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WEEKLY DIGEST
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

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GV Wire Photo/Jahz Tello

LOCAL

NEVER FORGET

Message of Clovis 9/11 Remembrance

September 11, 2018 | Myles Barker

Before Bryan Burton's daughter goes off to college Thursday, he wanted to make sure she knew about 9/11 and the impact it has on America today.

"She was about 1 when the event occurred in 2001, and so I thought it was important for her to come and attend," Burton said. "It is pretty significant, and a lot of young people have no real frame of reference for what September 11th meant for a lot of people in the United States on that day, during that time."

Commemorating Lost Loved Ones and Heroic Efforts

Burton was among the hundreds of people who gathered Tuesday morning for the 17th annual 9/11 ceremony at the California Memorial in Clovis. Pelco by Schneider Electric, a security and surveillance technologies company, put on the event. Military personnel joined with law enforcement, political figures and families to remember not only those who lost their lives in the tragic events but also to recognize the heroic efforts of those who put their lives on the line to save others.

Remembering What Happened

At 8:46 a.m., the exact time the first plane hit the first tower of the World Trade Center, actual radio dispatch

"We all need to do something to honor all of those who were lost that day and this is what we came up with to help them."

— David McDonald, former Pelco CEO

calls from the 9/11 tragedy were played. Sirens and the lowering of the U.S. flag followed. The event also included the singing of the National Anthem, a flag presentation, a 21-

gun salute by the U.S. Marine Corps, the playing of "Taps" and "Amazing Grace" and a pipe-and-drum detail. A fire bell went off three times, a fire-service tradi-

tion that honors those who gave their lives in duty. The sound also signals the end of an emergency.

Honor and Respect

Andy Isolano, a former New York City firefighter, spoke about his 9/11 experience and presented the U.S. flag flown on the mission by the U.S. Air Force to David McDonald. McDonald, the former Pelco CEO, created the Clovis California Memorial. "We all need to do something to honor all of those who were lost that day and this is what we came up with to help them," said McDonald of the reason he founded the annual event 17 years ago. "After being in the military for 20-plus years, I feel that anything that we can do to honor people that have put their life on the line should be done," said Vietnam veteran Wayne Cadd.

"After being in the military for 20-plus years, I feel that anything that we can do to honor people that have put their life on the line should be done."

— Vietnam veteran Wayne Cadd

David Marin said the first memorial ceremony 17 years ago was huge, and he is grateful that it continues. "It is a wonderful event," Marin said. "It brings back everything that happened that day."

Keeping History Alive

One thing Isolano hopes people took away from his message is to never give up in life. "I hope they can see that if I can go through what I went through and still keep going and be positive about things that maybe the things in their lives that aren't so great might not seem as bad," Isolano said.

How the memorial ceremony keeps alive what happened on 9/11 is what Steven Patton appreciates most. "The big motto with 9/11 is we can't forget about it..."

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VOTE ON PROPOSED ANIMAL SHELTER WEST OF HIGHWAY 99 DELAYED

September 11, 2018 | Myles Barker

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors has delayed for six weeks a vote on a proposed \$6 million animal shelter/clinic west of Highway 99. Supervisor Nathan Magsig made a motion to delay a vote on a rezone request by the facility’s proponents at Tuesday’s meeting. Supervisor Brian Pacheco, who represents the district where the animal shelter would be located, seconded the motion. The board then unanimously approved on a voice vote scheduling another hearing at its Tuesday, Oct. 23 meeting.

Board Tells Proponents to Hold Community Meetings

The supervisors cited residents’ concern about traffic, noise,

odors and the potential of dumping of unwanted animals in the neighborhood as the reason for the delay. The board consensus was that the project proponents, Fresno Humane Animal Services, should use the time to better explain the project to residents and explore mitigation options. The land belongs to Wesclo, LP, a corporate cousin to Derrel’s Mini Storage.

The company is donating the land. Magsig said that he supported the project because of the steps that have been taken. “This is something that has impacted me and I thought a lot about it, and I am committed to the residents in district one to make sure that whatever goes here, it is the highest quality...

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JANZ CAN STUN THE NATION WITH THIS ONE THING: FOCUS ON REPUBLICANS

September 12, 2018 | Bill McEwen

If Andrew Janz wants to pull off [the political upset](#) the nation talks about for months, he needs to do one thing — and one thing only — before the Nov. 6 election. Talk to Republicans in CA-22. Janz and President Trump (what a combo!) have already energized Democrats in Rep. Devin Nunes’ district. It’s virtually guaranteed that Democrats will run to the ballot box to send the Fresno County prosecutor to Congress and thumb their noses at the president.

But that won’t be enough to retire Nunes from the House of Representatives after eight terms. Not even close. The district is a Republican stronghold, and no party preference voters (what used to be called “independents”) long have supported Nunes by a large margin. Staunch Republicans, of course, will stick with Nunes. One, he’s their guy. Someone they can...

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FRESNO STATE’S PERFORMANCE TRUMPS JARRAR & OTHER DUST-UPS

September 10, 2018 | Bill McEwen

National recognition for classroom performance keeps on coming for Fresno State. The U.S. News and World Report’s [2018 Best College rankings](#) are out, and Fresno State is pegged at No. 3 among public universities and No. 5 overall for its graduation rate performance.

The latest good news builds upon a long string of positive evaluations by publications keeping a close eye on education. And this kind of good news matters much more to students and rational alumni than any headlines generated by controversial English professor/author [Randa Jarrar](#) or “Trump must hang” history professor [Lars Maischak](#).

In politics, there will always be controversy. Politics can’t exist without it. And it’s inevitable that professors and students at any big university will make headlines that upset alumni...

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Photo: CHSRA

STATE HIGH-SPEED RAIL CEO

People Will Ask How They Lived Without It

September 7, 2018 | David Taub

High-speed rail will reduce travel times between major California cities. That is the belief of the bullet-train authority's CEO Brian P. Kelly, who spoke in Fresno on Friday (Sept. 7). He said when the rail is built, for example, it will cut the time from San Francisco to Los Angeles compared to a car by half. First, HSR needs to build its initial segment, from Bakersfield to Merced through Fresno. Kelly anticipates that to be completed by 2026.

There is no estimate for the Bay Area-to-LA line, but Kelly is not worried that the train will be outdated when the project is completed. "I have no fear of that. I know there is a lot of technology in transportation, like autonomous vehicles," Kelly said following a speech to the Maddy Institute. "People say it might be an antiquated

"We got under construction before we had the right-of-way in hand, the land we needed to build."

— HSR Authority CEO Brian Kelly

technology. In my view, it is a proven technology. It is working all around the world, and I think it will work here." Kelly touted three advantages of HSR:

mobility, environment, and economics. The project employs 2,300 workers and is partnering with 463 small businesses.

Kelly: We Started Too Early

Kelly concedes one major mistake on the \$77 billion project: Work began too early in an effort to meet deadlines for receiving \$3.5 billion in federal funds. "We got under construction before we had the right-of-way in hand, the land we needed to build," Kelly said.

That led to delays and lawsuits, problems he does not want to repeat in the future. "That is a lesson learned for us," Kelly said. HSR has \$22 billion in funding on the books thus far. A major revenue source is future cap-and-trade funding.

Commuter Train?

Kelly says the goal of HSR is to connect California cities, not necessarily be a commuter train. "It is ultimately an interregional, state ride system between San Francisco and LA. That's what we have to build to," he said. "As we build, we will have a commuter benefit as we go. I see the whole system as being a state-wide system, traveling at high speeds, but because we are constrained by funding, we have to build in segments."

He estimates the SF-to-LA ticket price at \$93 dollars one-way. It would be less for travel to and from Fresno, in the \$45-60 range. Discounts could be offered based on how often a rider uses HSR. But, the north-to-south route is still a long time away from happening. Kelly could not provide a timetable when it may happen, saying the project is being built one segment at a time.

Convincing the Doubters

Kelly realized that Fresno is a region with political opposition to HSR, especially from Assemblyman Jim Patterson (R-Fresno) and Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Tulare). An oft-heard complaint is that the project is too expensive for what it will deliver. So, how does he get past the doubters? "By progressing and performing. We now are under construction here. We have a growing number of labors working on that project each day," Kelly said. "When we get the assets built and completed, and we start putting trains on the ground, I think people see the benefit and they'll start to come around." He envisions that when HSR is running, people will ask how they lived without it. Another criticism Kelly hears is...

"When we get the assets built and completed, and we start putting trains on the ground, I think people see the benefit and they'll start to come around."

— Brian Kelly

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NEWSOM: 'GUY IN THE WHITE HOUSE ACTS LIKE A VICTIM'

September 12, 2018 | David Taub

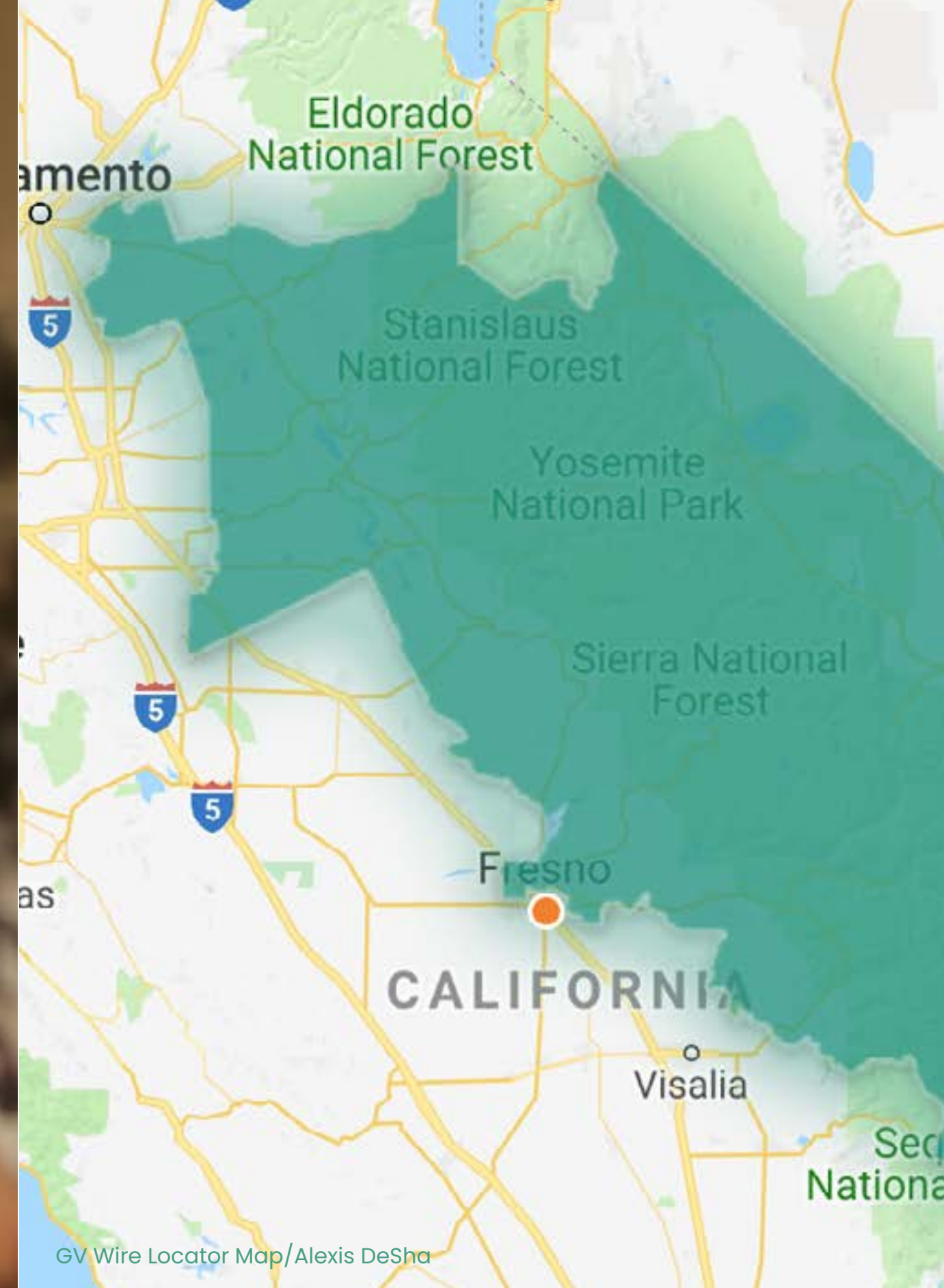
Gavin Newsom stumped in Fresno, touring for governor in his big blue bus. Speaking in front of a receptive audience of around 50, two Republican names permeated the conversation: Donald Trump and John Cox. Newsom mixed in a knock at the president while talking about his support for health care.

"Universal health care as a right in California is absolutely achievable," Newsom said to a responsive audience. "I'm going to lead, take responsibility. I love (how) Republicans always say you need to take responsibility and the guy in the White House ... acts like a victim every damn day. I've

never seen a guy more incapable of taking responsibility." Cox, a Republican, is Newsom's opponent in the Nov. 6 election. The lieutenant governor arrived in downtown Fresno Wednesday (Sept. 12) morning, with wife Jennifer, both carrying pink boxes picked up at Donut Hole, a few stores down from Fresno County's Democratic Party headquarters.

Two other Democratic hopefuls for office appeared with Newsom: TJ Cox, a congressional candidate in the 21st district, and Melissa Hurtado, a Sanger councilwoman running for state Senate in the 14th district. In a post-speech session with the media, Newsom talked about problems at the...

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A FRESNAN WILL REPRESENT DISTRICT 8 IN STATE SENATE.

Who Will It Be?

September 10, 2018 | David Taub

Here is one election prediction you can take to the bank: For the first time in 12 years, a Fresnan will represent what is now District 8 in the California Senate. That is because both candidates, Andreas Borgeas and Paulina Miranda, live in Fresno.

Borgeas, a Fresno County supervisor, faces Miranda to represent sprawling District 8— an 11-county area spanning from Sacramento to Fresno to Inyo County and the California-Nevada line. "District 8 has its beating heart in Fresno," Borgeas said. "Fresno County ... would benefit by having someone from Fresno serve and represent us." The position pays \$107,241 annually and a \$192 per diem for each day the Senate is in session. Current representative Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto) is termed out. He captured two-thirds of the vote against Miranda in 2014...

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CAL CHAMBER HAS BEST YEAR YET STEAMROLLING 'JOB KILLER' BILLS

September 12, 2018 | GV Wire

As CALmatters columnist Dan Walters notes in his Sept. 10 analysis, the California Chamber of Commerce quite often prevails in getting the Legislature to kill or quietly abandon bills that the pro-business lobby deems "job killers." But in the recently concluded legislative cycle, the chamber was even more effective than usual, Walters writes, "killing or watering down all but one of the 29 bills that it targeted. ... Most vanished without leaving the political DNA of rollcall votes."

Here is the link to the chamber's job killer list. The one exception? Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) continued her track record of maneuvering pro-labor legislation through the Capitol labyrinth. "Her victory this year was a biggie. Assembly Bill 3080 bars employers from imposing arbitration agreements as a condition of hiring employees," Walters opined...

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Photo: Los Angeles Times

BROWN SIGNS BILL PHASING FOSSIL FUELS OUT OF ELECTRICITY

September 10, 2018 | Bill McEwen

SACRAMENTO — California has set a goal of phasing out electricity produced by fossil fuels by 2045 under legislation signed Monday by Gov. Jerry Brown. Brown, who has positioned California as a global leader in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, approved the measure as he prepares to host a summit in San Francisco of climate change leaders from around the world starting Wednesday. The renewable energy measure would require California's utilities to generate 60 percent of their energy from wind, solar and other specific renewable sources by 2030. That's 10 percent higher than the current mandate.

Goal: Carbon-Free Sources for Electricity by 2045

The goal would then be to use only carbon-free sources to generate electricity by 2045. It's merely a goal, with no mandate or penalty for falling short. "It's not

"It's not going to be easy and will not be immediate, but it must be done. California is committed to doing whatever is necessary to meet the existential threat of climate change."

— Gov. Jerry Brown

going to be easy and will not be immediate, but it must be done," Brown said. "California is committed to doing whatever is necessary to meet the existential threat of climate change." Phasing out

fossil fuels would be a massive change in the energy grid. Utilities rely on natural gas plants to meet demand when renewables fall short, particularly in the early evening when the sun sets and people turn on their air conditioners as they get home from work. Utilities are already dealing with an abundance of solar energy during peak times, which must be offloaded to other states when there's not enough demand locally for the power.

Renewable energy experts have looked to batteries that can store solar energy generated in the afternoon as one solution, but the technology is not ready for wide-scale deployment. Another potential solution is

pumped storage, in which water is pumped uphill in the afternoon using solar energy and then released through hydroelectric generators after the sun sets. Brown has often faced criticism that he's too cozy with the oil industry, including from environmental groups that plan to protest at the San Francisco summit. They're pushing him to create a moratorium on new oil wells in the state.

California Is Sixth in US Oil Production

California ranked sixth among states in crude oil production in May, the latest data available from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The state ranks 15th in natural gas production. California's production of crude oil has fallen steadily since the mid-1980s. Critics say the renewable energy goal is not realistic and worry individuals and businesses will face higher energy prices. The measure was written by state Sen. Kevin de Leon, a Los Angeles Democrat who is running for U.S. Senate against fellow Democratic U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. "Today we're setting a marker that will be remembered by future generations," de Leon said.

Vehicle Emissions Are Actually Increasing

California has met its goal to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels, an accomplishment that relied heavily on building cleaner power plants. But electricity accounts for only 16 percent of California's emissions. Further reducing carbon discharges will require a significant reduction in vehicle emissions, which have inched up recently.

After signing the bill Monday, Brown also signed an executive order directing the state to achieve "carbon neutrality" by no later than 2045. After that, he says the state should emit net negative greenhouse gas emissions. The order directs several state agencies to set targets for artificially removing carbon dioxide from the air through a process known as "sequestration."



September 10, 2018 | AP News

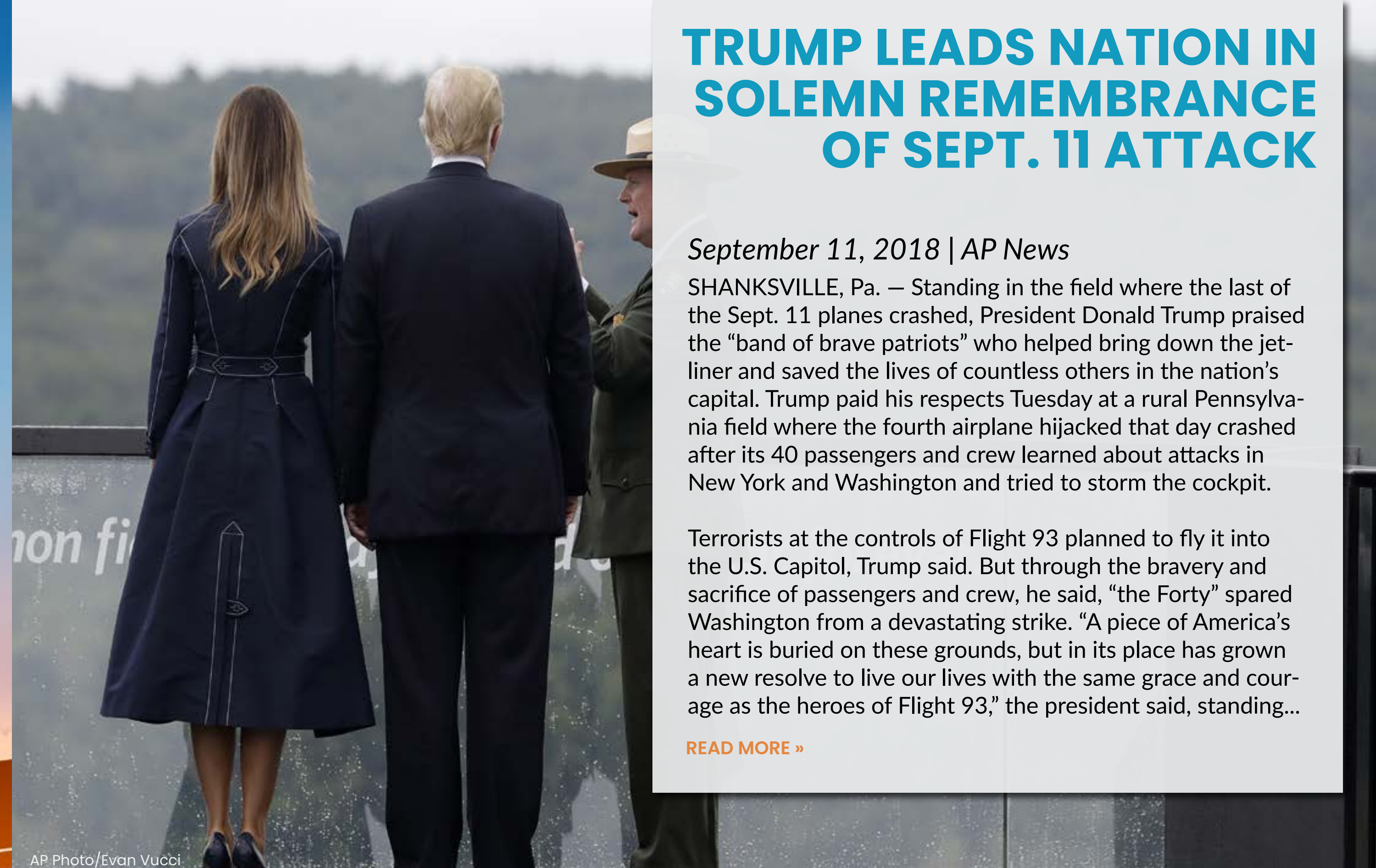
WASHINGTON — The pace of hiring in the United States quickened in August, and wages grew at their fastest pace in nine years — evidence that employers remain confident despite the Trump administration’s ongoing conflicts with its trading partners.

The economy added a strong 201,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate stayed at 3.9 percent, near an 18-year low, the government said Friday in its monthly jobs report. Taken as a whole, the data pointed to a job market that remains resilient even after nearly a decade of economic growth — the sec-

ond-longest such stretch in U.S. history — and even with tariffs and counter-tariffs on imports and exports looming over U.S. employers that rely on global trade.

The economy is expanding at a healthy pace, fueled by tax cuts, confident consumers, greater business investment in equipment and more government spending. Growth reached 4.2 percent at an annual rate in the April-June quarter, the fastest pace in four years. “I view this as the **strongest job market** in a generation,” Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at Glassdoor, a career website...

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TRUMP LEADS NATION IN SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPT. 11 ATTACK

September 11, 2018 | AP News

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. — Standing in the field where the last of the Sept. 11 planes crashed, President Donald Trump praised the “band of brave patriots” who helped bring down the jet-liner and saved the lives of countless others in the nation’s capital. Trump paid his respects Tuesday at a rural Pennsylvania field where the fourth airplane hijacked that day crashed after its 40 passengers and crew learned about attacks in New York and Washington and tried to storm the cockpit.

Terrorists at the controls of Flight 93 planned to fly it into the U.S. Capitol, Trump said. But through the bravery and sacrifice of passengers and crew, he said, “the Forty” spared Washington from a devastating strike. “A piece of America’s heart is buried on these grounds, but in its place has grown a new resolve to live our lives with the same grace and courage as the heroes of Flight 93,” the president said, standing...

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US JUDGE STRIKES DOWN CALIFORNIA BAN ON HANDGUN ADS

September 12, 2018 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — A U.S. judge on Tuesday struck down a nearly century-old California law that banned handgun ads at gun shops, saying the state failed to show it would prevent suicides or crime. The 1923 law banned any handgun ads at gun shops that were visible from outside the store. State officials argued the ads would spur impulsive people to buy a handgun, and impulsive people are more prone to suicide and crime. The law, however, did not restrict ads for other firearms.

Judge Troy Nunley in Sacramento noted in his ruling that gun shops could display a large neon sign reading, “GUNS GUNS GUNS” or a 15-foot depiction of a sporting rifle. The judge said they could also place ads for handguns elsewhere such as on a billboard blocks away. “The Government may not restrict speech that persuades adults, who are neither criminals nor suffer from mental illness, from purchasing a legal...

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AP File Photo

WORLD

OSLO ACCORDS FAIL TO DELIVER FOR PALESTINIANS

September 13, 2018 | GV Wire

Twenty-five years ago, the Oslo accords heralded a promising new era in the long quest for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The agreements, signed on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993, “culminated in mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Israel had long banned as a terrorist organization, and the first formal agreements in a phased effort to resolve the century-old conflict,” notes [a detailed article](#) in Wednesday’s (Sept. 12) New York Times. “Today, however, the Oslo process is moribund, having produced neither a peace agreement nor a Palestinian state,” the article continues.

Fragile Agreements

While actions on both sides ultimately derailed the accords, experts say the agreements themselves were fragile from the start. Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

“What they got was poorly negotiated.”

— Daniel Kurtzer, Former U.S. Ambassador

el Daniel Kurtzer says the Palestinians gave away too much for too little in return. “What they got was poorly negotiated,” he says. Analysts say the Palestinians settled for little more than Israeli recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization as a legitimate governing body while deferring resolution of critical issues, such as borders and settlements, until later.

Jobs But Little Else

Still, with political legitimacy comes about \$500 million in foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority, which helps provide jobs to about a quarter of the population. “If we’re talking about the P.A. as a step toward statehood, then it’s failed miserably,” said Alaa Tartir, a program adviser to Al Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network. “As a step toward self-determination, or toward realization of the Palestinians’ political and human rights, then it’s failed again. But if we’re talking about providing jobs as a bureaucracy, then it’s worked.”

“The Palestinians are not free. We cannot open our wings and fly unless we are blind to reality.” — Jamal Rajoub, deputy governor of Jerico Employment aside, many Palestinians complain about corruption and nepotism within the Palestinian Authority. In a recent survey, half of the Palestinians polled viewed the authority negatively. And those aged 18-22 said they are more supportive of a one-state outcome rather than a two-state solution.

“The Palestinians are not free. We cannot open our wings and fly unless we are blind to reality.”

— Jamal Rajoub, deputy governor of Jerico

Many older Palestinians seem to share the sentiment. “They promised us a state,” said Ferial Qarawil, 53. “Where is the state? All the agreements and all the authorities, including ours, have taken us back more than 60 years.”

Israeli Domination Unchanged

But officials with the Palestinian Authority push back, saying in the absence of full implementation of the Oslo accords, Israeli still dominates life in the territories. “The Israeli occupation controls the air we breathe in the West Bank or Gaza,” said Jamal Rajoub, the deputy governor of the city of Jericho.

“The P.A. wants to improve the lives of the people, but everything is tied up with the Israeli occupation. The Palestinians are not free. We cannot open our wings and fly unless we are blind to reality.” You can read the full story, 25 Years After Oslo Accords, Mideast Peace Seems Remote as Ever, at the New York Times.



TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO SHUTTER PALESTINIAN OFFICE

September 10, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. plans to close the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington in its latest show of support for the U.S-Israel relationship. National Security Adviser John Bolton was expected to discuss the plans in a speech Monday, saying the Trump administration wouldn't keep the office open "when the Palestinians refuse to take steps to start direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel," according to prepared remarks.

The Palestinians say U.S. officials have notified them their mission will be closed, the latest in a series of American blows to the Palestinians. This follows moves by President

Donald Trump to end funding for the United Nations agency that helps Palestinian refugees, slash U.S. aid for projects in the West Bank and Gaza and cut funding to hospitals in Jerusalem that serve Palestinians.

"We have been officially informed that the US administration will close our embassy in Washington as a punishment for continuing to work with the International Criminal Court against Israeli war crimes," Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said. "This is yet another affirmation of the Trump Administration's policy to collectively punish the Palestinian people, including by cutting financial support for humanitarian..."

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AP File Photo

TIMELINE OF SUSPECTED RUSSIAN PLOT TO INFILTRATE NRA, GOP

September 10, 2018 | AP News

MOSCOW — As Siberian gun rights activist Maria Butina faces a hearing in Washington, here is a look at the unusual path that led to her arrest. She's accused of working as an undeclared Russian agent, based on FBI suspicions that she and patron Alexander Torshin sought to infiltrate the NRA and build a long-term influence campaign with the American right. She has pleaded not guilty.

2001: Torshin is elected to serve in Russia's upper house of parliament, the Federation Council. He makes his first contact with the NRA.

2011: Butina moves to Moscow, funded by an oligarch couple, and forms gun rights group Right to Bear Arms. Torshin and Butina meet at Moscow gun rally.

2012: Torshin presents draft bill on liberalizing gun sales...

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MORE AMERICAN JEWS TAKE STAND AGAINST ISRAEL'S TACTICS

September 13, 2018 | GV Wire

For young adult American Jews, the Birthright program offers an enticing opportunity. It provides expense-paid educational tours of Israel, lasting a week or longer, to explore Jewish history and learn about contemporary issues in the Jewish state. The organization's website says Birthright Israel "seeks to ensure the future of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish identity, Jewish communities, and connection with Israel" in a visit accompanied by guides, "who join the trips as colleagues and friends."




Increased Criticism of Israel

Some critics, however, are pushing back against what they see as a distorted representation by tour organizers of current issues in Israel, NBC News reports. More and more, young American Jews are criticizing the current Israeli government, particularly its actions toward Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. "An American anti-occupation group..."

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