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WEEKLY DIGEST
FEBRUARY 22, 2019



GV Wire Photo/Jamie Ouverson

LOCAL

GOOD BOY! MEET FRESNO'S NEWEST POLICE K9'S

February 20, 2019 | GV Wire

Three new Fresno police dogs and their officer handlers were sworn in as members of the department's K9 Unit on Wednesday.

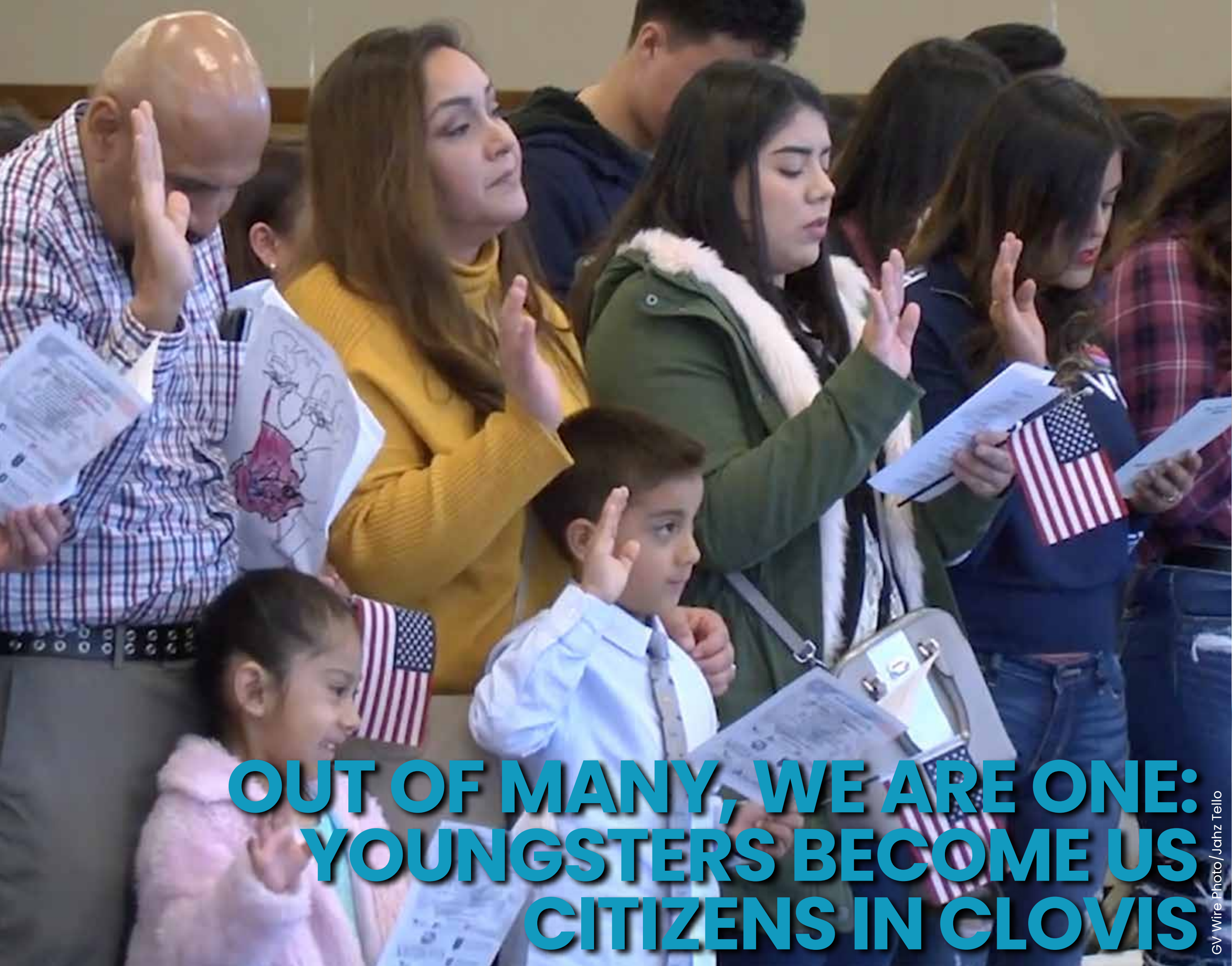
The highly-trained dogs range in age from 16 months to 22 months and were introduced at a ceremony at Fresno PD's K9 facility in east-central Fresno. Police Chief Jerry Dyer administered an oath to the K9 teams during the event.

The new team members are:

- Officer Sean Loy and K9 partner, Major, a German Shepherd.
- Officer Tim Sullivan and K9 partner, Odin, a Belgian Malinois.
- Officer Brandon Lyon and K9 partner, Zeke, a German Shepherd.

[Click here to find out more about each team!](#)





OUT OF MANY, WE ARE ONE: YOUNGSTERS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS IN CLOVIS

GV Wire Photo/Jahz Tello

February 19, 2019 | GV Wire

About 150 children who have become naturalized U.S. citizens received their proof of citizenship Friday, Feb. 15, in a ceremony at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District's Liberty Ballroom. Clovis City Councilman Vong Mouanoutoua gave the keynote address. He emigrated to the United States from Laos as a refugee in 1976.

Lorenzo Rios, chief executive officers of the memorial district, welcomed the new citizens and their families to the event. Lynn Feldman, who is the Fresno field office director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, also attended the event, as did Mark Keppler, executive director of the Maddy Institute.

Diversity, Assimilation Strengthen America

Mouanoutoua said that among the United States' greatest strengths are diversity and the opportunity for immigrants to assimilate under the banner of "Americans." He pointed out that the traditional motto of the United State is E Pluribus Unum, meaning "out of many, one." The USCIS, the Maddy

Institute, and the Citizenship Academy, along with Clovis Veterans Memorial District, sponsored the event.

The Maddy Institute

The Maddy Institute was established to engage, prepare and inspire the next generation of government leaders and civil servants. Activities primarily focus on citizen participation, policy research, and leadership training.

Leadership training programs consist primarily of an extensive government intern program for college students throughout the Valley, as well as the Public Service Graduate Fellowship, which is sponsored by The Wonderful Company.

The Citizenship Academy

The Citizenship Academy launched in 2014. It is a collaborative effort among the Maddy Institute, New American Legal Clinic at San Joaquin College of Law, Fresno County Public Library, Fresno Adult School, and Mi Familia Vota. The Citizenship Academy seeks to provide civic, economic, and...

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FRESNO TRUSTEES WANT STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH FASTER

February 15, 2019 | Myles Barker

Several Fresno Unified trustees made it clear at their meeting Wednesday that they want to see the district's English Learner program raise its game. Among the improvements the trustees seek: Accelerating English proficiency, operating more dual language programs, and holding Saturday and after-school tutoring sessions for struggling students. The 27,000-plus Ever English Learners at Fresno Unified speak 51 different languages at home. Ever English Learners includes English learners and those who have been reclassified as fluent.

Mills: Expand Language Opportunities

To get more students proficient in English faster, Trustee Clerk Carol Mills says the district needs to focus on expanding language opportunities. "We have a lot of families whose background is not from a Spanish-speaking country, so are we looking at bringing more languages and offering opportunities for students to learn?" Mills said. Trustee Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas says the district needs to hire more teachers to...

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ABSENTEE RETURNS SUGGEST STRONG INTEREST IN SUPERVISOR RACE

February 20, 2019 | David Taub

The election clerk's office reports that voters have returned nearly 11,000 absentee ballots in the March 5 election for a vacant Fresno County supervisor seat. That is a 15% return rate of the approximately 71,600 sent out. In all, District 2 has 113,596 registered voters, meaning 63% received mail-in ballots. The overall party registration is 40% Republican, 33% Democrat.

How the Candidates Are Reaching Voters

Fresno City Councilman Steve Brandau is banking on his experience, as well as the endorsement of law enforcement to win the seat. Brandau is one of three candidates vying for the position vacated by Andreas Borgeas when he took office as state senator. Borgeas also endorses Brandau. Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims and Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer have endorsed Brandau and voiced local radio ads. Their faces also adorn campaign signs around town. Brandau has raised over...

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GV Wire Photo/Jahz Tello



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STATE

DRIVE 100 MPH ON I-5?, HIGHWAY 99? BILL CREATES VALLEY AUTOBAHN.

February 20, 2019 | GV Wire

State Sen. John Moorlach (R-Costa Mesa) **introduced a bill Friday** that would add new lanes to I-5 and Highway 99 with no posted speed limit. Moorlach **told Los Angeles television station KTLA** he came up with the idea **“People are already driving 80 mph on the freeway. So why don’t we allow them to go a little faster?”** — State Sen. John Moorlach in part to help ease traffic and reduce greenhouse gases, but also to provide an alternative to the state’s controversial high-speed rail, a portion of which is under construction in the San Joaquin Valley.

Valley Would Get the New High-Speed Lanes

Moorlach’s vision is focused on the Valley: The new lanes would start at the bottom of the Grapevine and go north to Stockton area and possibly to Sacramento. “You’ve got a lot of open space between the north and southbound lanes,” Moorlach told KTLA in an interview Tuesday. “So why don’t we just go ahead and build four lanes, two north, two south ... and then the drivers on those two lanes would be able to use any speed that they wish.”

Moorlach further explained that the new lanes would be separated from existing lanes in the interests of safety. “People are already driving 80 mph on the freeway,” Moorlach said. “So why don’t we allow them to go a little faster?”

Stockton to the Grapevine in 2.5 Hours

A motorist driving at 100 mph could theoretically get from Stockton to the Grapevine in 2.5 hours. The speed limit on I-5 between the Grapevine and Stockton is 70 mph, as it is on parts of the 99 between the I-5 split-off and Madera, **according to Caltrans**.

\$3 Billion to Add the Lanes

Moorlach says his idea is a bargain compared to California’s stalled high-speed rail project which is projected to

cost \$77 billion. “You don’t have to buy the land, which has been one of the big expense components of high-speed rail ... all the eminent domain,” Moorlach said, noting that the state already owns the land for expanding the freeways. He estimated the construction cost at \$3 billion. The project would be paid for using some of the funds from the state’s cap-and-trade program, **according to the Los Angeles Times**.

Moorlach: Autobahns Safer Than California Freeways

Can people safely drive 100 MPH, or even as fast as they want?

“We did some analysis, and the traffic incidents on the autobahn in Germany” — which has no speed limit in some rural areas — “are lower than the freeways in California. So they’re actually safer,” Moorlach said.



SEE HEART-STOPPING LIFE & DEATH SITUATION FACED BY NAPA DEPUTY

GV Wire Photo/John Tello

February 21, 2019 | GV Wire

Warning: This post contains graphic video content and is not suitable for children.

This body worn camera footage provided by the Napa County Sheriff's Office depicts the attempted murder of Deputy Riley Jarecki on a rural road Feb. 17, 2019. The decedent, Javier Hernandez Morales, fired the first shots. Deputy Jarecki returned fire. She was not physically injured. Morales died at the scene.

The Moments Before the Suspect Shot at Deputy
Morales was sitting in a Honda sedan facing the wrong way

on a road about two miles southwest of Napa when the deputy drove by. He cooperated initially when Jarecki talked to him. "Roll down the window, roll down the window," she said, which he did. Then he swung his right hand toward her and fired a 22-caliber revolver. Jarecki jumped back and alerted dispatch: "Shots fired, shots fired." Then deputy unloaded her weapon into the car and killed Morales.

Sheriff: Her Training Kicked In
"It's been a difficult couple of days but we're so thankful," Napa County Sheriff John Robertson told KTVU television. "I'm so thankful she got right on her radio, did exactly..."

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Photo: Shutterstock

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WASTES SO MUCH RAIN IT SHOULD BE A CRIME

February 20, 2019 | GV Wire

The Sierra snowpack is thick and brimming with water content. Rain is drenching California. An estimated **18 trillion gallons of water** has fallen on the state in February alone. Too bad that most of the precipitation that falls in the state's urban areas is collected in storm drains and sent to the Pacific Ocean. For all of its bragging about being the innovation and technology center of the world, many parts of California fail at the most basic elements of capturing and storing precious rainwater.

Trillions of Gallons Flow to the Pacific Ocean
"When you look at the Los Angeles River being between 50% and 70% full during a storm, you realize that more water is running down the river into the ocean than what Los Angeles would use in close to a year," Mark Gold, associate vice chancellor for environment and sustainability at UCLA, tells *The Los Angeles Times*. "What a waste of water..."

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OAKLAND TEACHERS GO ON STRIKE, DEMAND BIG PAY RAISES

February 21, 2019 | AP News

OAKLAND — Teachers in Oakland, California, went on strike Thursday in the country's latest walkout by educators over classroom conditions and pay. The city's 3,000 teachers want a 12 percent retroactive raise covering 2017 to 2020 to compensate for what they say are the among the lowest salaries for public school teachers in the expensive San Francisco Bay Area. They also want the district to hire more counselors to support students and more full-time nurses.

Teachers picketed schools as the strike began, and their union leader said the educators were forced to stage the walkout because he said administrators did not listen to teacher demands for two years. "For two years we have been negotiating with the Oakland Unified School District to make our students a priority over outside consultants and central office administrators," said Oakland Education Association President Keith Brown. "It's time for them to listen to the voices of the..."

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AP Photo



BORDER WALL, BULLET TRAIN: CALIFORNIA VS. TRUMP ESCALATES

February 20, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Disputes over President Donald Trump’s border wall and California’s bullet train are intensifying the feud between the White House and the nation’s most populous state. The Trump administration says it plans to cancel or claw back \$3.5 billion in federal dollars allocated to California’s high-speed rail project. It’s a move Gov. Gavin Newsom calls “political retribution” for the state’s lawsuit against Trump’s declaration of a national emergency. California is leading a 16-state coalition in challenging Trump’s power to declare an emergency so he can accelerate his plans for a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

California Leads the ‘Resistance’ to Trump

This is the latest spat between Trump and California, which has styled itself as the Democratic-led “resistance” to the administration.

“It’s no coincidence that the Administration’s threat comes 24 hours after California led 16 states in challenging the President’s farcical ‘national emergency.’” — Gov. Gavin Newsom

Newsom says California won’t give back the high-speed rail money. “It’s no coincidence that the Administration’s threat comes 24 hours after California led 16 states in challenging the President’s farcical ‘national emergency,’” Newsom said in a statement. “This is clear political retribution by President Trump, and we won’t sit idly by.” Newsom, less than two months into his tenure, has appeared more eager to hit back at Trump than former California Gov. Jerry Brown. The lawsuit is California’s 46th against the Trump administration.

Trump’s Border Emergency Declaration

Using a broad interpretation of his executive powers, Trump declared an emergency last week to obtain wall funding beyond the \$1.4 billion Congress approved for border security. The move allows the president to bypass Congress to use money from the Pentagon and other budgets.

Trump’s use of the emergency declaration has drawn bipartisan criticism and faces a number of legal challenges. Still, the president has told reporters he expects to prevail. “I think in the end we’re going to be very successful with the lawsuit,” Trump told reporters, calling it an “open and closed” case. Trump had earlier singled out California for its lead role in the suit, seeking to link the state’s high-speed rail project to his plan for the wall. On Twitter, Trump claimed the “failed Fast Train project” was beset by “world record setting” cost overruns and had become “hundreds of times more expensive than the desperately needed Wall!”

“I think in the end we’re going to be very successful with the lawsuit.” — President Donald Trump

High-Speed Rail Is \$77 Billion

The estimated cost for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles train has more than doubled to \$77 billion. That’s about 13 times the \$5.7 billion Trump sought unsuccessfully from Congress to build the wall. Hours later, the U.S. Department of Transportation told California it planned to cancel nearly \$1 billion in federal money allocated to the rail project and wanted the state to return \$2.5 billion it had already spent. Trump’s comments about a “failed” project followed Newsom’s comments last week that the current plan for an LA-San Francisco train would cost too much and take too long. Instead, he said he’d focus immediately on a line through the Central Valley while still doing environmental work on the full line.

That work is a requirement for keeping the federal money. The U.S. Department of Transportation said Newsom’s remarks reinforced concerns about the project’s ability to deliver. The department wrote Newsom’s comments mark a “significant retreat from the State’s initial vision and commitment and frustrated the...cans who have long called the project a waste of money...

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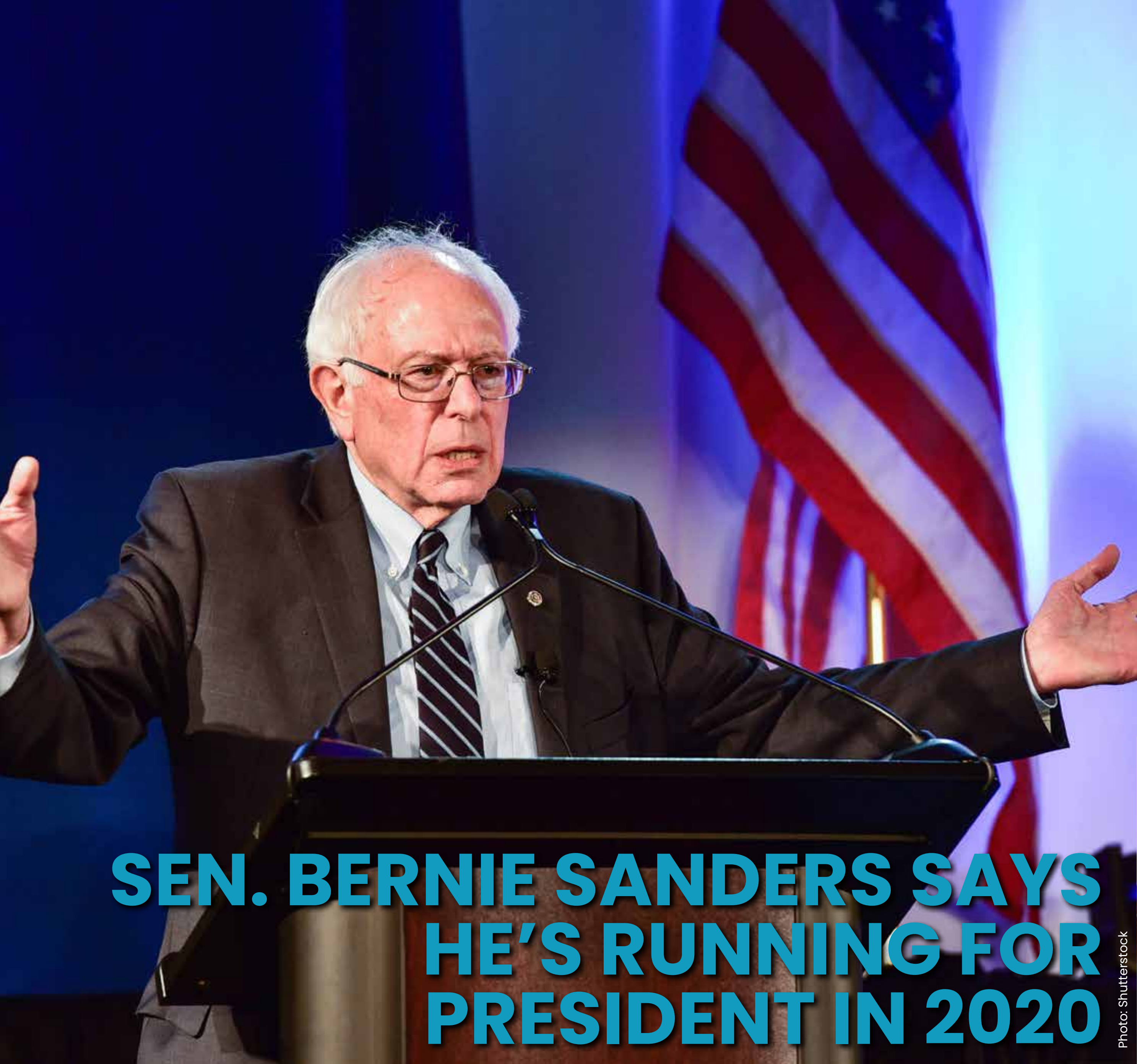


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SEN. BERNIE SANDERS SAYS HE'S RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT IN 2020

February 19, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose insurgent 2016 presidential campaign reshaped Democratic politics, announced Tuesday that he is running for president in 2020. “Our campaign is not only about defeating Donald Trump,” the 77-year-old self-described democratic socialist said in an email to supporters.

“Our campaign is about transforming our country and creating a government based on the principles of economic, social, racial and environmental justice.” An enthusiastic progressive who embraces proposals ranging from Medicare for

All to free college tuition, Sanders stunned the Democratic establishment in 2016 with his spirited challenge to Hillary Clinton. While she ultimately became the party’s nominee, his campaign helped lay the groundwork for the leftward lurch that has dominated Democratic politics in the Trump era.

The question now for Sanders is whether he can stand out in a crowded field of Democratic presidential candidates who also embrace many of his policy ideas and are newer to the national political stage. That’s far different from 2016...

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Photo: USA Today

WHITE HOUSE PUSHED SAUDI NUCLEAR POWER PLAN, REPORT SAYS

February 19, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Senior White House officials pushed a project to share nuclear power technology with Saudi Arabia despite the objections of ethics and national security officials, according to a new congressional report citing whistleblowers within the administration. Lawmakers from both parties have expressed concerns that Saudi Arabia could develop nuclear weapons if the U.S. technology were transferred without proper safeguards.

The Democratic-led House oversight committee opened an investigation Tuesday into the claims by several unnamed whistleblowers who said they witnessed “abnormal acts” in the White House regarding the proposal to build dozens of nuclear reactors across the Middle Eastern kingdom. The report raises concerns about whether some in a White House marked by “chaos, dysfunction, and backbiting” sought to...

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FEDS: COAST GUARD LIEUTENANT COMPILED HIT LIST OF LAWMAKERS

February 21, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — A Coast Guard lieutenant who was arrested last week is a “domestic terrorist” who drafted an email discussing biological attacks and had what appeared to be a hit list that included prominent Democrats and media figures, prosecutors said in court papers. Christopher Paul Hasson is due to appear Thursday in federal court in Maryland after his arrest on gun and drug offenses, but prosecutors say those charges are the “proverbial tip of the iceberg.”

“The defendant is a domestic terrorist, bent on committing acts dangerous to human life that are intended to affect governmental conduct,” prosecutors wrote in [court papers](#). Hasson, who works at the Coast Guard’s headquarters in Washington, has espoused extremist views for years, according to prosecutors. Court papers detail a June 2017 draft email in which Hasson wrote that he was “dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth,” and pondering how...

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U.S. District Court via AP



AP Photo/Joe C. Hong

WORLD

US STEPS UP WINTER-WARFARE TRAINING AS GLOBAL THREAT SHIFTS

February 20, 2019 | AP News

MARINE MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER — Hunkered down behind a wall of snow, two U.S. Marines melt slush to make drinking water after spending the night digging out a defensive position high in the Sierra Nevada. Their laminated targeting map is wedged into the ice just below the machine gun. Nearly 8,000 feet up at a training center in the California mountains above Bridgeport, the air is thin, the snow is chest high and the temperature is plunging. But other Marines just a few kilometers away are preparing to attack, and forces on both sides must be able to battle the enemy and the unforgiving environment.

The exercise is designed to train troops for the next war — one the U.S. believes will be against a more capable, high-tech enemy like Russia, North Korea or China. The weather conditions on the mountain mimic the kind

“We haven’t had to deal with these things. We’ve been very focused on Iraq and Afghanistan. What we really have to do is wake folks up, expose them to things that they haven’t had to think about for quite a while.” — Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen, head of the Marines’ Training and Education Command

of frigid fight that forces could face in one of those future hotspots. “We haven’t had to deal with these things. We’ve been very focused on Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen, head of the Marines’ Training and Education Command. “What we really have to

do is wake folks up, expose them to things that they haven’t had to think about for quite a while.”

After 17 years of war against Taliban and al-Qaida-linked insurgents, the military is shifting its focus to better prepare for great-power competition with Russia and China, and against unpredictable foes such as North Korea and Iran. U.S. forces must be able to survive and fight while countering drones, sophisticated jamming equipment and other electronic and cyber

warfare that can track them, disrupt communications and kill them — technology they didn’t routinely face over the last decade.

Cold and Wet Conditions Force the Marines to Use Snowshoes

“If you were to draw a line from here to the DMZ between North and South Korea, both of these sites are on the 38th parallel. And so the weather here accurately replicates the weather that we would encounter in North and South Korea,” said Col. Kevin Hutchison, the training center commander. “What you’re seeing here is Marines fighting Marines, so we are replicating a near-peer threat.” As a snowstorm swirls around them, Mullen and Hutchison move through the woods, checking in with the young Marines designated as the adversary force of about 250 troops who must prevent more than 800 attackers from gaining control of nearby Wolf Creek Bridge. An Associated Press team was allowed to accompany them to the Marine Corps’ Mountain Warfare Training Center south of Lake Tahoe and watch the training.

Lance Cpl. Reese Nichols, from Pensacola, Florida, and Lance Cpl. Chase Soltis of Bozeman, Montana, dug their defensive position a day ago, and they’ve been watching all night for enemy movement, while using a small burner to melt snow to stay hydrated. The hardest part, said Nichols, is “boiling water 24/7. And the cold. It’s cold.” The cold and wet conditions force the Marines to use snowshoes and cross-country skis to get around. They wrap white camouflage around their weapons, struggle to keep the ammunition dry and learn how to position their machine guns so they don’t sink into the powdery snow. “It’s kind of overwhelming coming up here. Many of them have never been exposed to snow before,” said Staff Sgt. Rian Lusk, chief instructor for the mountain sniper course. “You’re constantly having to dig or move up the mountain range. So, it’s physically...

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FRENCH RALLY AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM; MACRON VISITS CEMETERY

AP Photo/ Jean-Francois Badias

February 19, 2019 | AP News

PARIS — French residents and public officials from across the political spectrum geared up Tuesday for nationwide rallies against anti-Semitism following a series of anti-Semitic acts, including the swastikas painted on about 80 gravestones at a Jewish cemetery overnight.

Just hours ahead of the events in Paris and other cities, French President Emmanuel Macron headed to the cemetery in Quatzenheim, a small Alsace town, and said he felt shame at the sight of the defaced markers. “This looks like absurd stupidity,” the French leader said, looking visibly sad and concerned. Macron observed several moments of silence in front

of the vandalized graves while local Jewish community representatives stood by. “We will take action,” he promised. Later Tuesday, former French Presidents Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy are set to join thousands of protesters and government officials on the Paris streets.

The upsurge in anti-Semitism in France, home to the world’s largest Jewish population outside Israel and the United States, surged last weekend when a torrent of hate speech was directed at prominent philosopher Alain Finkielkraut during a march of yellow vest anti-government protesters. The assault came days after the French government...

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AP Photo/Alex Brandon, Filevia AP, File

MUSLIM GROUP SEEKS CONGRESSIONAL PROBE ON TERROR WATCHLIST

February 20, 2019 | AP News

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A Muslim civil rights group called for a congressional investigation Wednesday after its lawsuit revealed that the U.S. government has shared its terrorist watchlist with more than 1,400 private entities, including hospitals and universities. The Council on American-Islamic Relations said Congress should look into why the FBI has given such wide access to the list, which CAIR believes is riddled with errors.

Broad dissemination of the names makes life more difficult for those who are wrongly included, CAIR says. Many on the list are believed to be Muslim. “This is a wholesale profiling of a religious minority community,” said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad. “To share private information of citizens and non-citizens with corporations is illegal and outrageous.” An FBI spokeswoman had no immediate comment Wednesday. The council filed a class-action lawsuit in 2016 challenging the list’s constitutionality and saying those...

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DEADLY BLUE ‘MEXICAN OXY’ PILLS TAKE TOLL ON US SOUTHWEST

February 15, 2019 | AP News


TUCSON, Ariz. — Aaron Francisco Chavez swallowed at least one of the sky blue pills at a Halloween party before falling asleep forever. He became yet another victim killed by a flood of illicit fentanyl smuggled from Mexico by the Sinaloa cartel into the Southwest — a profitable new business for the drug gang that has made the synthetic opioid responsible for the most fatal overdoses in the U.S. Three others at the party in Tucson also took the pills nicknamed “Mexican oxy.”




They were saved after partygoers flagged down police who administered naloxone overdose reversal medication. The treatment came too late for the 19-year-old Chavez. The pills vary widely in strength, from a tiny amount to enough to cause lethal overdoses. Law enforcement officials say they have become a lucrative new product for the cartel, despite the conviction this week of Sinaloa kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman Loera in New York. The four Tucson partiers...

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Drug Enforcement Administration via AP



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