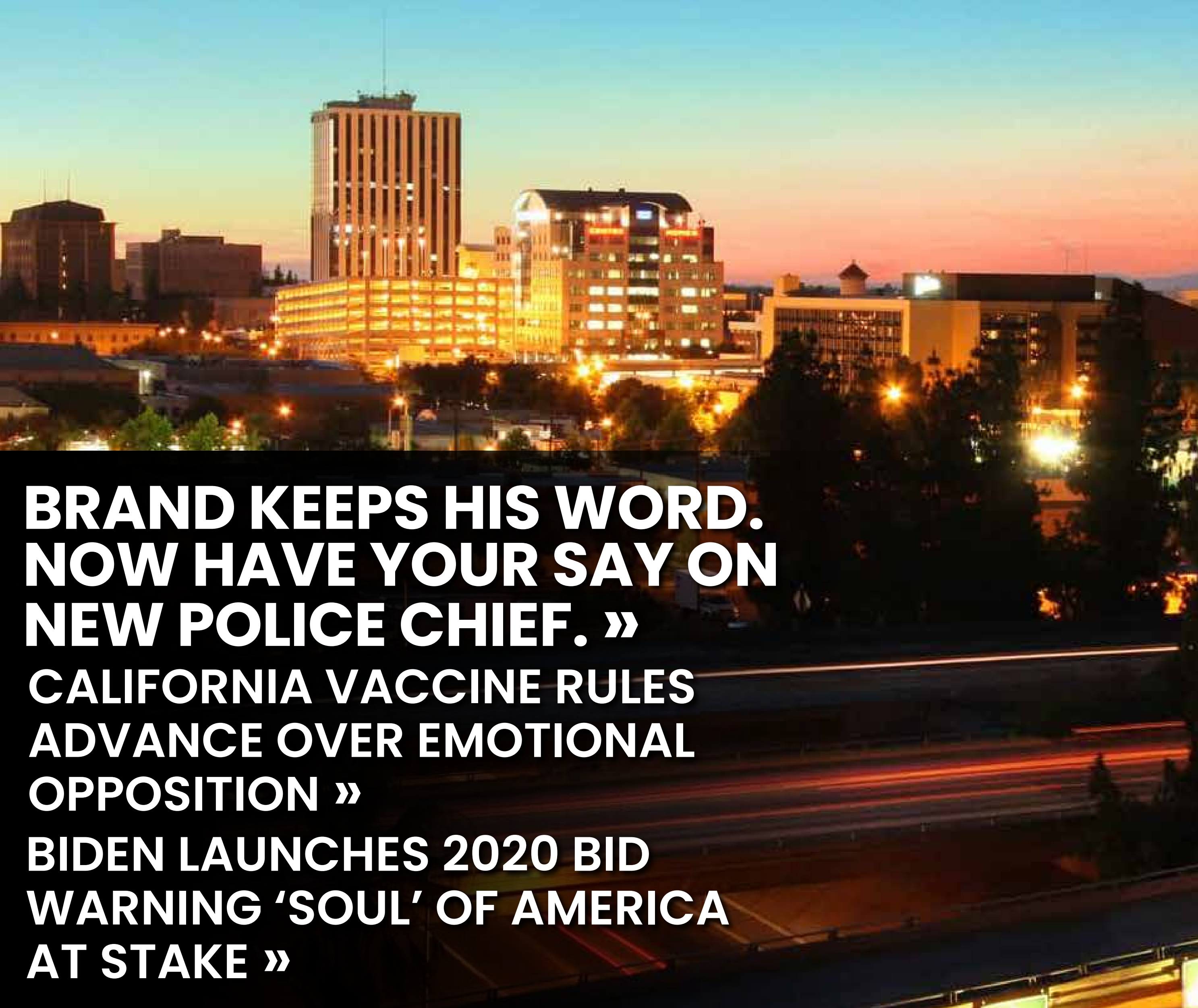




WEEKLY DIGEST
APRIL 26, 2019



**BRAND KEEPS HIS WORD.
NOW HAVE YOUR SAY ON
NEW POLICE CHIEF. »**

**CALIFORNIA VACCINE RULES
ADVANCE OVER EMOTIONAL
OPPOSITION »**

**BIDEN LAUNCHES 2020 BID
WARNING 'SOUL' OF AMERICA
AT STAKE »**



GV Wire/Jahz Tejo

LOCAL BRAND KEEPS HIS WORD. NOW HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW POLICE CHIEF.

April 18, 2019 | Bill McEwen

Lee Brand faces the biggest decision of his first mayoral term with eyes wide open. Whoever succeeds Jerry Dyer as Fresno police chief, the mayor says, “somebody is going to be unhappy.” But if anybody complains they didn’t have a chance to weigh in on the choice, well, that’s on them. During his 2016 mayoral campaign, Brand promised to involve the community in selecting the next police chief. He’s made good on that promise in a big way.

“Nowadays, the police chief is a huge position in cities of our size and bigger,” Brand says. “Maybe more important, but at least equally important, as the city manager.” That’s why we are embarking on the largest, most comprehensive search this city has ever done.” There’s another obvious why. The mayor’s position is on the

2020 ballot and failing to make good on his promise would irreparably harm Brand’s re-election bid.

Making Your Voice Heard

An online survey is up and will be available through May 31. The survey asks residents about the qualities they want in the next chief and the issues he or she should address. I took it the other day, and you should, too. You can fill it out using the links below or by going to the city’s website. Five community meetings — one each of the city’s policing districts — begin Tuesday, April 23, and wrap up May 9. Brand and city manager Wilma Quan will attend the meetings, which will be led by community leaders residing in the district. Additionally, residents can voice their opinions at City Council district meetings over the next six weeks. Brand

assured me the surveys and meetings aren’t window dressing for his campaign pledge. “We will collate all of the data and citizen input, and give it to our search firm,” Brand says. “The goal is for them to base a national search on our community’s needs.

An online survey is up and will be available through May 31. The survey asks residents about the qualities they want in the next chief and the issues he or she should address.

“Replacing Jerry Dyer isn’t going to be easy. We need to look far and wide. Deputy chiefs and captains in our department are welcome to apply, but it will be a national search.” The search firm is Torrance-based Teri Black & Company, LLC. The company’s motto? “Building stronger communities one placement at a time. No other firm works harder and smarter to get it right.” We’ll see if they live up to that claim. Brand’s political future, to some degree, depends on it.

Police Chief Search <i>community meetings</i>	
NORTHWEST APRIL 23 6:30PM - 8:30PM STARR ELEMENTARY 1780 W. SIERRA AVENUE	SOUTHWEST MAY 2 6:00PM - 8:00PM GASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 1110 E. CHURCH AVENUE
SOUTHEAST APRIL 25 6:00PM - 8:00PM SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL 1019 S. PEACH AVENUE	NORTHEAST MAY 9 6:00PM - 8:00PM HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL 5550 N. FIRST STREET
CENTRAL MAY 7 6:00PM - 8:00PM FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL 1839 N. ECHO AVENUE	

Finalists Interviews

Brand says the finalists will face “two or three panel interviews” this summer. Those panelists have yet to be determined. Asked what part the Fresno Police...

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ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNIZED IN FRESNO, BUT NOT AT WHITE HOUSE

GV Wire/Jahz Tello

April 24, 2019 | Bill McEwen

Almost universally, Armenians are dedicated to ensuring that the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks from 1915 through 1918 is acknowledged and never forgotten. But, for many Americans, it's not a case of forgetting. They are completely unaware of the **20th century's first genocide**.

According to a **nationwide survey conducted by Zogby Analytics** in late 2015, only 35% of Americans knew that it happened. (Click on the video above to learn about the impact of the genocide on the lives of Valley residents.)

Trump Stops Short of Recognizing Armenian Genocide

President Donald Trump certainly is aware of the genocide, but like every president after Ronald Reagan, he refuses to officially recognize it. On Wednesday, the Day of Remembrance for Armenians in America and around the world, Trump stopped short of saying "genocide." Instead, he called it "**one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century**." His words were reminiscent of the phrase President Barack Obama used to describe what happened. Why do U.S. presidents pull

their punches? Answer: They don't want to incur the wrath of NATO ally Turkey. **Israel also refuses to recognize the Armenian genocide** for geopolitical reasons.

Reagan Stood Tall for Armenians

Reagan, however, had no reservations about calling out evil. He thought it was important for the world to know the death, destruction, and anguish inflicted on the Armenian people. "Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it — and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples — the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten," Reagan said, purposefully choosing his words.

California is one of 49 U.S. states that recognizes the Armenian genocide. On Wednesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement, "Today and every day, let us recommit ourselves to making certain that we never forget the Armenian Genocide, and that we always speak out against hatred and atrocities anywhere they occur." ValleyPBS (Ch. 18) will broadcast...

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ARTIST SEES DISPARAGED IRAN IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

April 23, 2019 | Jamie Ouverson

A Fresno photographer says she was welcomed on a recent visit to Iran, despite the Trump administration's campaign of economic sanctions against the country. Helen Gigliotti, a retired Fresno State biochemistry professor and administrator, spent two weeks in Iran last year. "We found a window in which things had settled down a bit in terms of the relationship between our countries," she said. "The people were very genuine and friendly and welcoming. And they were particularly pleased when we declared that we were Americans."

Gigliotti is a frequent international traveler. Her **online portfolio** includes images from dozens of trips to out-of-the-way places, including Sudan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Central Asia. "I particularly enjoy photographing the people, culture, wildlife, unique architecture, and the landscape of these distant lands," her website biography says. Gigliotti's photos are being showcased in an exhibition titled, "Iran: As I Saw It" at...

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GV Wire/Jamie Ouverson

ARAMBULA: DEFENSE MOTION DESCRIBES INCIDENT WITH DAUGHTER, ACCUSES PD OF

April 23, 2019 | David Taub

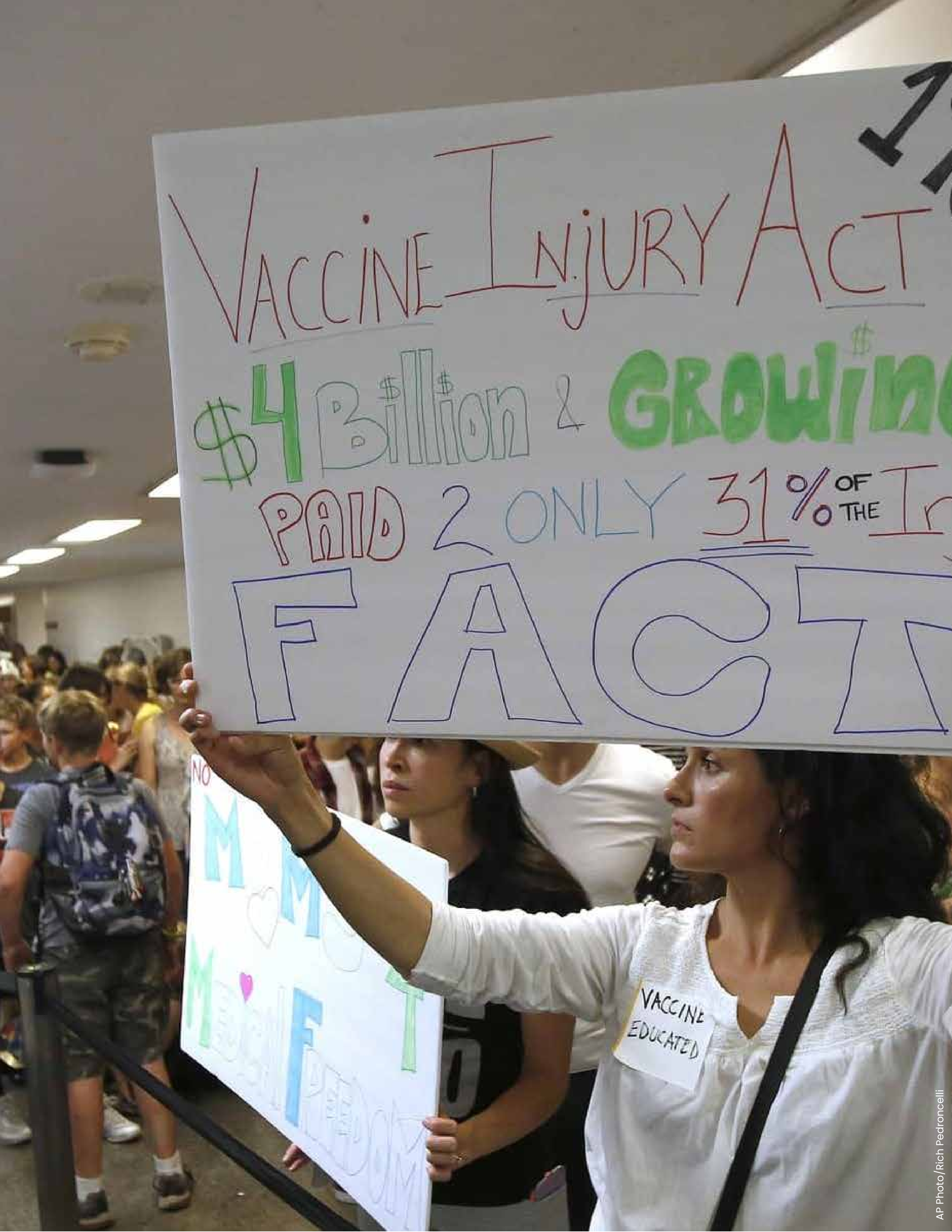
Attorneys for Joaquin Arambula, the Fresno assemblyman accused of child cruelty, say Fresno police illegally obtained evidence and want the case thrown out. In a motion filed on the first day of pre-trial hearings Tuesday, Arambula's legal team says that Fresno police illegally acquired a report from the Child Protective Services investigation. They point to an email from District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp to Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer questioning how his department obtained the information.

However, **Dyer told The Fresno Bee** on Tuesday evening that Arambula's attorneys were wrong. Due to a change in the law several years ago, police can obtain records from Social Services without a hearing. **You can read the motion here**. The motion, filed by Arambula's defense team of Margarita Martinez-Baly and Michael Aed, provides their recounting of the Dec. 9 incident. Their version contradicts media interviews...

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Pool Photo/John Walker



AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

STATE

CALIFORNIA VACCINE RULES ADVANCE OVER EMOTIONAL OPPOSITION

April 25, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers advanced tougher rules for vaccinations late Wednesday after hearing hours of testimony from hundreds of opponents while the nation grapples with the highest number of measles cases in decades. The Senate Health Committee approved the proposal to give state public health officials instead of local doctors the power to decide which children can skip their shots before attending school. The push coincides with this year’s national measles tally reaching the highest it’s been since 1994, according to an Associated Press count .

Bogus Exemptions Suspected

Lawmakers decided stronger oversight is needed to stem bogus exemptions granted in many cases by doctors who are paid to excuse students from vaccinations.

“If we continue to let these fake medical exemptions increase, we’re going to have another larger outbreak, and we need to stop that now,” — Sen. Richard Pan

They acted despite more than three hours of often emotional opposition from parents and some children, and after spending another hour debating where to draw the line between individual rights

and public safety. “Our job here in Sacramento is to try to thread the needle,” concluded Democratic Sen. Bill Monning of Carmel. “Your right to your choice should not interfere with the health and safety of my child or grandchild.”

Measure Passed on Party Line Vote

The measure passed to a fiscal committee on a party-line vote, with the panel’s two Republicans opposed. Democratic Sen. Richard Pan of Sacramento said his legislation would give state health officials the tools they need to prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, which in the first four months of the year have reached 28 confirmed cases in California. “If we continue to let these fake medical exemptions

increase, we’re going to have another larger outbreak, and we need to stop that now,” Pan said. Pan’s bill is one of a number of efforts by state legislatures to address measles outbreaks. Washington state lawmakers voted Tuesday to remove parents’ ability to claim a personal or philosophical exemption from vaccinating their children for measles, although medical and religious exemptions will remain. Oregon is considering removing all non-medical exemptions, drawing the ire of hundreds of parents who came to the state capitol Tuesday to protest.

Objections to Loss of Parental Rights

Opponents of Pan’s bill, including members of parental rights and religious groups, doctors and alternative health-care practitioners, said the measure strips away parents’ rights and isn’t necessary to prevent outbreaks. “Now they’re going after us parents whose children have been injured by vaccines, and doctors as well,” said Christina Mecklenburg, who flew in from her Orange County home. “We can’t remain silent any more. Too many of our children are being injured.” She said a vaccine last year left her now 2-year-old daughter, Hayden, cross-eyed with an ocular palsy that wouldn’t qualify for a medical exemption if Pan’s bill becomes law. Opponents who jammed the hearing room and nearby hallways criticized the bill and Pan in unusually personal and emotional terms, with several accusing him of “committing crimes against humanity.” “Shame on you,” said another, while a third called the bill “evil” and urged him to “please, save your soul.”

“Now they’re going after us parents whose children have been injured by vaccines, and doctors as well. We can’t remain silent any more. Too many of our children are being injured.” — Christina Mecklenburg

Medical Professionals Voice Support

Dr. Sergio Flores, testifying in support of the bill on...

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SINGLE FAMILY ZONING COULD DISAPPEAR UNDER STATE HOUSING BILL

AP/Rich Pedroncelli

April 25, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers advanced a proposal Wednesday to spur more housing near transportation and jobs and make it easier to turn single-family homes into four-plexes as the state grapples with a lack of affordable housing. The measure, a compromise between two Democratic senators, sets different requirements for small and large counties. Sens. Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Mike McGuire, who represents the coast from just north of San Francisco to the Oregon border, announced their plan at the start of Wednesday’s public hearing, giving advocates who came to testify little chance to digest the changes. “What works for

downtown Los Angeles doesn’t work for a county of 600,000 or less,” McGuire said. “I’m also a believer that no community should see dramatic change, but every community should see some change. I do believe this bill is trying to strike that balance.” California has 3.5 million fewer homes than it needs, and prices are increasingly becoming out of reach for rents and potential homeowners. Lawmakers from both parties, developers and tenants alike are calling for changes, but there’s little agreement on what works best. Some tenant groups argued the proposal would fuel gentrification, while others...

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AP File Photo

MANSON FOLLOWER VAN HOUTEN GETS ANOTHER SHOT AT RELEASE

April 24, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten is getting another chance at getting out of prison following a years-long saga that has seen a board recommend her parole three separate times. Van Houten’s case is being heard before California’s 2nd District Court of Appeal, which will consider whether to overturn a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge’s ruling denying parole for Van Houten last year. Van Houten’s attorney, Rich Pfeiffer, will argue that his 69-year-old client deserves to be released because she’s a changed woman, takes responsibility for her actions and has been a model inmate for more than four decades. Prosecutors will continue to vigorously fight Van Houten’s release because of the seriousness of the crimes. Van Houten was 19 when she and fellow cult members stabbed Los...

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DA SMITTCAMP: NEWSOM DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM IS A DISGRACE

April 24, 2019 | GV Wire

Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp joined three other California district attorneys to author an op-ed for CNN. In the piece, they state their strong opposition to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s death penalty moratorium, saying it “is disheartening to victims and their families who have waited years for justice.” There are 736 inmates on the nation’s largest death row at San Quentin State Prison. Newsom Rejects the Democratic Process The four DAs write: “Gov. Gavin Newsom’s **blanket moratorium on California’s death penalty** is a slap in the face to crime victims and their families who have waited years for justice. With the stroke of his pen last month, Newsom singlehandedly undermined our state’s democratic values and our criminal justice system,” write Smittcamp, Sacramento County DA...

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BIDEN LAUNCHES 2020 BID WARNING 'SOUL' OF AMERICA AT STAKE

April 25, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Joe Biden formally joined the crowded Democratic presidential contest on Thursday, declaring the “soul of this nation” at stake if President Donald Trump wins re-election. In [a video posted on Twitter](#), Biden focused on the 2017 deadly clash between white supremacists and counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Biden noted

“We are in the battle for the soul of this nation. If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen.” — Former Vice President Joe Biden

Trump’s comments that there were some “very fine people” on both sides of the violent encounter, which left one woman dead. “We are in the battle for the soul of this nation,” Biden said. “If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen.”

The 76-year-old Biden becomes an instant front-runner alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading many polls and has proved to be [a successful fundraiser](#). Biden has legislative and international experience that is unmatched in [the Democratic field](#), and he is among the best-known faces in U.S. politics. He quickly racked up endorsements on Thursday morning, becoming the first Democrat running for president with the backing of more than one U.S. senator. Still, Biden must compete in a field that now spans at least 20 Democrats and has been celebrated for its racial and gender diversity. As an older white man with occasionally centrist views, Biden has to prove he’s not out of step with his party. He’s yet to outline his positions on the issues defining the 2020 Democratic primary, most notably “Medicare for All,” the universal health care plan authored by Sanders that has been adopted by virtually the entire Democratic

field. His critics in both major political parties were also quick to pounce.

Obama Took the Unusual Step of Weighing in on Thursday’s Announcement

“The old guard of the Democratic Party failed to stop Trump, and they can’t be counted on to lead the fight against his divide-and-conquer politics today,” the liberal group Justice Democrats tweeted. “The party needs new leadership with a bold vision capable of energizing voters in the Democratic base who stayed home in 2016.” Biden, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is betting that his working class appeal and ties to Barack Obama’s presidency will help him win over such skeptics. Obama has declined to endorse Biden, however, and several former Obama aides are now working for other candidates.

“I only hope you have the intelligence, long in doubt, to wage a successful primary campaign. It will be nasty — you will be dealing with people who truly have some very sick & demented ideas. But if you make it, I will see you at the Starting Gate.” — President Donald Trump

“I asked President Obama not to endorse,” Biden told reporters as he arrived in Delaware Thursday. “Whoever wins this nomination should win it on their own merits.” While he hasn’t endorsed anyone in the crowded field, Obama took the unusual step of weighing in on Thursday’s announcement. “President Obama has long said that selecting Joe Biden as his running mate in 2008 was one of the best decisions he ever made,” Obama spokeswoman Katie Hill said. “He relied on the vice president’s knowledge, insight, and judgment throughout both campaigns and the entire presidency. The two forged a special bond over the last 10 years and remain close today.” Trump welcomed Biden to the campaign in a tweet calling him “Sleepy Joe.” “I only...

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MANY BLAME DRUG FIRMS FOR OPIOID CRISIS

April 25, 2019 | AP News

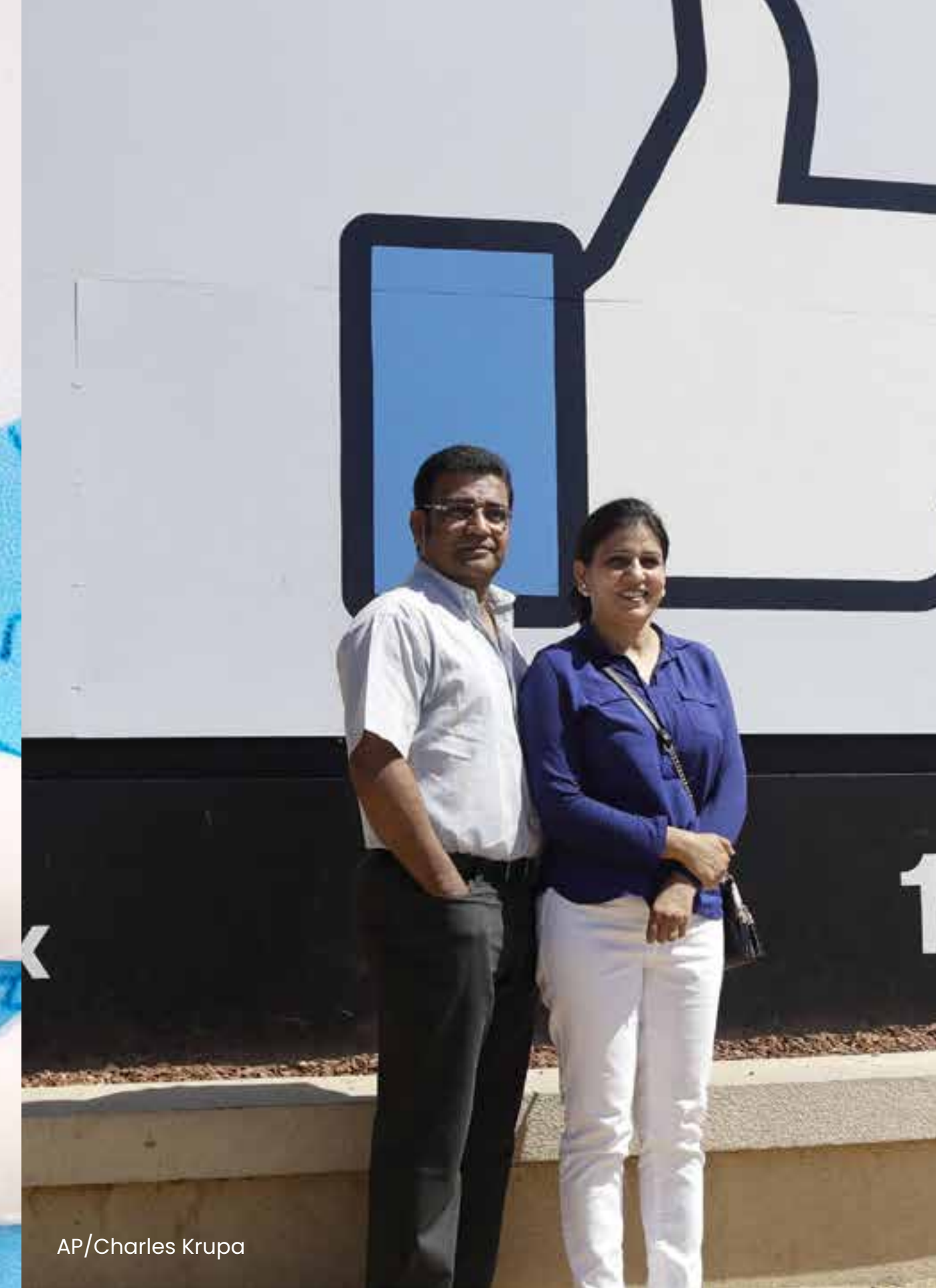
NEW YORK — About two-thirds of Americans believe drug companies are to blame for the opioid crisis, although nearly as many hold drug users themselves responsible, a new poll finds.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll showed many people also fault doctors who prescribed opioid pain pills and government officials who haven't done enough to expand addiction treatment and arrest drug dealers. "All of the above," said Anna Marie Davis, a casino security supervisor from Norwood, Pennsylvania. She

said she has had to deal with overdoses at work and that her 27-year-old nephew, who used heroin and fentanyl, died of a drug overdose last year.

"It's pretty bad," she said of the drug overdose problem. "I honestly don't think they're doing enough" to stop it, she added. The United States is in the midst of the deadliest drug overdose crisis in the nation's history. More than 70,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2017. Nearly 48,000 involved some type of opioid, a category that includes heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid painkillers. Experts say the...

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AP/Charles Krupa

FACEBOOK ANTICIPATES AN FTC PRIVACY FINE OF UP TO \$5 BILLION

April 25, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook said it expects a fine of up to \$5 billion from the Federal Trade Commission, which is investigating whether the social network violated its users' privacy. The company set aside \$3 billion in its **quarterly earnings report** Wednesday as a contingency against the possible penalty but noted that the "matter remains unresolved."

The one-time charge slashed Facebook's first-quarter net income considerably, although revenue grew 26% in the period. The FTC has been looking into whether Facebook broke its own 2011 agreement promising to protect user privacy. Investors shrugged off the charge and sent the company's stock up more than 9% to almost \$200 in after-hours trading. EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson, however, called it a "significant development" and noted that any settlement is likely to go beyond a mere dollar amount. "(Any)...

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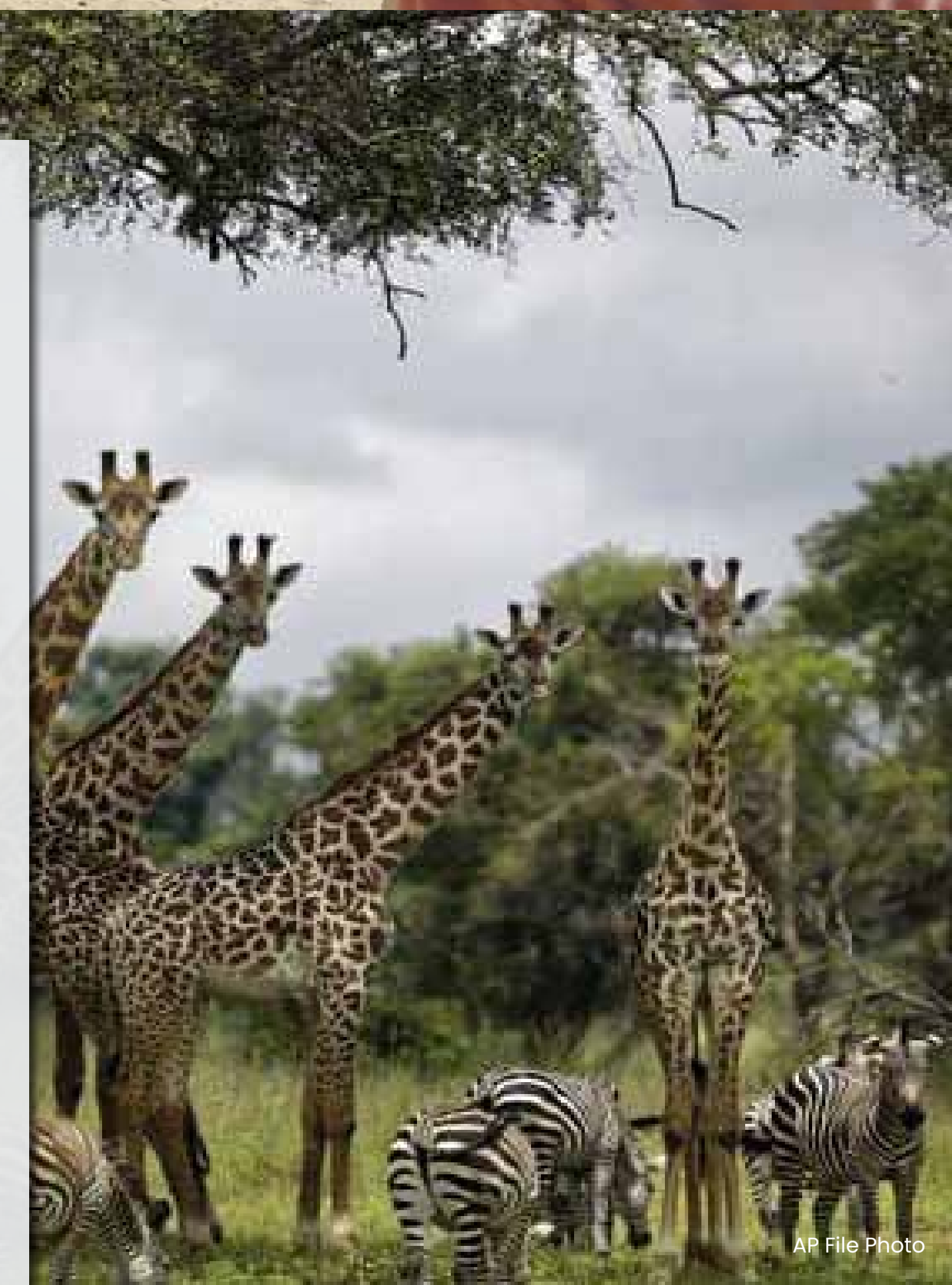
HARRIS, BOOKER MISS MOST VOTES OF SENATORS RUNNING IN 2020

April 25, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration took a first step Thursday toward extending protections for giraffes under the Endangered Species Act, following legal pressure from environmental groups. **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** announced that its initial review has determined there is "substantial information that listing may be warranted" for giraffes.

The finding, to be published in the Federal Register, will begin a more in-depth review and public comment process that could lead to import restrictions on hunting trophies and body parts from giraffes, including hides and bones. Biologists have warned for years that the world's tallest land mammal is at growing risk of extinction from habitat loss, civil unrest, poaching and other threats. The giraffe population in Africa has declined by about 40 percent in the past three decades, according to the International Union for the...

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AP File Photo



Jason Oxenham/New Zealand Herald via AP

WORLD

NEW ZEALAND AND FRANCE TO CALL FOR AN END TO ONLINE TERROR

April 24, 2019 | AP News

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Wednesday that she and French President Emmanuel Macron will host a meeting in Paris next month seeking to eliminate acts of violent extremism and terrorism from being shown online. Ardern said she and Macron will ask world leaders and chief executives of technology companies to agree to a pledge called the “Christchurch Call,” named after the New Zealand city where dozens of people were killed in attacks on mosques last month.

Ardern didn’t release any details of the pledge, saying they were still being developed. She said she’d been talking with representatives from companies including Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and Google along with world leaders and felt they could

“This isn’t about freedom of speech. It’s specifically focused on eradicating those extreme acts of terrorism online.” — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

reach consensus by keeping the pledge tightly focused. “This isn’t about freedom of speech,” Ardern said. “It’s specifically focused on eradicating those extreme acts of terrorism online.” The man accused of fatally shooting 50 people in two Christchurch mosques on March 15 livestreamed the attack on Facebook after mounting a camera on his helmet. The chilling 17-minute video was copied and viewed widely on the internet even as tech companies scrambled to remove it.

Zuckerberg Calls Regulators to Play More Active Role

Ardern said the shooter had used social media in an unprecedented way to promote an act of terrorism and hate. She said nobody would argue that a terrorist had the right to livestream the murder of 50 people. “No tech company, just like no government, wishes to see violent extremism and terrorism online,” Ardern said. “And so we have a starting point that is one of unity.” In an opinion piece in the Washington Post last month,

Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg called for governments and regulators to play a more active role from in policing the internet. “As part of this, we have a responsibility to keep people safe on our services,” Zuckerberg wrote. “That means deciding what counts as terrorist propaganda, hate speech and more. We continually review our policies with experts, but at our scale we’ll always make mistakes and decisions that people disagree with.”

In his op-ed, Zuckerberg didn’t directly address problems with livestreaming, although he did say it was impossible to remove all harmful content from the internet.

“As part of this, we have a responsibility to keep people safe on our services. That means deciding what counts as terrorist propaganda, hate speech and more. We continually review our policies with experts, but at our scale we’ll always make mistakes and decisions that people disagree with.” — Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg

Related Story: Law Enforcement Faces Dilemma in Assessing Online Threats

Ardern said Macron had played a leadership role among the Group of Seven major economies in trying to eliminate online terrorism, and his role would complement her experience from the recent Christchurch attacks when they co-chair the May 15 meeting.



US GIVES EXEMPTIONS TO SANCTIONS ON IRAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD

AP/Vahid Salemi

April 24, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Wednesday granted important exemptions to new sanctions on Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, watering down the effects of the measures while also eliminating an aspect that would have complicated U.S. foreign policy efforts.

Foreign governments and businesses that have dealings with the Revolutionary Guard and its affiliates will not be subject to a ban on U.S. travel under waivers outlined by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in two notices published in the Federal Register. That weakens the effect of the measures and will frustrate members of Congress backing tough measures

against Iran who are already concerned that the Trump administration won’t fully enforce sanctions on Iranian oil. But it lifts the threat that those who work with the U.S. in Iraq and Lebanon, where the Guard’s many subsidiaries are active, will face the full weight of American penalties.

The waivers leave intact sanctions that apply directly to Iran’s Revolutionary Guard and its proxies, which are the first agencies of a foreign government that have ever been designated a foreign terrorist organization by the United States. The designation, which took effect April 15, is part of a broader administration effort to increase pressure on...

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SAUDI ARABIA BEHEADS 37 PRISONERS FOR TERRORISM CRIMES

April 23, 2019 | AP News

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia on Tuesday beheaded 37 Saudi citizens in a mass execution across the country for alleged terrorism-related crimes, publicly pinning one of the headless bodies to a pole as a warning to others. It marked the largest number of executions in a single day in Saudi Arabia since Jan. 2, 2016, when the kingdom executed 47 individuals, including a prominent Shiite cleric whose death sparked protests in Iran and the ransacking of the Saudi Embassy there.

The executions also come days after four Islamic State gunmen died trying to attack a Saudi security building north of the capital, Riyadh, and on the heels of Easter Day attacks that killed over 300 people in Sri Lanka and were claimed by the Islamic State group. Saudi Arabia’s Interior Ministry said Tuesday’s executions were carried out in accordance with Islamic law, using language that indicated they were all beheadings. The body of one of the men — Khaled bin Abdel...

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File Photo

ISRAELI TROOPS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING HANDCUFFED PALESTINIAN

April 22, 2019 | AP News

BEIT JALA, West Bank — A hospitalized Palestinian teen said Monday he was shot in his thighs by Israeli soldiers while he was handcuffed and blindfolded — the latest in what a leading rights group portrayed as a series of unjustified shootings of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers. The military said it was investigating last week’s incident, which it said took place as Palestinian youths were throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

Osama Hajahjeh, 16, said he was trying to run from soldiers when he was shot Thursday. He said the incident began after a funeral for a school teacher in his village of Tekoa, who had been hit by a car driven by an Israeli while walking at a busy intersection. Hajahjeh said school was let out early for students to attend the funeral. After the burial, he said he was tackled by a soldier who jumped out of an olive grove and forced him to the ground. He said his hands were cuffed and his eyes covered with a cloth blindfold. After the arrest...

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