



RESPECTS PAID TO AMERICA'S HEROES AT 9/11 MEMORIAL IN CLOVIS

September 11, 2019 | David Taub

Emotions flowed Wednesday morning in Clovis as about 500 people vowing to "never forget" paid their respects at the newly expanded California 9/11 Memorial. Situated at the business park that formerly housed Pelco, the 18th annual remem-

"Our goal is to not only honor but to educate and remember." — Memorial executive director Anna Borgeas brance featured for the first time replicas of the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, at 1/100 scale. The names of some of

those who perished — including Navy Lt. Commander Otis Vincent Tolbert from Lemoore — are etched on the replicas. Tolbert, who played football at Fresno State, died Sept. 11, 2001, at the Pentagon.

Memorial Board Raised \$350K for Improvements

The California 9/11 Memorial formally organized as a nonprofit group following last year's event. Then it worked on its goal of creating a larger memorial intended to better convey the historic significance of the terrorist attacks, particularly for younger Americans. The Pentagon replica includes a water feature. In addition, the new memorial will have a meditation garden, a monument for those perished aboard United Airlines Flight 93 at Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and a survivor tree, similar to a pear blossom that survived the Twin Tower attacks.

Display storyboards around the grounds help share the story of 9/11, including a timeline of how the tragedy unfolded. The final words of United passenger Todd Beamer — "let's roll" — became a national catchphrase. Beamer, a former Fresno State student, was one of several passengers who attempted to regain control of the jet from the high-jackers. The memorial's centerpiece remains the

existing 110-foot flagpole, representative of the 110 stories of the Twin Towers. It took only three months to complete the privately funded \$350,000 renovation. A collaborative group of engineers, landscapers, and architects helped design the memorial.

Educational Event

Anna Borgeas, executive director of the California 9/11 Memorial, says the project's aim is to preserve history. "Our goal is to not only honor but to educate and remember," Borgeas said. Wednesday morning's ceremony included the Fresno County Office of Education hosting its OneVoice event, a celebration of America. Students who won a local 9/11-themed art contest were honored, as well.

"Most of our students were not alive during the time of the 9/11 attacks. Through this contest, students can learn more about this defining time in our country's history and help keep the memory alive of those who died in these attacks," said Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Watch: Clovis 9/11 Memorial Expansion Project



September 9, 2019 | David Taub

Firestone Walker Brewing Company wants Fresno to know it loves having the city as its neighbor. David Walker — president of the company that crafts such brands as 805 and Firestone DBA — is mortified about a disparaging comment made by his brewery's communication director about Fresno over the weekend. "It's inaccurate. It's a dumb comment made on her own personal time," Walker said of the tweet Jemma Wilson made about Fresno.

Now, Walker wants to make things right. He's invited Fresno to come to his Paso Robles brewery for "Chill with Fresnans" tours and samples. He also said something in Fresno may be in the works. "Fresno is our neighbor, and we want to be neighborly," Walker said. Hours before he became embroiled in a Twitter fight with President Donald Trump (through his wife

Chrissy Teigen), Grammy-winning singer John Legend tweeted about his stop in Fresno. At Saturday's Fresno State football game, Legend posted that he was there to support his nephew, Minnesota wide receiver Michael Brown-Stephens. Expectedly, Legend's Fresno stop was retweeted hundreds of times, mostly positive on Golden Gopher football.

However, Wilson responded with "I'm so sorry you had to go to Fresno though" in a tweet that is no longer publicly accessible. The backlash on the social media platform came quickly. Many people were shocked that a communications director could make such a comment. "I'm well past caring about people taking easy, lazy shots at Fresno. This time I'm mostly amazed that as hard as Firestone markets here (even sponsoring our big music festival), their comms manager is so quick...

2018 WAS A RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR FRESNO COUNTY FARMERS

September 10, 2019 | GV Wire

Fresno County farmers and ranchers shattered the yearly record for the value of what they produced by nearly a billion dollars in 2018. Despite below-average surface water supplies, their crops and livestock totaled \$7.888 billion last year, according to the Fresno County Department of Agriculture's annual report released Tuesday. That marked a 12.23% increase from 2017 and was substantially higher than the previous record year of 2014 when total production hit \$7.069 billion.

"Fresno County's 2018 Crop and Livestock Report once again showcased why we are the food capital of the world," said Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO Ryan Jacobsen. "Our local farmers and ranchers displayed their resolve and resiliency in the tough economic and regulatory environment of California." In 2018, the county's Top 10 crops accounted for three-fourths of the total value. Almonds remained the leading ag commodity in Fresno County and accounted for nearly 15% of the total gross value of all crops. Grapes joined almonds as Fresno County's...

READ MORE »





MARIJUANA SEIZED FROM BUILDING CO-OWNED BY EX-CONGRESSMAN

September 12, 2019 | AP News

Turlock police have seized nearly 4,000 illegal marijuana plants inside a building co-owned by former U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham.

The Modesto Bee says police raided the industrial building Wednesday, arresting five people and seizing guns, pot, and other drugs. Denham belongs to the limited liability corporation that owns the building, according to his attorney, Michael Warda.

Owners Planned to Sell Building

Warda told the Bee the owners were planning to sell the building to a company that applied for a city permit to grow marijuana but he says the deal was contingent on permit approval and it's now terminated.

City Attorney Doug White says the city was still processing the company's application. Denham, a Republican, spent eight...

READ MORE »

4 GV Wire Weekly Digest READ MORE »



BILL GIVING PROTECTIONS TO 'GIG WORKERS' SENT TO GOVERNOR

Septmber 11, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — State lawmakers sent Gov. Gavin Newsom a bill Wednesday that would give new wage and benefit protections to workers at so-called gig economy companies such as Uber and Lyft where people pick up jobs on their own schedule. The 56-15 Assembly vote marked a victory for labor unions and a defeat for tech companies that vehemently oppose the

"This isn't perfect, but I think this goes a long way to protecting workers, legitimate small businesses, legitimate businesses that play by the rules, and we as taxpayers that have to clean up the mess when these businesses don't provide enough for their workers."

Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez proposal. Newsom has already said he supports it. If signed, the proposal could have national implications as politicians and businesses confront the changing nature of work in the so-called gig economy. In a rare injection of presidential politics into a state issue, most of the major Democratic presidential contenders urged

California lawmakers to pass the bill and have championed similar proposals in their campaigns. "This isn't perfect, but I think this goes a long way to protecting workers, legitimate small businesses, legitimate businesses that play by the rules, and we as taxpayers that have to clean up the mess when these businesses don't provide enough for their workers," said the author of the bill, Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, her voice shaking with emotion Wednesday.

Bill Passed Over Republican Opposition

Newsom is committed to continuing talks on other refinements even after he signs the bill, said governor's spokesman Nathan Click. The state Senate passed the measure with a 29-11 vote late Tuesday over strident Republican opposition. The bill has drawn staunch opposition from on-demand delivery and ridesharing companies that say it will effectively kill their business model. Drivers are divided on the issue. By picking which

industries can use independent contractors and which workers must be treated as employees, "we are playing a political Russian roulette with their lives, their livelihood and their labor," said Assemblyman Jim Patterson (R – Fresno).

Expected to Affect Wide Array of Businesses

The bill would put into law a California Supreme Court decision making it harder for companies to classify workers as independent contractors and instead would make them classify the workers as employees. While its impact on gig economy companies has drawn most of the attention, it would affect a wide array of industries. "Today these so-called gig companies present themselves as the so-called innovative future of tomorrow," Democratic Sen. Marie Elena Durazo of Los Angeles said as she presented the bill in the Assembly late Tuesday. "Let's be clear. There is nothing innovative about underpaying someone for their labor." The law lays out a test to decide if workers can be labeled as contractors.

They worker must be free from control of the company, perform work "outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business," and be engaged in an independently established trade, occupation or business of the same nature of the work they are performing. Uber, Lyft and meal delivery companies such as Doordash and Postmates still hope Newsom can negotiate a new proposal with unions that would create a separate set of rules for gig workers.

Companies Say Bill Limits Worker Flexibility

They have proposed a base hourly for workers, paying into a fund for benefits including accident coverage and allow for "sectoral bargaining," where workers across the industry could organize. Several of the companies have threatened to spend \$90 million on a ballot measure next year if they do not get their way...

READ MORE » GV Wire Weekly Digest 7



SAN FRANCISCO'S ICONIC CABLE CARS TO **SHUT DOWN FOR REPAIRS**

September 11, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco's iconic cable cars will stop running for 10 days starting Friday while they undergo the final repairs in a three-year restoration project of the gearboxes that propel the world-famous system up the city's notoriously steep hills. Shuttle buses will run along the three cable car routes where historic cars typically travel at a steady 9.5 miles (15 kilometers) per hour, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency said Wednesday.

The agency says it needs to get the manually operated cable cars off the streets to rehabilitate the gearboxes that power the system that started in the 1890s. The gearboxes spin the 30-foot (9-meter) tall wheels that pull the 12 miles (19 kilometers) of steel cables under San Francisco to lift the city's 40 cable cars up steep hills. The shutdown is sure to disappoint some of the tourists visiting the city next week. Long...

HENRICH

READ MORE »

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM GETS BILL CAPPING RENT INCREASES

& Market

September 12, 2019 | AP News

Van Ness Ave., Calii

SACRAMENTO - Lawmakers sent Gov. Gavin Newsom legislation Wednesday capping rent increases as the state struggles with an affordable housing and a homelessness crisis. The cap expires in 2030 and would not apply to housing built within the last 15 years and single-family homes not owned by corporations or trusts. Also exempt are duplexes where the owner lives in one unit.

"They sent me the strongest package in America. These anti-gouging and eviction protections will help families afford to keep a roof over their heads, and they will provide California with important new tools to combat our state's broader housing and affordability crisis," the governor said in a statement. Democrats posed the vote as a moral imperative to counter rent gouging and keep the poor and elderly in their homes. Democratic Assemblyman Richard Bloom of Santa Monica noted that lawmakers are separately considering legislation...

READ MORE »

September 12, 2019 | AP News

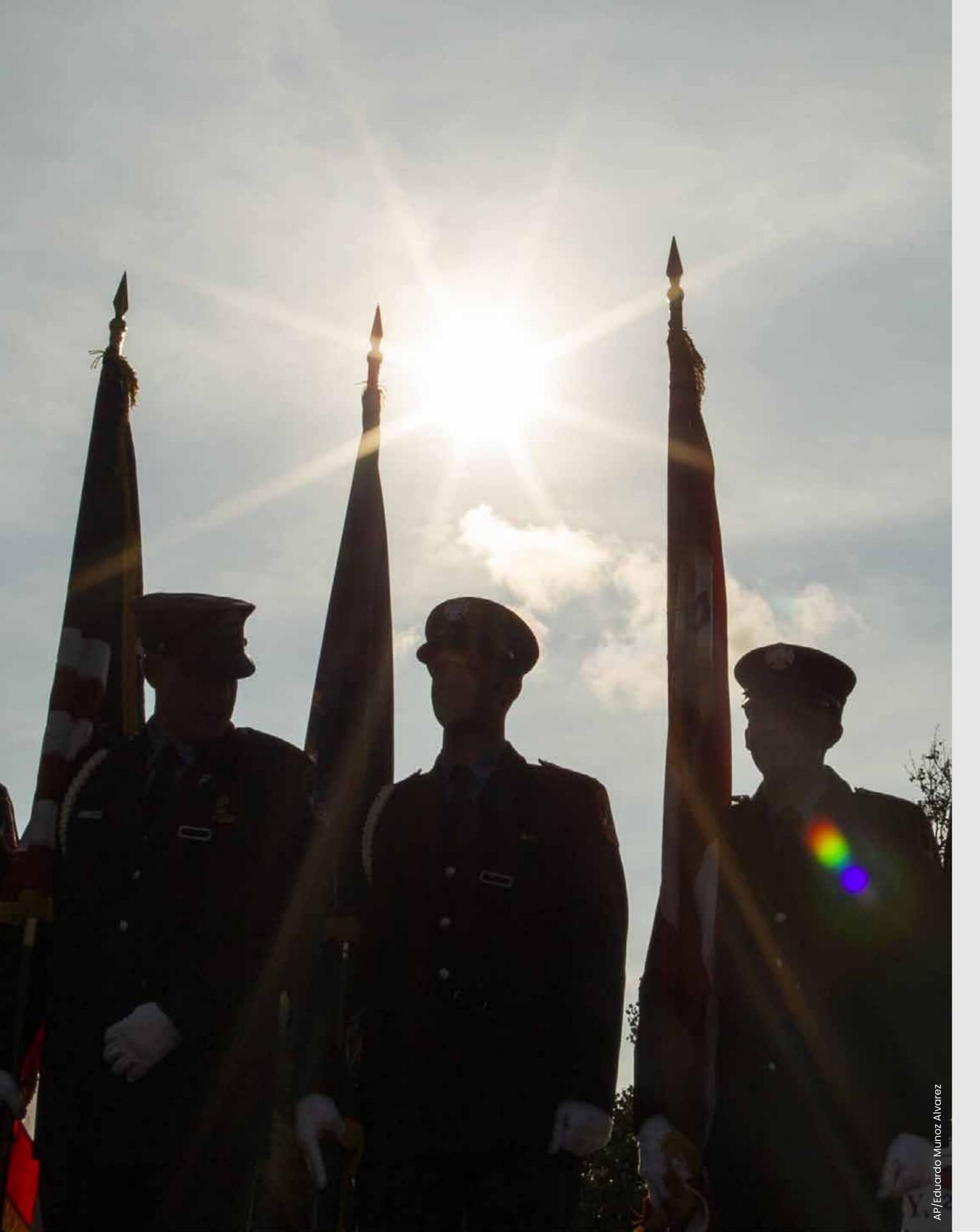
SACRAMENTO — The California Supreme Court refused Wednesday to block death penalty cases from proceeding during Gov. Gavin Newsom's moratorium on executions. The justices rejected defense attorneys' arguments that jurors can't realistically gauge the seriousness of imposing a death sentence if they think it's never actually going to be carried out.

Newsom halted executions in March for as long as he remains governor, but the death penalty remains on the books and courts have been proceeding on the assumption that executions may one day resume. Attorneys for two men sep-

arately facing trials in multiple slayings say it's unfair to ask jurors to consider what for now would be hypothetical sentences.

"In light of this paradigm shift, a California jury in a capital case cannot be expected to provide a fair and reasoned penalty phase determination free from speculation," defense attorney Robert Sanger wrote on behalf of his client, Cleamon Demone Johnson. He is awaiting trial on five counts of capital murder and one of attempted murder. An appeals court said they were "six casualties of the gang wars between the Bloods and the Crips in the early 1990s." California hasn't...

READ MORE » 8 GV Wire Weekly Digest



18 YEARS LATER, AMERICA VOWS TO 'NEVER FORGET' 9/11

September 11, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Americans commemorated 9/11 with solemn ceremonies and vows Wednesday to "never forget" 18 years after the deadliest terror attack on American soil. Victims' relatives assembled at ground zero, where the observance began with a moment of silence and the tolling of bells at 8:46 a.m. — the exact time a

"As long as the city will gift us this moment, I will be here. I want people to remember." — Margie Miller, who lost her husband, Joel hijacked plane slammed into the World Trade Center's north tower. "As long as the city will gift us this moment, I will be here," Margie Miller, who lost her husband, Joel, said at the

ceremony, which she attends every year. "I want people to remember." After so many years of anniversaries, she has come to know other victims' relatives and to appreciate being with them.

"There's smiles in between the tears that say we didn't do this journey on our own, that we were here for each other," she said. President Donald Trump laid a wreath at the Pentagon, telling victims' relatives there: "This is your anniversary of personal and permanent loss." "It's the day that has replayed in your memory a thousand times over. The last kiss. The last phone call. The last time hearing those precious words, 'I love you,'" the president said. Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to speak at the third crash site, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Effects Visible From Airport Security Checkpoints to Afghanistan

The nation is still grappling with the aftermath of 9/11. The effects are visible from airport security checkpoints to Afghanistan, where the post-9/11 U.S. invasion has become America's longest war. Earlier this week, Trump called off a secret meeting at Camp David with Taliban and Afghan government leaders and declared the peace talks "dead." As the Sept. 11 anni-

versary began in Afghanistan, a rocket exploded at the U.S. Embassy just after midnight. The political legacy of the 9/11 flowed into the ground zero ceremony, too. After reading victims' names, Nicholas Haros Jr. used his turn at the podium to tear into Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota over her recent "Some people did something" reference to 9/11. "Madam, objectively speaking, we know who and what was done," Haros, who lost his mother, Frances, said as he reminded the audience of the al-Qaida attackers. "Our constitutional freedoms were attacked, and our nation's founding on Judeo-Christian values was attacked. That's what 'some people' did. Got that now?" he said to applause. Omar,

one of the first Muslim women elected to Congress, has said she didn't intend to minimize what happened on Sept. 11, and she accused critics of taking her words out of context. Another rel-

The anniversary ceremonies center on remembering the nearly 3,000 people killed when hijacked planes slammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

ative at ground zero underscored that Muslims were among the dead. Zaheda Rahman called her uncle, Abul Chowdhury, a "proud Muslim-American man who lived his life with a carefree nature, a zeal for adventure and a tenacity which I emulate every single day." Haros' remarks weren't the only political message to draw applause at ground zero. So did Debra Epps' plea for tighter gun laws.

Remembering the Nearly 3,000 People Killed

"This country — in 18 years, you would think it had made changes to bring us to more peace. However, gun violence has gone rampant," said Epps, who lost her brother, Christopher. The anniversary ceremonies center on remembering the nearly 3,000 people killed when hijacked planes slammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania on Sept...

READ MORE »

GV Wire Weekly Digest 11



September 11, 2019 | AP News

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Gently lifting a wooden frame containing dozens of Italian honeybees, Vince Ylitalo seemed transfixed as he and several other veterans inspected the buzzing insects.

"This is really cool," he said, pointing to a bee with blobs of orange pollen on its hind legs. Ylitalo, who has battled PTSD after serving nearly 40 years in the military including two tours in Iraq, didn't seem bothered by the bees swarming around his head or crawling all over the entrance to their hive. Instead, the 57-year-old logistics expert said the sev-

eral hours spent working on the two hives each week at the Manchester VA Medical Center in New Hampshire was a respite of sorts from his anxiety and depression. Known as an apiary, the hives are located next to a lilac garden off a busy street.

"I'm in this program to help me get out of the thought process of all those problems that I have," said Ylitalo, who has struggled since leaving the Army in 2017. "It helps me think of something completely different. ... I'm just thinking about bees." Researchers are beginning to study whether...

AP-NORC POLL: MOST AMERICANS SEE WEATHER **DISASTERS WORSENING**

September 8, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Nearly three-quarters of Americans see weather disasters, like Hurricane Dorian, worsening and most of them blame global warming to some extent, a new poll finds. And scientists say they're right.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey shows 72% of Americans think catastrophic weather is more severe, while 4% see it as less nasty. About one-quarter say those disasters are about as extreme as they always were. Half of those who think weather disasters are worsening say it's mainly because of man-made climate change, with another 37% who think natural randomness and global warming are equally to blame. The poll was conducted in mid-August before Dorian formed, pummeled the Bahamas and put much of the U.S. East Coast on edge. "We continue to loot our environment and it causes adverse...

READ MORE »

450 MILES OF BORDER **WALL BY NEXT YEAR? IN ARIZONA, IT STARTS**

September 12, 2019 | AP News

YUMA, Ariz. — On a dirt road past rows of date trees, just feet from a dry section of Colorado River, a small construction crew is putting up a towering border wall that the government hopes will reduce — for good — the flow of immigrants who cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. Cicadas buzz and heavy equipment rumbles and beeps before it lowers 30-foot-tall sections of fence into the dirt. "Ahí está!" — "There it is!" — a Spanish-speaking member of the crew says as the men straighten the sections into the ground.

cotton fields that cars pass on the drive to the border. South

Nearby, workers pull dates from palm trees, not far from the of Yuma, Arizona, the tall brown bollards rising against a cloudless desert sky will replace much shorter barriers that are meant to keep out cars, but not people. This 5-mile section of fencing is where President Donald Trump's most salient campaign promise — to build a wall along the entire... **READ MORE »**

READ MORE » 12 GV Wire Weekly Digest



IRAN URGES US TO 'PUT WARMONGERS ASIDE' AFTER BOLTON FIRING

September 11, 2019 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president urged the U.S. on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers. Hassan Rouhani's re-

"Americans have to realize that warmongering and warmongers are not to their benefit. They should not only abandon warmongering but also abandon their maximum pressure policy."

— President Hassan Rouhani marks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser, a man routinely pilloried by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as part of a "B Team" that targeted Iran. Bolton had for years been critical

of Tehran and once promised before an Iranian exile group that they'd be celebrating the overthrow of Iran's government this year.

Related Story: Trump Fires National Security Adviser John Bolton

Bolton's departure also comes amid speculation about Trump potentially meeting Rouhani during the upcoming U.N. General Assembly this month in New York. Whether such a meeting materializes, however, remains in question, though Iranian comments Wednesday seemed to suggest Tehran would be willing to pin hostilities on the departing Bolton rather than Trump himself. Rouhani spoke after a Cabinet meeting Wednesday, a day that saw all major newspapers in Iran cover Bolton's departure. The pro-reform Shargh daily newspaper had one large headline that read: "Bolton: A scapegoat for Iran?" "Americans have to realize that warmongering and warmongers are not to their benefit," the Iranian president said in televised remarks. "They should not only abandon warmongering but also abandon their maximum pressure policy." Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that

Bolton's dismissal may help the U.S. have a "less biased" attitude toward Iran.

Bolton Was Critical of Any Potential Talks Between Trump and Leaders of Iran

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal U.S. issue, Rabiei called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran." For his part, Zarif again used Twitter to write about what he calls the #B_Team, which included Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, all hawks on Iran. Zarif said "the world — minus 3 or 2 panicked cohorts — was breathing a sigh of relief" after Bolton's ouster. "Thirst for war — maximum pressure — should go with the warmonger-in-chief," Zarif wrote. Hard-liners, however, urged caution. Gen. Mohsen Rezaee, a commander in the powerful Revolutionary Guard and its former chief, said in a tweet: "We will not be deceived by the sacrificing of Bolton."

Ali Shamkhani, a top Iranian security official and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said Bolton's exit has "no impact" on how Tehran views U.S. policy. He said what matters to Iran is U.S. "compliance with international commitments as well as lifting cruel and illegal sanctions," the semi-official Fars news agency

reported Wednesday.
Bolton was critical
of any potential talks
between Trump and
leaders of Iran and
had persuaded Trump
to keep U.S. forces in

"He ruined the credibility of the United States and destroyed the peace process." — Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

Syria to counter the Iranian influence in the region. Last year, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal that lifted sanction on Iran in exchange for caps on Iran's nuclear program. The U.S....

READ MORE »

GV Wire Weekly Digest 15



September 11, 2019 | AP News

16 GV Wire Weekly Digest

FRANKFURT, Germany — The European Central Bank appears to be preparing a new shot of stimulus to prop up the economy, amid broader questions about whether central banks like the ECB and the U.S. Federal Reserve can re-energize global growth on their own.

Analysts say the bank is likely to cut a key interest rate further below zero on Thursday and could take other steps, including restarting a bond-buying program to pump newly created money into the economy. That could all help the economy by making money cheaper to borrow, a policy that the U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly been push-

ing the Fed to emulate. Yet some officials question how much good another large blast of stimulus will do. That has raised uncertainty about exactly how big a stimulus package will be decided at the meeting of the bank's 25-member governing council, setting up President Mario Draghi's next-to-last meeting as a dramatic finale to his eight-year term as head of the monetary authority for the 19 countries that use the euro.

Draghi gave clear hints in a speech in June and after the bank's last meeting July 25 that more action was on the way to counter a slowdown in economic growth blamed in large...

READ MORE »



ISRAELI PM VOWS TO BEGIN ANNEXING WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

September 10, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Tuesday to annex the heart of the West Bank if he wins re-election next week, a move that could inflame the Middle East and extinguish any remaining Palestinian hope of establishing a separate state. Arab leaders angrily condemned Netanyahu's remarks, and a U.N. spokesman warned the step would be "devastating" to the prospects for a two-state solution.

Netanyahu said he would extend Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley — an area seen as the breadbasket of any Palestinian state — shortly after forming a new government and would move later to annex other Jewish settlements. Such action would swallow up most of the West Bank territory sought by the Palestinians, leaving them with little more than isolated enclaves. Netanyahu said it was important to act as President Donald Trump prepares to unveil his Mideast peace plan after the Sept. 17 election. "This is a historic...

READ MORE »

UK OPPOSITION RAGES AT JOHNSON AFTER HE SUSPENDS PARLIAMENT

September 10, 2019 | AP News

LONDON — Opposition politicians raged Tuesday at Prime Minister Boris Johnson's five-week suspension of Parliament before the deadline for Brexit, which drew angry and unprecedented protests in the House of Commons. Parliament has been prorogued — or suspended — at the government's request until Oct. 14, a drastic move that gives Johnson a respite from rebellious lawmakers as he plots his next move as he tries to lead Britain out of the European Union by Oct. 31.

Opposition lawmakers chanted "Shame on you" and held up signs reading "Silenced" as Parliament was formally shut down in the early hours of Tuesday morning. As legislators implored House of Commons Speaker John Bercow not to comply, he expressed his displeasure, saying "this is not a standard or normal prorogation." "It's one of the longest for decades and it represents ... an act of executive fiat," Bercow said. The suspension came after lawmakers inflicted a...

READ MORE »



