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WEEKLY DIGEST
OCTOBER 26, 2018



ANIMAL SHELTER GETS GREEN LIGHT, BUT LIKELY LAWSUIT AWAITS

October 23, 2018 | David Taub

Overcome with emotion, Derrel Ridenour wiped his eyes with tears of joy and tears of victory. Moments earlier Tuesday, the business magnate and animal lover heard the news he's fought years to hear — unanimous approval of the animal shelter he wants to build. "When

"The animals — they have no voice, they have no one to speak for them. That's the reason why I'm emotional."
— Derrel Ridenour

you go to shelters, and you look at those faces, you euthanize them. That's what I want to stop," Ridenour said, his voice breaking up. "I just have a passion for animals. ... The animals — they have no voice, they have no one to speak for them. That's the reason why I'm emotional."

Ridenour's long-sought animal shelter received the green light from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Despite neighbor objections, and an acknowledgment that this will likely wind up in litigation, the supervisors approved a land zoning change in a northwest Fresno neighborhood. In theory, that will allow Ridenour to use his donated land and finances to build a new facility for the Fresno Humane Animal Services. He hopes to break ground next spring and open by the end of 2019.

In reality, a lawsuit is likely, over the lack of a proper environmental review. "I don't get hired to write letters," attorney John Kinsey told the board when asked about the likelihood of litigation. He represents four clients living in the area of the proposed shelter. FHAS contracts with the county to take in strays. The nonprofit's leaders have long said that the current location in the parking lot of the old county morgue is outdated and too small.

Supervisors Decide

After months of neighborhood meetings and a six-week delay to allow for a few more, the five-member board listened to the arguments for and against the proposal. The location on Grantland Avenue, south of Highway

99, motivated some of those living nearby to protest. While Ridenour's land is within the county's jurisdiction, many of the surrounding homes are within the city limits of Fresno. Board chairman Sal Quintero set aside one hour for people to speak at two-minute intervals. Of the 27 who publicly opined, 16 favored the shelter and 11 opposed.

Residents' main concerns included traffic and the safety of children. Herndon-Barstow Elementary is across the street from the proposed location. Many echoed two main points: Living west of 99 made them the "forgotten Fresno" and this was the right project at the wrong location. John Lourenco delivered the first remarks against the shelter, setting the tone for his neighbors to follow. He said the area's infrastructure is lacking and he worries about having animals in the area. "I have concerns about stray animals being left. ... They are not going to man that facility 24 hours a day. Those animals will not wait for somebody to come get them. They are going to be scared and they are going to walk away. They are most likely to head to the school because the largest trash cans nearby are there," he said.

"Let's give this neighborhood an opportunity to teach their children about compassion for all of the community, including those who have no voice."
— Amanda Allen

Ridenour and Fresno Humane later agreed to have someone be able to take in animals after hours. Other concessions included not operating as a hospital and only taking in dogs and cats (foregoing livestock and horses). Amanda Allen delivered one of the more impassioned pleas on behalf of FHAS, where she volunteers. "Let's give this neighborhood an opportunity to teach their children about compassion for all of the community, including those who have no voice," she said.

Lawsuit Likely

During debate amongst the supervisors, Andreas Borgeas predicted what would happen next. "I don't know...

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EVERYONE GETS THEIR KICKS AT SCHOOL'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENT

GV Wire Photo/Myles Barker

October 20, 2018 | Myles Barker

Whenever Julian Lorenzo is on the soccer field, he aims to achieve one of two goals. “Be a winner and to do my best,” said Lorenzo, a 7th-grade special education student at Rio Vista Middle School. Lorenzo did both at the school’s second annual Special Olympics Soccer event.

Special Olympics Soccer

The event started as a way to show special education students there are no boundaries and that they can do whatever they set their minds to, said Mike Preciado, the senior sports manager for Special Olympics Northern California. “The main thing today is that all of the athletes here have fun,” Preciado said. Student Saint Ramos said he definitely had fun imitating moves from his favorite soccer players Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. “This event is really cool,” Ramos said. “Soccer is a pretty cool sport.” Seeing her students going out and trying their best is what Tracey Adams appreciates most about the event. “A lot of our students with special needs don’t get the opportunity to go out for sports at our elementary school

so it is very nice to have an opportunity where they can be successful,” said Adams, a teacher at Harvest Elementary School. The sight of general education students supporting their special ed peers was enough to put a smile on John Eagan’s face. “If this doesn’t make you excited then you don’t have a pulse,” said Eagan, a special education aide at Rio Vista. “This is just an awesome, heartwarming event.”

Generating More Interest

Special education students have been participating in Special Olympic events in Fresno County for nearly two decades, Preciado said. The event used to feature students in kindergarten through high school, but had to be split up due to increased interest from schools, Preciado said. “Last year was the first year that we separated it,” Preciado said. “The event today is elementary and middle schools, and then we have a high school and adult transition one that we host at Clovis East.” Rio Vista has felt the growth of the event. Last year only four schools participated in Special Olympics at the middle school...

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MEASURE P BALLOT ERROR COULD WIND UP IN COURT

October 22, 2018 | David Taub

Fresno’s city clerk erred when she sent the wrong ballot language to the county clerk regarding Measure P, the proposed sales tax to benefit parks, City Hall said Monday. What voters see on the ballot omits a few lines specifying areas the initiative would benefit. Now the proponents of the initiative want the city do something about it — and say they are willing to go to court.

The Fresno City Council scheduled a Monday special meeting to discuss how to correct the mistake. One option was to mail out correction notices to registered city voters at an unknown expense. But the meeting was canceled 20 minutes before the scheduled 1 p.m. start. The official reason from council president Esmeralda Soria’s office: lack of quorum. Soria received four confirmations when scheduling the meeting Friday. Only three (Esmeralda Soria, Steve Brandau, Oliver Baines) showed up at City Hall, according to Brandau. But, Brandau said a...

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WANT TO KILL SPIDERS IN YOUR HOME? DON'T USE A BLOWTORCH.

October 25, 2018 | AP News

Authorities say a man apparently set a northeast Fresno home on fire while using a blowtorch to kill spiders. Twenty-nine firefighters were called to a home in Woodward Lake on Tuesday night to put out a two-alarm blaze. According to firefighters, a man was house-sitting for his parents when he tried to kill black widow spiders with a blowtorch. He got out safely, but the home’s attic and second story were damaged.

No one was injured in the fire. The story, as you might imagine, is attracting national attention because of the unique cause for the fire, with TV news anchors prefacing their reports with quips such as “Don’t try this at home.” Although the exact cause of the blaze is under investigation, firefighters believe the blowtorch was to blame.

There’s no word on what happened to the spiders.

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Photo: TIME

STATE

ALL POLLS POINT TO NEWSOM AS NEXT CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

October 24, 2018 | GV Wire

Barring a big rally by John Cox, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom will become the next governor of California.

A Public Policy Institute of California poll released Wednesday night shows Newsom holding an 11-point lead over Cox among likely voters in the race to succeed Jerry Brown. Newsom, a Democrat, leads Cox, a Republican, 49 percent to 38 percent, with 10 percent undecided, according to the nonpartisan poll. The Cox campaign, however, still clings to hopes of pulling an upset. “Gavin Newsom is dropping and now below 50 percent despite spending over \$10 million,” said Cox campaign manager Tim Rosales. “The trend in these polls shows that Californians are realizing that it’s time for a change.”

Gas Tax Repeal, Rent Control Trail

Other highlights from the PPIC poll heading into the Nov. 6 election:

- Proposition 6, the gas tax repeal, is opposed by 48 percent of likely voters. Forty-one percent favor the repeal of fuel taxes and license fees enacted by the Legislature last year. Eleven percent are undecided.

- Proposition 10, which would expand the ability of local governments to enact rent control, appears headed

“While most say that housing affordability is a problem, Proposition 10 trails.” — PPIC president and CEO Mark Baldassare

to defeat. Sixty percent of likely voters say they will vote “no,” 25 percent say they support it, and 15 percent are undecided. “While most say that housing affordability is a problem, Proposition 10 trails,” said PPIC president and CEO Mark Baldassare.

- Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who is seeking her fifth term, leads fellow Democrat Kevin de León 43 percent to 27 percent. Notable is that 51 percent of Republicans and

22 percent of independents say that they will not vote in this race.

- Across California, 68% of likely Democratic likely voters say they are very or extremely enthusiastic about this election. That compares with 45 percent of Republicans and 42 percent of independents.

- If the election for the House of Representatives were held today, a majority of likely voters (55%) say they would vote for or lean toward the Democratic candidate. Thirty-seven percent say they would vote for or lean toward the Republican. Partisan likely voters support the candidate from their own party while independents are divided.

- Asked about the U.S. Senate’s vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment to the Supreme Court, a majority of likely voters (56%) disapprove.

- 65 percent of likely voters oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico.

You can visit the PPIC website at [this link](#).

Other Gubernatorial Polls

A compilation of polls by [RealClearPolitics](#) from mid-September to mid-October shows Newsom leading Cox 52 percent to 36 percent. [Survey-USA shows Newsom ahead 52 percent to 35 percent](#). While Cox is narrowly winning the Central Valley and Inland Empire, Newsom leads by 18 points in greater Los Angeles and 47 points in the Bay Area. A KFI/NBC statewide poll released the week of Oct. 14 shows Newsom with an eight-point lead, 51 percent to Cox’s 43 percent. A [USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll](#) released Oct. 17 put Newsom’s lead at 23 points (54-31).

GV Wire Voter Guide

Read about statewide and local candidates at [GV Wire’s Voter Guide](#).



FACE-OFF FOR STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF: THURMOND VS. TUCK

Photo: Education Week

October 24, 2018 | GV Wire

CALmatters dives deep into the battle to elect the next state superintendent of public instruction with a video featuring Tony Thurmond and Marshall Tuck.

The candidates talk about their credentials for the job, their passion for education, and where they stand on the issues.

The video opens with the candidates talking about themselves and then goes into a debate on these subjects:

— Teacher pay and tenure (at 2 minutes, 53 seconds)

— Closing the achievement gap (4:47)

— Charter schools (5:44)

— Relationships with teachers unions (7:04).

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

To learn more about Tuck and Thurmond, as well as gubernatorial candidates Gavin Newsom and John Cox, read GV Wire's special report ["The Battle to Decide California's Education Future."](#)

SF ALLOWS NONCITIZENS TO VOTE IN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

October 24, 2018 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco has become the largest U.S. city to give people in the country illegally and other noncitizens the right to vote in a local election, but the possibility of the Trump administration learning their identities appears to have kept people away: only 35 noncitizens have registered.

It is among a handful of cities nationwide to allow people who aren't citizens to vote, which is illegal in state and federal elections. In San Francisco, they can only participate in the school board race. Voters in 2016 approved a measure allowing parents or guardians of a child in San Francisco schools to have a say in their children's education by helping elect school board representatives regardless of their immigration status. In the same election, Donald Trump won the presidency and has since cracked down on illegal immigration and ramped up rhetoric against those living in the U.S. illegally...

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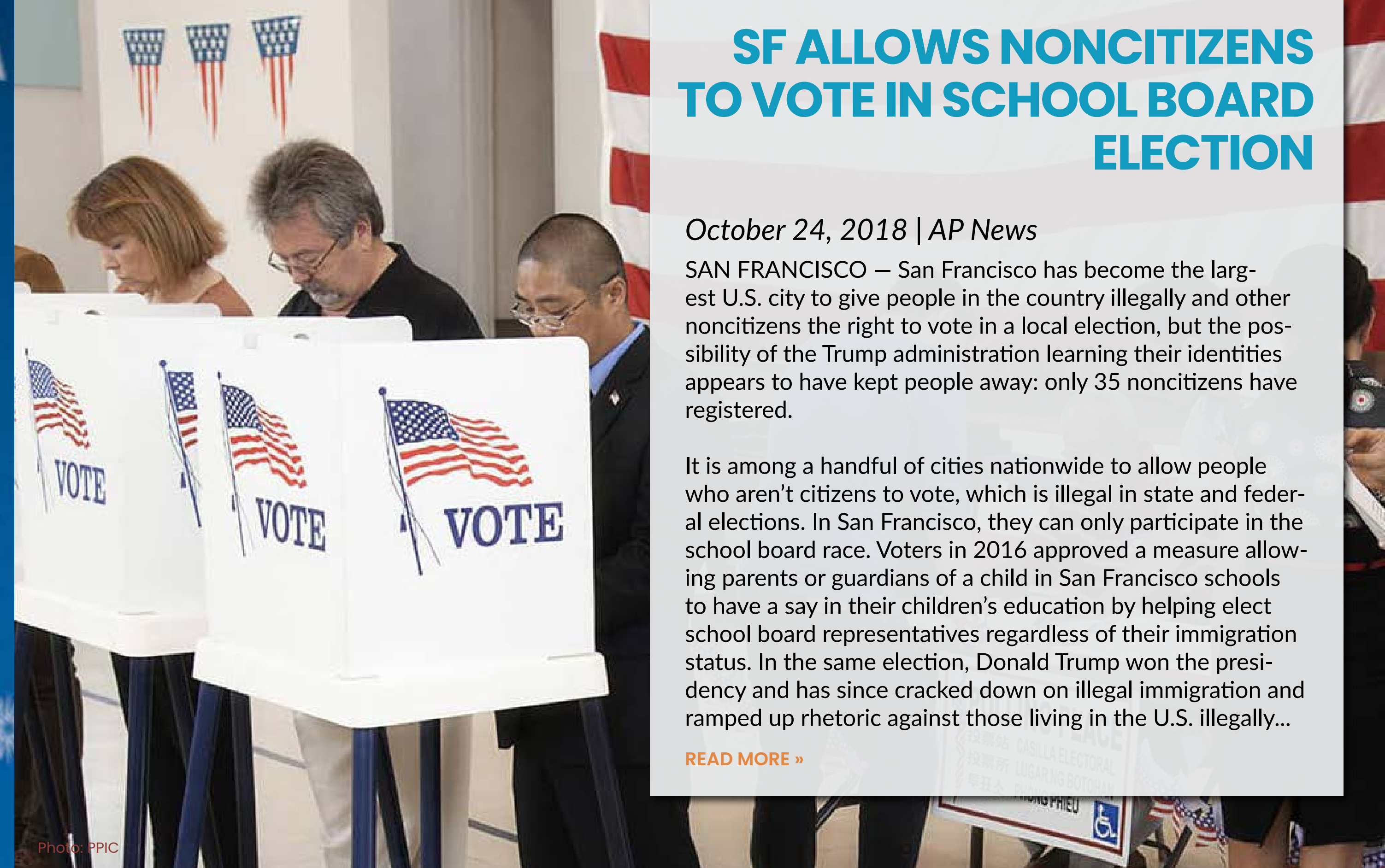


Photo: PPIC

SAD DAY FOR GIANTS FANS. RIP, HANK GREENWALD, 83.

October 23, 2018 | GV Wire

Hank Greenwald, the witty, erudite and iconic voice of the San Francisco Giants and San Francisco/Golden State Warriors, died Monday at age 83. "Hank was a broadcasting legend throughout the Bay Area and was a huge part of the Giants throughout his 16 seasons as our play-by-play announcer," said Giants President/CEO Larry Baer in a statement. "He was the key link to our fans listening at home and brought our game to life through the radio.

[The San Francisco Chronicle](#) reported Monday that Greenwald had been suffering from heart issues and kidney failure in recent months, and after an onset of bronchitis, he was taken to the hospital Saturday. "He'd just been feeling rotten for a long time," his wife, Carla told the Chronicle. "He died after valiant efforts by a fabulous medical staff." Though the cigar-chomping Greenwald was best known for his two stints with the Giants (1979-86, 1989-96)...

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TRUMP SIGNS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL THAT WILL HELP THE VALLEY

October 23, 2018 | AP News & GV Wire

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a wide-ranging bill Tuesday to improve the nation’s water infrastructure, including adding water storage in the San Joaquin Valley. America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 authorizes more than \$6 billion in spending over 10 years for projects nationwide. The law also boosts projects to restore Gulf Coast wetlands damaged by Hurricane Harvey and improve harbors in Seattle, Savannah, Georgia, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The act passed the House of Representatives and the Senate on a bipartisan basis before going to Trump’s desk.

“With the signing of this bill into law, we are bringing water home to the Valley I’ve been fighting since day one in Washington to build more water storage for our farmers and neighbors. Today, we celebrate future generations having access to the water they need and deserve.” — Rep. Jeff Denham

The new law incorporates legislation written by Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) to authorize financing of new water storage projects. He attended the signing ceremony at the White House. “With the signing of this bill into law, we are bringing water home to the Valley,” Denham said. “I’ve been fighting since day one in Washington to build more water storage for our farmers and neighbors. Today, we celebrate future generations having access to the water they need and deserve.”

Denham’s New Water Act provides financing for water projects throughout the western United States, including new reservoirs, below ground storage projects, recycling and desalination projects, Denham’s office said. For Sites Reservoir, the legislation will save hundreds of millions of dollars in construction costs and significantly lower prices for water users. Additionally, the act enhances flood protection for more than 50,000 Valley

residents. Denham and Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno) led a bipartisan effort to see that the Valley wasn’t overlooked in the massive water infrastructure law.

“Water is the lifeblood of our Valley, and we must have safe, reliable sources of water in both wet and dry years,” said Costa in a statement. “America’s Water Infrastructure Act uses multiple approaches to help increase surface water storage in the Valley, which will strengthen our resilience to drought. This will provide our communities with more than just water. It also increases the certainty our local economy needs to thrive and protects our way of life.”

Thumbs-Up From Merced Irrigation District

Said Hicham ElTal, deputy general manager of Merced Irrigation District: “We have worked on this issue for many years and this represents a key first step for MID in enhancing storage in Lake McClure. We appreciate the work of Congressman Costa and other local Congress members, as well as the community for supporting us in this endeavor.” Costa’s office said that the new law “includes provisions that open doors for water projects previously sealed shut by unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and expands financing options and incentives for investing in new water storage.”

“This will provide our communities with more than just water. It also increases the certainty our local economy needs to thrive and protects our way of life.” — Rep. Jim Costa

Combined, these lay the path for the first new surface water storage in the Valley in decades, supporting local irrigation districts in their efforts to raise spillway gates, build new water storage facilities, and repair and expand dams, reservoirs, and other water projects...

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AP Photo



WHO'S #1? NUNES-JANZ MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSE RACE IN NATION.

October 19, 2018 | David Taub

According to the campaign finance tracking website [Open Secrets](#), the battle between Devin Nunes and Andrew Janz is the most expensive congressional race in the country. Based on the criteria of money raised by the candidates — not independent expenditure groups — the two garnered \$17.7 million in contributions through Sept. 30, which was the most recent reporting period. Nunes, the Republican incumbent, raised \$10.5 million, spent \$8.6 million, and had \$5.1 million on hand in the battle for CA-22.

Janz, the Democratic challenger and a Fresno County prosecutor, raised \$7.2 million, spent \$5.8 million and had \$1.4 million on hand. Speculation is rampant that if Janz is unsuccessful, he will consider a run for the potentially vacant Fresno County Supervisor District 2 seat. That presumes the current occupant, Andreas Borgeas, wins his race for state Senate. The Lincoln Club's Tal Cloud, a staunch Nunes' supporter, floated that theory in an appearance on "The Trevor Carey Show" on Power Talk 96.7.

Janz's campaign says that is the last thing on his mind. "Andrew is running to unseat Devin Nunes," campaign manager Heather Greven said. "If he doesn't win this election, he's happy to return as a prosecutor." If Borgeas does win his Senate race, it likely will trigger a special election in April. Janz lives in the district and could use whatever money remains from his congressional campaign for another election run.

Measure P Language Problems

The wrong language for Measure P appears on the ballot. That news comes from the office of Fresno council president Esmeralda Soria, who upon discovering the error this week, called for a special council meeting Monday (Oct. 22). "It has come to our attention that the city of Fresno erred when submitting final ballot language for Measure P. The language submitted to the Fresno County clerk by the city was not the final version unanimously approved by the Fresno city council," Soria said. According to Soria's office, the city...

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WHO MAKES A BETTER CASE FOR VOTING: OBAMA OR SHAPIRO?

October 23, 2018 | GV Wire

As of Tuesday morning, President Barack Obama was slightly ahead of "The Daily Wire" editor-in-chief Ben Shapiro in the battle of most watched "Why You Should Vote this November" videos. Each was nearing 300,000 views as of 10:30 a.m. At GV Wire, we believe in the power of the ballot box. We also believe that people who don't vote are surrendering their voice and ability to influence important issues that dramatically affect their lives every day — at the local, state and federal levels.

Voting Always Matters, So Do It

Don't ever believe anyone who says "my vote doesn't matter." Voting always matters. Regardless of whether your politics are conservative, liberal or something in between, these videos should motivate you to fill out your mail ballot or show up at the polls Nov. 6...

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US ADVISORY GROUP URGES HEPATITIS A SHOTS FOR HOMELESS

October 24, 2018 | AP News

For the first time, a U.S. advisory committee is recommending a routine vaccination for homeless people, voting Wednesday to urge hepatitis A shots to prevent future outbreaks of the contagious liver disease. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices made the recommendation at a meeting in Atlanta. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to adopt it and send guidance to health care providers.

Homeless encampments can contribute to disease through unsanitary conditions. Hepatitis A spreads person to person through contaminated food or dirty needles used for injection drugs. The virus also can spread from sexual contact with an infected person. The recommendation would make it easier for shelters, emergency rooms and clinics that serve the homeless to offer hepatitis A shots along with other services. Hepatitis A vaccinations already are recommended...

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AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis

WORLD

SAUDI ARABIA SAYS TURKISH EVIDENCE SHOWS PLANNED KILLING

October 25, 2018 | AP News

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi prosecutors said Thursday that Turkish evidence shows the slaying of journalist Jamal Khashoggi was premeditated, another change in the shifting Saudi Arabian narrative of what happened to the writer who was killed in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. A statement from Saudi Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb attributed the conclusion about a calculated killing, one of the initial findings of a joint Turkish-Saudi investigation, to information from Turkish counterparts.

The evidence of Turkish investigators “indicates that the suspects in the incident had committed their act with a premeditated intention,” al-Mojeb said. While the Saudi prosecutor’s office did not say specifically that its investigators reached the same conclusion, the statement seemed designed to acknowledge the legitimacy of evidence and allegations from Turkey that Khashoggi’s killing was planned.

Intensifying International Pressure to Be Transparent
After the journalist disappeared, Saudi Arabia initially insisted Khashoggi had walked out of the consulate after visiting the building on Oct. 2. It later dropped that account for a new one, saying it had detained 18 people for what it described as an accidental killing during a “fistfight.” The kingdom has faced intensifying international pressure to be transparent about the death of Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who was a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Many countries responded with skepticism to the version of a brawl involving Khashoggi and rogue officials, putting Saudi Arabia on the defensive even as it

hosted an investment conference this week that many dignitaries skipped because of the scandal. Turkey is pushing the Saudi government to reveal exactly who ordered the killing, fueling suspicions that Prince Mohammed was involved even though he condemned it as “heinous” at the Riyadh forum. Also Thursday, Prince Mohammed attended the first meeting of a committee aiming to restructure the kingdom’s intelligence services after the killing of Khashoggi, the state-run Saudi Press Agency said.

Seemingly Clumsy Cover-up of the Killing
The seemingly clumsy cover-up of the killing was revealed to the world by Turkish leaks of information, security camera footage and, eventually, Saudi acknowledgements that Khashoggi died in the consulate. But Turkey wants more answers from Saudi Arabia, a regional rival that is also a source of investment. “Jamal Khashoggi’s body still hasn’t been found.

Where is it?” Turkey’s foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, said Thursday at a news conference with his Palestinian counterpart. “There is a crime here, but there is also a humanitarian situation. The family wants to know and they want to perform their last duty,” Cavusoglu said, referring to hopes for the writer’s burial.

Turkish authorities briefed visiting CIA chief Gina Haspel on the investigation into the killing and the evidence collected so far, a Turkish security official who was not authorized to speak to the media said on condition of anonymity. The official could not confirm whether Haspel had listened to an alleged audio recording of the killing. Pro-government media in Turkey reported officials have such a recording, but its existence has not been confirmed...

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HOW ASSAD AND HEZBOLLAH BEAT THE WEST IN SYRIA

October 22, 2018 | GV Wire

Syrian President Bashar Assad's downfall seemed all but guaranteed at many points during the eight years since the Arab Spring began to topple Middle Eastern dictators, Haaretz reported.

Yet Assad has now outlasted fellow despots like Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, and also Western leaders like President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron who once vowed to stop his bloodletting and drew red lines warning Assad against using chemical weapons, said contributing writer Alexander Griffing.

Assad's Survival

Syrian war expert Christopher Phillips says the Islamist militant group Hezbollah was "absolutely key" to Assad's survival in Syria's devastating seven-year civil war.

"As the war progressed, Hezbollah, Iran and later Russia intervened militarily to help Assad, while the United States, Turkey and the Kurds fought in Syria and set up military bases to battle the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq," Phillips said. Hezbollah members were the first foreign fighters, in 2012, to enter on Assad's side and "led the way in key battles like...

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AP File Photo/Hani Mohammed

UN: DEATH TOLL FROM SAUDI AIRSTRIKE IN YEMEN AT 21

October 25, 2018 | AP News

SANAA, Yemen — A Saudi-led coalition airstrike at a fruit-and-vegetable market near Yemen's flashpoint Red Sea port of Hodeida killed at least 21 civilians, including children, the U.N. humanitarian aid agency said Thursday. Wednesday's attack came amid mounting fears of a fresh coalition assault on Hodeida — a city that has been the lifeline for international aid deliveries to Yemen, ravaged by a brutal 3 ½-year war between the Saudi-led alliance and Shite rebels known as Houthis.

The coalition has been trying to wrest Hodeida from the Iran-backed rebels but the campaign, like the rest of Yemen's war, had fallen into a stalemate. The airstrike, which hit a vegetable packaging facility in the outdoor market in the town of Bayt el-Faqih, just south of Hodeida, also wounded 10 people. Initial reports had five dead but the death toll steadily climbed overnight. The director of the Bayt...

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WEARY MIGRANTS STILL FAR FROM REACHING US BORDER

October 23, 2018 | AP News

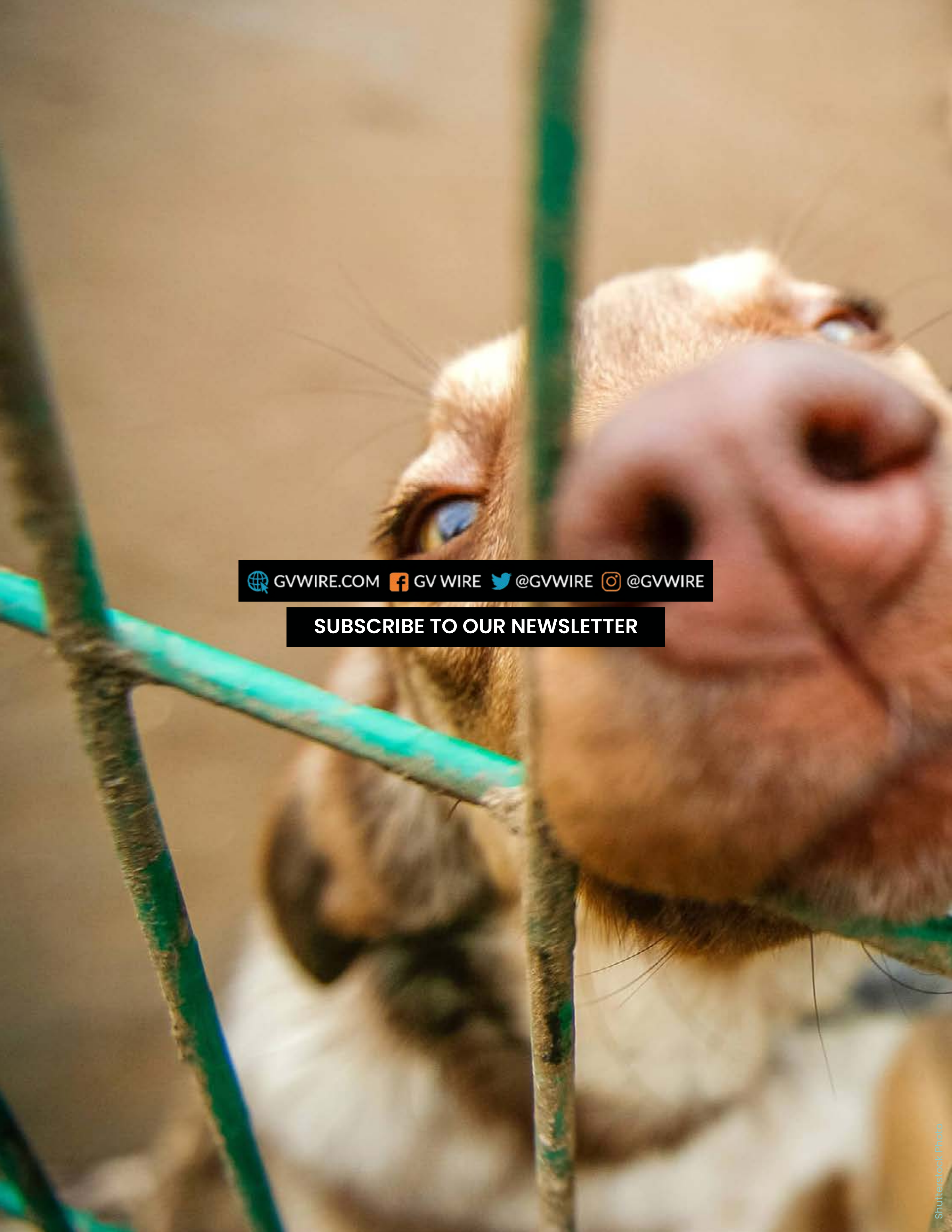
HUIXTLA, Mexico — Thousands of Central American migrants awoke Tuesday in a makeshift encampment in a rain-soaked town square in far-southern Mexico, some weary, foot-sore and coughing, still distant from their goal of reaching the U.S. border. The caravan, estimated to include more than 7,000 people, had advanced about 45 miles since crossing the border from Guatemala, and still faced more than 1,000 miles, and likely much further, to the end of the journey.





But as the sun rose, a chorus of coughs arose from the shapeless forms wrapped in blankets and bits of plastic sheeting. Burned by the relentless heat and the night's chill, eating badly and sleeping rough, many appeared to be developing respiratory symptoms. Forty-eight-year-old Edwin Enrique Jimenez Flores of Tela, Honduras had one of those persistent coughs, but still vowed to reach the U.S. to seek...

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AP Photo/Moises Castillo

A close-up photograph of a brown cow's face, partially obscured by vertical green metal bars. The cow's eyes are visible, looking slightly to the side. The background is a blurred, light brown wall.

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