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# LOCAL

## FRESNO MAYOR BRAND WON'T RUN AGAIN. 'IT'S TIME I MOVED ON'

May 20, 2019 | David Taub

Lee Brand, the 25th mayor of Fresno, will not run for a second term, he said in a stunning announcement Monday. City Hall insiders have said Brand's exit will open the way for police Chief Jerry Dyer to run for mayor. In a statement, Dyer said he is "strongly considering" entering the race.

**Related Story: Police Chief Dyer 'Strongly Considering' Run for Fresno Mayor**

The mayoral primary will be held March 3, 2020. "I will not seek a second term as mayor of Fresno," Brand said in an appearance on Ray Appleton's show on KMJ radio. "It's time I move on." Andrew

**"I will not seek a second term as mayor of Fresno. It's time I move on." — Fresno Mayor Lee Brand**

Janz, who ran unsuccessfully against Rep. Devin Nunes last year, was the only announced mayoral candidate. In an exclusive GV Wire poll conducted in April, Dyer was preferred in a three-way race with Janz and Brand, with Janz a close second. Dyer, 60, is scheduled to retire in October after 18 years as police chief. A public search for his successor is underway.

**Related Story: 2020 Fresno Mayoral Poll: Police Chief and Janz Lead Brand**

On Monday, Fresno City Councilman Luis Chavez said he would jump into the mayoral race. "The city is at a crossroads and we need leadership that can bring all parts of our city together," said Chavez, who represents District 5 on the council. "My almost 10 years serving residents across the city make me the most qualified candidate for mayor." In a statement, Janz thanked Brand for "his longstanding service and commitment to our great city." "It's time that we come together as a commu-

nity," Janz said. "I look forward to sharing my vision for the city of Fresno in the coming months." Brand declined to say whether he would support another candidate. "At this point, I'm completely neutral. I want to focus on the things Fresno needs." Asked if he would be open to taking another role at Fresno City Hall, such as city manager, Brand demurred. "I want to get away from City Hall," he said. Brand hoped to do some traveling and spending more time with his grandchildren and other family.

Brand said he tried to stay out of the "ideological civil war" in local politics and focus on issues he cared about, such as solving the city's persistent problems of poverty, crime and homelessness. "I hope I can be remembered as the person who started Fresno in that direction," Brand said. In a statement released by City Hall, Brand noted that he turned 70 in April, which "caused me to reflect on my life, my career and my time as mayor." "Not having the burden of re-election gives me the freedom to devote all of my energy to improving our community," Brand said. "I will keep the 'pedal to the metal' until my last day in office."

**"The city is at a crossroads and we need leadership that can bring all parts of our city together. My almost 10 years serving residents across the city make me the most qualified candidate for mayor." — Councilman Luis Chavez**

Brand was elected mayor in 2016, defeating Henry R. Perea, a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Brand followed two-term Mayor Ashley Swearengin, who endorsed Brand as her successor. Perea, reacting to the news about Brand, said: "It's going to boil down obviously to a Janz-Dyer race. There are going to be a lot of new dynamics in play, and it's going to shape up to be a very competitive contest. "The message to the money folks is, if...

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# SOUTHWEST FRESNO YOUTH GET BOOST FROM KAISER PERMANENTE

GV Wire/Jahz Tello

May 22, 2019 | *GV Wire*

A \$40,000 Kaiser Permanente Fresno grant will help the Fresno Police Activities League provide fitness activities and mentoring programs at the Cecil C. Hinton Community Center.

At-risk youth in southwest Fresno will have access to a new boxing ring, fitness equipment, meditation room, and mentoring, thanks to the grant, which was announced Tuesday at the center.

[You can view a video of Tuesday's ribbon cutting here.](#)

Grant Helps PAL Connect With Neighborhood Youth  
The remodeled recreation room at the Hinton Center also will include elliptical machines, treadmills, and free weights. The yoga and meditation room is planned to open soon. In addition, students will have access to computers, Fresno police Capt. Mark Salazar said.

The grant will link youth in the surrounding neighborhoods to PAL's programming and activities at Hinton for the first time. Previously, they traveled to the Romain Neighborhood Center, but extensive damage from a New Year's Day fire put most of those activities on hold.

## POLICE CAMERAS TRACK HAWKS' FAMILY TIME ON CLOVIS WATER TOWER

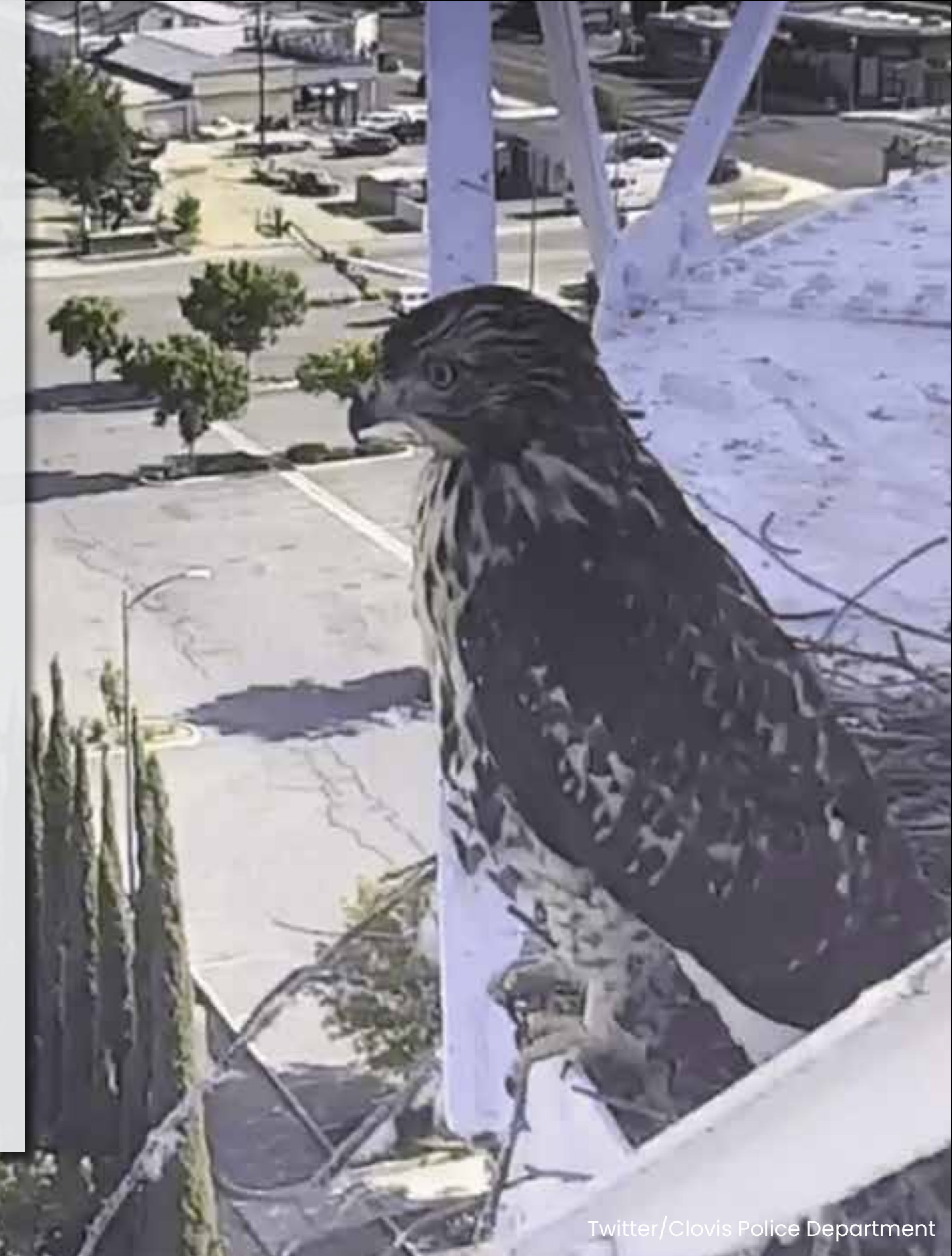
May 22, 2019 | *Jody Murray*

For more than two years, Clovis police have hosted an online reality show about a close-knit family whose home boasts an awesome view of the city. In early 2018, the two remote-controlled cameras mounted on Old Town Clovis' iconic water tower captured a heart-warming scene: two adult red-tailed hawks had built a nest on the water tank landing. There were eggs.

### A Social Media Hit

The city's police department, which operates and monitors the cameras, had the makings of a social media bonanza. The department began to post video clips of the hawk family on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Three baby hawks popped out in April 2018. "I think the entire process is pretty interesting. They go from hatching to eating on their own, then flying for the first time," said Shawn Knapp, a police department community service officer. A collection of monitors at Knatt's...

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Twitter/Clovis Police Department



GV Wire/Jahz Tello

## FRESNO POLICE CAPTAIN WANTS TO BECOME NEXT CHIEF

May 22, 2019 | *David Taub*

One of the first applicants for the soon-to-be-vacant Fresno police chief position is an internal candidate. Capt. Mark Salazar, a 23-year veteran of the department, said Tuesday that he will apply.

### Three Years Leading Southwest Division

For the last three years, Salazar has served as captain of the southwest division. Before that, he was the southeast district commander and street violence bureau homicide commander. "I believe I have the abilities to fight crime, engage the community, and build trust," Salazar said.

"I've done it here in southwest, and I've done it in my other assignments. I am looking forward to that process playing out this summer." Residents provided input at five recently held community meetings, telling the city and its recruiting consultant what they want to see in Police Chief Jerry Dyer's successor...

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# STATE

## FEDS RAISE WATER ALLOCATIONS FOR FARMERS. WESTLANDS ISN'T IMPRESSED.

May 23, 2019 | Jody Murray

Citing the latest storms sweeping through California, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation approved a slight increase in water allocation to westside farmers. The agency that provides water to those farmers says it's still not enough. Allocations for Central Valley Project South-of-Delta agricultural use were increased from 65% to 70%, the bureau announced Wednesday. South-of-Delta allocations for municipal and industrial use were raised to 95%.

It's the third time this year that the bureau has increased the agricultural allocation. It went up from 35% to 55% in March, then to 65% in April.

"The storms experienced in the Central Valley during the past week are unusual this late in the year, bringing the month's precipitation to over twice its average," Ernest Conant, the reclamation bureau's Mid-Pacific regional director, said in a statement. "Snowpack throughout the state is still about 150% of average for this time of year."

### Westlands Says Allocations Aren't From 'Objective Formula'

However, officials for Westlands Water District, which administers water to farmland in western Fresno and Kings counties, said the allocation still doesn't add up. "Reclamation's inability to provide South-of-Delta (Central Valley Project) water service contractors with full contract supplies is further evidence of the draconian impact ineffective regulations have had on water supplies for people," Thomas Birmingham, the water district's general manager, said in a statement. "Decisions that affect CVP water allocations are not the product

of some objective formula. Rather, these decisions reflect the exercise of discretion by (reclamation) agency staff, and these decisions affect people and the environment. These decisions affect how much land farmers can plant, how many people will be employed on farms, and how much consumers will pay for food produced by farmers, and the people they employ."

Rep. TJ Cox, a Fresno Democrat, had a similar reaction to the new allocation. "While this is a step in the right direction, I still believe (the reclamation bureau) needs to be doing more, given the high level of precipitation we had this year," Cox said in a statement. "The bureau must explain why we are not yet at 100% of the requested allocation for our South-of-Delta contractors, and we must continue to work together to figure out a long-term plan to address our Valley's water needs."

The bureau said it has had "ongoing challenges" in providing higher allocations for contractors because of water-storage limitations, along with restrictions stemming from protections for endangered species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system.

**"The storms experienced in the Central Valley during the past week are unusual this late in the year, bringing the month's precipitation to over twice its average."**  
— Ernest Conant, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Anousheh Ansari

**"While this is a step in the right direction, I still believe (the reclamation bureau) needs to be doing more, given the high level of precipitation we had this year."** — Rep. TJ Cox





# CALIFORNIA SUES OVER \$1 BILLION IN CANCELED HIGH-SPEED RAIL MONEY

CAHSRA

May 21, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California sued Tuesday to block the Trump administration from canceling nearly \$1 billion for the state's high-speed rail project, escalating the state's feud with the federal government.

The Federal Railroad Administration announced last week it would not give California the money awarded by Congress nearly a decade ago, arguing that the state has not made enough progress on the project. The state must complete construction on a segment of track in the Central Valley agricultural heartland by 2022 to keep the money, and the administration has argued the state cannot meet that deadline.

But Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom says the move is retribution for California's criticism of President Donald Trump's immigration policies. "The decision was precipitated by President Trump's overt hostility to California, its challenge to his border wall initiatives, and what he called the 'green disaster' high-speed rail project," the state said in the lawsuit.

California has worked for more than a decade on the project to bring high-speed rail service between Los Angeles and San Francisco, but the project has been plagued by delays and cost overruns. It's now projected to cost around \$77 billion and be finished by 2033. The \$929 million the Trump...

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AP/Rich Pedroncelli

## CALIFORNIA CONSIDERS HEALTH CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN US ILLEGALLY

May 21, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Lilian Serrano's mother-in-law had lots of stomach problems, but she always blamed food. Doctors at a San Diego-area clinic suspected Genoveva Angeles might have cancer, but they could not say for sure because they did not have the equipment to test for it and Angeles, who had been in the country illegally for 20 years, could not afford to see a specialist and did not qualify for state assistance because of her immigration status.

In September, Angeles finally learned she had gallbladder cancer. Serrano said she was in the hospital room when Angeles, in her late 60s, died about two weeks later. "We don't know if she would have survived treatment, but she was not even able to access it," said Serrano, chairwoman of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium. "She never had a chance to fight cancer." Stories like that have prompted...

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## NEW CALIFORNIA SEA DRAGON HABITAT IS AMONG WORLD'S LARGEST

May 22, 2019 | AP News

LA JOLLA — At first glance, it looks like a branch of kelp, but then an eye moves among its leafy appendages, and ridges of tiny, translucent fins start to flutter, sending the creature gliding through the water like something from a fairy tale. A Southern California aquarium has built what is believed to be one of the world's largest habitats for the surreal sea dragons, whose native populations off Australia are threatened by pollution, warming oceans and the illegal pet and alternative medicine trades.

The Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego hopes the exhibit, which opened this month, will lead to the leafy sea dragon, the lesser-known cousin of the seahorse, being bred for the first time in captivity. "It literally just looked like a piece of kelp," said Steven Kowal, 25, who was visiting San Diego from Greensboro, North Carolina, and took time to see the exhibit...

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AP/Gregory Bull





# D-DAY VETERANS REVISIT NORMANDY, RECALL HORROR AND TRIUMPH

May 23, 2019 | AP News

Planes spread out across the sky, nearly wingtip to wingtip. A sniper's bullet whizzing by the ear. Squeezing a dying soldier's hand, so he knew he was not alone. Across three quarters of a century, the old veterans remember that epic day on the beaches of Normandy. For historians, D-Day was a turning point in the war against Germany; for men who were among the 160,000 Allied

**"You train with him and you ate with him and you slept with him and you fought with him. And in less than three hours, he was gone." — Dennis Trudeau**

fighters who mounted history's largest amphibious invasion, June 6, 1944, remains a kaleidoscope of memories, a signal moment of their youth. Not many of those brave men remain, and those that do

often use canes, walkers or wheelchairs. Few are willing or able to return to Normandy for the anniversary. But listen to the stories of some who are making that sentimental journey that spans thousands of miles — and 75 years.

**Paratrooper Joined the Canadian Military at 17**

The day before Dennis Trudeau parachuted into Normandy, he wrote his parents a letter saying he was about to go into battle but they shouldn't worry. "Everything is going to be fine and dandy," he wrote. "After all, I'm not scared." Trudeau had joined the Canadian military at 17 and became a paratrooper, in part because they were paid an extra \$50 a month. He's 93 now, living in Grovetown, Georgia. But his memories of D-Day — and the day before D-Day — are undimmed.

On June 5, 1944, he and the other paratroopers sat on the tarmac and joked about how they'd be in Paris by Christmas. But when they climbed into the plane, the chatter stopped. Trudeau's position was by the open jump door; he could look out across the vast array of planes and ships powering toward Normandy. Planes were strung out across the horizon. He prayed: "I just

kind of told the Lord, 'Let me see one more sunrise.' And then, he jumped. Trudeau landed in water up to his waist in a flooded field. In the dark, he rendezvoused with other paratroopers. They were on the way to their objective when friendly fire hit — an Air Force bomb.

Thrown into a ditch, Trudeau heard a dying friend nearby, calling out for his mother. "You train with him and you ate with him and you slept with him and you fought with him. And in less than three hours, he was gone," he said. Within hours, combat would be over for Trudeau, as well. He was captured by German forces, and spent the duration in a prisoner-of-war camp. By the time the war was over he had gone from 135 pounds to about 85. He returned to Normandy in 1955 to see the graves of eight platoon members who didn't survive. This time, he'll say a prayer over their graves. "They're the heroes. They're the ones who gave everything they had," he said.

**He Went on to Fight Through the Hedgerows of Normandy**

There had been a number of false starts ahead of the invasion of Normandy. But Vincent Corsini knew June 6 was different. There was a certain feeling in the air — an "edge," as he describes it. Chaplains on deck encouraged troops to pray and troops were given a good breakfast. Certain other D-Day memories are crystal clear: peeking out over the edge of the landing craft with amazement at the U.S. firepower directed at the beach. Machine guns splattering the water as he unloaded. The weight of the 60mm mortars he carried. Tucked against the bottom of the hill overlooking Omaha Beach, he heard someone yelling for help from the water. Taking off as much equipment as he could, he...

**"I wouldn't change my experience for a million dollars. I wouldn't go through it again for a million dollars." — Vincent Corsini**

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## FORMER MILITARY TRAINER, RETIRED DOG REUNITED IN SAN ANTONIO

May 23, 2019 | AP News

RALEIGH, N.C. — Illegal killings and longstanding political resistance have undercut the return of two species of endangered wolves to the wild, frustrating government efforts that already cost more than \$80 million but have failed to meet recovery targets. The number of red wolves roaming the forests of North Carolina has plunged to fewer than three dozen in recent years — the most precarious position of any U.S. wolf species.

In the Southwest, a record number of Mexican gray wolves turned up dead in 2018, tempering an increase in the over-

all population to 131 animals. With such small numbers in the wild, biologists say poaching has a big effect. Over the last two decades, more than half of Mexican wolf deaths and about one in four red wolf deaths resulted from gunshots or were otherwise deemed illegal, The Associated Press found.

“It’s basically a numbers game,” said Brady McGee, who heads the Mexican wolf recovery program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “As we’re trying to recover these wolves in the wild, illegal mortalities are still one of the biggest threats.” For red wolves, gunshot deaths are a problem...

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## PENTAGON PROPOSING TROOP BUILDUP IN MIDEAST, SOURCES SAY

May 23, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday will present plans to the White House to send up to 10,000 more troops to the Middle East, in a move to beef up defenses against potential Iranian threats, U.S. officials said. The officials said no final decision has been made, and it’s not clear if the White House would approve sending all or just some of the requested forces.

Officials said the move is not in response to any new threat from Iran but is aimed at reinforcing security in the region. They said the troops would be defensive forces, and the discussions include additional Patriot missile batteries, more ships and increased efforts to monitor Iran. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the plans have not been formally announced. Thursday morning’s meeting comes as tensions with Iran continue to simmer, and it...

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## SELF-IMPEACH? TALK SHIFTS TOWARD TRUMP’S DEFIANCE OF CONGRESS

May 22, 2019 | AP News

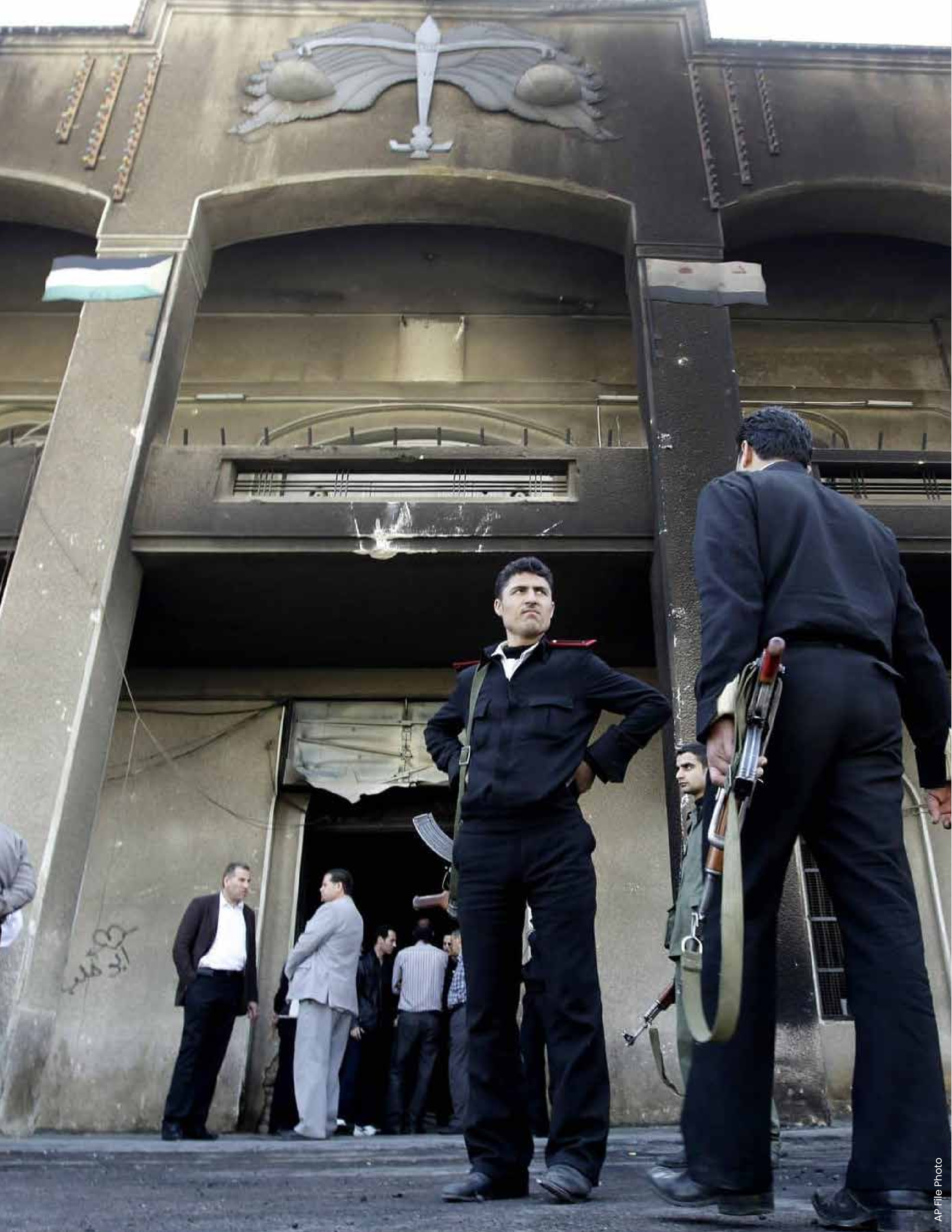
WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has introduced a new concept into the debate over President Donald Trump’s actions: “self-impeaching.” As Trump all but goads Democrats into impeachment proceedings, viewing the showdown as potentially valuable for his 2020 re-election campaign, Democrats are trying to show restraint. Their investigations are both intensifying but also moving slowly as Democrats dig into the special counsel’s Trump-Russia report and examine Trump’s finances and governance.

The more they push, the more Trump resists, the president making what Pelosi says is his own case for impeachment with his stonewalling of Congress. “The president is self-impeaching,” she told her colleagues last week during a private caucus meeting, echoing comments she also aired in public. “He’s putting out the case against himself. Obstruction, obstruction, obstruction. Ignoring subpoenas and the rest...”

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AP file photo

# WORLD

## DOCUMENTS SHINE RARE LIGHT ON SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN

May 21, 2019 | AP News

BEIRUT — Thousands of documents purportedly collected from abandoned Syrian government offices during the country's civil war reveal the reach of President Bashar Assad's shadowy, labyrinthine security agencies as they spied on the population at large, sought to eliminate dissidents at all cost and systematically persecuted the Kurdish minority even before the onset of protests.

The documents were the basis of a report released Tuesday by Washington-based Syria Justice and Accountability Center, which hopes they can eventually help in the prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes. Titled "Walls Have Ears, An Analysis of Classified Syrian Security Sector Documents," the report is based on a sample of 5,000 documents and present some of the most damning evidence of state involvement — at

the highest level — in the bloody crackdown on protesters, dissidents, and even foreign journalists in Syria. The documents show the agencies created a network of informants that ensured the government kept a close watch of the most mundane of Syrians' everyday life. They also offer a rare look into the inner workings of the several security agencies as they sought to eliminate dissidents through detention, intimidation or killings and implemented a state policy that singled out the Kurdish minority for persecution even before the onset the 2011 uprising against Assad.

Some of the documents include handwritten notes from top commanders to arrest, detain and "do what is necessary" to quell the unrest — a vague directive that has been found to mean use of lethal force in some in-

cidents. Security agencies and officials even spied on each other. One document is titled: "Records of what thoughts go through my mind concerning other officers" — a Kafkaesque 97-page report of what officers think other officers may be thinking. One document details how a man informed on his own brother for supporting anti-Assad protests, prompting a security commander to seek permission to lure the brother into a trap.

### Protests in Syria Erupted in 2011

Another document, from the country's top intelligence agency, the National Security Office, identified a French-Lebanese journalist as an "instigator of protests" and barred her from entering the country. Several of the documents identify protesters by name, labeling many as terrorists without any evidence. SJAC has redacted the names to protect the identity of those on the wanted list. "The

documents show clearly that orders were very centralized and came from really high-level officials, including from heads of the security agency themselves, and in lots of documents from the National Security Office," said Mohamad Al-Abdallah, the director of the Washington-based group. "This, combined with the nature of the orders — deployment of military units, surveillance, the use of lethal force, persecutions of the Kurds — all are proof a systematic state practice, and can be used as evidence to establish both the Syrian state responsibility and the individual criminal responsibility for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity," he added. When protests erupted in March 2011 in Syria...

Many documents included wanted lists of those who participated in protests, ordering detentions and even shootings of protesters. One document issued by the National Security branch two months after the protests erupted in March 2011 calls on security agents to stop firing at protesters in light of the continued unrest.

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# IRANIAN LAWMAKER SAYS HIS COUNTRY DOESN'T WANT WAR WITH US

May 22, 2019 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran will “under no circumstances” enter a war either directly or indirectly with the United States, a prominent reformist Iranian lawmaker said Wednesday, as both Washington and Tehran try to ease heightened tensions in the region.

The reported comments by Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh come after the White House earlier this month sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceived from Iran. Since that development, Iran has announced it will back away from the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, an accord that President

Donald Trump pulled America out of a year ago. The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, alleged that four oil tankers were sabotaged off its coast, and Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen have launched drone attacks into Saudi Arabia.

**Tehran Has Worked to Leverage Relationships**  
Falahatpisheh’s comments, reported by the semi-official ILNA news agency, carry additional heft as he serves as the chairman of the Iranian parliament’s national security and foreign policy commission. “Under no circumstance will we enter a war,” Falahatpisheh said, according to ILNA. “No group can announce that it has entered a proxy war from Iran’s side...”

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# FACEBOOK BUSTS ISRAEL-BASED CAMPAIGN TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS

May 16, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — Facebook said Thursday it banned an Israeli company that ran an influence campaign aimed at disrupting elections in various countries and has canceled dozens of accounts engaged in spreading disinformation. Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook’s head of cybersecurity policy, told reporters that the tech giant had purged 65 Israeli accounts, 161 pages, dozens of groups and four Instagram accounts.

Many were linked to the Archimedes Group, a Tel Aviv-based political consulting and lobbying firm that boasts of its social media skills and ability to “change reality.” Gleicher said Facebook could not speculate about Archimedes’ motives, which “may be commercial or political.” But he said Facebook discovered “coordinated inauthentic behavior,” with accounts posing as certain political candidates, smearing opponents and presenting as local news organizations peddling supposedly leaked information. The activity appeared focused on Sub-Saharan African countries but was also scattered in...

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AP File Photo

# US DELAY TO HUAWEI BAN GIVES TECH SECTOR TIME TO ADJUST

May 21, 2019 | AP News

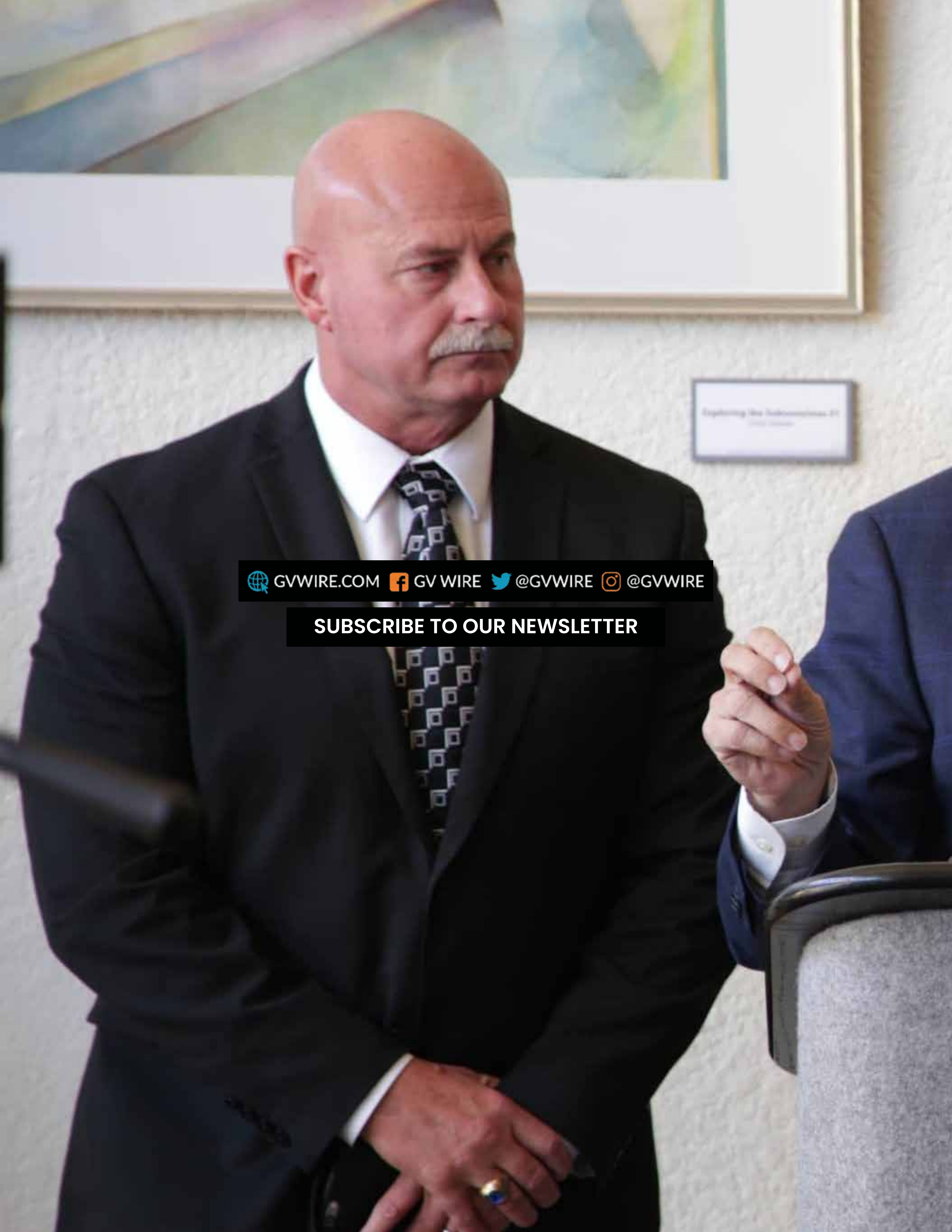
BEIJING — The United States is delaying restrictions on U.S. technology sales to Chinese tech powerhouse Huawei in what it calls an effort to ease the blow on owners of its cell phones and smaller U.S. telecoms providers that rely on its networking equipment. The Trump administration insists the sanctions are unrelated to its escalating trade war with China, and many analysts see it as aimed at pressuring U.S. allies in Europe to accede to Washington’s entreaties to exclude Huawei equipment from their next-generation wireless networks, known as 5G.





The U.S. government says that the ban on selling technology to Huawei, the world’s biggest maker of mobile network gear and the No. 2 smartphone brand, will be delayed by 90 days. Shares in tech companies rose Tuesday on the news. The U.S. claims Huawei is a cybersecurity risk and has targeted it against the backdrop of a wider battle with China over...

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