahassee, said he was waiting until Wednesday morning to decide whether he would close the restaurant.

"It depends on what the city says in terms of the people getting around. That's our biggest concern, if our staff is safe," Hanson said by telephone. OIL PRODUCTION

After hitting Florida, the storm is forecast to move northeast on Wednesday and Thursday along the Atlantic Coast and batter the Carolinas, which are still recovering from Hurricane Florence last month.

Local gun groups flex muscle in state politics, sidestepping the NRA

(Reuters) - When Missouri Senate Bill 656 was introduced in 2016, it was relatively modlegislation that proposed capping the amount county sheriffs could charge for a concealed handgun per-

By the time it passed, with both houses of the state legislature overturning the governor's veto, it had become one of the most expansive gun-rights laws in the country.

The gun lobby fought hard to pass the bill. The group some lawmakers credited with providing crucial momentum was not so much the National Rifle Association, the powerful national lobbying organization, but rather the Missouri Firearms Coalition, an aggressive grassroots operation founded in 2015. With major gun-rights legislation stalled in Washington, much of the action has shifted to the states, where self-described "no compromise" groups such as the Missouri Firearms Coalition have mobilized activists in favor of pro-gun laws, according to Reuters interviews with gun-rights groups in more than a dozen states, lawmakers and NRA supporters. These groups have become increasingly active in promoting a pro-gun agenda in many states, unafraid of alienating lawmakers who waver on gun rights. In

many cases, they say they would rather lose a legislative fight on principle than compromise and support a watered-down bill.

At times, this can put local groups at odds with the NRA, which some see as too willing to give ground on the most aggressive pro-gun laws in state legislatures, said Greg Pruett, president of the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, which formed in 2012.

"It's always kind of interesting when you see a lot of people in the gun control community talk about how radical the NRA is," said Pruett, whose group organized an email and telephone campaign to pass a 2016 Idaho law allowing people to carry concealed handguns without a permit, also known as "constitutional carry."

"There's an entire movement on the other side of the NRA ... We're done compromising," he said. Missouri Firearms Coalition political advisor Aaron Dorr says the NRA fought against constitutional carry for years, considering it too much of a longshot, and only came on board once passage was certain. The Missouri law not only authorized constitutional carry, it made Missouri a "stand your ground" state, extending the right to lethal self-defense outside the home, even when retreating is an option.



Members of Open Carry Texas openly carry firearms in Houston



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- 爲全德州人民爭取平等和公正的環境
- 我們需要具有多元性視角的法官們來維持法律的廉明
- 今年德州最高法院將有三席法官的位置由新人中選出,兩黨角逐,Kathy將競選的 是第六席位(Place 6)
- 在每次選舉時,善用自己的那張選票來表達聲音







LOCAL NEWS

Gasoline prices on the rise in Houston

By Katherine Blunt

Gasoline prices in Houston and across the country rose last week amid a surge in crude oil prices driven by supply concerns as the U.S. prepares to reimpose sanctions on Iran.

The average price of regular unleaded in the Houston area increased 3.5 cents to \$2.60 a gallon, while the national average rose by just over 2 cents to \$2.91 a gallon, according to GasBuddy, which tracks fuel prices nationwide.

In Houston, gasoline costs about 27 cents more than it did at this time last year. Nationally, prices have increased by nearly 44 cents during the same period. Crude oil markets have been on the upswing since late September, when the world's largest producers decided against boosting output to slow the rise in prices. That has added to global supply concerns ahead of November 4, when U.S. sanctions on Iran are set to take effect and further restrict that nation's

The U.S. and international benchmarks each hovered near four-year highs last week, with West Texas Intermediate at one point hitting \$76.90 a barrel and Brent reaching \$86.74 a barrel. Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy, said gas prices could soon top \$3 a gallon for the first time since 2014 if oil prices continue to rise.

"Higher demand and lower supply is tipping the balance of the oil market and pushing prices higher,"he said. "Don't hold your breath -- it may get worse before it gets better."



Gasoline prices in Houston and across the country rose last week amid a surge in crude oil prices.

Littler in Houston adds partner from Cozen O'Connor

Littler, the San Francisco-based employment law firm that represents management clients, added Charles H. Wilson to the firm's Houston office. Wilson came from Cozen O'Connor where he served as managing partner of the Houston office.

Wilson represents companies in cases involving discrimination claims, wage violations and workplace injuries. He also counsels employers on traditional labor law matters, including collective bargaining.

RELATED: As energy recovers, law firms move to get piece of the action

Littler has 79 offices worldwide and 1,500 lawyers, including 32 in Houston.



Texas economy continues to improve, despite tight labor market

The Texas economy continues to expand fell to 3.9 percent, and many employers at a strong pace, despite a tight labor market, according to the latest update from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Employment grew at a solid 2.8 percent rate in the third quarter, double the national job growth of 1.4 percent, the Dallas Fed reported.

Pia Orrenius, senior economist at the Dallas Fed, noted that job growth in Texas slowed from the second quarter, when the state added jobs at a "red-hot" 3.5 percent rate. But she added, "it's still a very high rate -- much higher than the nation."

Orrenius said the slowdown was probably not the result of decreased demand for workers, but rather a tight labor market that is making it difficult for companies to find qualified workers. In August, the Texas unemployment rate

are reporting hiring difficulties, according to the Dallas Fed.

As a result, wages have begun to rise, especially in Houston.

Federal statistics show "record wage growth in Houston and Dallas over the last year -- about three to four times the pace of wage growth for the nation on average," Orrenius said.

The Federal Reserve Bank's survey on business outlooks shows wage and benefits indexes are at record highs. Higher interest rates, however, beginning to weigh on the Texas economy. Texas home prices appear to be slowing as mortgage rates increase, recently reaching an average of 5 percent for a fixed 30-year mortgage in Houston, according to Bankrate, a financial services company that surveys interest rates in local markets.





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Editor's Choice



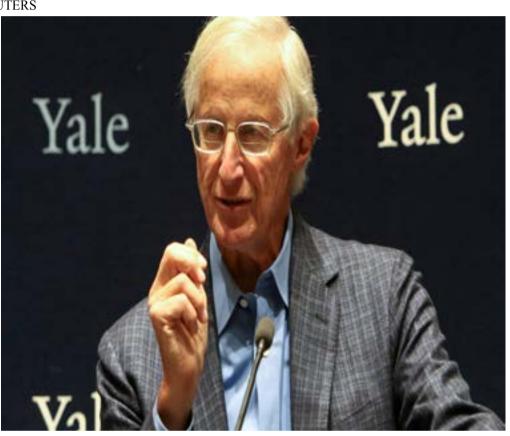
A combination of file photos shows presidential candidates Jair Bolsonaro and Fernando Haddad



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe and French Minister attached to the Interior Minister Jacqueline Gourault pose before diner during the G6 Summit of Interior Ministers of France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Poland, in Lyon, France October 8, 2018. Interior ministers from the G6 European countries gathered for a meeting to discuss international cooperation in migratory issues and fight against terrorism. Jeff Pachoud/Pool via REUTERS



FILE PHOTO: Yellow police tape is displayed at a crime scene after a motorist was shot in the head in Chicago



William D. Nordhaus, a professor at Yale University, speaks during a news conference after winning the 2018 Nobel Economics Prize, at Yale University in New Haven



The logo of Monoprix is seen at the entrance of a Monoprix supermarket in Nice



FILE PHOTO: A combination photo of Stephanie Clifford, also known as Stormy Daniels and U.S. President Donald Trump



Women wave flags during the 74th Annual Columbus Day Parade in Manhattan, New York



Women wave flags during the 74th Annual Columbus Day Parade in Manhattan, New York



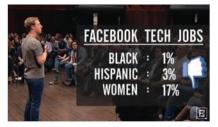
COMMUNITY

(CNSNews.com) - The midterm election is about "safety and jobs," President Trump told a campaign rally in Montana Thursday night. He said the economy is "booming like never before," and on Friday, the unemployment report brought the president more good news: the unemployment rate for African Americans, 6.3 percent, is the second lowest on record (it was 5.9 percent in May); and job-growth remains strong.

For Hispanics, the unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a point from last month's record low of 4.5 percent. And the overall unemployment rate remained at a low 3.9 percent.

The number of jobs added -- 201,000 -exceeded analysts' expectations. (After revisions, job gains have averaged 185,000 for each of the last three months.)

After three straight record-setting months, the number of employed Americans dropped by 423,000 in August, to 155,542,000 from last month's all-time high of 155,965,000. This number has set 11 records since Donald Trump took of-



In August, the nation's civilian noninstitutionalized population, consisting of all people age 16 or older who were not in the military or an institution, reached 258,066,000. Of those, 161,776,000 participated in the labor force by either holding a job or actively seeking one.

The 161,776,000 who participated in the labor force equaled 62.7 percent of the 258,066,000 civilian noninstitutionalized population, slightly below last month's 62.9 percent participation rate.

The participation rate remains stubbornly low as a growing number of people leave the labor force, led by baby-boom retirees.

BLS noted that the percentage of Americans not in the labor force -- meaning they neither have a job nor are looking for one -- increased to a record 96,290,000 in August.

6.3%: African-American Unemployment Rate Second-Lowest Ever

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



Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (3.5 percent), adult women (3.6 percent), teenagers (12.8 percent), Whites (3.4 percent), and Asians (3.0 percent) showed little or no change in August.

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE AMERICAN JOBS, AMERICAN LIVES, AMERICAN FUTURES" DONALD J. TRUMP

And there's positive news on wage growth: In August, average hourly earnings for all employees on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 10 cents to \$27.16. Over the year, average hourly earnings have increased by 77 cents, or 2.9 percent.

Related

Here's where the jobs are in one chart

· The business services sector tied with

the education and health sector for the largest employment gains for the month, with increases of 53,000 jobs

- Changes in retail employment included a loss of 5,900 jobs in August after clothing and clothing accessories stores cut more than 20,000 positions.
- The manufacturing industry was little changed, but nonetheless lost jobs for the first time since July 2017. The sector shed 3,000 positions over the month.

August jobs one-month net change

Professional and business services 53,000

Education and health services 53,000

Construction 23,000 Wholesale trade

22,400 Transportation and warehousing

20,200

Leisure and hospitality 17,000

Other services

Financial activities 11,000 Mining and logging

6,000

Utilities 300

Manufacturing -3.000Government

-3,000

Retail trade -5,900

Information

-6,000

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The business services, education and health services industries led job gains for the month of August, besting laggards like retail and manufacturing, according to the latest government jobs report.

CNBC analyzed the net changes by industry for August based on the data from the Labor Department, which found that the U.S. economy created 201,000 jobs last month, more than the 191,000 estimated increase from economists surveyed by Reuters.

The professional and business services sector tied with the education and health sector for the largest net employment gains for the month, with increases of 53,000 jobs each. The manufacturing industry lost jobs for the first time since July 2017, though the total decline was just 3,000.



The loss comes after the sector added a strong 37,000 jobs last month, nearly matching June's 36,000 print. Motor vehicle and parts manufacturing contributed a decline of nearly 5,000 jobs.

To be sure, manufacturing employment has been on a hot streak in recent months, up 254,000 over the year, according to the Labor Department.

came from hiring in professional and technical services such as accounting, bookkeeping and advertising.

For the business sector, more than half

In the education and health industry, medical providers like physicians, dentists and outpatient care clinics posted healthy numbers, with total ambulatory services adding 21,100 jobs over the month.



Transportation and warehousing also posted a strong month, adding 20,200 jobs. This industry includes jobs such as air, rail, water and truck transportation as well as warehousing and storage services.

Changes in retail employment, which tend to be more volatile than other sectors, included a loss of 5,900 jobs in August after clothing and clothing accessories stores cut more than 20,000 positions.(Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com)



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BUSINESS

By Guest Writer Alfredo Ortiz

President Trump's economy is the rising tide that is lifting all boats. This is especially true for Hispanics, who were among the biggest victims of the low-growth, high-regulation economy under President Obama.

Last week, the Census Bureau announced new household income numbers, which showed that median income for Hispanic households grew by 3.7 percent, adjusted for inflation, last year. That's more than double the increase seen by all households. More Hispanics moved into the upper-income brackets, and fewer remained in the lower ones. That's welcome news as the nation celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month.



(Photo/AFP/Getty Images)

Contrast this to the Obama economy. It took until 2015 for Hispanic household incomes to finally get back to their 2006 levels. For the population as a whole, household incomes remained flat between 2010 and 2014, as President Obama rolled out one job-killing policy after the next.

In addition to rising incomes, there are more job opportunities than ever today for Hispanics. This month, the Labor Department announced that the Hispanic unemployment rate remained at a record low — below 5 percent for the fifth consecutive month. This is less than half the unemployment rate that Hispanics faced as recently as President Obama's second term. Median weekly earnings for full-time Hispanic employees have grown by 4.3 percent, adjusted for inflation, over the past two years.



So why are Hispanics doing so well under

Hispanics Flourishing In Trump Economy

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

the Trump economy?

President Trump's pro-growth policies have had a disproportionately positive impact on Hispanics because they are more entrepreneurial than the general population. Hispanics start businesses at a faster rate than any other ethnic group. Since 2007, the number of Latino-owned businesses has grown by nearly 50 percent, nearly double the rate of all other ethnic groups combined. By a far higher margin than the general public, Hispanics believe that you can get ahead by hard work, according to Pew polling.

President Trump's deregulation and pro-business policies have made it far easier to be entrepreneurial. Exhibit A are the tax cuts that took effect this year. They contain numerous provisions that specifically help entrepreneurs. These include a new 20 percent small business tax deduction that allow entrepreneurs to protect one-fifth of their earnings from taxes, funds that can be used to help their businesses survive and thrive. Most small businesses describe this provision as a "game changer," according to a recent Bank of America survey.

With Trump unleashing the economy's animal spirits, entrepreneurs — led by Hispanics — are increasing the long-depressed small business start-up rate. These businesses are more likely to provide good job opportunities to Hispanic job seekers. In fact, one survey shows they plan to hire workers at twice the rate of their non-Hispanic counterparts.

Hispanics also have benefited generally from the growing economy. For example, the number of full-time jobs is rapidly increasing at the expense of part-time jobs. This has helped Hispanics, who also disproportionately work in the service sector, to raise their incomes to a middle-class level because they are able to work more hours.

Given this success, it's no surprise that Hispanic approval of President Trump is rising. According to a Harvard CAPS/ Harris poll this summer, Trump's approval among Hispanics jumped by 10 percentage points in one month.

Iducation, terrorism and the economy re top Latino priorities for 2017

Irrating each a top priority for Trump and Congress in 2017

Improving the educational system 73

Defending the country from future terrorist attacks

Strengthening the nation's economy

Reducing health care costs 54

Dealing with the issue of immigration cource: Survey of Hispanic adults conducted Dec. 7, 2016-Jan. 15 2017. authors and the New Trump Administration's EW RESEARCH CENTER

President Trump and Republicans can build on this support by continuing to focus on a uniting pro-growth, pro-opportunity message. Like most Americans, Hispanics care about the economy, education and jobs. Republicans shouldn't get swayed by the siren song of pursuing divisive social issues that may drive up turnout in rural areas but will repel Hispanics and independents in the suburbs where voters will decide control of the House of Representatives.

Electoral success will allow Trump to continue his policy agenda that is delivering historic economic benefits to Hispanics and all Americans. (Courtesy thehill.com) Alfredo Ortiz is the president and CEO of the Job Creators Network.

<u>Related</u>

Yes, President Trump's policies are good for Latinos too

President Donald Trump's bold economic policy of sweeping tax cuts and aggressive deregulation is reaping historic benefits for Americans across all racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Based on data in the latest jobs report, the

Latino community in particular is benefiting from the president's economic policies— and Latinos are noticing, much to the dismay of the Democratic Party.

The economy added 213,000 jobs in June, according to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report, and the number of employed Americans has grown by an incredible 2.4 million people over the past year. It's now clear that many of these jobs have gone to Latino Americans.

Unemployment for Latinos hit an all-time record low of 4.6 percent in June, according to the latest BLS report. There have only been nine months in history with a Latino unemployment rate below 5 percent — eight of them under President Trump's economic leadership.



That's not the only record broken in June. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Latino teens aged 16 to 19 fell below 12 percent for the first time ever, reaching a new low of 11.4 percent. Also in June, the unemployment rate for Latinos aged 25 to 29 reached a record low of 4.1 percent.

President Trump's deregulatory policies are also creating a climate in which small businesses can expand and thrive. This is a significant development for Latinos, who are statistically the most entrepreneurial demographic in the country.

Given this success, it's hardly surprising that the president's popularity with Latinos is rising rapidly. In June, President Trump's approval rating among Hispanics jumped by a whopping 10 points, according to a Harvard CAPS/Harris poll.

The Democrats and their supporters in mainstream media insist that the Trump administration is biased against Latinos because it wishes to enforce immigration laws and secure the border.

It might disappoint the Democrats to know that most Latinos are law-abiding citizens who support the full enforcement of our sensible immigration laws. An Economist/YouGov poll revealed that only 20 percent of Latinos support Obama administration-era "catch and release" policies, for instance.



The same poll showed that 64 percent of Latinos support detaining illegal alien families together or separating parents from children if necessary. Nationally, by a 2-to-1 margin Latinos believe that immigration enforcement isn't strict enough.

The Democrats' anti-Trump rhetoric is particularly off base in the face of the success and growth we're seeing in our communities everyday as a direct result of President Trump's color-blind, progrowth agenda. Since February 2017, the Latino unemployment rate has averaged 5 percent. During the Obama years, it averaged over 9 percent and was often in the double digits.

The American economy continues to grow and set new records thanks to President Trump's economic policies. Latinos recognize that if the Democrats take power again, America's record-breaking economic gains will be lost once they rescind the Trump tax cuts and renew the Obama regulatory assault against businesses large and small.

It's clear today's Democratic Party has nothing to offer the Latino community beyond the divisive politics of fear. Meanwhile, President Trump and the Republican Party are delivering real results across society, including the Latino community, and we have the data to prove it. (Courtesy the Denver Post)

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