

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017


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## Amazon's 'opening salvo' in grocery battle: price cuts

### WHOLE FOODS TAKEOVER

**Analysts say next step likely to be an effort to sell shoppers on other Amazon services**

By **MATT DAY AND JANET I. TU**  
*Seattle Times business reporters*

Amazon.com sells refrigerators, socks, power drills and books from its perch at the top of online commerce. But it doesn't sell much produce.

The Seattle company's expensive effort to change that started Monday.

Amazon reintroduced itself to the grocery-shopping public with 69-cent organic bananas among other price cuts at Whole Foods Market on the day it completed the

\$13.7 billion takeover of the high-end grocer.

Slashing prices on popular items is nothing new for the grocery industry. Supermarket chains have long kept prices of select staples low to draw people into their stores, banking that the discounts would pay off as increased foot traffic sends other items flying off shelves.

That's a playbook Amazon itself has used in the digital realm as it expanded from book sales to clothing, appliances and electronics. Amazon, which says it aims to match in its online store the lowest price offered by competitors, has long put a priority on gaining new customers over immediate profits.

Analysts expect much of the same as  
See > **AMAZON, A6**



SCOTT GREENSTONE / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Organic yellow bananas at the South Lake Union Whole Foods Market on Friday, left, and Monday, after Amazon's \$13.7 billion acquisition of the high-end grocer was completed.

## State bars expansion of net pens for salmon

### PERMITS ON HOLD AFTER FARMED FISH ESCAPE

### Fugitive Atlantic salmon found over wide swath

By **LYNDA V. MAPES**  
*Seattle Times environment reporter*

A planned expansion of Atlantic salmon net-pen operations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca is on hold because of a permit moratorium imposed after a mass escape of farmed salmon.

Cooke Aquaculture Pacific had planned to move and expand its operations near Ediz Hook in the Port Angeles area. But its failure to safely operate and maintain its existing Cypress Island Farm, allowing about half the 305,000 farmed Atlantic salmon there to escape, caused Gov. Jay Inslee and Hilary Franz, commissioner of public lands, to jointly issue a moratorium on any new or pending permits for fish farming in Washington.

The moratorium is in place while the state investigates the cause of the failure of part of Cooke's facility near Cypress Island beginning Aug. 19 and culminating Aug. 20 with a catastrophic collapse of the structure, which contained 10 net pens and some 3 million pounds of farmed Atlantic salmon.

The company also now is in default on its lease agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which leases  
See > **SALMON, A6**

## Houston's ordeal intensifying as floodwaters rise to rooflines

### HURRICANE HARVEY

**Vast destruction reported as rains, rescues continue; death toll of 10 likely to rise**

By **JULIE TURKEWITZ, RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA AND JACK HEALY**  
*The New York Times*

**HOUSTON** — As one of the most destructive storms in the nation's history pummeled southeast Texas for a fourth day, forecasts on Monday called for still more rain, making clear that catastrophic flooding that had turned neighborhoods into lakes was just the start of a disaster that would take years to overcome.

Local, state and federal officials conceded that the scale of the crisis was so vast that they were nowhere near being able to measure it, much less fully address it.

Across a region that is home to millions of people and includes Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, no one has a clear idea how many people are missing, how many evacuated, how many hunkered down or were trapped in their waterlogged homes, or how many inundated houses and vehicles are beyond saving.

It is "one of the largest disasters America has ever faced," Gov. Greg Abbott said, warning against expecting anything resembling recovery anytime soon, or a return to the way things were. "We need to recognize it will be a new normal, a new and different normal for this entire region."

Local officials reported 10 deaths possibly related to the storm, six of them in Harris County, which includes Houston. But the painstaking and heartbreaking work of clearing streets, going door to door, assessing damage — and finding victims — has not yet begun.

Scenes of people and pets being rescued from the roofs and upper floors of houses revived memories of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when early estimates vastly understated both the material devastation and the death toll, and recovery efforts lasted years.

The administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, said Monday that he expected more than 450,000 people to apply for federal assistance.

"We're going to be here for several years helping you guys recover," he said. "The state of Texas is about to undergo one of the largest recovery housing missions the nation has



TRUDY LAMPSON VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents of the La Vita Bella nursing home in Dickinson, Texas, sit in waist-deep floodwater Sunday in an image seen widely on social media. Officials said all the residents were safely evacuated from the facility.

ever seen."

For the time being, efforts are focused on the most basic elements of keeping people alive — plucking stranded survivors from the flood; providing shelter, food and water; and restoring electricity to hun-

dreds of thousands of people who were left without power.

Long said that FEMA was shipping 2 million liters of water and 2 million meals to the region. Other government agencies, charities and  
See > **HARVEY, A3**

**WARM SEAS**, a lack of upper atmosphere winds and a drainage-blocking storm surge are being blamed for flooding nightmare > **CLOSE-UP, A3**

## Moscow deal would help Trump win, ally said

By **MATT APUZZO AND MAGGIE HABERMAN**  
*The New York Times*

**WASHINGTON** — A business associate of President Donald Trump promised in 2015 to engineer a real-estate deal with the aid of the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, that he said would help Trump win the presidency.

The associate, Felix Sater, wrote a series of emails to Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen, in which he boasted about his ties to Putin. He predicted that building a Trump Tower in Moscow would highlight Trump's savvy negotiating skills and be a political boon to his candidacy.

"Our boy can become president of the USA and we can engineer it," Sater wrote in an email. "I will get all of Putins team to buy in on this, I will manage this process."

The emails show that, from the earliest months of Trump's campaign, some of his associates viewed close ties with Moscow as a political advantage. Those ties are now under investigation by  
See > **TRUMP, A5**

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