

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue button-down dress, stands in a vast field of bright orange poppies. She is looking upwards and to the right. The field stretches to the horizon under a clear blue sky.

# GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
MARCH 22, 2019

**THOUSANDS CONVERGE  
ON CALIFORNIA'S 'POPPY  
APOCALYPSE' »**

**MARCH MATCH UP, ENDING  
HUNGER ONE STUDENT AT  
A TIME »**

**SENATORS DEFEND MCCAIN  
AGAINST TRUMP'S ATTACKS »**





# FRESNO STATE MARCH MATCH UP, ENDING HUNGER ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

March 18, 2019 | Myles Barker

Fresno State's [student cupboard](#) has helped students like ToniMarie Munoz focus more on school and less on wondering where their next meal will come from. The [free food and hygiene pantry](#) has also kept Munoz from working a third job to buy food. "The student cupboard has been very helpful during my time here in college," Munoz said. So much so that Munoz decided to donate to [March Match Up](#), Fresno State's annual, month-long fundraising campaign to support the cupboard.

## Helping To Fund Student Cupboard

The event runs from March 1 through March 31. All proceeds make up the majority of the cupboard's annual budget, said Alicia Nelson, the director of

**"We couldn't support the student cupboard and run it without our matching partners as well as the community and the donations that come in on a regular basis." — Alicia Nelson, director of student wellness services, who oversees the student cupboard**

student wellness services, who oversees the cupboard. Last year the event raised over \$150,000. The goal this year is to raise \$100,000 from community donations. [Moss Adams LLP](#), [Granville Homes](#) and an

anonymous donor have committed to match contributions up to that amount. (Darius Assemi, President of Granville Homes, is the publisher of GV Wire.)

Macy's, Dutch Bros. Coffee, Pieology, and Buffalo Wild Wings are among several organizations also contributing to the cause. "We couldn't support the student cupboard and run it without our matching partners as well as the community and the donations that come in on a regular basis," Nelson said. Final results for this year's March Match Up will be announced at a special event in early April.

## Putting An End To Student Hunger

March Match Up also aims to raise awareness about student hunger, which is a significant barrier for college students, Nelson said. Fresno State President

Joseph Castro and First Lady Mary Castro started the cupboard after a study showed 30 percent of Fresno State students were food insecure.

"This is a project that is dear to President Castro and I," said Mary Castro, who is spearheading the campaign. "We believe in the hardworking, talented students at Fresno State. We also understand from personal experience that it is empowering when others invest in you by making it possible for you to focus on reaching your goals." As of 2017, over 43 percent of students who participated in a survey said they were food insecure, [according to a study](#) done by the California State University chancellor's office. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), when a student is hungry, it is very difficult to think and retain information.

Chris Morse said that is the reason Moss Adams LLP has supported March Match Up every year since it began in 2016. "We realized the food insecurity issue on campus is not something that we think is appropriate for our community," said Morse, a Fresno State alumnus and partner in charge of the Moss Adams Fresno offices. "We need to make sure students have basic needs so that they can go to school and stay focused on studying and not worry about where their next meal is coming from."

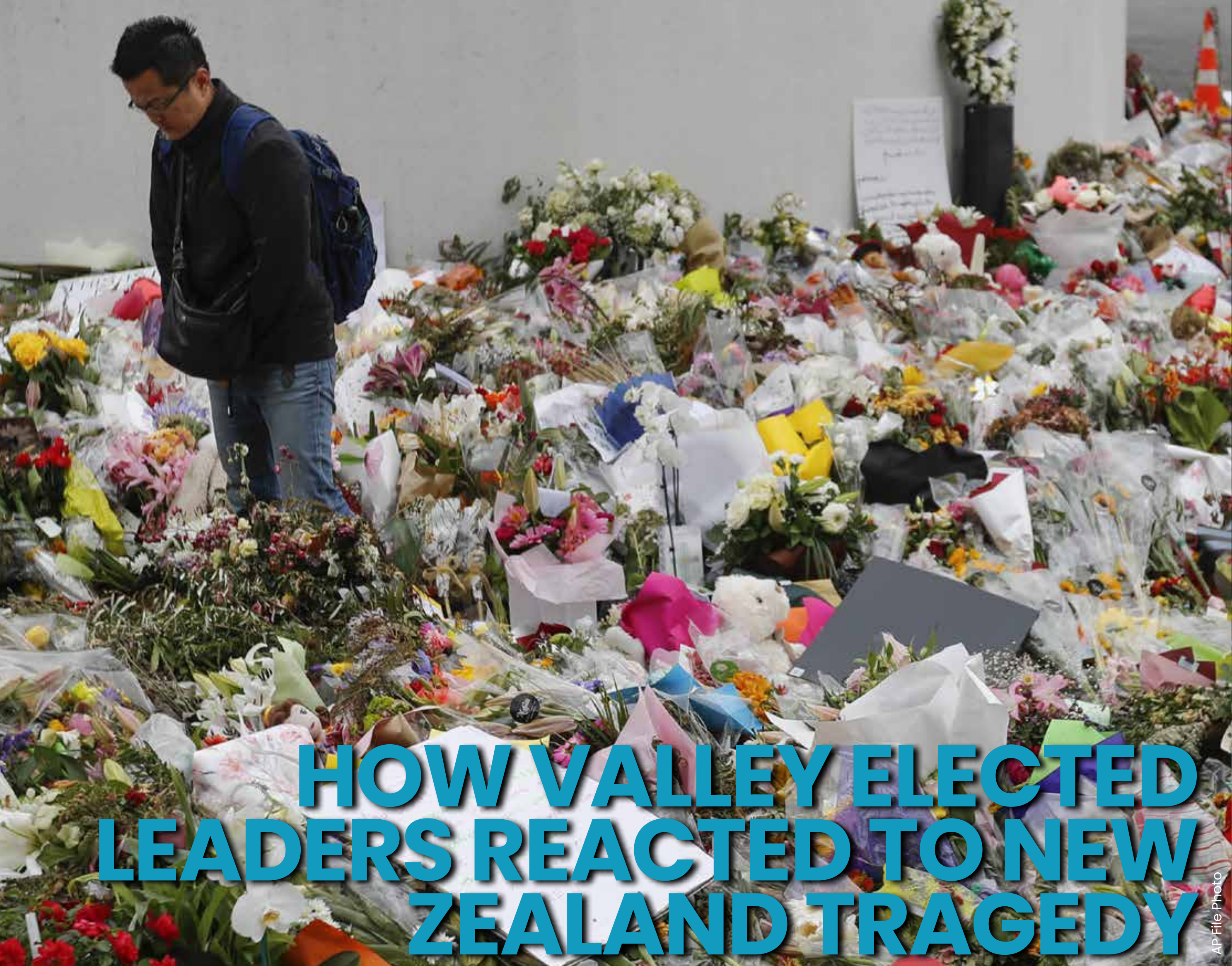
**"I want to make (the student cupboard) known to more students because it has helped me so much." — ToniMarie Munoz, student donor of March Match Up**

## More Students Using The Cupboard Every Day

Student usage of the cupboard has grown considerably. Since its inception in 2014, visits increased from 200 a month to over 6,000 visits today. "Being able to support students with their basic needs and food will definitely help them to graduate on time and become our future leaders here in the Valley," Nelson said. Munoz hopes by donating, more students will become familiar with the program and utilize its services. "I want to make (the student cupboard) known to more students because it...

[READ MORE »](#)





## HOW VALLEY ELECTED LEADERS REACTED TO NEW ZEALAND TRAGEDY

March 20, 2019 | GV Wire

Elected representatives of the Central Valley offered their comments on the shooting deaths of 50 Muslim worshippers last Friday in New Zealand:

“We all mourn the loss of life in New Zealand. Islamophobia and hate of any kind have no place in society and should not be tolerated. My thoughts are with the victims and their families as they work to pick up the pieces of this terrible tragedy.”  
— **Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno)**

“Once again innocent people have been attacked and killed because of their faith. We stand with the people of Christchurch & our Muslim friends in Fresno who are reeling from this senseless act, and we must strengthen our resolve to counter hate & intolerance with love & humanity.”  
— **Fresno Mayor Lee Brand**

“Heartbroken this morning – 49 dead in #Christchurch, victims of hate and Islamophobia stoked by extremist leaders around the globe. The politics of division has real, deadly con-

sequences, and my family today is praying for the families of the victims.”  
— **Congressman TJ Cox (D-Fresno)**

“Pam & I are heartbroken to hear about the horrific acts of violence in New Zealand. We must condemn all acts of terror & reject all forms of hatred. Thank you to all first responders in Christchurch & my heart goes out to the families who lost loved ones in this act of brutality.”  
— **Congressman Josh Harder (D-Turlock)**

“The loss of life is heartbreaking and appalling, and I stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters in these tragic times. I have been in contact with the Council on Islamic American Relations offering support in any way that I or my office can.”  
— **Fresno City Councilmember Nelson Esparza (District 7)**

“Pure Evil! We stand in complete solidarity with the Muslim community and the people of New Zealand! Our thoughts and prayers are with all those people and their families that...

[READ MORE »](#)

## WHEN WILL 'ALL MEAN ALL' HAPPEN AT STARR ELEMENTARY?

March 22, 2019 | Myles Barker

“All means all” is a slogan Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson often uses to describe inclusion efforts at California’s fourth-largest school district. However, **past and present trustees** and parents argue that the district is not living up to the motto. Their dissatisfaction primarily stems from the situation at Dorothy Starr Elementary where special-ed students are taught in old portables 215 feet away — about two-thirds the length of a full-sized football field — from where their general-ed peers learn.

“What we have now is unacceptable,” said trustee Terry Slatic, who represents the area in which Starr is located. “Everybody in power has said this is unacceptable, and I agree.” Many also find the district’s plan to transfer the special-ed students to the school’s main building troublesome. “I know that campus extremely well and, logistically, there is no room in the general education building,” said Chrissy Kelly, a parent of two...

[READ MORE »](#)



GV Wire/Jahz Tello

## HOW DO NFL PLAYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE? THEY DONATE THEIR CLEATS.

March 21, 2019 | Myles Barker

In addition to special-ed students’ artwork and the sound of swing-era music, those visiting the **Kids’ Cafe 2019** in downtown Fresno are greeted by another treat. Custom-designed cleats from **Detroit Lions cornerback Andre Chachere**. Chachere, who starred at Clovis West High School, donated his cleats to the cafe as part of the **NFL’s My Cause My Cleats** campaign.

The initiative is a collaboration between the NFL and its players. It gives players the opportunity to auction off a pair of their custom-designed cleats with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting a charity or cause of their choice. Last season, more than 800 NFL players showcased causes that are important to them with custom cleats during Week 13 games as part of the campaign. However, instead of auctioning his cleats, Chachere chose to donate them to Kids’ Cafe 2019 to raise awareness about special education students, many of whom work in...

[READ MORE »](#)



GV Wire/Myles Barker





AP/Gregory Bull

# STATE

## TENS OF THOUSANDS CONVERGE ON CALIFORNIA'S 'POPPY APOCALYPSE'

March 19, 2019 | AP News

LAKE ELSINORE — Like Dorothy in the “Wizard of Oz,” the Southern California city of Lake Elsinore is being overwhelmed by the power of the poppies. About 150,000 people over the weekend flocked to see this year’s rain-fed flaming orange patches of poppies lighting up the hillsides near the city of about 60,000 residents, about a 90-minute drive from either San Diego or Los Angeles. Interstate 15 was a parking lot. People fainted in the heat; a dog romping through the fields was bitten by a rattlesnake.

A vibrant field of poppies lures Dorothy into a trap in the “Wizard of Oz” when the wicked witch, acknowledging that no one can resist their beauty, poisons the wildflowers and she slips into a fatal slumber until the good witch reverses the spell. Lake Elsinore had tried to prepare for the crush of people drawn by the super bloom, a rare occurrence that usually happens about once a decade because it requires a wet winter and warm temperatures that stay above freezing. It offered

**About 150,000 people over the weekend flocked to see this year’s rain-fed flaming orange patches of poppies lighting up the hillsides near the city of about 60,000 residents, about a 90-minute drive from either San Diego or Los Angeles.**

a free shuttle service to the top viewing spots, but it wasn’t enough. Sunday traffic got so bad that Lake Elsinore officials requested law enforcement assistance from neighboring jurisdictions. At one point, the city pulled down the curtain and closed access to poppy-blanketed Walker Canyon. “It was insane, absolutely insane,” said Mayor Steve Manos, who described it as a “poppy apocalypse.”

### Visitors Equally Enchanted as They Snapped Selfies

By Monday the #poppyshutdown announced by the city on Twitter was over and the road to the canyon was re-opened. And people were streaming in again. Young

and old visitors to the Lake Elsinore area seemed equally enchanted as they snapped selfies against the natural carpet of iridescent orange.

Some contacted friends and family on video calls so

they could share the beauty in real time. Artists propped canvasses on the side of the trail to paint the super bloom, while drones buzzed overhead. Patty Bishop, 48, of nearby Lake Forest, was on her second visit. The native Californian had never seen such an explosion of color from the state flower. She battled traffic Sunday but that didn’t deter her from going back Monday for another look. She got there at sunrise and stayed for hours.

**“You see this beautiful pristine photo of nature but then you look to the left and there’s plastic Starbucks cups and water bottles on the trail and selfie sticks and people having road rage because some people were walking slower.” — Kim, 24, of Carlsbad**

“There’s been so many in just one area,” she said. “I think that’s probably the main reason why I’m out here personally is because it’s so beautiful.” Stephen Kim and his girlfriend got to Lake Elsinore even before sunrise Sunday to beat the crowds but there were already hundreds of people. The two wedding photographers hiked on the designated trails with an engaged couple to do a photo shoot with the flowers in the background, but they were upset to see so many people going off-trail and so much garbage. They picked up as many discarded water bottles as they could carry.

### Brought More Than a Half-Million Visitors

“You see this beautiful pristine photo of nature but then you look to the left and there’s plastic Starbucks cups and water bottles on the trail and selfie sticks and people having road rage because some people were walking slower,” said Kim, 24, of Carlsbad. Andy...

[READ MORE »](#)





# NATIONAL GUARD TO HELP PROTECT CALIFORNIA TOWNS FROM FIRES

AP File Photo

March 20, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California is calling in the National Guard for the first time next month to help protect communities from devastating fires like the one that largely destroyed the city of Paradise last fall.

It's pulling the troops away from President Donald Trump's border protection efforts and devoting them to fire protection, another area where Trump has been critical of California's Democratic officials — even repeatedly threatening to cut off federal disaster funding. Starting in April, 110 California National Guard troops will receive 11 days of training in using shovels, rakes and chain saws to help thin trees and

brush, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Mohler said. They will be divided into five teams that will travel around the state working on forest management projects, mainly clearing or reducing trees and vegetation in an effort to deprive flames of fuel.

"They will be boots on the ground doing fuels projects alongside CalFire crews," Mohler said. "We've had them out for flood fighting, several different operations, but this would be the first time their mission would be fuels thinning and forest management." They have helped fight fires before, however. Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was the first in recent...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP File Photo

## DEVIN NUNES SUES TWITTER FOR \$250 MILLION, POINTS TO 2018 ELECTION

March 18, 2019 | GV Wire

Rep. Devin Nunes filed a lawsuit Monday seeking \$250 million in compensatory damages and \$350,000 in punitive damages against Twitter and some of its users, [Fox News reports](#). "This is the first of many lawsuits," Nunes said in an interview Monday with Fox News talk-show host Sean Hannity. The Tulare Republican alleges that Twitter treated conservatives unfairly in an attempt to influence the 2018 elections, censored opposing viewpoints, and ignored complaints of repeated abusive behavior.

"In a [complaint](#) filed in Virginia state court on Monday, obtained by Fox News, Nunes claimed Twitter wanted to derail his work on the House Intelligence Committee, which he chaired until 2019, as he looked into [alleged and apparent surveillance abuses](#) by the government," Fox News reported. "Nunes said Twitter was guilty of 'knowingly hosting and monetizing content that is clearly abusive, hateful and..."

[READ MORE »](#)

## ON HEELS OF SCANDALS, USC ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

March 20, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — The University of Southern California on Wednesday announced a new school president who will usher in "a new era" following a series of high-profile scandals that culminated last week with a massive college admissions bribery case. Carol Folt, former chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will become USC's 12th president on July 1. She'll be the first full-time female president in school history. The announcement comes a week after news broke of a college bribery scandal involving USC and other universities across the country.

"I haven't heard any voice of complacency since I've been here ... that's actually music to a new president," Folt told a news conference. "It's, let's make it right, let's make it better but let's do that so we can achieve all the things people want to do." Rick Caruso, chairman of the USC Board of Trustees, said problems will occur, but the measure of great leadership is...

[READ MORE »](#)



USC News





AP File Photo

# GOP SENATORS DEFEND ‘HERO’ MCCAIN AGAINST TRUMP’S ATTACKS

March 20, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Key Republicans on Wednesday defended the late Sen. John McCain as a “hero” against ongoing attacks from President Donald Trump, daring to say what most in the GOP still won’t seven months after the Arizona senator’s death from brain cancer. A trio of senators, from the most senior to the greenest freshman, defied Trump’s apparently unprovoked declaration that he’s “not a fan” of the decorated Vietnam War

**“The McCain family deserves better, I don’t care if he’s president of United States, owns all the real estate in New York, or is building the greatest immigration system in the world.” — Sen. Johnny Isakson**

veteran because McCain cast the deciding vote against the Republican repeal of national health care. They took great care to describe McCain as a “hero,” clear pushback against Trump’s longtime assessment that McCain is not one because he had been captured in Vietnam. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell did not mention Trump directly, but said that he misses his friend McCain “today and every day.” He deployed the H-word twice in one tweet. “It was a blessing to serve alongside a rare patriot and genuine American hero in the Senate,” the Kentucky Republican, who is up for re-election in 2020, tweeted. “His memory continues to remind me every day that our nation is sustained by the sacrifices of heroes.”

McCain, a Navy pilot, was held as a prisoner of war and tortured for more than five years. Trump has never served in the military because he got a deferment for a bone spur in his foot. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said the nation “deserves better” than Trump’s disparagement. “The McCain family deserves better, I don’t care if he’s president of United States, owns all the real estate in New York, or is building the greatest immigration system in the world,” Isakson told The Bulwark, a conservative news and opinion website. Later, Isakson called Trump’s remarks “deplorable.” “It will (be) deplor-

able seven months from now if he says it again,” Isakson continued in remarks Wednesday on Georgia Public Broadcasting’s Political Rewind radio show, “and I will continue to speak out.”

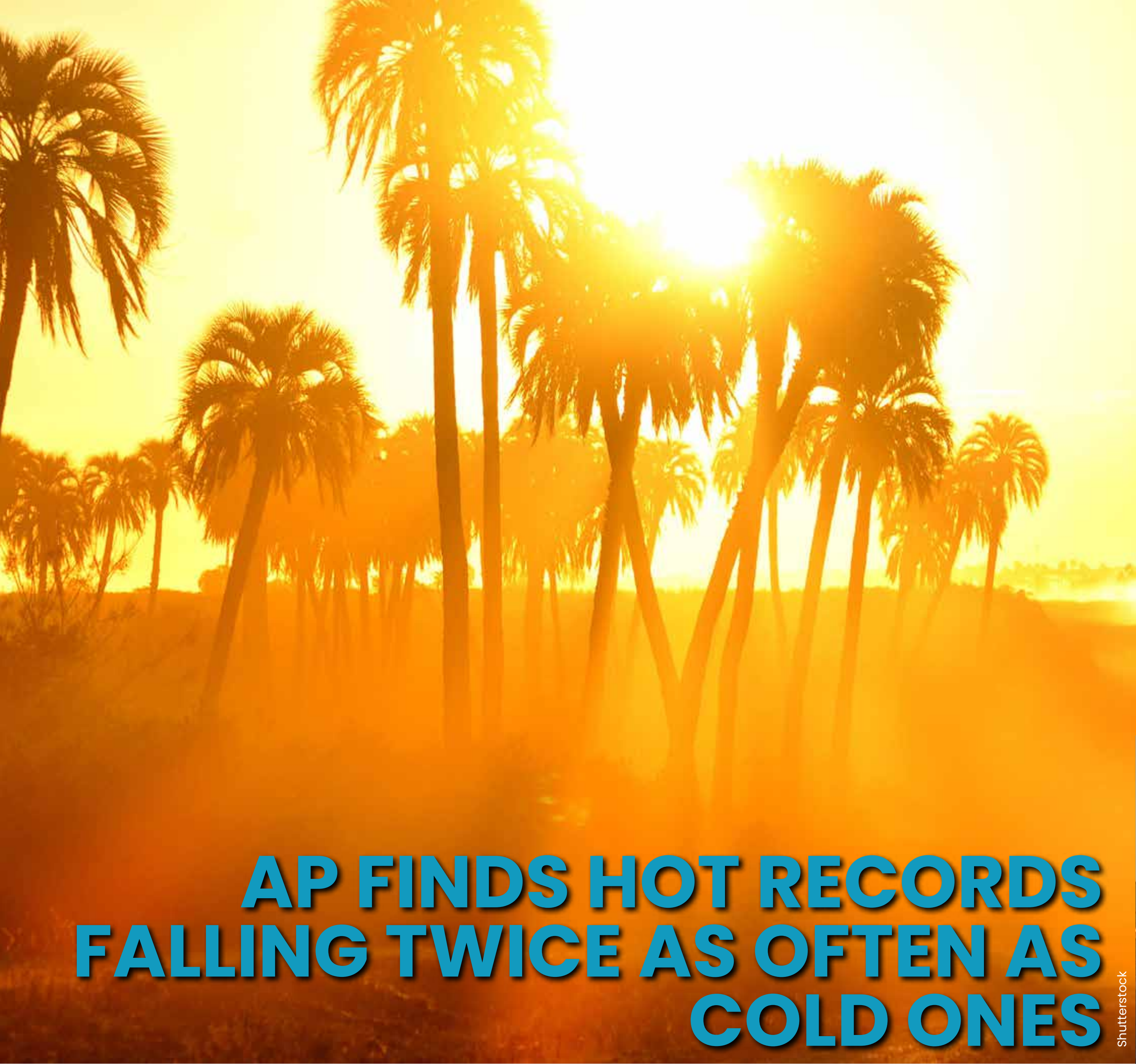
**Democrats Were Also Eager to Renew Their Praise** Pushback also came from Sen. Martha McSally, a Republican Air Force veteran appointed to McCain’s seat from Arizona. “John McCain is an American hero and I am thankful for his life of service and legacy to our country and Arizona,” she tweeted Wednesday. “Everyone should give him and his family the respect, admiration, and peace they deserve.” That McSally declined to criticize Trump directly reflects a broader wariness among Republicans to cross a president famous for holding a grudge and mobilizing his followers against GOP lawmakers he deems disloyal. Many Republicans have stayed silent this week, declining to join the GOP senators defending McCain and more broadly, America’s millions of veterans.

**“I can’t understand why the President would, once again, disparage a man as exemplary as my friend John McCain: heroic, courageous, patriotic, honorable, self-effacing, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and driven by duty to family, country, and God.” — Utah Sen. Mitt Romney**

But this week, Trump seemed to inspire a new determination among some Republicans to draw a line, however delicately. Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, the GOP’s 2012 presidential nominee whom Trump briefly considered nominating as secretary of state, tweeted praise for McCain on Tuesday. “I can’t understand why the President would, once again, disparage a man as exemplary as my friend John McCain: heroic, courageous, patriotic, honorable, self-effacing, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and driven by duty to family, country, and God,” Romney wrote. And Sen. Lindsey Graham, who wept openly on the Senate floor when McCain died but has allied...

[READ MORE »](#)





# AP FINDS HOT RECORDS FALLING TWICE AS OFTEN AS COLD ONES

Shutterstock

March 19, 2019 | AP News

Over the past 20 years, Americans have been twice as likely to sweat through record-breaking heat rather than shiver through record-setting cold, a new Associated Press data analysis shows.

The AP looked at 424 weather stations throughout the Lower 48 states that had consistent temperature records since 1920 and counted how many times daily hot temperature records were tied or broken and how many daily cold records were set. In a stable climate, the numbers should be roughly equal. Since 1999, the ratio has been two warm records

set or broken for every cold one. In 16 of the last 20 years, there have been more daily high temperature records than low. The AP shared the data analysis with several climate and data scientists, who all said the conclusion was correct, consistent with scientific peer-reviewed literature and showed a clear sign of human-caused climate change.

They pointed out that trends over decades are more robust than over single years. The analysis stopped with data through 2018. However, the first two months of 2019 are showing twice as many cold records than hot ones. That's...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP File Photo

## POLL: MAJORITY OF REPUBLICANS SUPPORT LEGAL MARIJUANA

March 20, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — A growing majority of Americans, including Republicans, say marijuana should be legal, underscoring a national shift as more states embrace cannabis for medical or recreational use. Support for legal marijuana hit 61 percent in 2018, up from 57 percent two years ago, according to the General Social Survey, a widely respected trend survey that has been measuring support for legal marijuana since the 1970s.

An analysis of the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the General Social Survey staff finds that increased backing of legalization cut across all age groups and political parties. The 2018 poll is the first in which a majority of Republicans support legalizing marijuana — 54 percent, up from 45 percent in 2016. Among Democrats, 76 percent now favor legalization. The rising...

[READ MORE »](#)

## HOW'S THE ECONOMY? COUNT THE CRANES TO FIND OUT.

March 20, 2019 | New York Times

By C.J. Hughes

To determine the health of the economy, you could scrutinize the minutes of Federal Reserve meetings, pore over the latest economic data and scour trade publications. Or you could simply look up. The towering cranes that rise above development sites can be a useful financial indicator, like consumer confidence polls or housing starts, according to Rider Levett Bucknall, a construction consulting firm that uses the equipment as the basis for its RLB Crane Index.

The index, a tally of cranes in 13 major North American cities, provides a snapshot of economic sentiment, said Julian Anderson, a president of the firm's North American region. It was created in 2015 as a tool for clients, who use it to...

© Copyright The New York Times News Service, 2019

[READ MORE »](#)



New York Times





AP/Maya AlIeruzzo

# WORLD

## TROOPS CELEBRATE AS US-BACKED FORCE SEIZES IS CAMP IN SYRIA

March 19, 2019 | AP News

BAGHOUZ, Syria — U.S.-backed Syrian forces on Tuesday seized control of an encampment held by the Islamic State group in eastern Syria, after hundreds of militants surrendered overnight, a spokesman said, signaling the group's collapse after months of stiff resistance. A group of suspects involved in a January bombing that killed four Americans in northern Syria were among militants captured by the Kurdish-led forces.

The taking of the IS camp was a major advance but not the final defeat of the group in Baghouz, the last village held by the extremists where they have been holding

**The taking of the IS camp was a major advance but not the final defeat of the group in Baghouz, the last village held by the extremists where they have been holding out for weeks under siege, according to Mustafa Bali, the spokesman for the Kurdish-led force known as the Syrian Democratic Forces.**

out for weeks under siege, according to Mustafa Bali, the spokesman for the Kurdish-led force known as the Syrian Democratic Forces. Still, fighters from the force were starting to celebrate anyway. "I'm happy it's over. Now I know my people are safe," said a fighter who identified himself as Walid Raqqawi who fought in the camp Monday night. He said he is returning to his hometown of Raqqa to rest. Comrades from his unit sang and danced in celebration at an outpost in Baghouz, all saying they were looking forward to going home.

An unknown number of IS militants still clung to a tiny sliver of land trapped between the Euphrates River and the encampment now held by the SDF, officials in the force said. The militants have been putting up a desperate fight, their notorious propaganda machine working even on the brink of collapse. On Monday, IS issued a video showing its militants furiously defending the encampment, a junkyard of wrecked cars, motorcycles

and tents. In the footage. They shoot nonstop with AK-47s and M-16s from behind trucks, vehicles and sand berms. A group of children could be seen at one point amid the fighting.

**The Battle for Baghouz Has Dragged on for Weeks**  
"My Muslim brothers everywhere, we did our best, the rest is up to God," a fighter said to the backdrop of black smoke rising from behind him. The complete fall of Baghouz would mark the end of the Islamic State group's self-declared territorial "caliphate," which at its height stretched across much of Syria and Iraq. For the past four years, U.S.-led forces have waged a destructive campaign to tear down the "caliphate." But even after Baghouz's fall, IS maintains a scattered presence and sleeper cells that threaten a continuing insurgency.

**"My Muslim brothers everywhere, we did our best, the rest is up to God."**  
— SDF Fighter

The battle for Baghouz has dragged on for weeks — and the encampment has proven a major battleground, with tents covering foxholes and underground tunnels. The siege has also been slowed by the unexpectedly large number of civilians in Baghouz, most of them families of IS members. Over past weeks they have been flowing out, exhausted, hungry and often wounded. The sheer number who emerged — nearly 30,000 since early January according to Kurdish officials — took the Kurdish-led SDF by surprise. In the last two weeks, many IS militants appeared to be among those evacuating. But SDF commanders have stopped speculating when the battle may finally be over. Commanders say they don't know how many more may still be left, hiding in tunnels beneath the war-scarred village. In the seizure Tuesday of the encampment, hundreds of wounded and sick militants were captured and have been evacuated to nearby military hospitals for treatment, Bali, the SDF...

[READ MORE »](#)





# NEW ZEALAND LEADER VOWS TO NEVER SAY MOSQUE GUNMAN'S NAME

March 19, 2019 | AP News

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — He took away New Zealand's innocence, along with 50 precious lives. And in exchange, the country's prime minister vowed to take away the one thing the gunman so clearly craves: fame.

In a passionate speech laced with steely resolve, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Tuesday urged her wounded nation to remember the victims slain in last week's attacks on two mosques but to never speak the name of the white supremacist responsible. "He is a terrorist. He is a criminal. He is an extremist. But he will, when I speak, be nameless," Ardern said in an address to Parliament. "He may have sought no-

toriety, but we in New Zealand will give him nothing — not even his name." Ardern's comments came after the Australian man accused of carrying out the attacks dismissed his lawyer, opting instead to represent himself. That has raised concerns he will use the trial as a platform for his racist views.

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Ardern said she would do everything possible to ensure that the gunman was denied any chance to lift his profile. But she demurred when asked whether she wanted the trial to occur behind closed doors, saying that was not her decision to make. The shooter's desire for attention was made clear in a manifesto...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP/Alessandra Tarantino

# POPE NIXES FRENCH CARDINAL RESIGNATION AFTER COVER-UP

March 19, 2019 | AP News

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has declined to accept the resignation of French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin as archbishop of Lyon after he was convicted of failing to report a known predator priest to police, the Vatican said Tuesday. Barbarin had traveled to the Vatican on Monday to present his resignation following the March 7 verdict and six-month suspended sentence he received.

The Vatican spokesman, Alessandro Gisotti, said Tuesday that during the audience, Francis didn't accept the resignation and instead asked Barbarin to do what he thinks is best for the archdiocese. Barbarin has decided to take time away and has asked his deputy in Lyon, the Rev. Yves Baumgarten, to assume leadership of the archdiocese, Gisotti said. "The Holy See repeats its closeness to victims of abuse, to the faithful of the archdiocese of Lyon and the French church who are living in a particularly difficult moment," Gisotti said. The French court found that Barbarin had an obligation to...

[READ MORE »](#)



# NEW ZEALAND BANS 'MILITARY-STYLE' GUNS AFTER MOSQUE ATTACKS

March 21, 2019 | AP News

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — The government of New Zealand announced a ban on "military-style" semi-automatic firearms and high-capacity magazines Thursday, just a week after such weapons were used in attacks on two mosques in the city of Christchurch that killed 50 people. An immediate sales ban went into effect to prevent stockpiling and new laws would be rushed through Parliament that would impose a complete ban on the weapons, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

"Every semi-automatic weapon used in the terrorist attack on Friday will be banned," Ardern said. The prohibition includes semi-automatic guns or shotguns that can be used with a detachable magazine that holds more than five rounds. It also applies to accessories used to convert guns into what the government called "military-style" weapons. The ban does not apply to guns commonly used by farmers and hunters...

[READ MORE »](#)





 [GVWIRE.COM](https://gvwire.com)  [GV WIRE](https://www.facebook.com/gvwire)  [@GVWIRE](https://twitter.com/gvwire)  [@GVWIRE](https://www.instagram.com/gvwire)

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER**