



SHERIFF BLAMES SANCTUARY STATE LAW IN KILLING OF POLICE CORPORAL

December 28, 2018 | David Taub

Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson blamed California's sanctuary state law in the shooting death of Newman police Cpl. Ronil "Ron" Singh. In a news conference Friday in Modesto to announce the arrest of 32-year old Gustavo Perez Arriaga, Christianson said if not for SB 54, Singh may still be alive.

"This could have been preventable. Under SB 54 in California, based on two arrests for DUI and some other active warrants this criminal has out there, law enforcement would have been prevented, prohibited from sharing the information with ICE about this criminal gang member," Christianson said. Christianson continued with his criticism.

"This is a criminal illegal alien, with prior criminal activ-

"I'm suggesting the outcome could have been different if law enforcement wasn't restricted, prohibited or had their hands tied because of political interference." — Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson

ity, that should have been reported to ICE. Law enforcement was prohibited because of sanctuary laws. That led to the encounter with Officer Singh. I'm suggesting the outcome could have been different if law enforcement wasn't restricted, prohibited or had their

hands tied because of political interference," Christianson said. Christianson said that SB 54 negatively impacts public safety. "This is not how you protect a community," Christianson said.

Arriaga's Arrest

The Kern County Sheriff's Department arrested Arriaga at a Lamont home in Kern County this morning. Law enforcement tracked a vehicle to that location and surveilled the scene for 24 hours, Christianson said. Christianson said two more men were arrested for misleading law enforcement: 25-year-old Adrian Virgen, who was identified as Arriaga's brother; and 32-year-old Erik Razo Quiroz, who was identified as a co-worker. "We had them in custody. We asked them for cooperation and they lied to us," Christianson said. Arriaga attempt-

ed to flee to Mexico, Christianson said. The Stanislaus County sheriff also said that Arriaga illegally crossed into Arizona from Mexico "some time ago." He had two prior DUI arrests. Singh pulled over Arriaga for DUI on Dec. 26. That is when Arriaga allegedly shot and killed Singh. The sheriff said Arriaga also had known ties to the Sureño street gang. Arriaga worked as a dairy farm laborer.

SB 54

Passed in 2017, SB 54 limits state and local police cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Christianson surmised that if Arriaga was deported because of his past DUI arrests, "he wouldn't have been driving drunk and it wouldn't have been reported to Officer Singh. The enforcement stop potentially never would have occurred?"

"Why are we are providing sanctuary for criminals, gang members? It's a conversation we need to have," he said. The office of Gov. Jerry Brown, who signed the bill into law, refuted Christianson's claim. "Contrary to these claims, California law fully permits the sharing of information on dangerous gang members," Brown spokesman Evan Westrup told GV Wire via email.

Trump Uses Singh's Killing to Call for Border Wall President Donald Trump said the shooting demonstrated the need for a border crackdown. Trump tweeted Thursday that it's "time to get tough on Border Security." He ended the message with: "Build the Wall!" Christianson did not want to go into Trump's thoughts, but he said that border security goes hand in hand with na-

"The last thing I want to do is politicize the death of Officer Singh," Christianson said. He added that Singh legally immigrated from Fiji to pursue his American dream. "His dream was taken from him." Assemblyman Heath Flora (R-Ripon) stood behind Christianson. He voted no on SB 54. Locally, Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) voted yes on the bill. His office...

tional security and public safety.

READ MORE » GV Wire Weekly Digest 3



THEY MADE THE NEWS IN 2018. **WHO IS NO. 1?**

December 31, 2018 | Bill McEwen

Newsmakers come in all shapes, sizes, and impacts. There are those who dominate headlines and social media for a spell before free-falling back into obscurity. There are those who - by virtue of talent, position, and personality - make lasting marks on a community. And there are those who occupy the space between the shooting stars and the real stars. Here's a look at some of the people who shaped greater Fresno or put it on the map (for better or worse) in 2018:

25. Vong Mouanoutoua — Clovis city councilman

Mouanoutoua came to the defense of renters everywhere after a resident described them as "riffraff" at a council meeting in January. "I am a riffraff, because I rent. I think it is unfair to associate a zoning, or a term or medium, with crime (and) with bad citizenship," he responded from the dais.

With California in the midst of a housing crisis, cities are under pressure to approve more development of all kinds. All Clovis leaders should side with Mouanoutoua to ensure that planning decisions aren't based on stereotypes.

24. Silvia Lopez — farmworker

In May, the Fresno-based 5th District Court of Appeal granted a unanimous victory to Gerawan farmworkers led by Silvia Lopez who wanted votes cast in 2013 counted in a dispute over union representation. Four months later, the state Agricultural Relations Labor Board tallied the votes in a process lasting nearly five hours. The verdict: Gerawan employees rejected representation by the United Farm Workers union, 1,098 to

Critics of Lopez paint her as a pawn of Gerawan's owners. Lopez refutes such claims, saying that she represents "the rise of new farmworker movements to replace the old" such as the UFW. Beyond dispute is that she successfully fought in court to have the votes counted. On Sept. 18, her goal was realized dealing major defeats to the ARLB and the UFW.

23. Elizabeth Heng — congressional candidate

The daughter of Cambodian refugees captured the imagination of national conservatives. She forced social media giants...

RIP, DAVID MCDONALD: A **GIANT IN LOCAL BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPY**

January 2, 2019 | Bill McEwen

David McDonald, who had a giant impact on the Fresno area as a businessman and philanthropist, died Wednesday morning at his Prather home. Fresno County deputies responded to a call for medical assistance at about 9 a.m. McDonald, 69, later passed away, apparently of natural causes, according to the sheriff's office.

McDonald, a heavy smoker throughout his life, had struggled recently with respiratory problems, friends said. "God decided to take him home," said former Fresno Mayor Alan Autry. "He was a good man — not just a rich man." On Thursday, Fresno Mayor Lee Brand and City Manager Wilma Quan-Schecter ordered the Fresno flag at City Hall lowered to half-staff in Mc-Donald's honor through Monday, Jan. 7. McDonald built Pelco, which made security cameras, into a manufacturing powerhouse after moving it from southern California to Fresno in the early 1980s. He and his partners sold the company to a French firm, Schneider Electric, for about \$1.5 billion in 2007...

READ MORE »



HUMAN WASTE, TRASH OVERWHELM YOSEMITE AMID SHUTDOWN

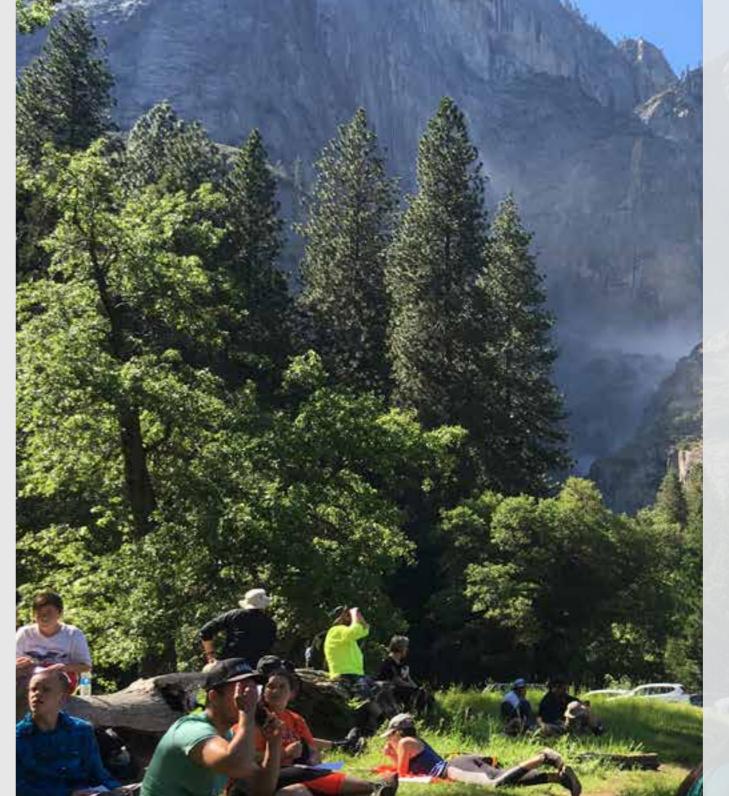
December 31, 2018 | AP News

Human feces, overflowing garbage, illegal off-roading and other damaging behavior in fragile areas were beginning to overwhelm some of the West's iconic national parks, including Yosemite, on Monday, as a partial government shutdown left the areas open to visitors but with little staff on duty.

"It's a free-for-all," Dakota Snider, 24, who lives and works in Yosemite Valley, said by telephone Monday, as Yosemite National Park officials announced closings of some minimally supervised campgrounds and public areas within the park that are overwhelmed."It's so heartbreaking. There is more trash and human waste and disregard for the rules than I've seen in my four years living here," Snider said.

The 10th day of the partial federal government shutdown, which has forced furloughs of hundreds of thousands of federal government employees, has left many parks without most...

READ MORE »



READ MORE » 4 GV Wire Weekly Digest



AFTER POLICE KILLING, COX CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

December 28, 2018 | David Taub

Congressman-elect TJ Cox (D-Fresno) says the killing of a Newman police corporal allegedly at the hands of an illegal immigrant illustrates the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Cpl. Ronil Singh of the Newman Police Department died Wednesday (Dec. 26) after attempting to stop a suspected DUI driver. At a Friday

"If we have comprehensive immigration reform, then the jails will be able to inform people. Law enforcement should be working collaboratively, to be able to communicate across the board. ... Sanctuary city laws were set up to assist law enforcement, so people felt free to be able to come to their law enforcement, to be able to report crimes."

— Congressman-elect TJ Cox

news conference announcing the arrest of 32-year old Gustavo Perez Arriaga, Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson blamed California's sanctuary state law, SB 54.

"This could have been preventable. Under SB 54 in California, based on two arrests for DUI and some other active warrants this criminal has out there, law

enforcement would have been prevented, prohibited from sharing the information with ICE about this criminal gang member," Christianson said.

Cox Wants Immigration Reform

Cox didn't support the sheriff's conclusion. "If we have comprehensive immigration reform, then the jails will be able to inform people. Law enforcement should be working collaboratively, to be able to communicate across the board. ...Sanctuary city laws were set up to assist law enforcement, so people felt free to be able to come to their law enforcement, to be able to report crimes," Cox said. Cox said that SB 54 is a tool for the community to report crimes without fear.

"What we've got right now is the exactly the opposite. People don't come forward to report crimes because they know if they show up and they are undocumented, they are going to be deported," Cox said.

Trump and the Border Wall

President Donald Trump, on Twitter, used the killing of Singh to push for the building of a border wall. Cox said that a border wall is an ineffective idea. "A border wall is a 12th-century solution to a 21st-century problem," Cox said. The issue has been a sticking point between Trump and Democratic leadership during the partial federal government shutdown.

"What this is all about is, Mr. Trump being able to make political points with his base," Cox said. "The border wall represents such a small, tiny fraction of our government spending, that he's going to shut down the entire government?" Cox will be sworn in on Jan. 3, representing the 21st congressional district.



LEBRON JAMES' MOVE TO LAKERS COULD COST HIM \$20 MILLION IN TAXES

December 28, 2018 | CALmatters

Gov. Jerry Brown has gotten a lot of credit for California's fiscal rebound. When he came to office, the state budget was running a deficit of \$27 billion; now, as Brown leaves office, he'll leave his successor, Gavin Newsom, with a \$15 billion rainy day fund. Thanks, Jerry! But Californians actually should be thanking other, richer Californians. Under the state's progressive tax structure, 46 percent of state income taxes are paid by the top 1 percent.

Tales of the rich supposedly fleeing the state's high income taxes are hardy perennials, but California still leads the nation in billionaires, and recent studies have found that, among higher earners, California has experienced a net gain. In fact, one such report, by Stanford University's Center on Poverty and Inequality and the state Franchise Tax Board, came out this year right around the time a famous 1 Percenter announced that he was departing the snow belt to join...

READ MORE »

PROSECUTORS: FIRES MAY MEAN PG&E VIOLATED

January 2, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric's role in igniting wildfires last year could allow a judge to find that it violated terms of its criminal sentence in a 2010 gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people, federal prosecutors said Monday. In a court filing, the U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco said state investigations blamed PG&E power lines for some fires in October 2017. Investigators also found evidence that the utility violated state law.

"These facts, specifically if PG&E started a wildfire by reckless operation or maintenance of its power lines, may serve as a basis for the court to find that the defendant corporation violated" terms of its probation, prosecutors said. A U.S. judge in 2017 put PG&E on five years of probation following its conviction on pipeline safety charges stemming from an explosion of one of its pipelines in the San Francisco Bay Area. Prosecu-

tors' filing came after a judge overseeing the pipeline case...

READ MORE »

December 28, 2018 | GV Wire

Chris Burrous, a weekend news anchor at Los Angeles TV station KTLA and a former Fresno newsman, has died. Glendale police say the 43-year-old Burrous was not breathing when paramedics were called to a Days Inn on Thursday and he was pronounced dead at a hospital.

His death is being investigated as a possible overdose, Glendale police said in a news release. Police further stated there was no indication of suicide. Burrous came to KTLA in 2011 after 14 years as a reporter and anchor at various stations, primarily in the Central Valley, as well as at WPIX in New York City. He spent three years in Fresno as the morning

anchor for CBS affiliate KGPE-47. Former KSEE-24 anchor/ reporter Zara Arboleda tweeted her memories of Burrous. KTLA President and General Manager Don Corsini and News Director Jason Ball said in a statement that Burrous "brought a kindness to his work" and will be remembered as "a great journalist and a wonderful friend to many."

You can view KTLA's tribute to Burrous at this link. City News Service reported that his weekend "Burrous' Bites" segments, which featured the best hole-in-the-wall eateries in Southern California, were a viewer favorite. Burrous is survived by his wife, Mai Do-Burrous, and 9-year-old daughter...

READ MORE » 8 GV Wire Weekly Digest



TRUMP ANSWERS ROMNEY CRITICISM: 'I WON BIG, AND HE DIDN'T'

January 2, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Faced with biting public criticism from Republican Sen.-elect Mitt Romney, President Donald Trump pushed back Wednesday, reminding him that "I won big, and he didn't." Days away from joining

"With the nation so divided, resentful and angry, presidential leadership in qualities of character is indispensable. And it is in this province where the incumbent's shortfall has been most glaring." — Sen.-elect Mitt Romney

the Senate's Republican majority, Romney broadly criticized Trump's policies and character in a newspaper column, arguing that the president "has not risen to the mantle of the office." "With the nation so divided, resentful and angry, presidential leadership in qualities of character is indispensable," the Utah

Republican and 2012 presidential nominee wrote in a Washington Post op-ed posted online Tuesday night. "And it is in this province where the incumbent's shortfall has been most glaring."

Trump fired back on Twitter, saying early Wednesday: "Here we go with Mitt Romney, but so fast! Question will be, is he a Flake? I hope not. Would much prefer that Mitt focus on Border Security and so many other things where he can be helpful." Trump's warning shot referred to retiring Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, who has been Trump's most consistent critic among Senate Republicans. As he and other critics leave Congress, it is an open question who — if anyone — will take up the role of publicly criticizing a president who remains popular with Republican voters.

Senate Republicans Face a New Governing Dynamic Romney's biting public assessment came as Trump and Senate Republicans faced a new governing dynamic. Republicans on Thursday will cede control of the House to Democrats, who were prepared to oppose Trump on a number of policies and promised a slew of investigations into his actions and those of his aides and campaign officials, particularly with regard to Russia's election meddling. Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, had criticized Trump before — notably, in a March 2016 speech he called Trump a "fraud" and opposed his bid for the GOP nomination — but later he made peace with the president-elect and even expressed interest in joining his administration.

Romney's rebuke of Trump drew a cutting reply from Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager. In a tweet Tuesday night, Parscale said Romney "lacked the ability

to save this nation" and contended that Trump "has saved it." "Jealously is a drink best served warm and Romney just proved it," Parscale wrote, adding he wished "everyone had the courage" Trump had. In the

"With the nation so divided, resentful and angry, presidential leadership in qualities of character is indispensable. And it is in this province where the incumbent's shortfall has been most glaring."

Sen.-elect Mitt Romney

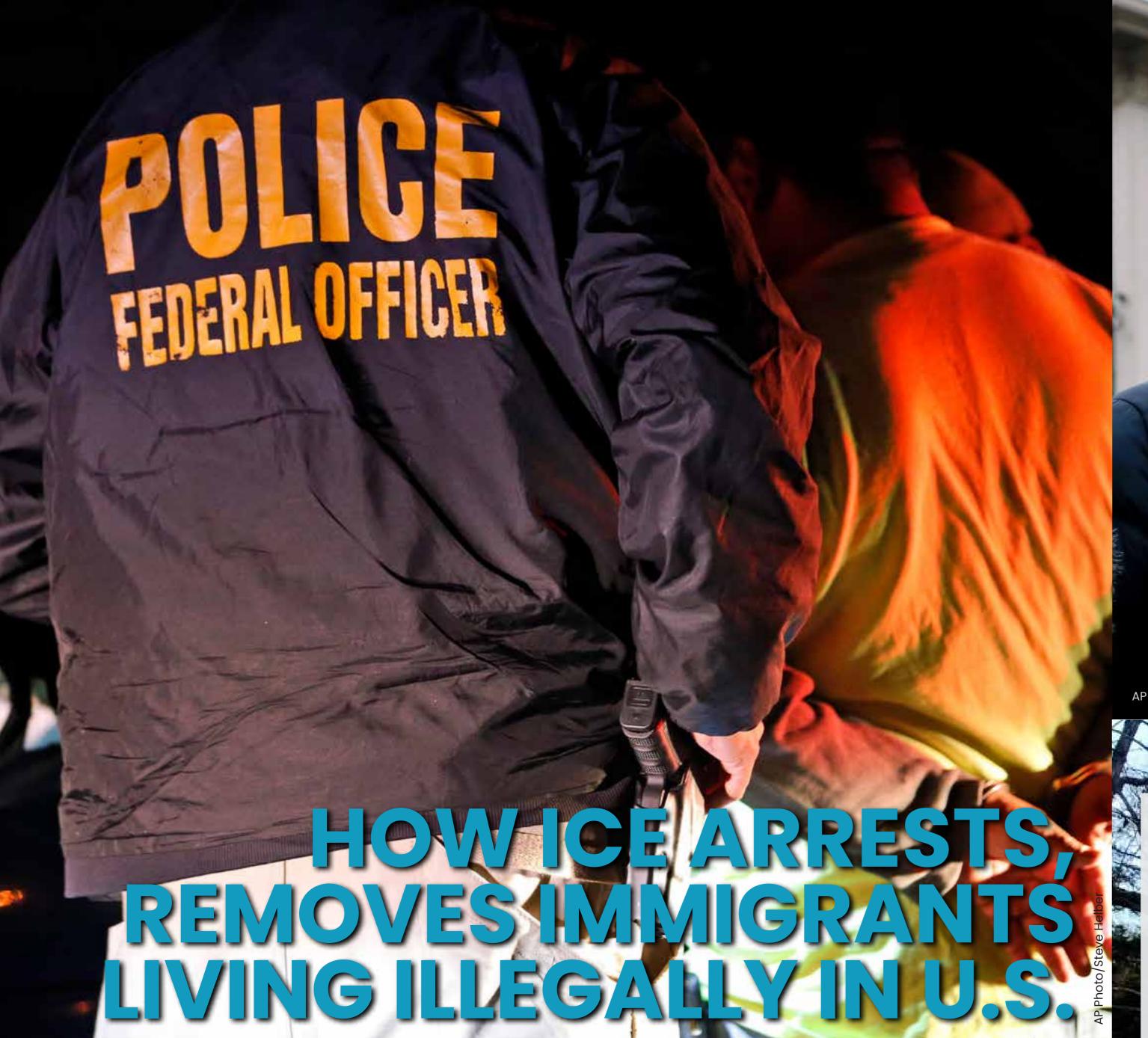
column, Romney offered approval of Trump's corporate tax policies and efforts to cut regulations, appoint conservative judges and other "policies mainstream Republicans have promoted for years. But policies and appointments are only a part of a presidency."

'The President Has Not Risen to the Mantle'

"To a great degree, a presidency shapes the public character of the nation," Romney said. He later added: "With the nation so divided, resentful and angry, presidential leadership in qualities of character is indispensable. And it is in this province where the incumbent's shortfall has been most glaring."

While saying Trump's early administration appointments had been encouraging, Romney added that, "on balance, his conduct over the past two years, particularly his actions this month, is evidence that the president...

READ MORE » GV Wire Weekly Digest 11



December 31, 2018 | AP News

RICHMOND, Va. — The officers suit up in the pre-dawn darkness, wrapping on body armor, snapping in guns, pulling on black sweat shirts that read POLICE and ICE. They gather around a conference table in an ordinary office in a nondescript office park in the suburbs, going over their targets for the day: two men, both with criminal histories.

Top of the list is a man from El Salvador convicted of drunken driving. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's enforcement and removal operations, like the five-person field office team outside Richmond, hunt people in the U.S.

illegally, some of whom have been here for decades, working and raising families. Under President Donald Trump, who has pushed hardline immigration policies, ICE has been exposed to unprecedented public scrutiny and criticism, even though officers say they're doing the same job they did before the election — enforcing U.S. laws that were on the books long

U.S. criminal records. It is those stories of ICE officers arrest-

before 2016 and prioritizing criminals. But they have also stepped up arrests of people who have no ing dads and grandmothers that pepper local news. Officers...

ELIZABETH WARREN TAKES BIG STEP TOWARD **2020 PRESIDENTIAL BID**

December 19, 2018 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Monday took the first major step toward launching a widely anticipated campaign for the presidency, hoping her reputation as a populist fighter can help her navigate a Democratic field that could include nearly two dozen candidates.

"No matter what our differences, most of us want the same thing," the 69-year-old Massachusetts Democrat said in a video that highlights her family's history in Oklahoma. "To be able to work hard, play by the same set of rules and take care of the people we love. That's what I'm fighting for and that's why today I'm launching an exploratory committee for president." Warren burst onto the national scene a decade ago during the financial crisis with calls for greater consumer protections. She quickly became one of the party's more prominent liberals even as she sometimes fought with Obama...

READ MORE »

December 31, 2018 | AP News

BURLINGTON, N.C. - An intern was cleaning an animal enclosure at a North Carolina wildlife center when a lion escaped from a nearby pen and attacked her, killing the young woman and sending visitors out of the zoo, authorities said. Deputies shot and killed the lion Sunday before retrieving the body of Alexandra Black, 22, a recent college graduate who had worked at the center for about two weeks.

"This person's passion was the zoological industry. This was not this person's first internship. This person wanted to spend a lifetime around these animals, and I believe that the family was very supportive of that," said Mindy Stinner, executive director of the privately run Conservators Center, about 60 miles northwest of Raleigh. Black was accompanying other staff members as they did a routine cleaning of the enclosure. That's when the lion got free from a separate locked space, according to a statement from the center...

READ MORE »

READ MORE » 12 GV Wire Weekly Digest



IRAQI LAWMAKERS DEMAND US WITHDRAWAL AFTER TRUMP VISIT

December 27, 2018 | AP News

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers Thursday demanded U.S. forces leave the country in the wake of a surprise visit by President Donald Trump that politicians denounced as arrogant and a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. Politicians from both blocs of Iraq's divided Parliament called for a vote to expel U.S. troops and promised to sched-

"Parliament must clearly and urgently express its view about the ongoing American violations of Iraqi sovereignty."

 Salam al-Shimiri, a lawmaker loyal to the populist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr ule an extraordinary session to debate the matter. "Parliament must clearly and urgently express its view about the ongoing American violations of Iraqi sovereignty," said Salam al-Shimiri, a law-

maker loyal to the populist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. Trump, making his first presidential visit to troops in a troubled region Wednesday, said he has no plans to withdraw the 5,200 U.S. forces in the country. Containing foreign influence has become a hot-button issue in a year that saw al-Sadr supporters win the largest share of votes in May elections. Al-Sadr has called for curbing U.S. and Iranian involvement in Iraqi affairs.

Speaking out Against Presence of U.S. Forces

U.S. troops are stationed in Iraq as part of the coalition against the Islamic State group. American forces withdrew in 2011 after invading in 2003 but returned in 2014 at the invitation of the Iraqi government to help fight the jihadist group. But after defeating IS militants in their last urban bastions last year, Iraqi politicians and militia leaders are speaking out against the continued presence of U.S. forces in Iraqi soil.

Qais Khazali, the head of the Iran-backed Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia that fought key battles against IS in north Iraq, promised on Twitter that Parliament would vote to expel U.S. forces from Iraq, or the militia and others would force them out by "other means." Khazali was jailed by British and U.S. forces from 2007 to 2010 for managing sections of the Shia insurgency against the occupation during those years. His militia is represented in Parliament by the Binaa bloc, a rival coalition to al-Sadr's Islah. Binaa favors close ties with Iran and is aligned with Tehran on regional political issues.

Violating Diplomatic Norms

Trump spent three hours at a U.S. air base meeting with American troops during his visit. The president defended his decision to withdraw 2,000 U.S. forces from neighboring Syria, saying the U.S. military had all but eliminated IS-controlled territory there. He left without meeting any Iraqi officials, though he spoke to Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi by phone.

The prime minister's office said in a statement after Trump's visit that "differences in points of view" over arrangements led to a face-to-face meeting between the two leaders to be scrapped. Al-Shimiri said Trump's visit "violated several diplomatic norms."



January 1, 2019 | AP News

TIJUANA, Mexico — Thousands of Central Americans journeying toward the United States were 2,500 miles from their destination in October when they reached a moment of decision: Should they press on toward the U.S. border? Or should they stop and put down roots in Mexico, where the government offered to let them stay?

Pueblo Sin Fronteras, a group of activists escorting the caravan, warned the migrants that the offer might be too good to be true and called a voice vote on whether to continue. "Let's keep going!" the crowd yelled amid applause. And they kept going. Thousands are now in Tijuana on the U.S. border,

where they are likely to be camped for months or longer with no easy way to get into the United States, creating what is fast becoming a humanitarian crisis in this overwhelmed city. Many blame Pueblo Sin Fronteras, or People Without Borders, made up of about 40 U.S. and Mexican activists.

Critics, including former allies and some of the migrants themselves, say Pueblo Sin Fronteras downplayed the dangers of such treks, especially for families and small children, and misled the participants about how long they would have to wait on the Mexican side to apply for asylum. Adelaida Gonzalez, 37, of Guatemala City, who joined the caravan...



Thursday, including naming a new foreign minister, following international fallout from the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi nearly three months ago.

He also ordered a shakeup of the kingdom's two supreme councils that oversee matters related to the economy and security, respectively. Both councils are headed by the king's son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose powers, including roles as deputy prime minister and defense minister, were untouched in the overhaul. The changes appear to further consolidate the crown prince's grip on power by appointing advisers and members of the royal family seen as close to him. Adel al-Jubeir, the soft-spoken foreign minister who took over the post in 2015 from the late Prince Saud al-Faisal, was replaced by Ibrahim al-Assaf, formerly a longtime finance minister. Al-Jubeir was appointed to the rank...

READ MORE »

AMERICAN MAN FIRST TO COMPLETE 'IMPOSSIBLE' ANTARCTICA TREK

December 27, 2018 | AP News

An Oregon man became the first person to traverse Antarctica alone without any assistance on Wednesday, trekking across the polar continent in an epic 54-day journey that was previously deemed impossible. Colin O'Brady, of Portland, finished the bone-chilling, 930-mile journey as friends, family and fans tracked the endurance athlete's progress in real time online.

"I did it!" a tearful O'Brady said on a call to his family gathered in Portland for the holidays, according to his wife, Jenna Besaw. "It was an emotional call," she said. "He seemed overwhelmed by love and gratitude, and he really wanted to say 'Thank you' to all of us." O'Brady was sleeping near the finish line in Antarctica late Wednesday and could not immediately be reached for comment. The 33-year-old O'Brady documented his nearly entirely uphill journey — which he called The Impossible First — on his Instagram page. He wrote...

READ MORE »



16 GV Wire Weekly Digest **READ MORE »**

