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WEEKLY DIGEST  
AUGUST 2, 2019



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# NW FRESNO COUNCIL CANDIDATES CLASH OVER POLICE, HOMELESS

July 31, 2019 | Jody Murray

Candidates to represent northwest Fresno on the city council sparred over opinions about police protection, the homeless, and the previous seat holder during a candidate forum Wednesday. The four candidates also addressed questions about Fresno business-friendliness, affordable housing,

**Northwest Fresno, known on the council as District 2, has been without a representative since Steve Brandau was sworn to a Fresno County Board of Supervisors seat in April.**

and the balancing act of standing up for northwest Fresno while supporting the needs of the entire city. Northwest Fresno, known on the council as District 2, has been without a representative since Steve Brandau was sworn to a Fresno County Board of Supervisors seat in April. A special election is scheduled for Aug. 13.

## Differences Over Police Staffing

Business owner Mike Karbassi's proposal to add 200 sworn officers to the police department came under fire from fellow candidates Jared Gordon and Oscar Sandoval. Karbassi had said federal studies indicate Fresno needs that boost of officers on patrol to meet safe officer-to-resident ratios. The cost of the 200 officers would be about \$24 million, he has said. Gordon, a business attorney, said that figure is closer to \$125 million over five years when staff turnover is factored in. "We're taxed enough already," said Gordon, who described Karbassi's proposal as a "pipe dream." Karbassi responded that he would not allow a dime of tax money to be spent on the new officers. Instead, he would aggressively pursue federal grants and smart cuts in city spending. "It won't happen overnight," he said.

## Does NW Fresno Need a Shelter?

Sandoval, a special needs therapist, said the ex-

isting police force needed to work harder to build connections and trust in the community. He said too many people don't trust police, which hampers crime investigations when witnesses don't come forward. "When you say 'more cops, more cops, you're just adding to the problem,'" Sandoval said.

Sandoval and Gordon agreed that some form of homeless shelter should be built in northwest Fresno, though they didn't give specifics on where the shelter would be located or what it might look like. Karbassi said he has spoken to numerous agencies and advocates who work with the homeless, and none told him that a shelter is needed in northwest Fresno. Karbassi said he supports lobbying state authorities to provide more money to Fresno County for mental health and addiction services that can help people break the cycle of homelessness.

## What About Brandau?

Garcia, a business owner, agreed that access to services is crucial. "It's more important where to help them than where to house them," he said. Garcia also said it was important to separate "vagrants," whom he described as people who don't want to be helped, with homeless who can accept and benefit from assistance. When asked to compare themselves with Brandau, whose in-your-face style sometimes puts people on edge, two candidates described themselves as friends of the former councilman. Gordon, however, said he differed from Brandau in "rhetoric and emphasis," while Garcia said he shared Brandau's conservative views "and will bring that to the council."

Karbassi deflected the Brandau question: "I don't want to focus on the past. I want to focus on the future." And Sandoval, referring to his differences with Brandau, smiled and said, "How much time do we...

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# JOSEPH CASTRO NAMED TO FOOTBALL PLAYOFF BOARD

July 30, 2019 | GV Wire

Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro has been appointed to the Board of Managers of the College Football Playoff, the organization charged with selecting the four programs and overseeing the semifinal and championship games. Castro has no more sway now in whether his Bulldogs make the playoff than he did before joining the board.

That role falls to the CFP's Selection Committee, whose 13 members include directors of athletics, former head coaches, a legendary former player (Ronnie Lott), a sports journalist (Paola Boivin), and a former Army chief of staff (Ray Odierno). Castro will represent the Mountain West Conference on the board, which has authority over all CFP operations and appointments. The board manages budgets, sets policies, and develops operation guidelines.

**Castro Joins University Presidents on Board**  
The board is made up of university presidents of the 10 Foot-

ball Bowl Subdivision conferences, plus Notre Dame. Castro replaces Tony Frank, a former president of Colorado State University who now serves as chancellor of the Colorado State University system. "We are grateful to have President Castro join the group," Bill Hancock, CFP executive director, said in a statement. "He is an engaging leader and a forward-thinker, and he will be a great addition."

Castro's appointment aligns with Fresno State's rising football fortunes. The defending Mountain West champions were selected in a preseason poll to repeat as winners of the West Division. Last season, the Bulldogs collected 12 victories for the first time in program history, capped by a 31-20 win over Pacific-12 opponent Arizona State in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Fresno State is 22-6 in two seasons under head coach Jeff Tedford. The team opens the coming season Aug. 31 at Southern Cal. The first home game is Sept. 7 against Minnesota...

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## FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOLS OPEN FOR EVENING REGISTRATION AUG. 6

August 1, 2019 | Nancy Price

Need to register your child in a Fresno Unified school for the 2019-20 school year? There's still time, and the district is making it a little easier for working parents. Fresno Unified schools will be open for evening registration from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 6. Parents also can register their children at schools during normal business hours. The first day of school for Fresno Unified students is Aug. 12.

### What to Bring to Registration

To register a new student, parents or guardians should bring the child's birth certificate, previous transcripts, immunization records, and proof of address.

"We hope that families take advantage of the convenient, after-work hours we offer through evening registration," Superintendent Bob Nelson said in a news release Wednesday. "Getting children registered prior to the start of school..."

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## CASTROS KNOCK AT THE DOOR OF THEIR 2020 OLYMPICS DREAM

August 1, 2019 | Bill McEwen

It's well above 110 degrees inside the small gym a stone's throw from the Clinton overpass in west-central Fresno on a recent Saturday afternoon. "Boom-boom, boom-boom," grunts 19-year-old Marc Castro when his rapidly firing gloves strike the mitts of his dad and trainer, Tony Castro. Like many young boxers across America, the soon-to-be Fresno State junior dreams of representing the USA at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Yes, it's a big dream.

But Castro has broken it down into a series of increasingly bigger goals over the past four years. Sacrifice, dedication and keeping eyes forward are his mantras. "There are a lot of sacrifices you have to make, my parents and myself. Not going out with friends, not staying out late, or missing birthday parties. Knowing that you have to train," Castro says. "It's a sacrifice you're willing to make for a better future and a goal you're trying to achieve." For example, when he won flew to Russia in...

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GV Wire/Jamie Ouverson





AP File

# STATE

## NEWSOM SIGNS TAX-RETURNS LAW AIMED AT TRUMP

July 30, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law Tuesday requiring presidential candidates to release their tax returns to appear on the state's primary ballot, a move aimed squarely at Republican President Donald Trump. Even if the law withstands a likely legal challenge, Trump could avoid the requirements by choosing not to compete in California's primary. With no credible

**Trump could avoid the requirements by choosing not to compete in California's primary. With no credible GOP challenger, he likely won't need California's delegates to win the Republican nomination.**

able GOP challenger at this point, he likely won't need California's delegates to win the Republican nomination. While aimed at Trump, the law also applies to candidates for governor. Newsom said California's status as one of the world's largest economies gives it "a special responsibility" to require tax returns from its prospective elected officials. "These are extraordinary times and states have a legal and moral duty to do everything in their power to ensure leaders seeking the highest offices meet minimal standards, and to restore public confidence," Newsom wrote in his signing statement.

### Bill 'Unconstitutional,' Trump Campaign Says

The Trump campaign called the bill "unconstitutional," saying there were good reasons why California's former Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a similar proposal last year. "What's next, five years of health records?" said Tim Murtaugh, communications director for Trump's campaign. "Beyond this cynical Trump persecution du jour, this bad law is a Pandora's box which may lead other jurisdictions to impose similarly frivolous and unconstitutional requirements on presidential candidates, with no policy or legal justification," said Harmeet Dhillon, California's representative on the Republican National Committee. The courts will likely have the final say. The bill's author, Democratic state Sen. Mike Mc-

Guire, said lawmakers made sure the law only applies to the state's primary ballot because the state Constitution says the state Legislature does not control access to the general election ballot. Newsom's message to state lawmakers on Tuesday said the law is constitutional because "the United States Constitution grants states the authority to determine how their electors are chosen." But Murtaugh said the law violates First Amendment right of association "since California can't tell political parties which candidates their members can or cannot vote for in a primary election."

### New York Has Similar Law

While states have authority over how candidates can access the ballot, the U.S. Constitution lays out a limited set of qualifications someone needs to meet to run for president, said Rick Hasen, a professor specializing in election law at the University of California-Irvine School of Law. Those qualifications include the requirement that presidential candidates be over age 35. The U.S. Supreme court has previously stopped state efforts to add requirements on congressional candidates through ballot access rules. New York has passed a law giving congressional committees access to Trump's state tax returns. But efforts to pry loose his tax returns have floundered in other states. California's first attempt to do so failed in 2017 when then-Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, vetoed the law, raising questions about its constitutionality and where it would lead next. The major Democratic 2020 contenders have already released tax returns for roughly the past decade. Trump has bucked decades of precedent by refusing to release his. Tax returns show income, charitable giving and business dealings, all of which Democratic state lawmakers say voters are entitled...

**The U.S. Supreme court has previously stopped state efforts to add requirements on congressional candidates through ballot access rules.**

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# PILOT CONFIRMED DEAD IN LEMOORE FIGHTER JET CRASH IN DEATH VALLEY

AP File

August 1, 2019 | AP News

Authorities on Thursday confirmed the death of a pilot whose fighter jet from Naval Air Station Lemoore crashed in Death Valley National Park, injuring seven people who were at a scenic overlook where aviation enthusiasts routinely watch military aircraft speeding low through a chasm dubbed Star Wars Canyon.

“The Navy has confirmed that the pilot of the F/A-18E Super Hornet that crashed July 31st died in the crash,” spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Lydia Bock **told USNI News** in a statement. “The identity of the pilot will be withheld until 24 hours following notification of next of kin. The Navy mourns the loss of one

of our own, and our hearts go out to the family and friends affected by this tragedy.” The crash sent dark smoke billowing into the air, said Aaron Cassell, who was working at his family’s Panamint Springs Resort about 10 miles away and was the first to report the crash to park dispatch. “I just saw a black mushroom cloud go up,” Cassell told The Associated Press. “Typically you don’t see a mushroom cloud in the desert.”

The jet was from strike fighter squadron VFA-151 stationed at Lemoore. The squadron is part of an air group attached to the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. Ambulances were...

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Fresno County Sheriff's Office

## SUSPECTED SERIAL KILLER ARRESTED AFTER BODIES UNEARTHED

July 31, 2019 | GV Wire

A Squaw Valley man described as a serial killer is in custody and faces three counts of murder after remains of his alleged victims were unearthed, the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office announced Wednesday. Buford King, 33, made an initial court appearance on the charges Wednesday. His bail was set at \$3 million. The arrest is a culmination of a three-year investigation, sheriff’s authorities said.

### Accused of Killing Three Men

King is accused of killing Aleksey Shelest, 35, and Donnie Lee, 62, both of Squaw Valley, and Alberto Contreras, 51, of Visalia. King knew all three men, authorities said. Shelest has been missing since May 2016. Lee was last seen in November 2016. Contreras was reported missing in July 2011. King, an Army veteran who served in Iraq, was arrested in August 2017 in connection with a non-fatal shooting and...

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## GILROY PLEDGES TO REMAIN STRONG IN WAKE OF FESTIVAL SHOOTING

July 30, 2019 | AP News

GILROY — Only a few days ago, Gilroy was known for one thing: garlic. The rural community near San Francisco lived and breathed the prized, pungent crop. Now it’s the site of the latest American mass shooting. On Sunday evening, a 19-year-old gunman with apparent white supremacist views slipped into the annual Gilroy Garlic Festival and unloaded a military-style rifle before police shot him to death.

On Monday night, hundreds of residents held a candlelight vigil to mourn a 6-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl and a New York college graduate who were slain. Twelve others were injured. As they raised votive candles, long tapers or tea lights, they also raised their spirits in the defiant cry of “Gilroy Strong.” A sign reading the same underneath an American flag covered in two garlic cloves hung from the front of the stage. “We cannot let the bastard that did this tear us down,” Mayor Roland Velasco declared to cheers. It was the cry heard so...

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AP File





AP/Manuel Balce Ceneta

# FED CUTS KEY RATE IN ITS FIRST REDUCTION IN MORE THAN DECADE

July 31, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Wednesday for the first time in a decade to try

**The central bank reduced its benchmark rate — which affects many loans for households and businesses — by a quarter-point to a range of 2% to 2.25%. It's the first rate cut since December 2008 during the depths of the Great Recession, when the Fed slashed its rate to a record low near zero and kept it there until 2015.**

to counter threats ranging from uncertainties caused by President Donald Trump's trade wars to chronically low inflation and a dim global outlook. The Fed also repeated a pledge to "act as appropriate" to sustain the expansion — wording that the financial markets have interpreted as a signal of possible future rate cuts.

Stocks tumbled soon after the Fed issued its statement at 2 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had been nearly flat before the announcement, was off more than 300 points about an hour later just as Chairman Jerome Powell was holding a news conference. The reaction in the bond market was more muted.

The central bank reduced its benchmark rate — which affects many loans for households and businesses — by a quarter-point to a range of 2% to 2.25%. It's the first rate cut since December 2008 during the depths of the Great Recession, when the Fed slashed its rate to a record low near zero and kept it there until 2015. The economy is far healthier now despite risks to what's become the longest expansion on record.

In addition to its rate cut, the Fed also said it would stop shrinking its enormous bond portfolio in August, two months earlier than planned. This step is intended to avoid putting upward pressure on long-term borrowing rates. The Fed had aggressively bought Treasury and mortgage bonds after the financial crisis to drive down long-term rates but had been gradually shrinking its bal-

ance sheet as the economy strengthened. The Fed's action Wednesday was approved 8-2 vote, with two dissents: Esther George, president of the Fed's Kansas City regional bank, and Eric Rosengren, head of the Boston Fed, wanted to keep rates unchanged. It was the first time there have been as many as two dissents since December 2017 and suggested that Chairman Jerome Powell may face opposition if he seeks further rate cuts this year.

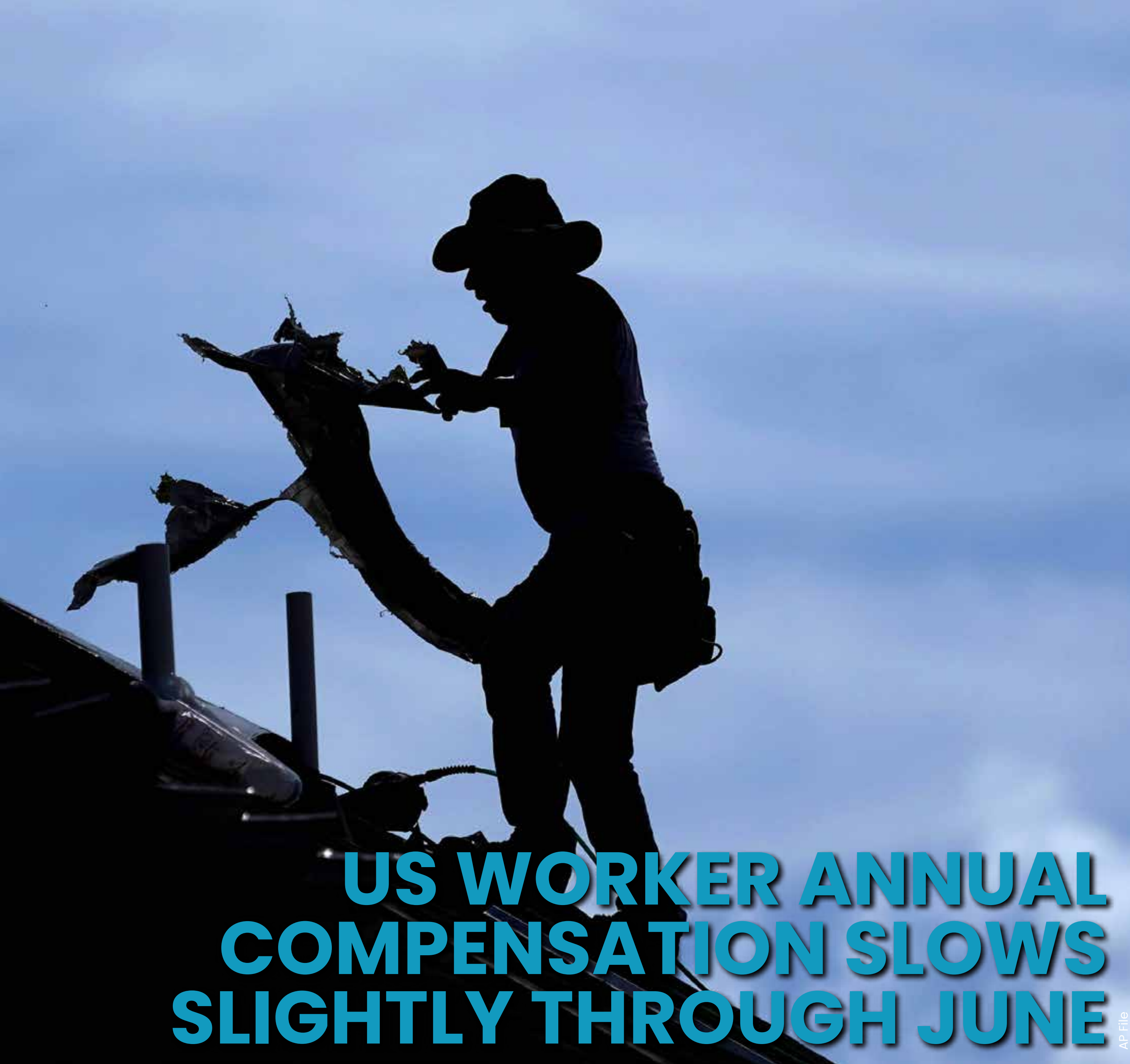
## Rising Economic Pressures

Compared with when the Fed previously cut rates more than a decade ago, the economy is now solid by most measures, if not spectacular. Consumers are spending. Unemployment is close to a half-century low. A recession hardly seems imminent. Yet the Fed under Powell has signaled that rising economic pressures, notably from Trump's trade wars and from weakness in Europe, Asia and elsewhere, have become cause for concern. So has an inflation rate that remains stubbornly below the Fed's 2 percent target level. So the Fed has decided that a rate cut now — and possibly one or more additional cuts to follow — could provide a kind of insurance policy against an economic downturn. The idea is that lowering its key short-term rate could encourage borrowing and spending and energize growth. Wall Street has welcomed that prospect with a stock market rally since the start of the year.

A key concern expressed by the Powell Fed is that Trump's pursuit of trade conflicts, with his punishing tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese and European goods, have escalated uncertainties for American companies. Some companies have put off plans to expand and invest. Powell has also expressed concern about undesirably low inflation. In delivering the Fed's semiannual monetary report to Congress this month, he noted that the central bank needs to prevent the economy from sinking into a low-inflation trap like the one...

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# US WORKER ANNUAL COMPENSATION SLOWS SLIGHTLY THROUGH JUNE

July 31, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The annual wages and benefits for U.S. workers rose in the second quarter at a slightly slower pace than the first, suggesting that the lowest unemployment levels in a half century have not triggered rapid gains in worker compensation.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that pay and benefits for all U.S. workers increased 2.7% in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, down from a 2.8% rise in the first quarter compared to a year ago. The 12-month peak so far in this expansion for wages and salaries was a 2.9% gain for the

period ending in December of last year.

*Related Story: US Economy Slowed to 2.1% Growth in Second Quarter*

The unemployment rate fell to a half century low of 3.6% in April and May and ticked up slightly to a still historically low 3.7% in June. The government will report the July unemployment rate on Friday and economists at JPMorgan are forecasting it will tick back down to 3.6%, a further sign that the current economic expansion, now the longest in U.S...

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# AMERICANS ARE GOBBLING UP PLANT-BASED BURGERS

July 31, 2019 | AP News

After months of shortages, Impossible Foods is partnering with a veteran food production company to ramp up supplies of its popular plant-based burgers. The Redwood City, Calif.-based startup is partnering with OSI Group, an original supplier to McDonald's and one of the world's largest food producers. OSI, based in Aurora, Ill., will immediately begin production of the Impossible Burger at one of its Midwest plants and expand to other facilities soon.

Impossible Foods has been struggling since April to meet demand from customers, including big chains like White Castle and Burger King. Over the last two months it doubled employment at its 68,000-square-foot Oakland, Calif., plant to 200 people, and it made a record volume of burgers in June. But that still wasn't enough. On Wednesday, the company confirmed that it plans to sell the Impossible Burger at...

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# PRESIDENTS HAVE MADE RACIST GESTURES THROUGHOUT US HISTORY

July 30, 2019 | AP News

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — When President Donald Trump drew widespread condemnation for describing a majority-black congressional district as a “rat and rodent infested mess” and for tweets targeting four Democratic congresswomen of color, it was not the first time a U.S. president attracted such attention.

*Related Story: Trump Steps up Attack on Black Lawmaker, Calls Him ‘Racist’*

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

Throughout American history, presidents have uttered comments, issued decisions and made public and private moves that critics said were racist, either at the time or in later generations. The presidents did so both before taking office...

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AP File

# WORLD

## ISRAEL APPROVES PALESTINIAN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

July 31, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Cabinet unanimously approved a proposal to build over 700 housing units for Palestinians in addition to 6,000 Israeli settlement housing units in the West Bank. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government advanced the proposal late Tuesday, according to an Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the closed-door meeting. A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas responded to the development by saying that the Palestinians don't need Israeli permits to build on land that Israel occupied.

The approval appeared timed to coincide with a visit by President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who is also the White House's chief Mideast envoy. Kushner kicked off a new regional tour in Jordan on Wednesday to promote the Trump administration's call for a \$50 billion economic support plan for the Palestinians.

The funds would accompany a Mideast peace proposal, which the administration has yet to release. He later flew to Israel and was expected to meet with Netanyahu later in the evening. The Israeli permits are for construction in what is known as Area C — the roughly 60% of the West Bank where Israel exercises full control and where most Jewish settlements are located. Netanyahu's government has approved the construction of tens of thousands of settler homes there, but permits for Palestinian construction are extremely rare.

**Israel Has Settled 700,000 Citizens in the Two Areas**  
Israeli officials declined to provide specifics to The Associated Press about what exactly the 700 approved Palestinian units entailed. Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in

the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek these areas as parts of a future state. Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal under international law and an impediment to a two-state solution to the conflict. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, Abbas' spokesman, said the Palestinians have the right to build on all territory occupied in 1967, "without needing a permit from anyone" — referring to Israel. "We will not give any legitimacy to the construction of any settlement," he also said.

**The Palestinians have rejected the Washington proposal out of hand and have cut off all contact with the Trump administration, saying its policies are unfairly biased toward Israel.**

*Related Story: Is B.D.S. Anti-Semitic? A Closer Look at the Boycott Israel Campaign*

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority has control of civilian affairs in Areas A and B, which include the West Bank's main Palestinian cities and towns. Since capturing the West Bank and east Jerusalem in 1967, Israel has settled 700,000 of its citizens in the two areas, which are considered occupied territory by most of the world. Touring new construction in the West Bank settlement of Efrat, south of Jerusalem, Netanyahu said Wednesday that "not a single settlement or a single settler will ever be uprooted."

**Palestinians Have Rejected the Washington Proposal**  
Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a religious nationalist in Netanyahu's government, wrote on Facebook that he backed the construction of Palestinian housing in Area C because "it prevents the establishment of a terrorist Arab state in the heart of the land" and asserts Israeli sovereignty over Area C. Peace Now, an Israeli organization opposed to West Bank settlements, said in a statement that the approval of 700...

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AP/David Keyton

# SAILING TO AMERICA: TEEN TO BRING HER CLIMATE ACTIVISM TO US

July 29, 2019 | AP News

STOCKHOLM — Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose social media-savvy brand of eco-activism has inspired tens of thousands of students in Europe to skip classes and protest for faster action against climate change, said Monday she plans to take her message to America the old-fashioned way: by boat.

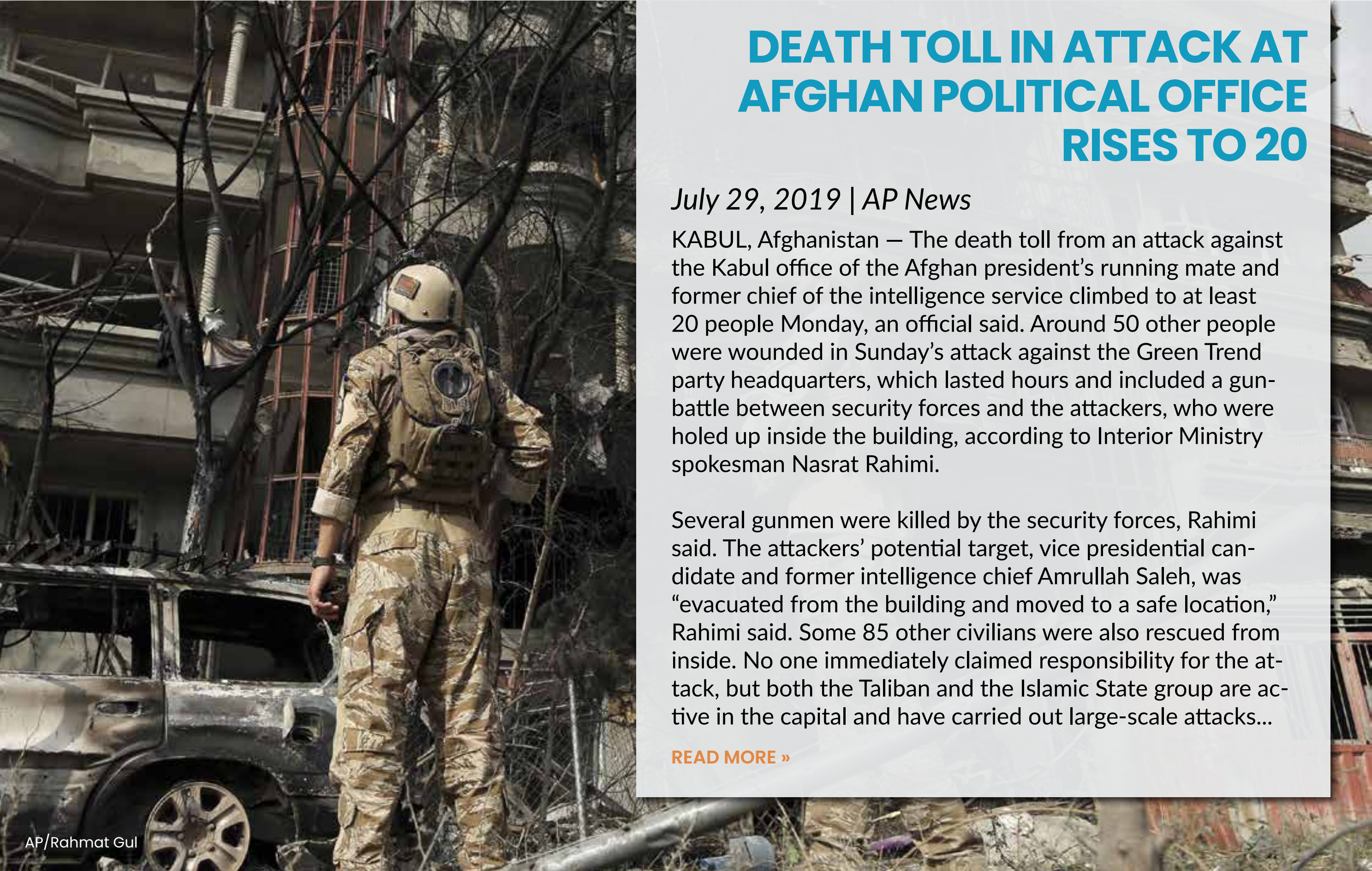
The 16-year-old tweeted that she'll sail across the Atlantic aboard a high-tech racing yacht, leaving Britain next month to attend U.N. climate summits in New York in September and Santiago, Chile, in December. Thunberg told The Associated Press ahead of her announcement that she spent

months trying to figure out how to travel to the U.S. without using planes, which she has long shunned because of their high greenhouse gas emissions.

*Related Story: Best Way to Fight Climate Change? Plant a Trillion Trees*

Cruise ships are also notoriously big polluters, while sailors rarely brave the Atlantic in August because of hurricane risks. "Taking a boat to North America is basically impossible," she said in an interview during her weekly "Fridays for Future" protest outside the Swedish parliament in Stockholm. "I...

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AP/Rahmat Gul

# DEATH TOLL IN ATTACK AT AFGHAN POLITICAL OFFICE RISES TO 20

July 29, 2019 | AP News

KABUL, Afghanistan — The death toll from an attack against the Kabul office of the Afghan president's running mate and former chief of the intelligence service climbed to at least 20 people Monday, an official said. Around 50 other people were wounded in Sunday's attack against the Green Trend party headquarters, which lasted hours and included a gun-battle between security forces and the attackers, who were holed up inside the building, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

Several gunmen were killed by the security forces, Rahimi said. The attackers' potential target, vice presidential candidate and former intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh, was "evacuated from the building and moved to a safe location," Rahimi said. Some 85 other civilians were also rescued from inside. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in the capital and have carried out large-scale attacks...

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# BORIS JOHNSON'S CONSERVATIVES FACE TEST IN SPECIAL ELECTION

August 1, 2019 | AP News




LONDON — After a first week in office that saw him booed in Scotland and berated in Belfast, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was facing his first electoral test on Thursday — a special election that could see his Conservative government's working majority in Parliament cut to just one vote.

Voters are electing a lawmaker in a by-election for the seat of Brecon and Radnorshire in Wales after Conservative incumbent Chris Davies was ousted. He was dumped by a petition of local electors after being convicted of a 700-pound (\$847) expenses fraud. Davies is running to regain the seat but faces a strong challenge from the Liberal Democrats' Jane Dodds in a vote overshadowed by Brexit. Polls close at 10 p.m. (2100 GMT), with results expected early Friday. In Britain's 2016 referendum on leaving the European Union, the Brecon constituency — a hilly, largely rural area about 175 miles (280 kilometers) west of London — voted by 52%...

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