



# GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
JULY 19, 2019

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CSU ENROLLMENT »**

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# AHWAHNEE HOTEL TO RETURN: YOSEMITE SETTLES TRADEMARK FIGHT

July 15, 2019 | GV Wire

The Ahwahnee Hotel is coming back. Under a settlement of a drawn-out trademark dispute announced Monday, the names of several Yosemite National Park landmarks will be restored.

Delaware North, the former concession vendor which claimed it owned “intellectual property” rights to the names, settled with the parks service and with the current vendor, Aramark, which operates in the Sierra park as Yosemite Hospitality.

**“Any changes to the current names of properties at Yosemite National Park following this settlement will be based upon a schedule to be determined by Aramark and the National Park Service.” — Yosemite National Park Service statement**

Under terms of the settlement, all contractual disputes between Delaware North, the park service, and Aramark are settled. The settlement also “provides payments to Delaware

North,” according to a park service news release, which didn’t provide monetary amounts.

## Curry Village, Badger Pass Names to Return

The legal standoff, which began in 2014, affected not just the Ahwahnee — which has since been called The Majestic Yosemite Hotel — but Curry Village (renamed as Half Dome Village), Wawona Hotel (Big Trees Lodge), Badger Pass Ski Area (Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area), and Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (Yosemite Valley Lodge).

The National Park Service looks forward to the restoration of some of the previous names of the properties at Yosemite, including the Ahwahnee hotel, and the resumed use of other trademarks in connection with concessioner activities at Yosemite,” the park service said in a statement. “Any changes to the current names of properties at Yo-

osemite National Park following this settlement will be based upon a schedule to be determined by Aramark and the National Park Service.”

## Delaware North Loses Concession Contract

The settlement also noted that all trademarks and service marks will transfer at no cost to the National Park Service if Aramark’s contract expires or is terminated. That is presumably to avoid the trademark dispute that occurred with Delaware North.

In 2014, the parks service opened for bidding the contract for providing lodging and dining concessions at Yosemite. Delaware North, which had provided those services since 1993, told the park service it owned the rights to the name of several Yosemite landmarks, and would ask for \$51 million to relinquish them.

The park service chose Aramark over Delaware North. Delaware North filed a lawsuit, claiming more than \$10 million in damages because the park service didn’t require Aramark to purchase Delaware North’s “intangible properties.”

In January 2016, the park service announced it would change the names of the disputed landmarks to avoid a costly legal battle with Delaware North.





# SORIA NAMED TO GROUP OF ADVISERS TO NEWSOM ON HOMELESSNESS

July 17, 2019 | GV Wire

Fresno City Councilwoman Esmeralda Soria has been selected by Gov. Gavin Newsom to a group of advisers on subject of homelessness. The group will hold meetings around the state; the first meeting is set for August in Central Valley, though the date and location hasn't been determined, Newsom's office announced Tuesday.

**Related Story: Soria: Why I'm Taking on Fellow Democrat Costa for Congress**

It's a high-profile posting for Soria, who last week announced her candidacy for the House seat held by Rep. Jim Costa, a fellow Democrat. The election will be held in March 2020.

## 'A Crisis That Affects All of California'

Newsom's homelessness advisory group is led by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Others in the 13-member group include

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaff; San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher; and Frank Mecca, executive director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California.

"It's time we stop talking about the homelessness crisis and start acting," Newsom said in a statement. "This is a crisis that affects all of California – from rural and urban communities to coastal and inland cities."

**Related Story: Homelessness Rose in Fresno This Year. Here's What's Being Done.**

According to an official count conducted earlier this year, the number of homeless people in Fresno without access to shelter increased by 23% from 2018 to 2019. Overall, the number of homeless in Fresno increased year over year by 16%. By comparison, homelessness in the greater Los Angeles area rose 12%. San Francisco, which conducts the count every...

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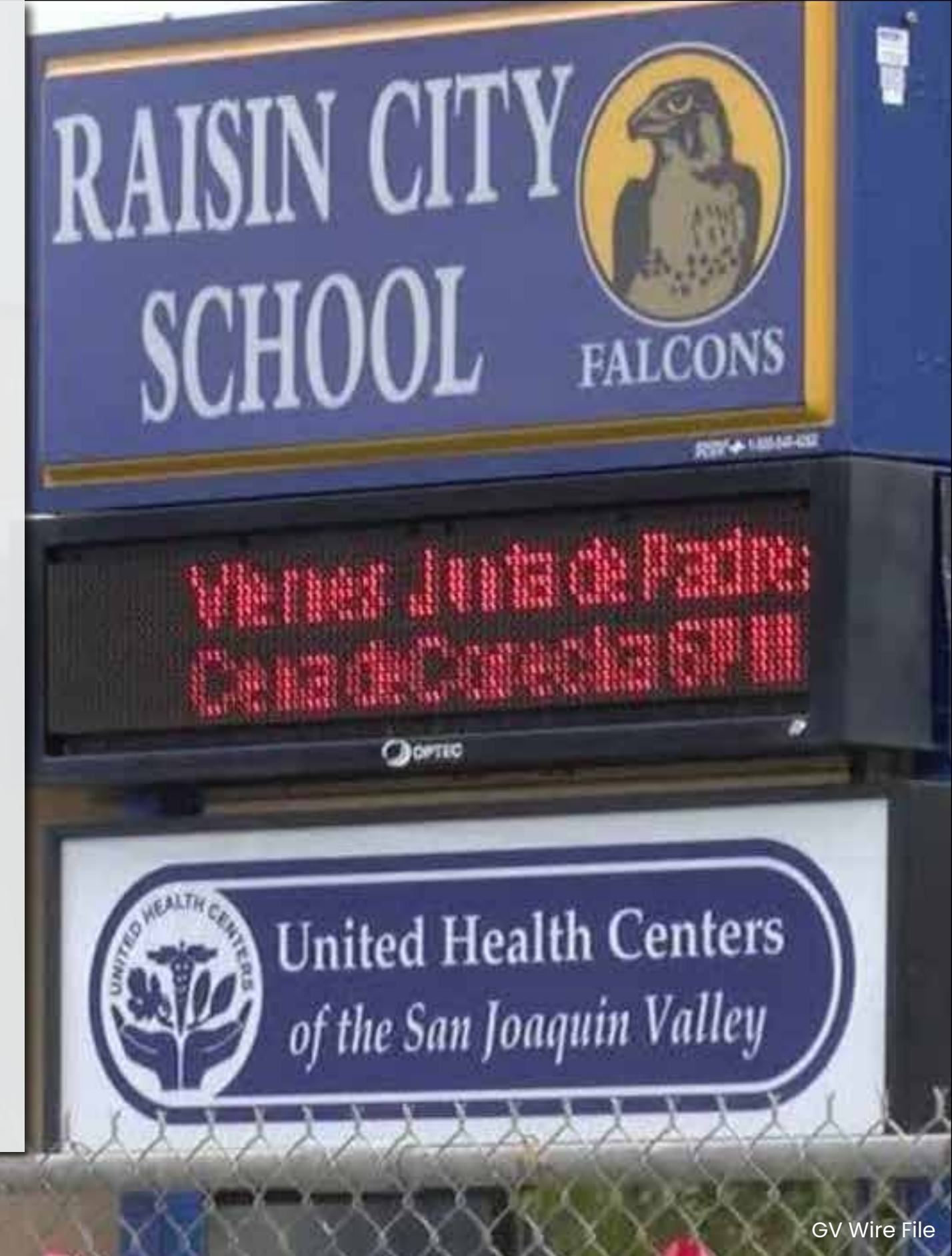
## VALLEY SCHOOL DISGUISES JANITOR AS GUNMAN FOR ACTIVE-SHOOTER DRILL

July 15, 2019 | GV Wire

The superintendent of a one-school district in Fresno County defended using a janitor disguised as a gunman in an active-shooter drill, saying he wanted to "make sure this was realistic." A teacher at Raisin City Elementary School told TV station KSEE that the drill, which happened before the summer break, went too far.

Kim Copper said the janitor, wearing a mask and holding a fake gun, pounded on her classroom door and tried to open it as she huddled in a corner with terrified students. Teachers and students weren't notified beforehand about the drill or its details. "I thought this might not really be a drill, and what am I going to do?" Copper told the TV station. Copper said one of her students was trying to be quiet during the drill, "but he was sobbing." Juan Sandoval, the school's superintendent, said active shooter drills have become routine and he wanted students to understand the gravity of the situation. He said...

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GV Wire File

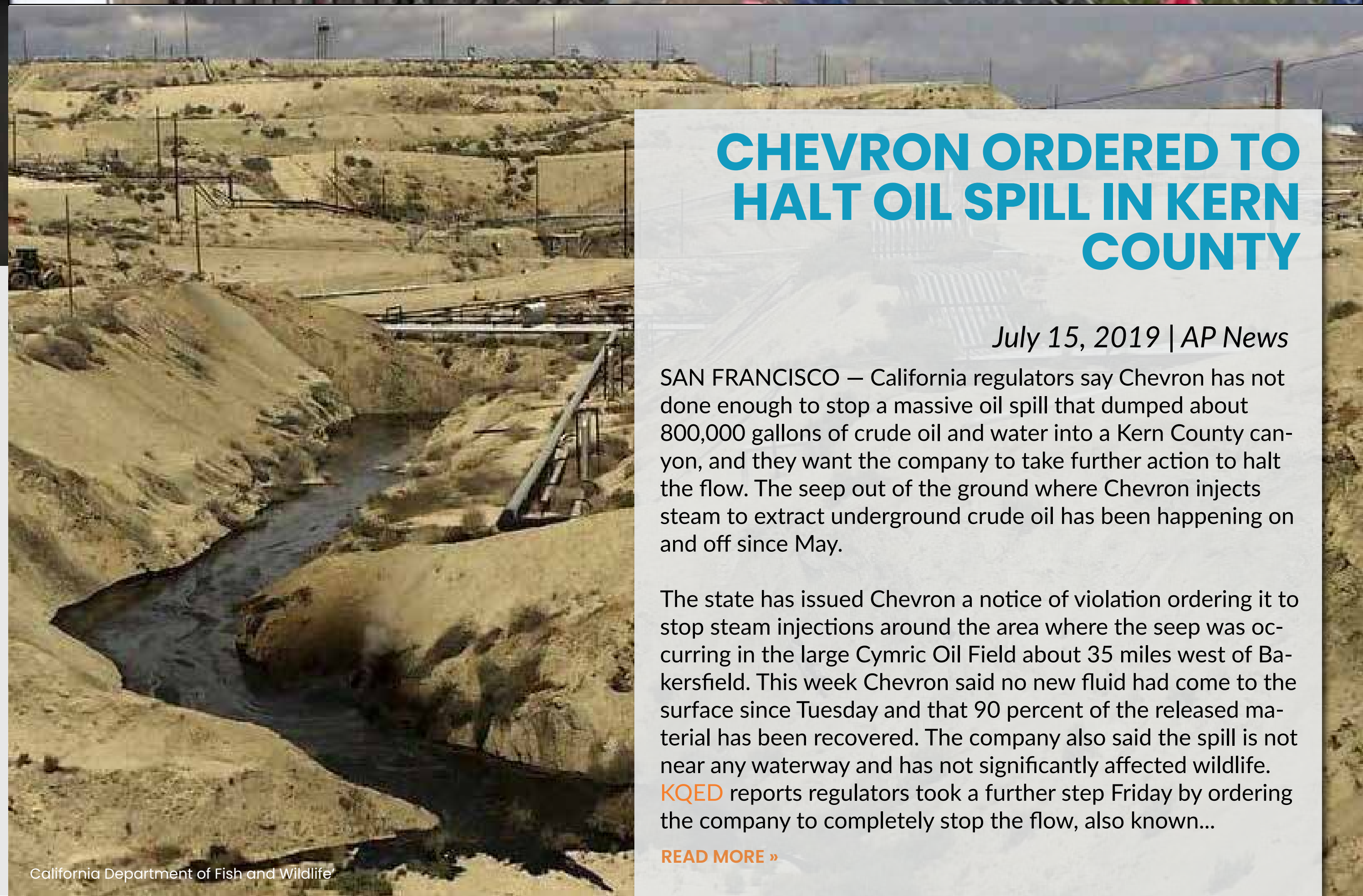
## CHEVRON ORDERED TO HALT OIL SPILL IN KERN COUNTY

July 15, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — California regulators say Chevron has not done enough to stop a massive oil spill that dumped about 800,000 gallons of crude oil and water into a Kern County canyon, and they want the company to take further action to halt the flow. The seep out of the ground where Chevron injects steam to extract underground crude oil has been happening on and off since May.

The state has issued Chevron a notice of violation ordering it to stop steam injections around the area where the seep was occurring in the large Cymric Oil Field about 35 miles west of Bakersfield. This week Chevron said no new fluid had come to the surface since Tuesday and that 90 percent of the released material has been recovered. The company also said the spill is not near any waterway and has not significantly affected wildlife. **KQED** reports regulators took a further step Friday by ordering the company to completely stop the flow, also known...

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife





Fresno State News

# STATE

## REPORT: PG&E IGNORED REPAIRS ON AGING POWER LINES

July 17, 2019 | Bill McEwen

I've finally figured out the reason for the annual dance between whoever occupies the governor's office and California State University system leaders. For those unfamiliar with the Sacramento Three-Step, it works like this.

First step: The governor low-balls funding for increased enrollment.

**"The most important source of highly educated workers in California are the state's own colleges and universities. Policies and practices to improve college access and completion in the state will ensure that more Californians are able to help create and benefit from a strong economy."** — Hans Johnson, director, PPIC Higher Education Center

more impoverished Californians step up and into the middle class.

### CSUs Are Path to the Middle Class

According to the CSU, every buck invested by the state returns \$5.43 to California's economy. That's a great bargain. Now and down the road. When first-generation college-goers graduate, it can raise the trajectory of brothers, sisters, and cousins for years to come. Moreover, it's not like the governor and the Legislature have to break somebody else's bones so that the CSUs enroll more qualified applicants. The state is swimming in money. In fact, its 2019-20 surplus is \$21.5 billion. The Public Policy Institute of California's Hans Johnson recently exposed a gaping hole in Newsom's prescription for ending the Tale of Two Californias (prosperous coast, struggling interior). "The migration of young college graduates to California is a consequence of the

Second step: The CSU chancellor and the 23 campus presidents rally lawmakers and editorial boards to their cause.

Third step: The governor gives in a little, which is better than nothing, but puzzling in light of Gov. Brown's and now Gov. Newsom's pledge to help

state's growing demand for highly skilled and highly educated workers," writes Johnson, who is the director of the PPIC Higher Education Center and a senior fellow.

"But the numbers are not high enough to fully meet the state's changing needs. Although many college graduates move to California from other states, the most important source of highly educated workers in California are the state's own colleges and universities. Policies and practices to improve college access and completion in the state will ensure that more Californians are able to help create and benefit from a strong economy."

**The bureaucrats, of course, have come up with a generic word to describe the situation. "Impacted." Like they're talking about a bad wisdom tooth and not what it is: Telling an aspirational 18-year-old there's no room at the inn.**

### An Easy Fix in a Sea of Big Hairy Audacious Goals

So, while Newsom is on the right track with some of his "Big Hairy Audacious Goals," he's also missing an easy fix. And that is enrolling thousands more qualified CSU applicants, many of whom are poor and undoubtedly would face fewer barriers to graduation if they attended their nearest campus.

Let's use Fresno State as an example. After the customary budget dance this spring, the CSU received a 2.7% bump in new enrollment funding, or \$85 million — not the 5% requested by CSU leaders — for the 2019-20 school year. That meant Fresno State had to tell 8,000 qualified applicants to look somewhere else. About 3,000 of them reside in the university's target area: Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare counties, all of which are begging for skilled workers.

The bureaucrats, of course, have come up with a generic word to describe the situation. "Impacted..."

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# CALIFORNIA SET TO PAY \$1.65 BILLION FOR WORK ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL

CAHSRA

July 16, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California officials on Tuesday moved toward awarding a \$1.65 billion contract to design and construct the tracks and system in the central San Joaquin Valley for the first segment of its beleaguered high-speed rail project.

The action taken by the California High-Speed Rail Authority's board of directors was a first step in moving ahead with a contract they hope to award by next summer. It's part of the authority's plan to get track up and running in the Valley ahead of a 2022 deadline to meet the requirements of federal grants the Trump administration is now trying to take back.

**Related Story: Bringing High-Speed Rail to California, One Building Block at a Time**

The 119-mile segment would run from Merced to Bakersfield, passing through Fresno. U.S. and international businesses can apply for the contract, and whoever wins it would be responsible for designing and building rail infrastructure, as well as maintaining it for a period that could be as long as 30 years. A U.S. subsidiary of German rail giant Deutsche Bahn AG has been awarded a \$30 million contract for early operation of the trains. The \$1.65 billion is a sliver of the \$79 billion it's estimated to cost to build a high-speed rail line..

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senate.ca.gov

## STATE HAS NEW ANTI-BIAS HAIR LAW. FRESNO SCHOOLS SAY

July 17, 2019 | David Taub

Holly Mitchell had a simple motivation in crafting a law to ban discrimination against natural hairstyles like hers. "Racism," the state senator from Los Angeles said during a recent stop in Fresno. Mitchell is black, and wears her hair in braids. Earlier this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Mitchell's CROWN Act. The acronym stands for Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural hair.

The act, based on Mitchell's [Senate Bill 188](#), prevents employers and schools from discriminating against hairstyles such as braids, dreadlocks and twists. Those natural styles would be added to Afros, the only hair choice protected by federal law. "My constituents elected me for what's inside my head, not how I wear my hair," Mitchell said. Negative attitudes about cultural hairstyles come from "a lack of understanding about cultural uniqueness and a perception...

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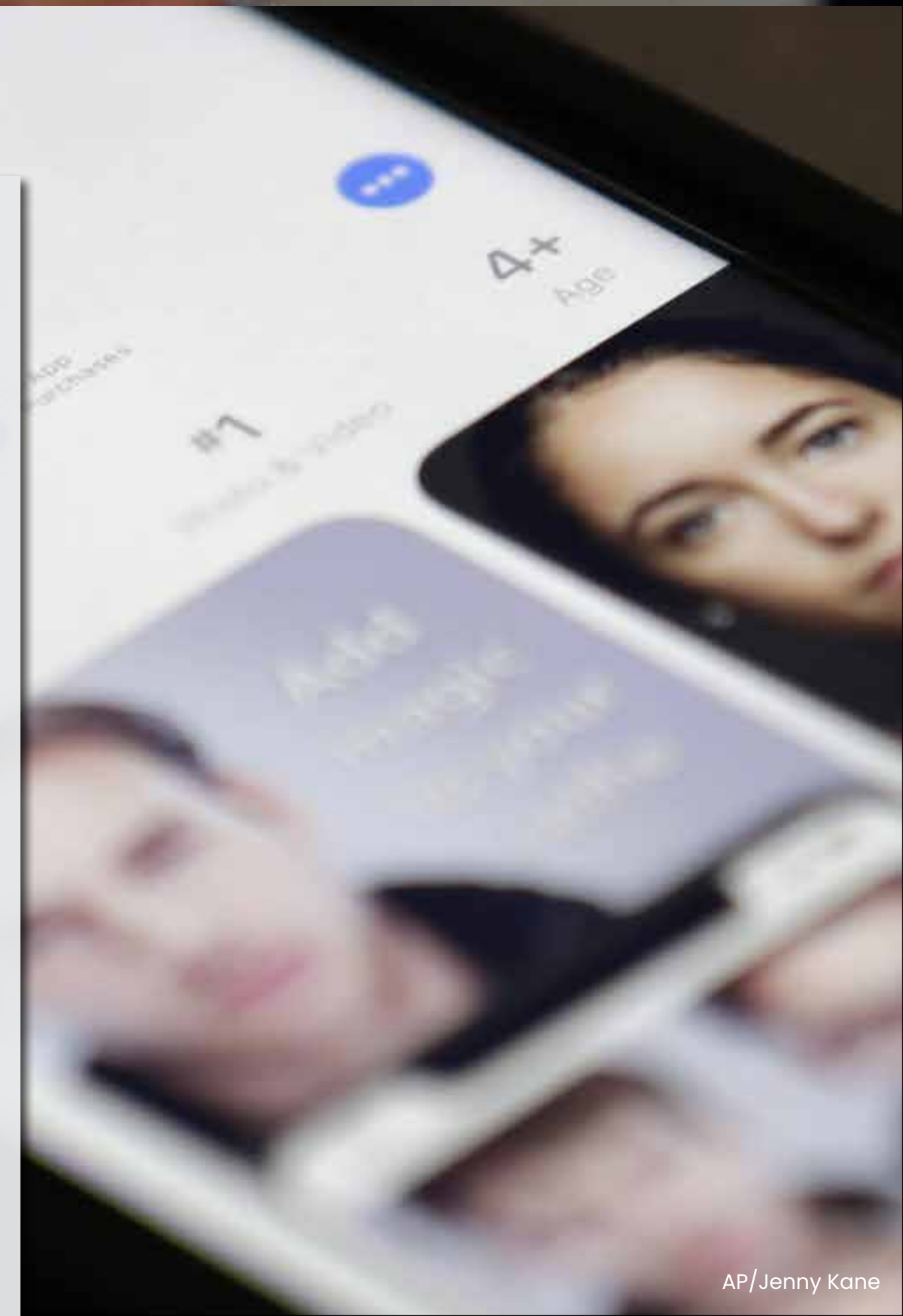
## MYTHS AND RISKS IN APP THAT GIVES YOU PEEK INTO OLDER SELF

July 18, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Is a peek into the future worth your privacy in the present? That concern was pushed to the spotlight this week with the resurgence of a smartphone app that uses artificial intelligence to transform your current face into your younger and older selves. People raised fears on Twitter and other social media sites that on iPhones, FaceApp would be able to see and upload all your photos, including screenshots with sensitive financial or health information or photos of kids with the names of their schools in the background.

That's not actually true, but the scuttle serves as a good reminder to think twice before downloading new apps. Even large, mainstream apps routinely collect user data. But many trendy-at-the-moment apps are guilty of mining user data as a primary purpose. Some personality quizzes on Facebook and similar services collect user information as a business, opening people up to breaches such as in the Cambridge Analytica...

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AP/Carolyn Kaster

# U.S. TRUMP BLASTS 4 CONGRESSWOMEN; CROWD ROARS, 'SEND HER BACK!'

July 18, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — A few Republicans on Thursday criticized the chants of “send her back” by President Donald Trump’s rally crowd after he assailed a young Democratic congresswoman who he’s suggested should leave the U.S. But so far, no GOP lawmakers are directly taking on Trump, who did nothing to restrain his supporters’ cries and paused as he appeared to drink in the uproar. The muted reactions by congressional Republicans followed a pattern that’s become familiar after

**“What he was trying to say is that if you don’t appreciate this country, you don’t have to be here. That goes for every one of us. It has nothing to do with your race, your gender, your family history. It has to do with respecting and loving the country that has given you the opportunities which you have.” — Rep. Tom Emmer, who heads the House GOP’s campaign organization**

numerous incidents in Trump’s presidency when he’s made antagonistic or racially provocative comments. At a Wednesday campaign rally in Greenville, North Carolina, Trump tore into four progressive freshman congresswomen who last weekend he tweeted should return to their native countries if they “hate America.” Of the four, who strongly oppose many of Trump’s policies, one is black, one is Hispanic and two are Muslim. All are American citizens, and three were born here.

As he recited a litany of complaints about Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who fled to the U.S. as a child with her family from violence-wracked Somalia, Trump’s supporters chanted, “Send her back!” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters that such cries “have no place in our party and no place in this country.” But McCarthy, a staunch Trump ally, said the president’s aversion to Omar is based on ideology, not race.

**Trump Has Been Criticizing Other Democratic Reps**  
“This is about socialism vs. freedom,” he said, a refrain

Republicans are increasingly using as they begin trying to frame their offensive against Democrats for the 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns. GOP Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois tweeted that the “send her back” chant was “ugly, wrong, & would send chills down the spines of our Founding Fathers. This ugliness must end, or we risk our great union.”

Rep. Tom Emmer, who heads the House GOP’s campaign organization, told reporters, “There’s no place for that kind of talk. I don’t agree with it.” But he defended Trump, saying there isn’t “a racist bone in this president’s body” and asserting that Trump “said wrong” what he actually meant.

**Related Story: ‘Many People Agree With Me’: Trump Digs in on Racist Tweets**

“What he was trying to say is that if you don’t appreciate this country, you don’t have to be here. That goes for every one of us. It has nothing to do with your race, your gender, your family history. It has to do with respecting and loving the country that has given you the opportunities which you have.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said on Fox Business News that it’s time to “lower the rhetoric” about racism. He did not mention the crowd’s chants or Trump’s acceptance of them.

Besides Omar, Trump has also been criticizing Democratic Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts. The Democratic-led House voted Tuesday to condemn Trump’s tweets as racist. On Wednesday, it rejected an effort by one Democrat that was opposed by party leaders to impeach Trump.





## US AIR FORCE WARNS AGAINST JOKE EVENT TO 'STORM AREA 51'

July 18, 2019 | AP News

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Air Force has warned people against participating in an internet joke suggesting a large crowd of people “storm Area 51,” the top-secret Cold War test site in the Nevada desert.

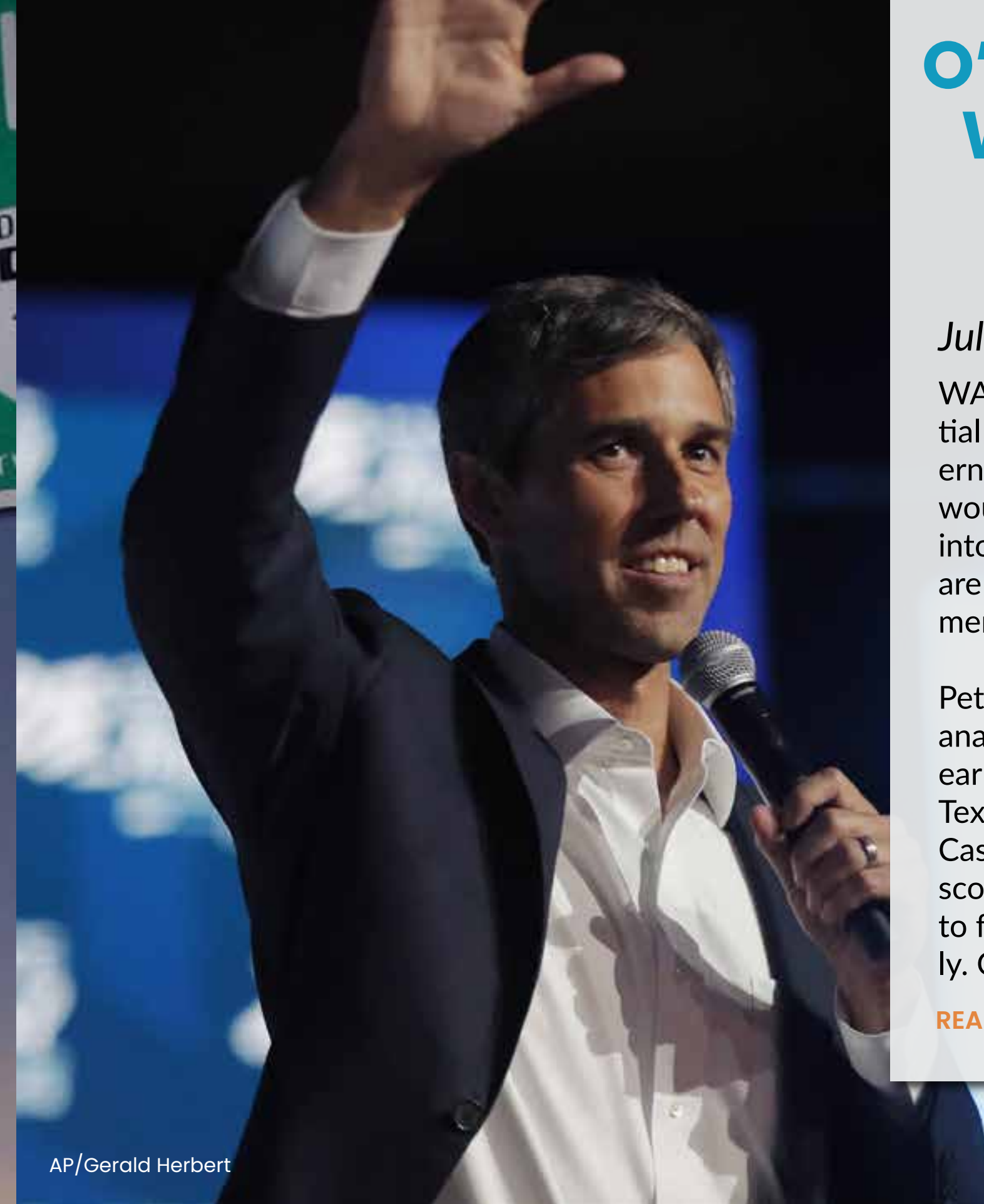
A **prank event** on Facebook that’s attracted more than 1 million interested people suggests that a mass of people attempt to run into the mysterious site at 3 a.m. on Sept. 20. The site is part of the vast Nevada Test and Training Range and has become the center of UFO conspiracy theories. The Facebook event jokes “they can’t stop all of us” and

“Let’s see them aliens.” Nellis Air Force Base said in a statement that the Air Force is aware of the Facebook posting and says “any attempt to illegally access the area is highly discouraged.”

### Flexible, Realistic and Multidimensional Battlespace

The Air Force says it does not discuss its security measures and that the test and training range provides “flexible, realistic and multidimensional battlespace” for testing and “advanced training in support of U.S. national interests.” After decades of government officials refusing to acknowledge...

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AP/Gerald Herbert

## O'ROURKE'S FUNDRAISING WOES REVIVE CONCERNS ABOUT CAMPAIGN

July 16, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Beto O'Rourke stormed into the presidential race arguing his experience growing up along the southern border and a relatively moderate approach to politics would distinguish him in a crowded field. But four months into his campaign, other — previously unknown — candidates are seizing on the issues that were supposed to be the former Texas congressman's strengths.

Pete Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has become a top-tier White House hopeful with an earnest, intellectual and largely moderate appeal. The other Texan in the race, former Obama housing secretary Julián Castro, has overshadowed O'Rourke on immigration issues, scolding him during last month's debate for not being willing to fully decriminalize crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. O'Rourke's problems crystalized Monday when he...

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## SANDERS SET TO MOUNT VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF 'MEDICARE FOR ALL'

July 17, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders will vigorously defend his signature “Medicare for All” proposal on Wednesday and hit back at his critics who say his push amounts to both bad politics and bad policy. The Vermont senator also will pledge to reject campaign donations from health insurance and pharmaceutical industry executives, lobbyists and political action committees and will challenge other Democratic presidential candidates to do the same.

“You can’t change a corrupt system by taking its money,” Sanders will say during a speech at George Washington University, according to prepared remarks. The remarks come amid an intensifying fight among Democratic presidential candidates over how to best provide health care for Americans. It’s pitting Sanders, with his push for a single payer system of health insurance, against former Vice President Joe Biden, who is embracing a so-called public option that...

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AP/Jacqueline Larma





# WORLD

## NETANYAHU MAKES HISTORY AS ISRAEL'S LONGEST-SERVING LEADER

July 17, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — As Benjamin Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving prime minister, he is solidifying his place as the country's greatest political survivor and the most dominant force in Israeli politics in his generation. He has persevered through scandals, crises and conflicts, winning election after election even as the country grows more bitterly polarized. His supporters credit him with keeping Israel safe and prosperous, maintaining its Jewish character and boosting its standing internationally. His opponents, with equally visceral emotion, claim he has dashed hopes for peace with the Palestinians, torn society apart with vicious attacks on minority Arabs and left-wing opponents, and infused politics with a culture of corruption.

**"He thinks that he is the right guy in the right place. That he is the one who will save Israel and lead Israel to a safe haven. [Israelis think that] things are good, so why should we change a winning horse?" — Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide**

**Related Story: Netanyahu, Suspect in Three Corruption Cases, Is Now Israel's Justice ...**

But as the longevity of his 13-year rule is set to surpass that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion on July 20, all agree

Netanyahu has left a permanent imprint on Israel. "He thinks that he is the right guy in the right place. That he is the one who will save Israel and lead Israel to a safe haven," said Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide. Israelis think that "things are good, so why should we change a winning horse," he added.

### Netanyahu's Greatest Political Challenge

Just as he is about to cross a milestone, Netanyahu faces perhaps his greatest political challenge yet. After failing to form a parliamentary majority following April elections, the country is holding a repeat vote on Sept. 17. The following month, he faces a hearing with Israel's attorney general, who has recommended indicting

Netanyahu on corruption charges. If formal charges are filed, Netanyahu could be forced to step aside. In contrast to his predecessors, the 69-year-old hasn't left his mark by winning a war or signing a peace accord. He has proudly resisted various peace initiatives and allowed West Bank settlements to flourish. The signature achievements most associated with him, such as combatting Iran's nuclear program, covertly striking weapons shipments to Israel's enemies and building a border fence to stop the flow of African migrants, had begun taking shape before he assumed office.

**"If you want one ideological legacy it's that he has broken the paradigm that we need to end the occupation or else we will be isolated." — Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist at the Haaretz daily and author of a Netanyahu biography**

A gifted orator in both English and Hebrew, he was elected for a single term in the late 1990s on a platform of opposing the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. But once in office, he continued implementing them and even met with arch-enemy Yasser Arafat.

**Related Story: Wonder Woman to the Rescue: Gal Gadot Takes on Netanyahu**

As finance minister in the early 2000s, he cut taxes and rolled back entitlements to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community — only to reverse course once he returned to power to secure their political backing. He wrote counterterrorism books in which he preached never to negotiate under threat, but as prime minister he released more than 1,000 prisoners in exchange for a single captive Israeli soldier in 2011.

### An 'Incredibly Good Political Strategist'

Despite his tough talk, Netanyahu has shown relative moderation when it comes to using military force...

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# MAKING AN IMMIGRATION ARREST REQUIRES HOURS OF SURVEILLANCE

July 16, 2019 | AP News

ESCONDIDO — Two immigration officers had been parked outside a home well before dawn when their target — a Mexican man convicted of driving under the influence in 2015 — appeared to emerge as the sun illuminated a gray sky.

“I’m going to do a vehicle stop,” an officer radioed. “I’m right behind you,” said another, lights flashing as they ordered the driver into a liquor store parking lot. As it turned out, the man they pulled over was not the one they were looking for. But he happened to be in the country illegally, too, and was taken into custody. The arrest last week near San Diego illustrates how President Donald Trump’s pledge to deport

millions of immigrants in the U.S. without legal permission would be highly impractical to carry out, maybe impossible. For U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, picking up people is a time-consuming, labor-intensive and not-always-successful task.

An arrest of just one immigrant often requires days of surveillance. At the same time, ICE has a limited budget and a shortage of detention space. Also, more and more law enforcement agencies, especially those in big cities, are refusing to help ICE as part of the growing “sanctuary” movement, slowing down the arrests of immigrants even more. ICE...

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Ben Sutton/Ministry of Defence via AP

## IRAN STATE TV: IRANIAN FORCES SEIZE FOREIGN OIL TANKER, CREW

July 18, 2019 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard forces seized a foreign oil tanker accused of smuggling oil, Iran’s state TV reported Thursday. The vessel appears to be a United Arab Emirates-based tanker that had disappeared off trackers in Iranian territorial waters over the weekend. The seizure was the latest in a series of dramatic developments as tensions mount between the United States and Iran over the unravelling nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

The Panamanian-flagged oil tanker MT Riah stopped transmitting its location early Sunday near Qeshm Island, which has a Revolutionary Guard base on it, according to data listed on tracking site Maritime Traffic. Iran’s state television did not identify the seized vessel or nationalities of the crew, but said it was intercepted on Sunday. It said the oil tanker had 12 foreign crew members on board and was involved in smuggling some 264,000 gallons of fuel from Iranian...

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## NESTING PENGUINS CAN’T RESIST LURE OF NEW ZEALAND SUSHI SHOP

July 17, 2019 | AP News

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Two little blue penguins just couldn’t stay away from a New Zealand sushi store, returning to nest there even after police had captured them and escorted them back to the ocean. Wellington police described them as “waddling vagrants,” while the store’s co-owner joked he had no idea that word of his tasty raw fish had reached as far as the subaquatic community.

But Jack Mace, an operations manager for the Department of Conservation, said the birds would have simply thought they had found a snug burrow underneath the store and wouldn’t have taken note of what was being sold above them. “They were within penguin commuting distance of the harbor, and they thought they’d found a nice spot,” Mace said. Police got the first call about a penguin loose in the city on Saturday night, after somebody reported spotting a grumpy bird under a parked car. Police said they managed to release it back...

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