



GROW WIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST
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MEASURE P ATTORNEY ASKS CITY TO START COLLECTING FRESNO PARKS TAX

January 24, 2019 | David Taub

Measure P, the 2018 sales tax initiative for parks, may not have failed after all. Last November, 52% of Fresno voters favored it. However, voters were told it needed two-thirds approval to pass. Thus, the measure failed.

Or did it?

An attorney, on behalf of Measure P advocate Fresno Building Health Communities, wrote a letter to Mayor Lee Brand, noting that based on a recent court decision, the city should consider Measure P approved. **As first**

“We believe this conclusion (of Measure P failing) is based on erroneous interpretation of the law and request that the City declare that Measure P was, in fact, approved by the voters.”

— Attorney Lance Olson of Sacramento

mentioned in GV Wire back in August, tax measures need two-thirds’ approval if they go for a specific purpose, such as parks in the case of Measure P. However, a 2017 state Supreme Court ruling in the Upland case, opened the door to a lower standard for approval

if the ballot measure was brought forth by citizen petition. And that’s what happened with Measure P. Backers qualified it for the ballot by collecting 27,623 verified signatures — 4,000 more than legally required.

Attorney Letter

Attorney Lance Olson of Sacramento, sent Brand a letter, dated Jan. 23, reasoning that because of the Upland case and interpretations from other jurisdictions, Measure P should have passed. “We believe this conclusion (of Measure P failing) is based on erroneous interpretation of the law and request that the City declare that Measure P was, in fact, approved by the voters,” Olson wrote. Olson requests the city “immediately begin negotiations with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration” to start collecting the sales tax. It gives the city a Jan. 31 deadline to respond “so that my client may determine if litigation is an appropriate recourse.” But, tax advocacy groups disagree with Olson’s legal reasoning. “The attorney in this case seems to be trying to stretch the Upland case to reach a decision it

didn’t actually reach,” said David Kline, spokesman for the California Taxpayers Association. Kline says it would be inherently unfair to changes the voting rules after the fact. “It’s breaking the will with the voters. The ballot accurately described it as a two-thirds vote measure. It didn’t get two-thirds vote. Therefore, it failed. It’s just that simple,” Kline said.

Mayor Reacts

Brand emailed GV Wire his reaction through his communications department. “We received a letter from their attorney late yesterday afternoon and while we are consulting with our legal department to understand our options, it has been and will continue to be our policy not to comment on pending or threatened litigation,” Brand said. He is worried this latest action will be divisive.

“However, I believe this action will make it much more difficult, if not impossible, to unify the community in support a balanced measure that not only seeks to remedy our deficiencies in parks, but also in public safety and many other areas where the City does not have sufficient resources to provide the necessary services our residents deserve and need,” Brand continued.

Measure P Recap

The three-eighths of a cent sales tax would be dedicated to Fresno parks and related programs. The contentious campaign pitted parks and social justice advocates against Brand, public safety advocates and some in the building development community. Darius Assemi, president of Granville Homes, opposed Measure P. Assemi is the publisher of GV Wire. Despite spending millions, the Yes on P side, headed by former Mayor Ashley Swearengin, fell short of the two-thirds threshold cited by the city and set by Proposition 218, a voter-approved law passed in 1996 that set rules for raising taxes. There was a legal skirmish heading into the election, when Yes on P advocates revealed that the city sent the **incorrect ballot language** to the county election office. In a settlement, the city agreed to mail postcards...

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Bullard High School Security Footage

LAWYER SAYS BULLARD STUDENT DIDN'T THREATEN DISTRICT TRUSTEE

January 21, 2019 | David Taub

The attorney representing a Bullard High School freshman involved in a physical altercation with a Fresno Unified school board member says his client didn't trigger the incident. [Video of the Jan. 11 incident released by the school district](#) shows Fresno Unified School District trustee Terry Slatc in a physical tussle with the student. [Slatc, speaking about the incident to GV Wire last week](#), said the student threatened to shoot and kill Slatc and his assistant, Michelle Asadoorian.

"The video does not support such an account. My understanding is that Mr. Slatc contends that the threat was why he turned around and approached my client, which is just completely illogical and unsupported by what is depicted in the video," said the student's attorney, Roger Bonakdar of Fresno. Bonakdar would not confirm the identity of the student, other than he is a freshman at Bullard. The video — which can be seen at the top of this page — shows Slatc and Asadoorian walking by the student, then Slatc turning around and engaging in a physical confrontation. Slatc forcibly grabbed the student's backpack and placed it on the ground. The student then

took the bag and ran off. The attorney representing a Bullard High School freshman involved in a physical altercation with a Fresno Unified school board member says his client didn't trigger the incident. Video of the Jan. 11 incident released by the school district shows Fresno Unified School District trustee Terry Slatc in a physical tussle with the student.

Slatc, speaking about the incident to GV Wire last week, said the student threatened to shoot and kill Slatc and his assistant, Michelle Asadoorian. "The video does not support such an account. My understanding is that Mr. Slatc contends that the threat was why he turned around and approached my client, which is just completely illogical and unsupported by what is depicted in the video," said the student's attorney, Roger Bonakdar of Fresno. Bonakdar would not confirm the identity of the student, other than he is a freshman at Bullard. The video — which can be seen at the top of this page — shows Slatc and Asadoorian walking by the student, then Slatc turning around and engaging in a physical confrontation. Slatc forcibly grabbed the student's backpack and placed it on the ground...

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VALLEY PACKS A PUNCH ON POWERFUL CONGRESSIONAL AG COMMITTEE

January 18, 2019 | GV Wire

The San Joaquin Valley will wield considerable clout on the influential House Committee on Agriculture in the 116th Congress. Rep. Jim Costa of Fresno is joined by two other Valley Democrats on the committee, newly elected [TJ Cox of Fresno](#) and [Josh Harder of Turlock](#). Costa is the third-ranking Democrat on the committee and grows almonds in Fresno. Cox, an engineer, started two businesses that process nuts. And Harder worked with small farmers in Kenya and Uganda before becoming a venture capitalist focusing on small businesses.

"This is good news," said Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO Ryan Jacobsen. "It's historic, especially when you consider that the three districts literally touch each other. Having three voices and, more importantly, three votes on issues affecting Valley agriculture is significant." "Agriculture is the heart and soul of the Central Valley, and the 21st Congressional District is the most agriculturally productive in California. I'm honored to be named to this critical committee and ready to get to work..."

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Photo: Shutterstock



Photo: SCCC

AREA COLLEGES PROMISE BIG RESULTS FROM HALF BILLION IN SPENDING

January 18, 2019 | Myles Barker

A large crowd gathered in October for the groundbreaking of a \$5 million Agriculture and Technology building at Madera Community College Center. It was the first project to emerge from a nearly half-billion-dollar bond measure, approved by voters, benefiting State Center Community College District. "We have the honor of breaking ground here, but you're going to see projects in west Fresno, you're going to see projects on all of our campuses ... you're going to see a new campus up in Oakhurst," said Trustee Bobby Kahn. "There are going to be an array of projects ... going on in the next couple of years." That may be a bit of an understatement.

Taxpayer Investment Totals Nearly Half-Billion Dollars
Voters approved SCCC's \$485 million bond, known as Measure C, in June 2016. Two-and-half years later, the sprawling district has \$75 million worth of projects in the pipeline and many more on the drawing board. Officials say a plethora of...

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AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

NEWSOM SEEKS TO TRANSFORM YOUTH PRISONS

January 23, 2019 | AP News

STOCKTON — Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed Tuesday to change the way California's juvenile prisons are overseen, eventually closing facilities to cut what he called the "ludicrous" cost. "If we're going to get serious about

"If we're going to change the criminal justice system, let's start at the 'feeder system,' which is the juvenile justice system." — Gavin Newsom

changing the trajectory of the lives of these young children, I think we need to do it through a different lens and not the traditional corrections lens," Newsom said at one of the state's four remaining juvenile detention centers. The Democratic governor is asking state lawmakers to put youth prisons under California's Health and Human Services Agency. Youthful offenders currently are overseen by the same agency that runs adult prisons.

The current system isn't working, he said, with about three out of four young offenders arrested again within three years of their release. More than half are convicted of new crimes and more than a third are soon back in state custody, according to 2017 figures. "If we're going to change the criminal justice system, let's start at the 'feeder system,' which is the juvenile justice system," Newsom said after touring a new computer coding class at one of two youth prisons in Stockton. He also criticized the annual cost topping \$300,000 per young offender, noting that's the tuition of four private colleges combined.

Facilities Hold Offenders as Young as 12

The cost has spiraled as the number of offenders plummeted from more than 10,000 juveniles incarcerated in 11 state facilities in the 1990s to the roughly 650 housed now in four facilities, including one firefighting camp. The population is projected to reach about 760 youth next year because of various legal changes. Youths as young as 12 can be sent to the facilities and can remain in some cases until they are age 25, though

many are transferred to an adult prison when they turn 18. The remaining juvenile facilities are operating at about a third of their design capacity, the San Francisco-based Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice calculated. High fixed costs with fewer juveniles "are always the big burden," Newsom said. "That's why it's right to talk about closing facilities if it's possible, if it's doable. But you've got to protect the workers. That's something that's sacrosanct to me."

The influential prison guards union, a Newsom ally, said it will fight to keep the same employees with the same peace officer status. Newsom said any closures would be worked out within 12 to 18 months. The governor said he's finding broad consensus among legislators to move juvenile lockups from under the adult system.

Some critics said Newsom's plan, first mentioned in his state budget, goes too far, others not far enough to dismantle the state-run juvenile justice system. Maureen Washburn of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice called Newsom's proposal "an important recognition of the failure of the state's current approach. ... To be successful, this reform must end our reliance on large, costly, and remote facilities and bring young people closer to home where rehabilitation can happen most effectively."

Advocate: 'Different Way of Thinking'

Nearly 4,500 other juvenile offenders are in county detention facilities. But lawmakers have rejected previous attempts to send all the remaining state-held juvenile offenders to county lockups, with local officials saying they may be ill-equipped to handle the most violent or sexually predatory youth. Stephanie James, probation chief in San Joaquin County and president of the Chief Probation Officers of California, said Newsom may wind up interfering with a decade of...

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PG&E: JUDGE'S PROPOSALS FOR FIRE RISK COULD COST UP TO \$150B

AP Photo/Rich Redmoncelli, File

January 24, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Proposals by a U.S. judge to prevent Pacific Gas & Electric Co. equipment from causing more wildfires would endanger lives, could cost as much as \$150 billion and would interfere with the work of federal and state regulators, the utility said Wednesday in a court filing urging the judge not to impose the measures.

PG&E said it's committed to system upgrades and wildfire prevention but contended that a criminal case being handled by U.S. District Judge William Alsup was not the right forum to address such measures. Earlier this month, Alsup proposed ordering PG&E to remove or trim all trees that could

fall onto its power lines, poles or equipment in high-wind conditions and to document its inspections and work. He also proposed ordering PG&E to reinspect its entire electric grid and to cut off power during certain wind conditions regardless of the inconvenience to customers or loss of profit.

The legal arguments came as PG&E is facing hundreds of lawsuits from wildfire victims over catastrophic California wildfires in the past two years that killed scores of people and destroyed thousands of homes. The utility announced on Jan. 14 that it will file for bankruptcy protection in the face of at least \$30 billion in potential liability from the fires...

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AP Photo/Noah Berger, File

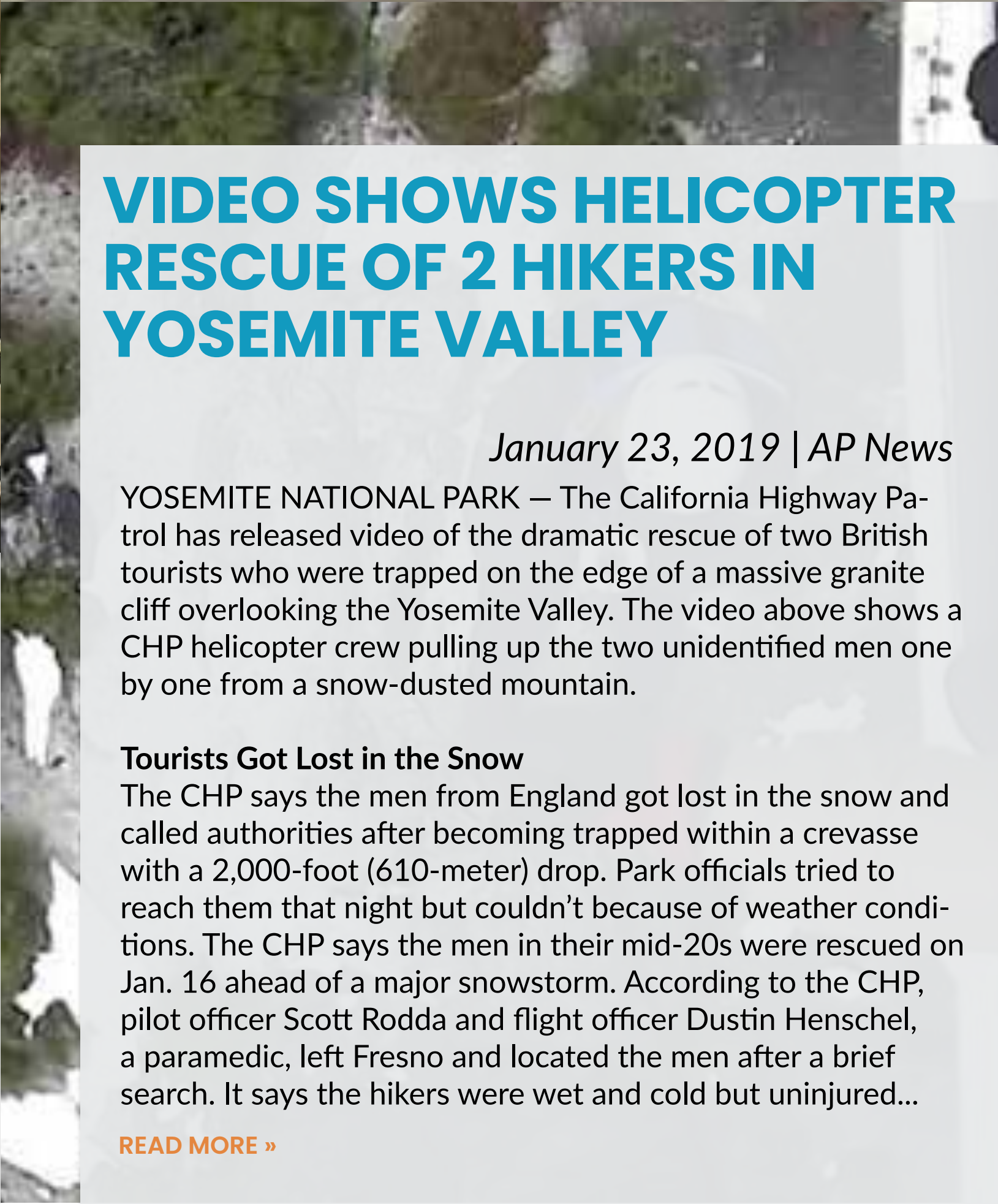
DISPUTE OVER RULES RILES CALIFORNIA'S LEGAL POT MARKET

January 18, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — California has finalized its rules governing the nation's largest legal marijuana market, a milestone coming more than a year after the state broadly legalized cannabis sales for adults. But a dispute over home deliveries into communities that ban pot sales could end up in court. And the hundreds of pages of dense regulations are unlikely to resolve other disputes, including how purity and potency tests are conducted for infused cookies and other products.

Even if imperfect, the rules were welcomed by many in the industry who have been contending with shifting temporary regulations since California kicked off broad legal sales last year. "Love it or hate it, California has regulations for commercial cannabis. There are no asterisks," said Hezekiah Allen, chair of cannabis growing cooperative Emerald Grown and former executive director of the California Growers Association, an industry group. Meanwhile, the regulations...

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VIDEO SHOWS HELICOPTER RESCUE OF 2 HIKERS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

January 23, 2019 | AP News

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — The California Highway Patrol has released video of the dramatic rescue of two British tourists who were trapped on the edge of a massive granite cliff overlooking the Yosemite Valley. The video above shows a CHP helicopter crew pulling up the two unidentified men one by one from a snow-dusted mountain.

Tourists Got Lost in the Snow

The CHP says the men from England got lost in the snow and called authorities after becoming trapped within a crevasse with a 2,000-foot (610-meter) drop. Park officials tried to reach them that night but couldn't because of weather conditions. The CHP says the men in their mid-20s were rescued on Jan. 16 ahead of a major snowstorm. According to the CHP, pilot officer Scott Rodda and flight officer Dustin Henschel, a paramedic, left Fresno and located the men after a brief search. It says the hikers were wet and cold but uninjured...

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Photo: YouTube



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

U.S. AP-NORC POLL: 6 IN 10 AMERICANS BLAME TRUMP FOR SHUTDOWN

January 24, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — A strong majority of Americans blame President Donald Trump for the record-long government shutdown and reject his primary rationale for a border wall, according to a new poll that shows the turmoil in Washington is dragging his approval rating to its lowest level in more than a year.

Overall, 34 percent of Americans approve of Trump's job performance in a survey conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's down from 42 percent a month earlier and nears the lowest mark of his two-year presidency. The president's approval among Republicans remains close to 80 percent, but his standing with independents is among its lowest points of his time in office. "Trump is responsible for this," said poll respondent Lloyd Rabalais, a

"I do support a wall, but not the way he's handling it. Trump guaranteed everybody that Mexico would pay for the wall. Now he's holding American workers like me hostage." — Lloyd Rabalais, a federal contractor from Slidell, Louisiana

next week to pay his bills if the shutdown continues. "I do support a wall, but not the way he's handling it," Rabalais added. "Trump guaranteed everybody that Mexico would pay for the wall. Now he's holding American workers like me hostage." The drop in approval comes as Trump begins the third year of his presidency under the weight of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, an international trade war that's straining the global economy and new revelations about his push for a real estate deal in Russia during his 2016 campaign.

Most Americans See the Shutdown as a Major Problem

Compared with earlier presidents, Trump's approval rating has been relatively stable over the course of his

presidency, ranging from the mid-30s to the mid-40s. By contrast, President Barack Obama never fell below 40 percent in polling by Gallup. Still, five presidents since Gallup began measuring presidential approval have had their rating fall into the 20s at least once, including Harry S. Truman, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. Trump has never fallen into that range of historic lows, but he's also the only president never to have reached 50 percent in Gallup's polling.

"We have never in my lifetime seen a president who has been so maligned and attacked and vilified." — Sandra Olson, poll respondent

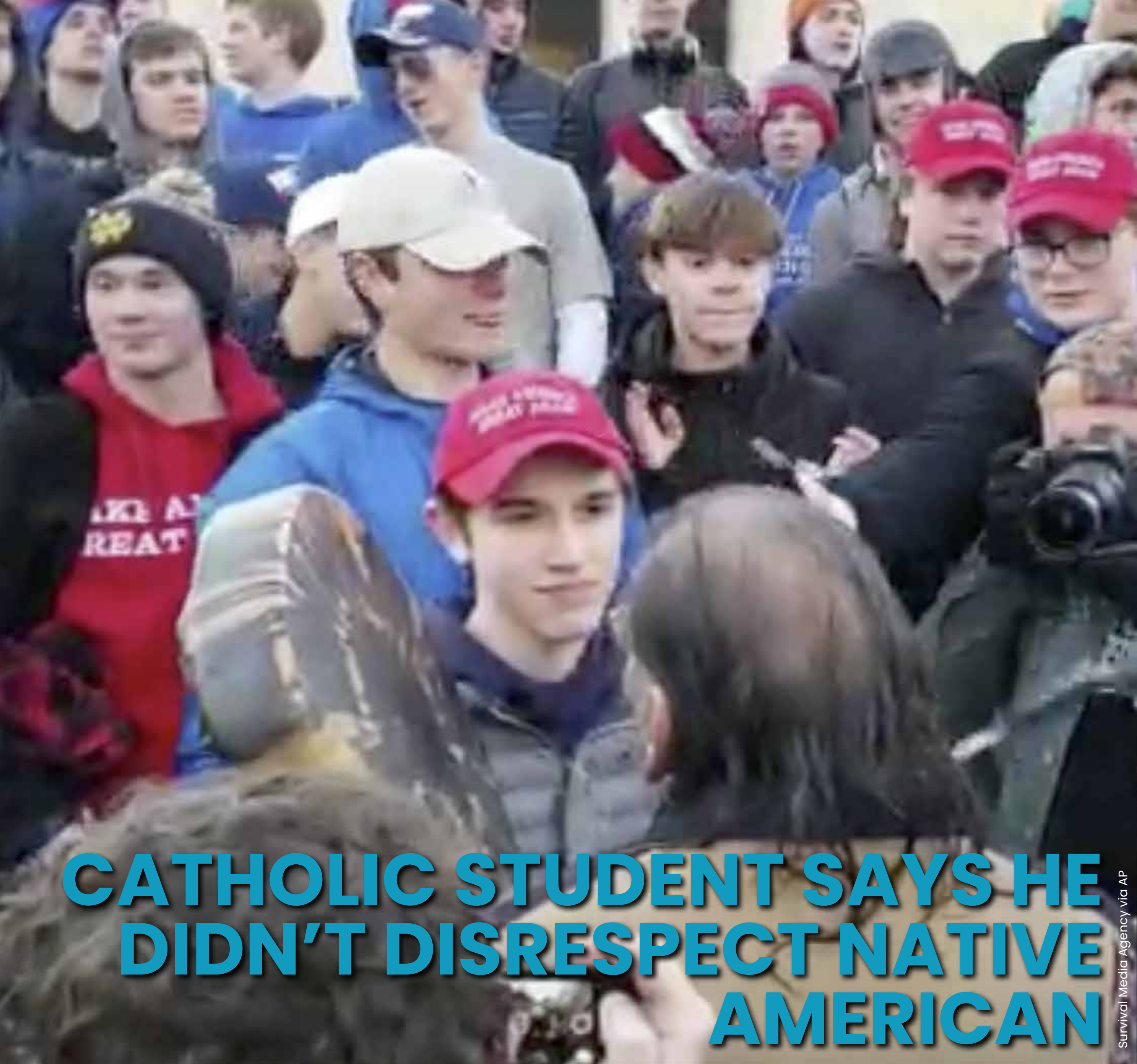
The new AP-NORC poll shows most Americans see the shutdown as a major problem, and they blame Trump far more than congressional Democrats for the mess that has ensnared the lives of roughly 800,000 government workers who are going without pay. Sixty percent of Americans say Trump bears a great deal of responsibility for the shutdown. About a third place the same amount of blame on congressional Democrats (31 percent) or Republicans (36 percent).

Sixty-five percent of Americans, including 86 percent of Democrats, 69 percent of independents and 33 percent of Republicans, call the shutdown a major problem. Trump may be popular overall with Republicans, but a sizable share holds him responsible for the current situation. Almost 3 in 10 Republicans think Trump bears a great deal of responsibility, while 73 percent of his party says he's at least partly responsible. "The large part of the responsibility belongs to the president because he made the decision," said poll respondent Sandra Olson, of Northwood, Iowa. The 76-year-old registered Republican said she voted for Trump once and likely will again.

Skepticism That a Wall Would Reduce Crime

"We have never in my lifetime seen a president who...

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CATHOLIC STUDENT SAYS HE DIDN'T DISRESPECT NATIVE AMERICAN

Survival Media Agency via AP

January 23, 2019 | AP News

PARK HILLS, Ky. — A Catholic high school student whose close encounter with a Native American activist and a black religious sect was captured on video in Washington, D.C. says he has nothing to apologize for. Nick Sandmann told NBC's "Today" show on Wednesday that he had every right to be there, as did the others who gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

He said he wasn't disrespectful and was trying to stay calm under the circumstances. Videos posted of Sandmann and his classmates wearing "Make America Great Again" hats

and facing off against Omaha Nation elder Nathan Phillips have sparked widespread criticism. But the various sides say they've been misunderstood and that snippets of video were taken out of context. Many saw the white teenagers, who had traveled to Washington for an anti-abortion rally, appearing to mock the Native Americans.

Others interpreted Phillips' drumming and singing as a hostile act. Phillips has since explained that he was trying to intervene between the boys and a group of black street preachers who were shouting racist insults at both the...

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HIGH COURT LETS MILITARY IMPLEMENT TRANSGENDER RESTRICTIONS

January 22, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration can go ahead with its plan to restrict military service by transgender men and women while court challenges continue, the Supreme Court said Tuesday. The high court split 5-4 in allowing the plan to take effect, with the court's five conservatives green-lighting it and its four liberal members saying they would not have. The order from the court was brief and procedural, with no elaboration from the justices.

As a result of the court's decision, the Pentagon can implement a policy so that people who have changed their gender will no longer be allowed to enlist in the military. The policy also says transgender people who are in the military must serve as a member of their biological gender unless they began a gender transition under less restrictive Obama administration rules. The Trump administration has sought for...

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AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

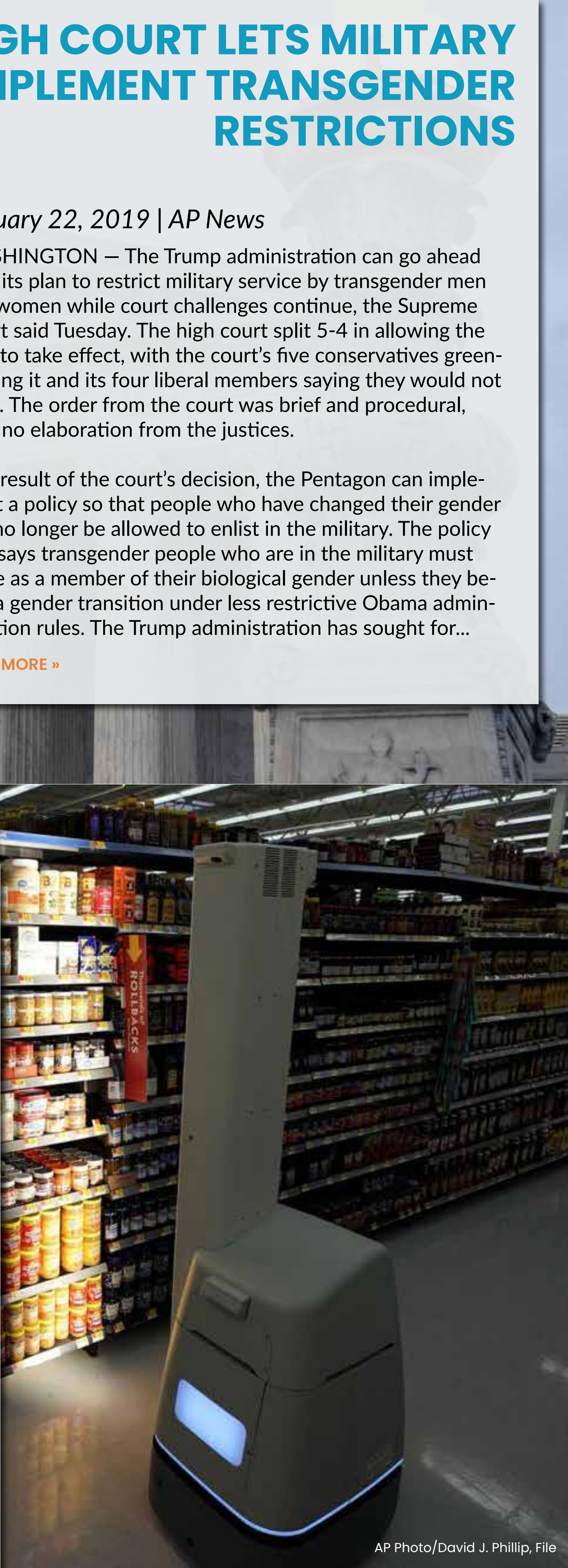
CHEFS AND TRUCK DRIVERS BEWARE: AI IS COMING FOR YOUR JOBS

January 24, 2019 | AP News

Robots aren't replacing everyone, but a quarter of U.S. jobs will be severely disrupted as artificial intelligence accelerates the automation of existing work, according to a new Brookings Institution report. Thursday's report from the Washington think tank says roughly 36 million Americans hold jobs with "high exposure" to automation — meaning at least 70 percent of their tasks could soon be performed by machines using current technology.

Among those most likely to be affected are cooks, waiters and others in food services; short-haul truck drivers; and clerical office workers. "That population is going to need to upskill, reskill or change jobs fast," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at Brookings and lead author of the report. Muro said the timeline for the changes could be "a few years or it could be two decades." But it's likely that automation will happen more swiftly during the next economic downturn...

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AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File



SANA via AP

WORLD

US SERVICE MEMBERS KILLED IN SYRIA BLAST

January 16, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said its jets struck Iranian military targets in Syria early Monday, an announcement that marked a rare departure from Israel's years-long policy of ambiguity regarding activities in neighboring Syria. The military said the targets included munition storage facilities, an intelligence site and a military training camp. The strikes were in response to a surface-to-surface rocket that Iranian forces fired toward Israel on Sunday that was intercepted by Israel's

The military said the targets included munition storage facilities, an intelligence site and a military training camp.

Iron Dome missile defense system over a ski resort in the Golan Heights. That launch followed a rare Israeli daylight air raid near the Damascus International

Airport. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday's pre-dawn strikes lasted for nearly an hour and were the most intense Israeli attacks since May. It said 11 were killed in the strikes. The Russian military said four Syrian troops were among those killed in airstrikes that targeted three different locations and damaged unspecified infrastructure at Damascus airport. There were no further details on the casualties or their nationalities.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said the Iranian missile attack that prompted the Israeli response was "premeditated." Iranian forces in Syria fired the mid-range missile toward Israel from the Damascus area — a missile he said had been smuggled into Syria specifically for that purpose. Conricus declined to further identify the type of missile but said it hadn't been used in any of the internal fighting of the civil war and had "no business" being in Syria. The chief of Iran's air force, Gen. Aziz Nassirzadeh, meanwhile said his forces are "impatient and ready for a fight against the Zionist regime to wipe it off the Earth," according to a news website affiliated with Iran's state television.

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Hundreds of Strikes Against Hezbollah Targets

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel "pounded" the Iranian sites in response to the missile attack and would not hesitate to respond again. "We don't allow such acts of aggression to go unanswered as Iran attempts to establish itself militarily in Syria and in the face of Iran's explicit statements that it intends to destroy Israel. Whoever tries to harm us, we will harm them. Whoever threatens to destroy us will bear the full responsibility." — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

An official from the so-called "Axis of Resistance" — led by Iran and made up of Syria, Iraqi Shiite militias, Lebanon's Hezbollah and other groups — said no Hezbollah or Iranian fighters were killed or wounded in the Israeli attacks. He said Israel tipped off Russia ahead of the strike and Russia had informed the Syrians.

"We will be taking this Israeli response into consideration," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "The conditions are getting closer to war every day and a war might break out on several fronts." Israel has only recently acknowledged carrying out hundreds of strikes against Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria in recent years. It previously refrained from commenting directly for fear of triggering a reaction and being drawn into Syria's civil war. Israeli political and military leaders have been far more verbose of late, and Monday's announcement went a step further, reporting the strikes in real time and detailing the targets. Conricus would not confirm whether the measures marked an official abandonment of the policy of ambiguity. He...



WORLD ECONOMY FORECAST TO SLOW IN 2019 AMID TRADE TENSIONS

January 21, 2019 | AP News

DAVOS, Switzerland — The world economy absorbed more bad news Monday: The International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecast for 2019. And China, the world’s second-biggest economy, said it had slowed to its weakest pace since 1990.

The IMF cut its estimate for global growth this year to 3.5 percent, from the 3.7 percent it had predicted in October and down from 2018’s 3.7 percent. The fund cited heightened trade tensions and rising interest rates. “After two years of solid expansion, the world economy is growing more slowly than expected and risks are rising,” said IMF Managing

Director Christine Lagarde as she presented the forecasts at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The IMF is not alone in its pessimism. The World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other forecasters have also downgraded their world growth estimates.

Among the key concerns is the Chinese economy. The country is slowing just as its leadership tries to turn it into a more modern economy by reducing its reliance on manufacturing and exports and increasing consumer spending. The country reported Monday growth of 6.6 percent in 2018, the weakest since 1990. Demand for Chinese exports weakened last...

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Presidential Press Service via AP, Pool

SEN GRAHAM: SAUDI PRINCE MUST BE “DEALT WITH” IN KHASHOGGI KILLING

January 21, 2019 | AP News

ANKARA, Turkey — Relations between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia cannot move forward until Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is “dealt with,” Senator Lindsey Graham said Saturday. Salman has been accused by some of complicity in the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, in October. Graham spoke to reporters in the Turkish capital of Ankara a day after meeting with government officials. He did not elaborate on his comments.

The Republican senator from South Carolina also said any plan to withdraw American forces from Syria should ensure that Islamic State militants are defeated, that Iran is contained and that Turkey is protected from threats from Kurdish rebels. A U.S. withdrawal that has not been thought through would lead to “chaos” and “an Iraq on steroids,” Graham warned, urging President Donald Trump not to get out without a plan. Graham said the goal of destroying IS...

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ASTERIODS ARE SMACKING EARTH TWICE AS OFTEN AS BEFORE

January 17, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Giant rocks from space are falling from the sky more than they used to, but don’t worry. For the past 290 million years, large asteroids have been crashing into Earth more than twice as often as they did in the previous 700 million years, according to a new study in Thursday’s journal *Science*.

But no need to cast a wary glance up. Asteroids still only smack Earth on average every million or few million years, even with the increased crash rate. NASA’s [list](#) of potential big space rock crashes shows no pending major threats. The biggest known risk is a 4,200-foot wide [asteroid](#) with a 99.988 percent chance that it will miss Earth when it whizzes very near here in 861 years. Tell that to the dinosaurs. Most scientists think dinosaurs and a lot of other species went extinct after a huge space rock [crashed](#) into Central America about 65 million years ago. “It’s just a game of probabilities...

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