



GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST
JULY 5, 2019

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LATE ON LICENSING YOUR DOG? FRESNO COUNTY CUTS YOU A BREAK.

July 1, 2019 | GV Wire

Dog owners who live in unincorporated parts of Fresno County are catching a break: County officials are waiving penalties for those who haven't licensed their pooches.

Under state law, owners are required to secure a license for a dog within 30 days of ownership. Anyone found owning an unlicensed dog can be fined \$100, and there is normally a \$10 fee for an overdue license renewal.

However, the county's Department of Public Health is declaring amnesty for anyone who hasn't

Under state law, owners are required to secure a license for a dog within 30 days of ownership. Anyone found owning an unlicensed dog can be fined \$100, and there is normally a \$10 fee for an overdue license renewal.

licensed his or her new canine, or failed to renew a license in time.

No penalties will be charged until Oct. 1. Residents can log in and register their pet

at fresnohumane.org. The cost is \$4 for sterilized dogs and \$39 for unsterilized animals.

Some things to remember:

- Keeping a license up to date means county authorities have contact information that, should the animal become lost, will help reunite you with your pet.
- Most stray dogs found without a license are not returned to their families.
- People who live with a city limits should check with the city's animal control agency for licensing requirements.

- If you're not sure if you live in an unincorporated area, call (559) 600-7387 or email info@fresnohumane.org.

- See a full list of no-kill animal shelters in Fresno County [here](#).

***Via [Fresno Humane Animal Services](#): County of Fresno Residents ONLY, City of Fresno residents must contact the Central California SPCA for licensing requirements. Dog Licenses are required in the County of Fresno for all dogs over 4 months of age. A County of Fresno dog license is valid from the DATE OF RABIES VACCINATION, for a period of 12 months (or up to 36 months if purchased in advance) through the rabies vaccination expiration date. If you have any questions please contact our office at 559-600-7387.**



TRUMP SAID WATER WARS 'EASY' TO FIX. WHAT DO FARMERS SAY NOW?

GV Wire/Jahz Tello

July 3, 2019 | David Taub

Three years ago, presidential candidate Donald Trump got right to the heart of Central Valley agriculture's fight over its most precious resource. "We're going to solve your water problem. You have a water problem that is so insane," Trump told a campaign audience at Selland Arena in May 2016.

"It is so ridiculous where they're taking the water and shoving it out to sea." Trump said the seemingly endless grind among agricultural, urban, and environmental interests over water resources would be simple to fix. We're going to get it done, and we're going to get it done quick. Don't even think about it. That's an easy one." On June 28, [farmers gathered in Los Banos](#) to ask questions of President Trump's agriculture secretary, Sonny Perdue.

GV Wire took the opportunity to ask growers if they believed Trump was doing enough to bring water to farmers. Generally, they said they like how things are progressing.

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Farmers: Problems at Local, State Level

Gino Pedretti III, the Merced County Farm Bureau president and a farmer in El Nido, said water is his top issue. But he said his water problems are more with local district issues and the California [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA). When it comes to federal regulations, Pedretti said U.S. authorities are doing the best they can.

"Where I'm situated, (the water) is locally owned. The federal government is doing the best they can on biological opinions and to deal with the state," Pedretti said. "As far as federally, they don't have much input with the water my family uses to farm. "The Trump administration has been very open to helping California farmers with the water situation. There are a lot of laws and different biological opinions from the past that are hurting us. It just takes time to work through. They have been very aggressive to help agriculture out," Pedretti said. A precinct-level breakdown of the 2016 presidential election...

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UNITED FRESNO COUNCIL OPPOSES RELEASE OF 'TOWER RAPIST'

July 1, 2019 | David Taub

All six Fresno city council members signed a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom, expressing concern about the potential early release of Rudolph Acosta.

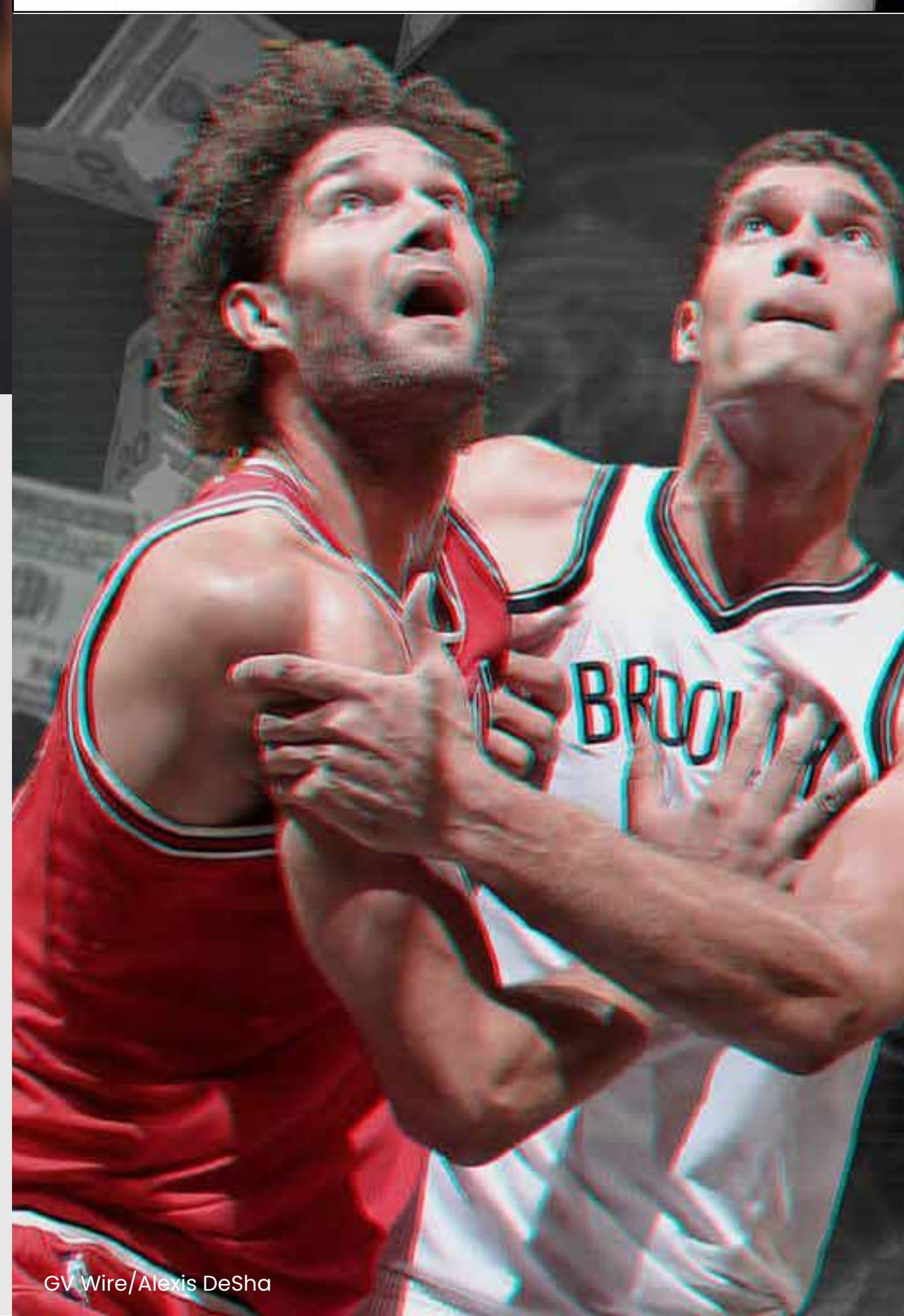
As [reported by others in the Fresno media](#), Acosta was known as the "Tower District Rapist" and sentenced to 78 years in prison. He was initially charged with 29 sex and robbery crimes. He began serving his time in 1992. The council members noted that if released, Acosta plans to return to Fresno where many of victims still reside.

"We urge you to take a stand against his early release," the letter states. The parole board will hold a hearing for Acosta on July 30 at Avenal State Prison. According to the [Board of Parole Hearings](#) website, a two or three member panel will conduct the hearing, with the board normally making its recommendation the same day...

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CDC# H50445 Date: 03/02/20



GV Wire/Alexis DeSha

AN NBA FIRST FOR FRESNO'S LOPEZ TWINS: TEAMMATES

July 1, 2019 | Jody Murray

Splash Mountain and Sideshow Rob are back together again. Brook and Robin Lopez, twin brothers and Fresno natives with 22 seasons of professional basketball between them, are set to be on the same team for the first time since they starred at Stanford University. As part of Sunday's maelstrom of NBA free agent signings and deals, Robin jumped from the Chicago Bulls to the Milwaukee Bucks. The Athletic and Yahoo Sports reported it was a two-year, \$4.8 million deal.

Waiting for the 7-footer in Milwaukee is Brook, who agreed Sunday to re-sign with the Bucks for four years and \$52 million, according to ESPN and the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Brook also is 7 feet tall. The two used to share a room in their home in Fresno, where they attended San Joaquin Memorial High. They both put in two seasons at Stanford before deciding to turn pro. Brook was picked 10th in the 2008 NBA draft and Robin 15th. Together, in a parallel pair of 11-season careers...

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NEW STATE LAW ALLOWS SCHOOLS TO BAN STUDENT SMARTPHONES

July 2, 2019 | GV Wire

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a new law Monday that encourages California school districts to develop and adopt policies limiting or prohibiting student use of smartphones on school grounds during school hours.

"Growing evidence shows excessive smartphone use at school interferes with a student's education and

"Growing evidence shows excessive smartphone use at school interferes with a student's education and success, encourages cyberbullying, and contributes to teenage anxiety, depression, and suicide." — Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance)

success, encourages cyberbullying, and contributes to teenage anxiety, depression, and suicide," said the law's author, Assemblymember Muratsuchi (D-Torrance. "This new law will encourage school districts to develop their own policy that strikes a balance between allowing

appropriate student use of smartphones at school while making sure that smartphones are not interfering with a student's educational, social and emotional development."

Related Story: Is It Time to Ban Student Cellphones in Classrooms?

Four Specific Exemptions

Assembly Bill 272 authorizes school districts to adopt policies to limit or prohibit smartphones with these specific exemptions:

- in an emergency;
- when a teacher or administrator grants permission for academic or other approved purposes;
- when necessary for the health and well-being of a student;
- or when needed by a student with special needs.

Evidence has shown that unrestricted use of smart-

phones by students at schools lowers academic performance, particularly among low-achieving students; promotes cyberbullying, and contributes to teenage mental health issues. Between 2009 and 2017, the number of 14-to-17-year-olds experiencing clinical level depression jumped more than 60%, with a 47% increase among 12-to-13-year-olds, Muratsuchi said.

Assembly Bill 272 authorizes school districts to adopt policies to limit or prohibit smartphones with these specific exemptions, such as an emergency or when a teacher grants them permission.

France's Smartphone Ban for Young Students

In proposing the law, Muratsuchi pointed out that France adopted a nationwide smartphone ban in 2018 in all primary and middle schools as a way to promote pupil achievement and healthy social development. Also, the London School of Economics and Political Science published a **May 2015 study** that found that test scores improved significantly at schools that banned cellphone use and that the most significant gains in pupil performance were made by the most disadvantaged and underachieving pupils. The study concluded that "schools could significantly reduce the education achievement gap by prohibiting mobile phone use in schools."

The California law takes effect Jan. 1, 2020.



REPORTED HATE CRIMES DOUBLED IN FRESNO IN 2018, STATE SAYS

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July 2, 2019 | AP News

While the number of reported hate crimes decreased last year in California, the number more than doubled in the city of Fresno, according to data released Tuesday by the state's attorney general.

There were 27 hate crimes reported in Fresno in 2018, compared to 13 in 2017. The 27 events involved 30 victims and 27 suspects. In 2017, Fresno recorded 13 hate crimes that involved 19 victims and 19 suspects.

For all of Fresno County, the number of hate crimes increased in one year from 19 to 32, [according to the report](#)

from Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office.

California's Definition of Hate Crimes
California defines hate crimes as those targeting victims because of their race or ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender or a disability. The definitions have been expanded at various times in recent years. Each hate crime event can include more than one related offense against more than one victim by more than one offender.

The number of reported hate crimes and victims decreased statewide in 2018 year-over-year, although the number of...

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AP File

CALIFORNIA CITIES COULD FACE HEAVY FINES FOR MISSING HOUSING

July 1, 2019 | Capitol Public Radio Aggregation

Gov. Gavin Newsom has reached an agreement with Democratic legislative leaders on how to incentivize local governments to build more housing — including monthly penalties for failure to comply. The deal also includes a plan for how to split up hundreds of millions of emergency funding dollars to address the state's homelessness crisis.

The agreement between the governor, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) and Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), which is expected to be put into print Thursday afternoon, emerges two weeks after lawmakers passed the state budget bill — and just hours before Newsom's midnight deadline to sign it. "Importantly, we have come to agreement on a package of housing measures, one that creates strong incentives — both sticks and carrots — to help spur housing production across this state, all while...

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VIDEO: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STATE BUDGET IN 2 MINUTES

June 28, 2019 | CALmatters

A few things about summertime in California have become utterly predictable: cineplex superheroes, beach crowds, and a record-setting state budget.

Two years ago, we told you the state's budget hit \$180 billion—and that with that money you could buy the Los Angeles Lakers 60 times over. Last summer, the state budget set a new high at \$201 billion — enough to purchase 32 NFL teams, twice.

Related Story: California Lawmakers OK \$213 Billion Budget. Here's What's Inside.

The latest budget clocks in at an unprecedented \$215 billion. Imagining what could be bought with all that greenery? We'll tell you that and much more in our annual video breakdown of the budget in less than two minutes...

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AP File

POLL: TRUMP ISN'T GETTING A BOOST FROM STRONG US ECONOMY

July 1, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The solid economy is doing little to bolster support for President Donald Trump. Americans give Trump mixed reviews for his economic stewardship despite the growth achieved during this presidency, according to a new survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Nearly two-thirds describe as “good” an economy that appears to have set a record for the longest expansion in U.S. history, with decade-long growth that began under Barack Obama. More people consider the economy to be good today than did at the start of the year.

“I personally don’t feel more secure financially and I think that’s the case for a lot of people who are middle class. ... I know there were tax breaks that were supposed to be helpful to people, but it turns out they’re helpful to billionaires and corporations and I’m neither.”

— Christel Bastida, Texas neuroscience researcher

Related Story: The winner of the first Democratic debate: Donald Trump

But significantly fewer approve of Trump’s handling of the economy, even as it remains a relative strength compared with other issues. The survey indicates that most Americans do not believe they’re personally benefiting from his trade policies. And only 17% said they received a tax cut, despite government and private sector figures showing that a clear majority of taxpayers owed less after the president’s tax overhaul passed in 2017.

These doubts create a possible vulnerability as Trump highlights the economy’s solid performance in his campaign for re-election in 2020. During two nights of debates last week, almost every Democratic presidential candidate found ways to criticize the president by decrying the wealth gap. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said it was evidence of “corruption.” Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders railed against the concentration

of wealth in the three richest Americans, while former Vice President Joe Biden said Trump thinks Wall Street, not the middle class, built America.

Public Skepticism About Economy Persists

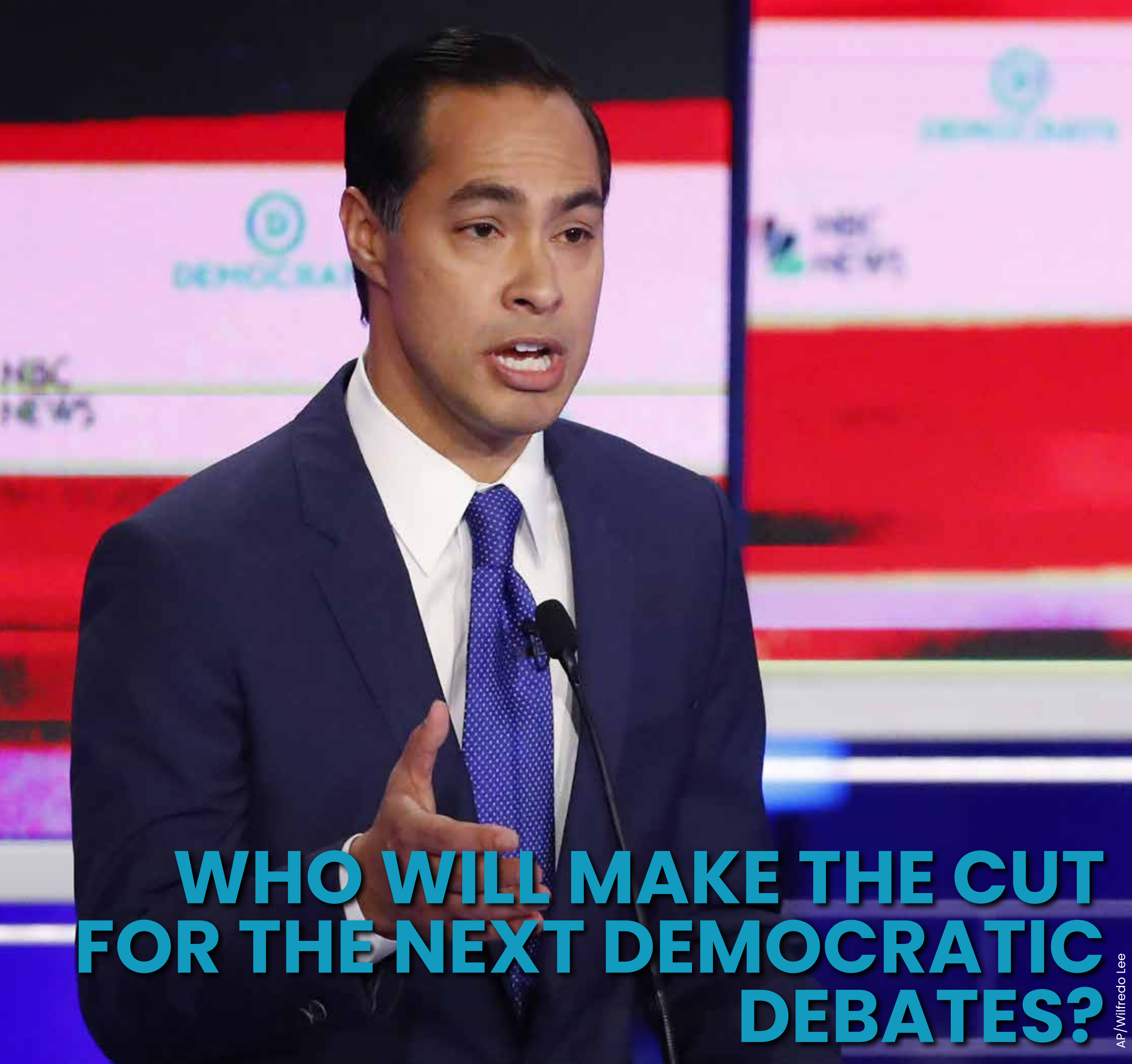
Christel Bastida, 39, a neuroscience researcher, was active in Democratic politics last year during the Senate race in Texas and plans to run for Houston City Council. “I personally don’t feel more secure financially and I think that’s the case for a lot of people who are middle class,” she said. “A lot of working-class people are not comfortable now. I know there were tax breaks that were supposed to be helpful to people, but it turns out they’re helpful to billionaires and corporations and I’m neither.”

Nearly half of Americans, 47%, approve of Trump’s handling of the economy, but his overall approval rating — 38% — is low compared with what past presidents have enjoyed in strong economic conditions. Only about 4 in 10 Americans approve of his handling of taxes and trade negotiations. The public skepticism has persisted even as the president routinely congratulates himself on the economy, including the 3.6% unemployment rate and stock market gains.

He tweeted last week: “The Stock Market went up massively from the day after I won the Election, all the way up to the day that I took office, because of the enthusiasm for the fact that I was going to be President. That big Stock Market increase must be credited to me.” The 2017 tax overhaul was sold by the administration as...

“I don’t believe it’s a great business practice to use them. But it came down to the point where our country is being taken advantage of unfairly and that the only way other nations were going to listen ... was to get their attention by putting some tariffs on products.” — Ryan Brueggemann, Wisconsin dairy farmer

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WHO WILL MAKE THE CUT FOR THE NEXT DEMOCRATIC DEBATES?

AP/Wilfredo Lee

July 1, 2019 | AP News

MIAMI — The largest presidential field in modern Democratic politics could quickly shrink as more than half of the contenders are in danger of failing to meet tougher requirements to participate in the fall round of debates.

Short on support and money and bound by tough party rules, once soaring politicians may soon be seen as also-rans. They include Julian Castro, who is seeking to capitalize on his strong debate performance last week; Kirsten Gillibrand, one of her party's most outspoken feminists; and Cory Booker, who rose to stardom as the energetic mayor of Newark, New

Jersey. A difficult period lies ahead as the party begins to sort through its expansive roster of candidates. The process will help Democrats zero in on someone to challenge President Donald Trump. But it is also forcing candidates to burn through cash to stay competitive and could result in a field that's older, whiter and more male — an uncomfortable development for a party that says it prizes diversity.

"There are some campaigns that are in something of a Hail Mary mode," said technology entrepreneur Andrew Yang, one of the lesser-known White House hopefuls who expressed...

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IN TRUMP AID PACKAGE FOR FARMERS, MANY BLOW PAST CAPS

July 3, 2019 | AP News

MINNEAPOLIS — When President Donald Trump's administration announced a \$12 billion aid package for farmers struggling under the financial strain of his trade dispute with China, the payments were capped. But many large farming operations had no trouble finding legal ways around them, records provided to The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act show.

The government paid nearly \$2.8 million to a Missouri soybean operation registered as three entities at the same address. More than \$900,000 went to five other farm businesses, in Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and two in Texas. Three other farming operations collected more than \$800,000, and 16 others collected over \$700,000. Recipients defended the payouts, saying they didn't cover their losses from the trade war and they were legally entitled to them. Department...

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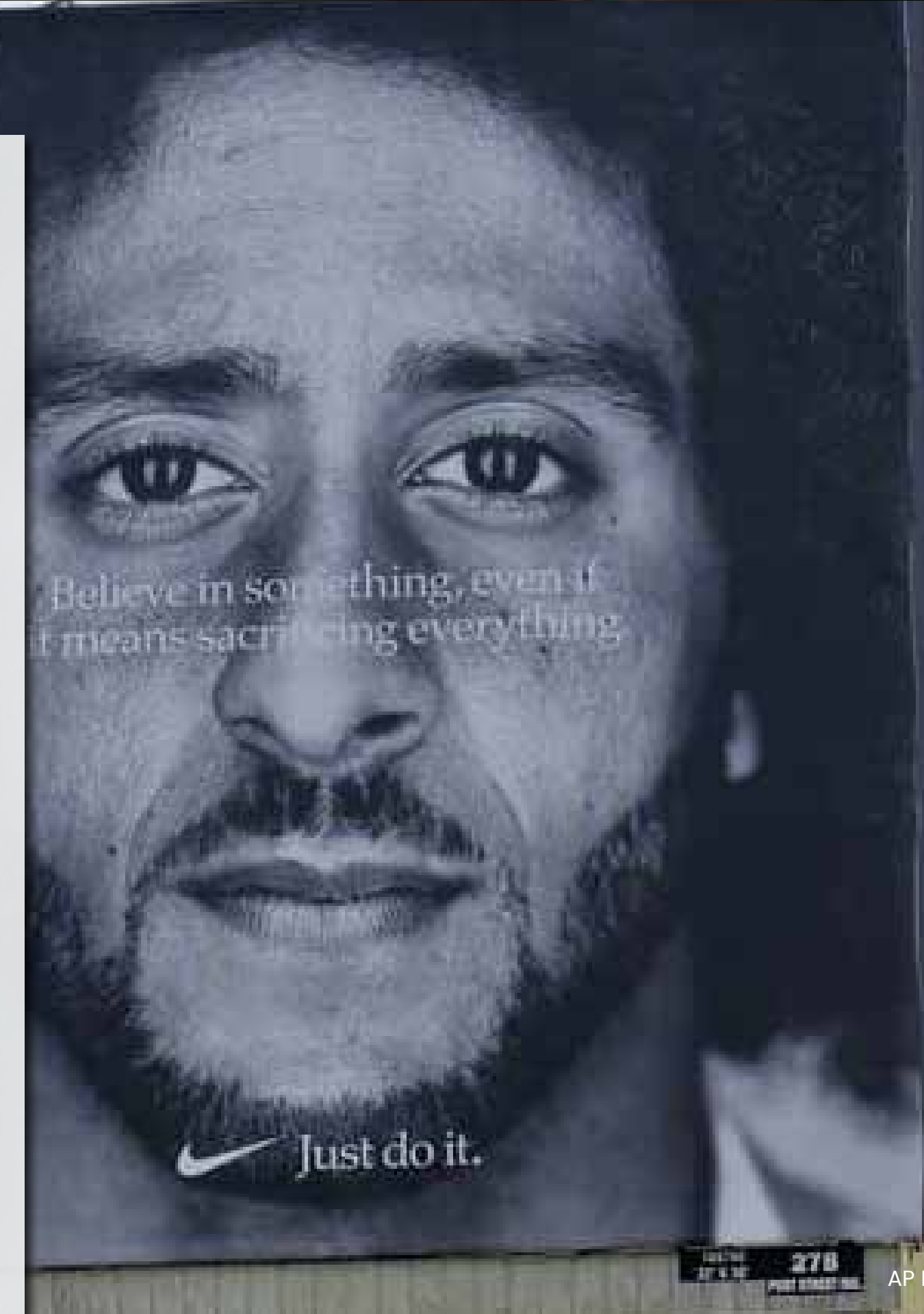
NIKE YANKS 'BETSY ROSS FLAG' SHOE AFTER KAEPERNICK COMPLAINS

July 2, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Nike is pulling a shoe that features a "Betsy Ross" U.S. flag design after former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick complained to the shoemaker, according to the Wall Street Journal. The shoe's heel has a U.S. flag with 13 white stars in a circle on it. It's commonly known as the Betsy Ross flag, used in the United States from 1777 to 1795, though historians generally say **Ross didn't actually design it.**

Citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, the Journal said Kaepernick, a prominent Nike endorser and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, told the company he and others found the flag symbol offensive because of a connection to slavery. "Nike has chosen not to release the Air Max 1 Quick Strike Fourth of July as it featured an old version of the American flag," Nike said in a statement to CNBC. On social media, some argued that white supremacists have appropriated the flag design, while others argued that even if...

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WORLD

TRUMP AND KIM'S DMZ MEETING MIXES SHOW AND SUBSTANCE

July 1, 2019 | AP News

PANMUNJOM, Korea — “Ok, let’s do it.”

With those words, a deliberate step and a pat on the arm of Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea on Sunday as the two made history at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone. The made-for-television moment was unthinkable just two years ago, when the men were trading base insults and grim threats.

Trump’s three-hour stop at the DMZ — of which about 80 minutes were spent with Kim — was a display of handshake-diplomacy for the history books, but also a chaotic spectacle reflective of the last-minute nature

It was Trump who first broached the notion of walking into North Korea. “Would you like me to step across?” he asked Kim as an interpreter translated his words to Korean. “Would you like me to?”

of the invitation to the authoritarian leader to join him at the border between the Koreas.

Afterward, it was unclear whether the meeting was more show than substance. Other than the headline-grabbing mo-

ment and the unprecedented images, Trump’s only accomplishment appeared to be securing an agreement to restart nuclear talks that he himself had walked out on in February during his last summit with Kim in Vietnam.

Related Story: Russia Made Trump an ‘Illegitimate’ President, Jimmy Carter Says

Trump had long planned a visit to the DMZ, dating to 2017 when a scheduled trip was canceled by fog, but aides said the public invitation for Kim to join him there was as spontaneous as it seemed. In typical Trump fashion, it started with a tweet. “I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(?)!” Trump posted about 30 hours before the visit. The se-

crecy that had surrounded the ill-fated attempted visit two years ago was replaced by a media frenzy stoked by the president himself.

Trump Broached the Idea of Walking Into North Korea

Trump said North Korea quickly responded and expressed interest in the invitation. U.S. and North Korean officials spent much of Saturday evening and early Sunday trying to surmount the immense logistical and security hurdles on such a tight timetable. Even Kim seemed unable to contain his surprise when the meeting occurred. “I never expected to meet you at this place,” he told Trump as they shook hands across the concrete slab marking the Military Demarcation Line between North and South. It was Trump who first broached the notion of walking into North Korea. “Would you like me to step across?” he asked Kim as an interpreter translated his words to Korean. “Would you like me to?”

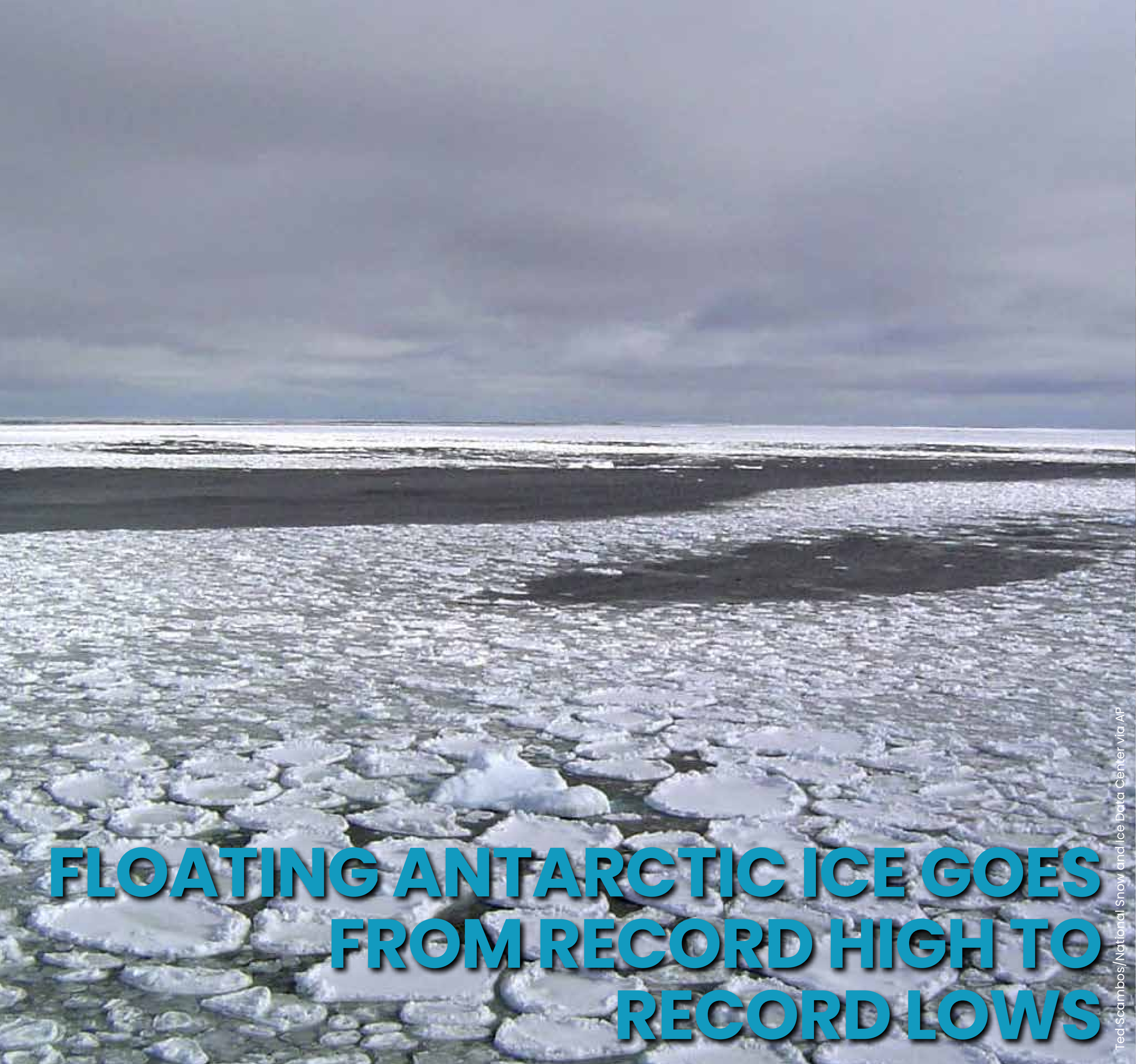
Kim waved Trump over, replying through an interpreter of his own: “If your excellency would step forward, you will be the first U.S. president to cross the border.”

Kim waved Trump over, replying through an interpreter of his own: “If your excellency would step forward, you will be the first U.S. president to cross the border.” As Trump took his first steps, the former reality television star quickly moved to stage-manage the show of his own creation. “Come on,” he said to Kim, tapping his elbow, as they walked side by side 10 paces into the North. After a moment, they turned to face the press waiting in the South.

Jostling as Leaders Moved to Freedom House

Trump escorted Kim back to the South as a scuffle broke out between reporters and North Korean security guards, with officials shoving and trying to block the press from capturing the moment. The jostling...

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FLOATING ANTARCTIC ICE GOES FROM RECORD HIGH TO RECORD LOWS

Ted Scambos/National Snow and Ice Data Center via AP

July 1, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The amount of ice circling Antarctica is suddenly plunging from a record high to record lows, baffling scientists. Floating ice off the southern continent steadily increased from 1979 and hit a record high in 2014. But three years later, the annual average extent of Antarctic sea ice hit its lowest mark, wiping out three-and-a-half decades of gains — and then some, a NASA study of satellite data shows.

In recent years, “things have been crazy,” said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center. In an email, he called the plummeting ice levels “a white-knuckle ride.” Serreze and other outside experts said they don’t know

if this is a natural blip that will go away or more long-term global warming that is finally catching up with the South Pole. Antarctica hasn’t showed as much consistent warming as its northern Arctic cousin.

“But the fact that a change this big can happen in such a short time should be viewed as an indication that the Earth has the potential for significant and rapid change,” University of Colorado ice scientist Waleed Abdalati said in an email. At the polar regions, ice levels grow during the winter and shrink in the summer. Around Antarctica, sea ice averaged 4.9 million square miles in 2014. By 2017, it was a record...

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AP Photo/Mohammad Hmeid

‘ENDLESS TRIP TO HELL’: ISRAEL JAILS HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIAN BOYS A YEAR. THESE ARE THEIR TESTIMONIES

July 1, 2019 | Haaretz Aggregation

It was a gloomy, typically chilly late-February afternoon in the West Bank village of Beit Ummar, between Bethlehem and Hebron. The weather didn’t deter the children of the Abu-Ayyash family from playing and frolicking outside. One of them, in a Spiderman costume, acted the part by jumping lithely from place to place.

Suddenly they noticed a group of Israeli soldiers trudging along the dirt trail across the way. Instantly their expressions turned from joy to dread, and they rushed into the house. It’s not the first time they reacted like that, says their father. In fact, it’s become a pattern ever since 10-year-old Omar was arrested by troops this past December.

The 10-year-old is one of many hundreds of Palestinian children whom Israel arrests every year: The estimates range between 800 and 1,000. Some are under the age of 15; some are even preteens. A mapping of the locales where these...

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IRAN BREACHES URANIUM STOCKPILE LIMIT SET BY NUCLEAR DEAL

July 1, 2019 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has broken the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, international inspectors and Tehran said Monday, marking its first major departure from the unraveling agreement a year after the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the accord. The announcement by Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and later confirmation by the U.N. nuclear watchdog puts new pressure on European nations trying to save the deal amid President Donald Trump’s maximalist campaign targeting Tehran.

Iran separately threatens to raise its uranium enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if Europe fails to offer it a new deal. It also further heightens tensions across the wider Middle East in the wake of Iran recently shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone, mysterious attacks on oil tankers that America and the Israelis blame on...

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