

# HE ONCE STRUGGLED TO READ. NOW HE'S ON STATE BOARD OF ED.

# June 10, 2019 | Bill McEwen

Educators throughout the state applauded when Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed former Sanger Unified School superintendent Matt Navo to the California Board of Education in April. Besides being a pioneer in collaborative learning, he's a nationally recognized expert in special education. And he's had a taste of just about every assignment in K-12 education. "I've sat in the (resource specialist) teacher's chair, the (special day class) teacher's chair, the counselor's chair, the alternative ed principal's chair. I've taught math and I've taught world history," Navo says. "There's not a lot I haven't taught." Now he's with San Francisco-based education nonprofit WestEd, where his charge is to help school districts close the achievement gap, especially among students with disabilities. I sat down with Navo to discuss his career and education in California.

### McEwen: Why did you go into education?

It's funny. All my family was law enforcement or military, but my stepfather met my mother when

I knew what it felt like to struggle to learn at the same pace as everybody else. And so when I met my first class (as a teacher), it reminded me of me in a lot of ways. They had unique strengths and were struggling to learn in some ways. And my heart just went out to them.

I was 5 years old in 1975. He was Dr. Cecilio Orozco, a professor at Fresno State for bilingual education. He introduced me to the education side in terms of how you can use it to change lives. He told a story that resonated with me

about working in a Navajo Indian reservation.

There was a piece of tape down the center of a hallway. And on one side of the tape, the Navajo Indians walked and on the other side of the tape, everybody else walked. And he could not get anybody to think about the change that needed to be

made until one of his mentors said that if you want people to listen to you, if you want people in power to hear you, you need to get an education. You need to do more than just what you're doing. You need to elevate yourself so you can make change for those kids. That's what really prompted him to get his doctorate and, as a result of his doctorate, people started listening to him.

But the message wasn't that the doctorate was important, the message was that education needs

people who are passionate. And what he taught me was, there's opportunity for people like me to make a difference for others. And so

The way I see it, people in our society or kids in our society are dealing with a lot. They face a lot more complicated issues than I dealt with as a student.

because of him and the doors that he opened, that really is what ended up happening. People knew him and because they knew him they knew what he did. And he was a role model for me as a stepfather. And I appreciated the way he approached the desire to change things without being incredibly radical about it, but being thoughtful about it. It was intriguing to me. And so I ended up going into it and fell in love with educating students with disabilities.

Sanger Unified has received national acclaim for its success in educating impoverished and immigrant students. Other than hard work, is there a secret sauce to Sanger's efforts?

Sanger is an interesting story and an amazing story. One of the things that has always jumped out to me about that is the journey they took. When I went there in 2000, I was intrigued by (the "Welcome to the Home of 400 Unhappy Teachers" billboard)...

Watch the full interview here »



# June 10, 2019 | Jody Murray

There are more homeless people in Fresno than ever before, at least by an official count. The people on the front lines trying to decrease that number say help is on the way.

According to the annual count, required by a U.S. agency to keep the flow of federal funds coming, the number of homeless people in Fresno without access to shelter increased by 23% from 2018 to 2019. Meanwhile, the number of Fresno homeless in federally approved shelters fell slightly, by 3%. In unincorporated parts of Fresno County, the number of unsheltered homeless rose 17% while the number of sheltered fell by 25% (the latter was a very small sample size: 12 down to nine).

Overall, the number of homeless in Fresno increased 16% year over year. By comparison, homelessness in the greater Los Angeles area, under the same required count, rose 12%. San Francisco, which conducts the count every other year, saw a 17% rise since 2017. "We knew there was going to be

an increase," said Shawn Jenkins, chairman of Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care, one of the driving agencies in the region's pushback against homelessness. Continuum of Care led the so-called "point in time" survey, conducted Jan. 29-31 of this year in Fresno and Madera counties.

#### A One-Time Injection of State Funding

The survey is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support and justify federal funding for housing assistance. A survey of the sheltered homeless is required each year and of the unsheltered every other year. But since 2013 the latter has been counted here so agencies such as the continuum, along with local government and other agencies, would know what they face, Jenkins said.

"We've never had the funding it takes to reverse homelessness in our community," Jenkins said. There were 1,486 people, including 1,152 unsheltered, identified in this year's...

# AUDIT FINDS TIMECARD, PERMIT PROBLEMS WITH POLICE TEACHING AT FCC

## June 13, 2019 | David Taub

A much-anticipated city of Fresno internal audit reveals that police officers taught classes at Fresno City College while on city time. However, those instances may have been more of a timecard issue than double-dipping. City Manager Wilma Quan called for the audit after receiving (along with Mayor Lee Brand) an anonymous email alleging officers were working second jobs while on city time, as well as exceeding outside work hours per department regulations.

The audit found that at least nine officers taught more hours than allowed and nearly every employee did not have the proper city permit allowing them to work outside hours. The Fresno Police Department takes the findings of the audit very seriously and has launched an internal affairs investigation into the audit team's findings," the department said in its response to the audit. The auditor's report released Thursday morning looked at the time period from Jan. 1, 2015, through April...

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# MAYOR BRAND'S NEW INITIATIVE WOULD TAKE OUT THE TRASH

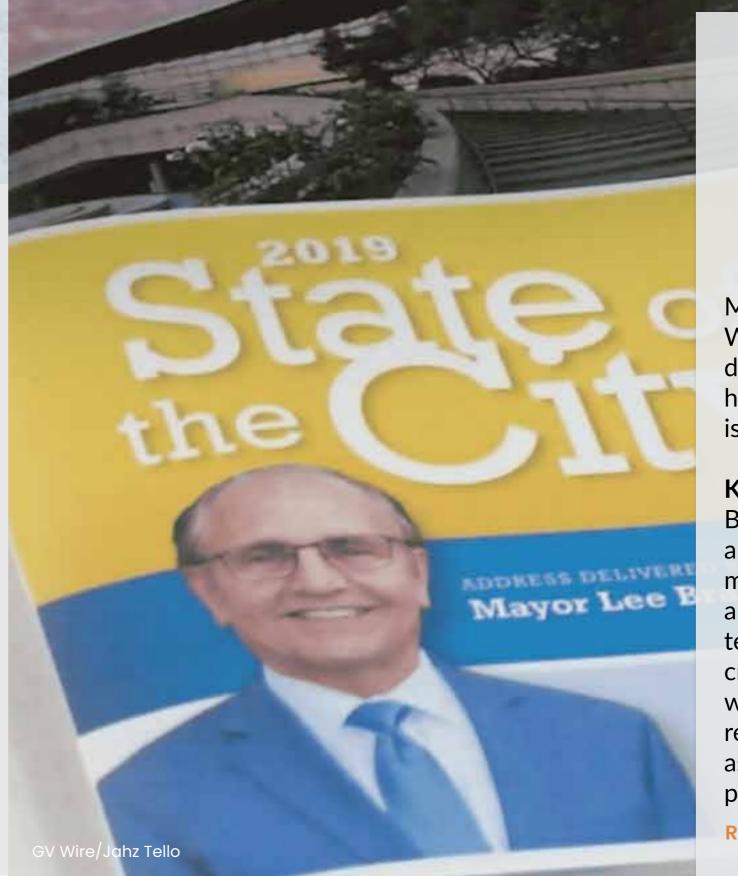
June 12, 2019 | David Taub

Mayor Lee Brand wants to take out the trash. Speaking Wednesday to nearly 900 people at his State of the City address at the convention center, Brand announced an initiative he called Keep Fresno Beautiful. As the name implies, the goal is to pick up trash in and around the city.

#### **Keep Fresno Beautiful**

Brand said trash was one of the top complaints from residents and visitors. "It's ugly and we can do something about it. That means a community-wide effort to clean up Fresno streets, alleys and highways," Brand said. Brand said the goal is a long-term effort "to tackle trash in the city of Fresno." That includes cracking down on illegal dumping; contracting out cleanup work to agencies who hire veterans, homeless and people in recovery assistant programs; and offering one-time cleanup assistance to property owners, with the condition that those properties are maintained. Brand wants plenty of help from...

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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? KEY PLAYERS IN O.J. SIMPSON MURDER TRIAL

# June 10, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — The June 12, 1994, killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman brought the "Trial of the Century" that saw O.J. Simpson acquitted of the murders. From Johnnie to Kato to Ito, the trial brought together a fascinating cast of charters. Here's a look at where they are now.

#### The Defendant

Two years after Simpson's 1995 acquittal, a civil court jury found him liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and Goldman, and ordered he pay their survivors \$33.5 million. He got into a series of minor legal scrapes ranging from a 2001 Florida road-rage incident (he was acquitted) to racing his boat through a protected Florida manatee zone in 2002 (he was fined). Simpson's most serious transgression came in 2007, when he and five others barged into a Las Vegas hotel room with guns

Now 71, Simpson lives quietly in Las Vegas where he says he plays golf nearly every day with a group of "retired guys." He also poses for selfies with the many people still enamored with his celebrity.

and robbed memorabilia dealers of property
Simpson said was his. He served nine years in a
Nevada prison and was paroled in 2017. Now
71, Simpson lives quietly in Las Vegas where he says he plays golf nearly

every day with a group of "retired guys." He also poses for selfies with the many people still enamored with his celebrity. Simpson told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he will never discuss the murders again.

#### The Victims' Survivors

Ron Goldman's sister, Kim, was 22 and broke into hysterical sobs when the not guilty verdict was read. These days she counsels troubled teens as executive director of a Southern California-based nonprofit, The Youth Project, and is a speaker to victims' rights group. She has authored several books and on Wednesday — the 25th anniversary of her sister's death — begins a 10-ep-

isode podcast titled "Confronting: OJ Simpson," in which she says she'll discuss all aspects of the trial. Goldman, now 47, lives in a Southern California suburb with her 15-year-old son.

Fred Goldman, Ron's father, has relentlessly pursued Simpson through civil courts, maintaining it is the only way to achieve justice for his son.

Goldman's family has

Since his death, Robert Kardashian's fame has been eclipsed by that of ex-wife, Kris, and children, Kourtney, Kim, Khloe and Rob, thanks to their reality show, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

seized some of Simpson's memorabilia, including his 1968 Heisman Trophy as college football's best player that year. The family has also taken the rights to Simpson's movies, a book he wrote about the killings and other items to satisfy part of the \$33.5 million judgment that Simpson refuses to pay. Goldman, 78, lives with his wife, Patti, in Arizona, where both are Realtors. Denise Brown, Nicole Brown Simpson's sister, has remained the family's most outspoken critic of Simpson, although like the Goldman family she refuses to speak his name. The former model has become a victims' rights advocate and a speaker, urging both women and men to leave abusive relationships. She said she has gotten over her anger with God for the killings but has never forgiven Simpson and will not watch any films or documentaries about the killings.

### The 'Dream Team'

Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., Simpson's flamboyant lead attorney, died of brain cancer in 2005 at 68. His refrain to jurors that "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit" sought to underscore that the bloody gloves found at Simpson's home and the crime scene were too small for the football legend when he tried them on in court. After the trial, that line became a national catchphrase. Following the trial Cochran expanded his law firm to 15...

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# June 13, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers on Thursday approved a \$214.8 billion operating budget, sending the plan to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk with a focus on expanding access to health insurance while spending billions of new money on homelessness and housing.

Newsom will have 12 days to review the bill and is likely to veto parts of it. Lawmakers could override him, but the California Legislature has not overridden a governor's veto in decades. The spending plan was passed with separate votes by the state Assembly and Senate. "What a luxury we have, to get to stand here and argue over where we should put our

savings, how we should spend some of the additional money we have to support struggling Californians," said Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, a San Diego Democrat. Democrats in both chambers overwhelmingly backed the budget, while Republicans rejected it, arguing it spends money on the wrong priorities.

The massive bill, totaling more than 900 pages, divvies up tax dollars in the nation's most populous state. Lawmakers must still pass more than a dozen other trailer bills to implement it. Here's a look at what the budget includes. Some low-income adults living in the country illegally would get...

SHOULD COMMUNITY
COLLEGES BUILD DORMS FOR
STUDENTS?

## June 11, 2019 | CALmatters

Matthew Polamalu was spending 1.5 hours each day commuting back and forth to community college along Southern California's congested freeways when he decided he'd had enough. He sat down at his computer and Googled "community colleges with dorms."

"I was just looking for the full college experience," said the psychology major. He found it in a residence hall at Sierra College, along a winding, tree-lined road in the Sacramento suburb of Rocklin. There, Polamalu can easily stroll to the classroom next door for math tutoring, and no longer worries about competing with other students for parking spaces. "I'm right near all the resources I need," he said. Think of a community college and you'll likely picture a commuter school with low-slung buildings and massive parking lots. And you'd be right — out of California's 114 community colleges, only...

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# STAFF REBELS AFTER LGBT CENTER ALLOWS UNIFORMED POLICE AT PRIDE EVENT

June 7, 2019 | AP News

A H

Organizers of this weekend's Sacramento Pride Festival have decided to allow uniformed police to participate, opening a rift in the organization and calls for its leaders to resign. Sacramento LGBT Community Center announced Thursday it has reversed its stance of banning officers in uniform from the two-day event, which begins Saturday at the Capitol Mall. There was concern that the presence of police would make attendees uncomfortable. Uniformed officers were banned from last year's festival.

In a news release, the community center said that, following meetings among center board members and its executive director, along with Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn and LGBTQ members of police department, "police officers, many of whom are LGBTQ themselves, will be welcome in uniform at SacPride, and those who have been or feel disenfranchised by law enforcement will now have a platform upon which to...

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# LOCK HIM UP? DEMS WEIGH WHAT TO DO ABOUT TRUMP'S DEEDS

# June 13, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — With a familiar chant, President Donald Trump's backers during his 2016 campaign regularly called for Hillary Clinton to be thrown in prison. Now top Democrats are grappling with fraught questions about whether to lock him up. As Democrats in Congress press for continued investigation of Trump while he remains in office, the party's presidential candidates

"I would want any credible allegation of criminal behavior to be investigated to the fullest." – Mayor Pete Buttigieg

are weighing how to address his alleged misdeeds when he's no longer in the White House. It's a question that raises the potential of Democrats politicizing law enforcement,

something they've blasted Trump for doing. Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said in an interview released Wednesday that if she wins the White House, her Justice Department "would have no choice" but to pursue an obstruction of justice case against Trump after he leaves office. Fellow 2020 hopeful Pete Buttigieg said that if he beats Trump, he would support a future criminal investigation. Harris' and Buttigieg's comments come after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told fellow Democrats that she would rather see Trump defeated in the election, then imprisoned, than impeached in Congress. That's partly a way to quiet the push from multiple Democrats vying to replace Trump, who want their party to start the impeachment process.

### **Impeachment Is Shy of Majority Support**

Vowing to seek charges against Trump after he leaves office brings risk for Democratic White House hopefuls, given their own party's repeated excoriations of the Republican president for politicizing the Justice Department, as when he threatened repeatedly in the 2016 campaign to prosecute Clinton once he became president. Even the idea of impeachment, though popular with Democrats' base voters, is shy of majority support with the general public, polls indicate.

Related Story: Democrats Push New Strategy for Enforcing Russia Subpoenas

Harris' and Buttigieg's comments raise questions about how willing Democrats are to keep bending norms of governmental behavior, such as the usually bright line between politics and federal prosecutions, that Trump has shattered. Harris, a California senator and former prosecutor who is running in part on the strength of her legal and law enforcement experience, appeared to have taken a step farther than her opponents in affirming that a Justice Department in her administration "should" look at charging Trump with obstruction after his presidency. "Everyone should be held accountable," Harris told NPR in an interview. "And the president is not above the law." Buttigieg told The Atlantic on Wednesday, "To the extent that there's an obstruction case, then, yes, DOJ's got to deal with it."

### **Buttigieg Not Interested in Pardoning Trump**

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, cited President Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon following the Watergate scandal but said he wouldn't be interested in pardoning Trump. "I would want any credible

allegation of criminal behavior to be investigated to the fullest," he said. Mueller has said he was unable to exonerate Trump of obstruction but couldn't pursue potential charges because of a Justice Department policy that bars the indictment of a sitting president. Harris

"Leave it to Democrats to continue peddling conspiracy theories based on their desperate and deranged desire to overturn the results of the 2016 election and trample on the vote of the American people."

– Kayleigh McEnany, press sec-

 Kayleigh McEnany, press secretary for Trump's reelection campaign

has said she would ask her Justice Department to reexamine that policy. Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has pledged outright to end it if...

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# FACEBOOK LEAPS INTO CLEAN ENERGY WITH MASSIVE SOLAR PROJECT

## June 11, 2019 | AP News

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Facebook is building a massive solar farm in West Texas that's believed to be one of the largest solar projects in the nation and the social media giant's first direct investment in renewable energy. Boston-based renewable energy developer Longroad Energy recently announced it was partnering with Facebook on the \$416 million project, just as Facebook is finishing construction of a data center near Albuquerque.

The Prospero Solar project just north of Odessa, Texas, will have a capacity of 379 megawatts, which is enough to power around 72,000 homes based on the national average, the Solar Energy Industries Association said. The project goes beyond Facebook's goal to use renewable energy to power its data centers, where the social media giant stores photos, videos and other information that people post on the platform...

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# BROAD LEGALIZATION MEANS MEDICAL MARIJUANA TAKES A HITE

# June 11, 2019 | AP News

PORTLAND, Ore. — When states legalize pot for all adults, long-standing medical marijuana programs take a big hit, in some cases losing more than half their registered patients in just a few years, according to a data analysis by The Associated Press.

Much of the decline comes from consumers who, ill or not, got medical cards in their states because it was the only way to buy marijuana legally and then discarded them when broader legalization arrived. But for people who truly rely on marijuana to control ailments such as nausea or cancer pain,

the arrival of so-called recreational cannabis can mean fewer and more expensive options. Robin Beverett, a 47-year-old disabled Army veteran, said she resumed taking a powerful prescription mood stabilizer to control her anxiety and PTSD when the cost of her medical marijuana nearly tripled after California began general sales.

Before last year, an eighth of an ounce of dry marijuana flower cost her \$35. Now it's approaching \$100, Beverett said. "It's ridiculous. The prices are astronomical," said Beverett, who moved to Sacramento from Texas because medical...

# UBER TESTS DRONE FOOD DELIVERY, LAUNCHES AUTONOMOUS SUV

June 12, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Uber is testing restaurant food deliveries by drone. The company's Uber Eats unit began the tests in San Diego with McDonald's and plans to expand to other restaurants later this year. Uber says the service should decrease food delivery times. It works this way: Workers at a restaurant load the meal into a drone and it takes off, tracked and guided by a new aerospace management system.

Related Story: After Two Years Away, Uber Returning to Fresno Airport

The drone then meets an Uber Eats driver at a drop-off location, and the driver will hand-deliver the meal to the customer. In the future, the company wants to land drones atop parked vehicles near delivery locations and secure them to the vehicle for the final mile of the delivery. Last year Uber and the city of San Diego won a bid from the U.S. Federal...

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AP File



# TRUMP INSISTS THERE'S MORE TO MEXICO DEAL THAN MEETS THE EYE

June 10, 2019 | AP News

STERLING, Va. — Stung by criticism that his deal to avert threatened Mexican tariffs mostly ramps up existing efforts, President Donald Trump is insisting there's more to it than meets the eye. In a pair of tweets Monday morning, Trump claimed Mexico had agreed to more than what was revealed in the Friday announcement, teasing that more would be announced soon. "We have fully signed and documented another very important part of the Immigration and Security deal

"We have fully signed and documented another very important part of the Immigration and Security deal with Mexico, one that the U.S. has been asking about getting for many years." — President Donald Trump

with Mexico, one that the U.S. has been asking about getting for many years," he wrote, claiming that it would be "revealed in the not too distant future and will need a vote by Mexico's Legislative body!.."

"We do not anticipate a problem with the vote," he added, "but, if for any reason the approval is not forthcoming, Tariffs will be reinstated!"

White House officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment about what Trump was referencing. And Trump would not say during a call-in interview with CNBC Monday morning. But he could be alluding to the idea of Mexico becoming a "safe third country," which would make it harder for asylum-seekers who pass through the country from other places to claim refuge in the U.S. A senior administration official said over the weekend that Mexico had expressed openness to the idea during negotiations, and that it was something the countries would continue to discuss over the coming months. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to share details of closed-door talks.

Mexico Has Long Opposed Safe Country Idea
Mexico, however, has long opposed the safe country

idea and Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Friday after a deal was reached that Mexico had resisted. The U.S. "proposed in the first meeting that we have a third safe state, which is not the case, which is very important," he told reporters. The tweets came amid questions about just how much of the deal — announced with great fanfare Friday — was really new. It included a commitment from Mexico, for instance, to deploy its new National Guard to the country's southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to do that before Trump's latest threat and had made that clear to U.S. officials. Mexican officials have described their commitment as an accelerated deployment.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program implemented earlier this year under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But U.S. offi-

cials had already been working to expand the program, which has already led to the return of about 10,000 to Mexico, without Mexico's public embrace. "The president has completely overblown what he

"We want to continue to work with the U.S. very closely on the different challenges that we have together. And one urgent one at this moment is immigration." — Martha Barcena, Mexico's ambassador in Washington, D.C.

reports to have achieved. These are agreements that Mexico had already made, in some cases months ago," said Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, speaking on ABC's "This Week." "They might have accelerated the timetable, but by and large the president achieved nothing except to jeopardize the most important trading relationship that the United States of America has." Trump has pushed back on that criticism, defending the deal and his threat to slap a 5% tax on all Mexican goods Monday to pressure the country to do more to stem the flow of Central American migrants...

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# June 12, 2019 | Independent (Aggregation)

Dolphins and whales in Canada will soon be guaranteed freedom from captivity when a federal "Free Willy" bill becomes law at the end of the month. The law, which bans holding the animals in captivity or for breeding, was passed this week by Canada's parliament and has been hailed by animal rights activists.

Under the new law, violations will be punishable with fines up to 200,000 Canadian dollars (about \$150,000 or £118,000). "Today is a really good day for animals in Canada," Elizabeth May, the Green Party leader in the country, said after the bill's passage. "Canadians have been clear, they want

the cruel practice of keeping whales and dolphins in captivity to end," she said in a separate statement. Former senator Wilfred Moore, who first introduced the legislation in 2015, said in a statement that phasing out the captivity was a "moral obligation".

"We have a moral obligation to phase out the capture and retention of animals for profit and entertainment," Mr Moore said in a statement. "Canadians are calling upon us to do better – and we have listened." The passage of the bill "notably impacts Marineland, the Niagara Falls amusement park and zoo that is considered the last Canadian park committed to...

# TANKERS TARGETED NEAR STRAIT OF HORMUZ AMID IRAN-US TENSIONS

June 13, 2019 | AP News

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz came under a suspected attack Thursday, setting one of them ablaze in the latest mysterious assault targeting vessels in a region crucial to global energy supplies amid heightened tension between Iran and the U.S. The U.S. Navy, which rushed in to assist the stricken vessels in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Iran, and the ship's operators offered no immediate explanation on what weapons caused the damage or who used them against the MT Front Altair and the Kokuka Courageous.

Each was loaded with petroleum products, and the Front Altair burned for hours, a fire that charred half of one of the vessel's sides and sent up a column of thick, black smoke. Last month, the U.S. alleged that Iran used limpet mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirati port of Fujairah. Iran denied being involved then and its foreign minister called the timing of Thursday's incidents suspicious, given...

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# OPINION: VALLEY'S 'CLIMATE KIDS' TO PUSH CONGRESS ON SAVING EARTH

June 10, 2019 | AP News

The world is still waiting to see if a climate case brought by 21 young plaintiffs in 2015 (Juliana vs United States) will be allowed to continue to trial. Meanwhile, I will have the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C. this week, with three of the Central Valley's student climate advocates. As evidence of climate change grows more apparent, these impressive young members of the Fresno chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) will join more than 1,000 other volunteers pressing Congress to enact policies to reduce the heat-trapping pollution that is warming our world.

Volunteers from the congressional districts represented by Devin Nunes, Jim Costa, TJ Cox and Kevin McCarthy have meetings arranged with their respective staff. One of those volunteers, Gurleen Pannu, is particularly motivated to meet with her member of Congress. Gurleen attributes her Punjabi and Sikh background as inspiration to serve her...

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