



WEEKLY DIGEST
OCTOBER 4, 2019

**COSTA TALKS TRUMP,
IMPEACHMENT, AND THE
DEM CONTENDERS »**

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW
OVERHAULING CHARTER SCHOOLS »**

**BERNIE SANDERS HAS HEART
PROCEDURE, CANCELS
CAMPAIGN EVENTS »**



GV Wire/Jahz Tejo

COSTA TALKS TRUMP, IMPEACHMENT, AND THE DEM CONTENDERS

October 2, 2019 | Bill McEwen

As Washington Post reporter **Robert Costa** sees it, members of Congress — Democrats and Republicans alike — are on the same mission during their recess. With House Speaker Nancy Pelosi **advancing an impeachment inquiry** into President Donald

"It's an amazing time, not only to be an American but to be a voter in California." — Washington Post reporter Robert Costa

Trump, every member is back home taking the pulse of their voters. "Democratic congressmen and women are really going to

have their antenna up to figure out do the voters really want (impeachment)?" Costa said Tuesday night at the Save Mart Center.

"I have been roaming the Senate hallways for the last week ... trying to figure out will the Republican Party crack? Let me tell you as a reporter, what I report publicly and what they say publicly is different than the kicking legs beneath the surface. There is tension in the GOP right now. They know President Trump has all the political capital, and they're looking ahead to 2020, and they don't want to have a primary challenge on the right. ... They're wondering how they can really defend him if he continues to underscore that nothing was wrong with his call to (Ukrainian President Volodymyr) Zelensky." Costa addressed the impeachment inquiry during his President's Lecture Series talk. The series, which began four years ago, features national figures invited by Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro. It was the third appearance for Costa, who has developed a close relationship with Fresno State journalism students.

Impeachment Inquiry Puts Spotlight on California

As the impeachment fight moves ahead, "California is going to be in the spotlight," said Costa, who is the moderator for "Washington Week" on PBS.

[READ MORE »](#)

"It's an amazing time, not only to be an American but to be a voter in California. "The congressman from this area (Devin Nunes) is the president's chief spokesman on some of these really thorny impeachment issues.

You have Kevin McCarthy from Bakersfield, the House minority leader, working right there with President Trump. "And you have Adam Schiff, the chairman of Intelligence. He's the point person for Speaker Pelosi. Another Californian, Eric Swalwell, is (on Intelligence), and Speaker Pelosi, of course. To have the leaders of both parties in the House impeachment (puts) California at the center." Costa also offered his analysis on the biggest names in Washington, D.C., and the 2020 presidential election:

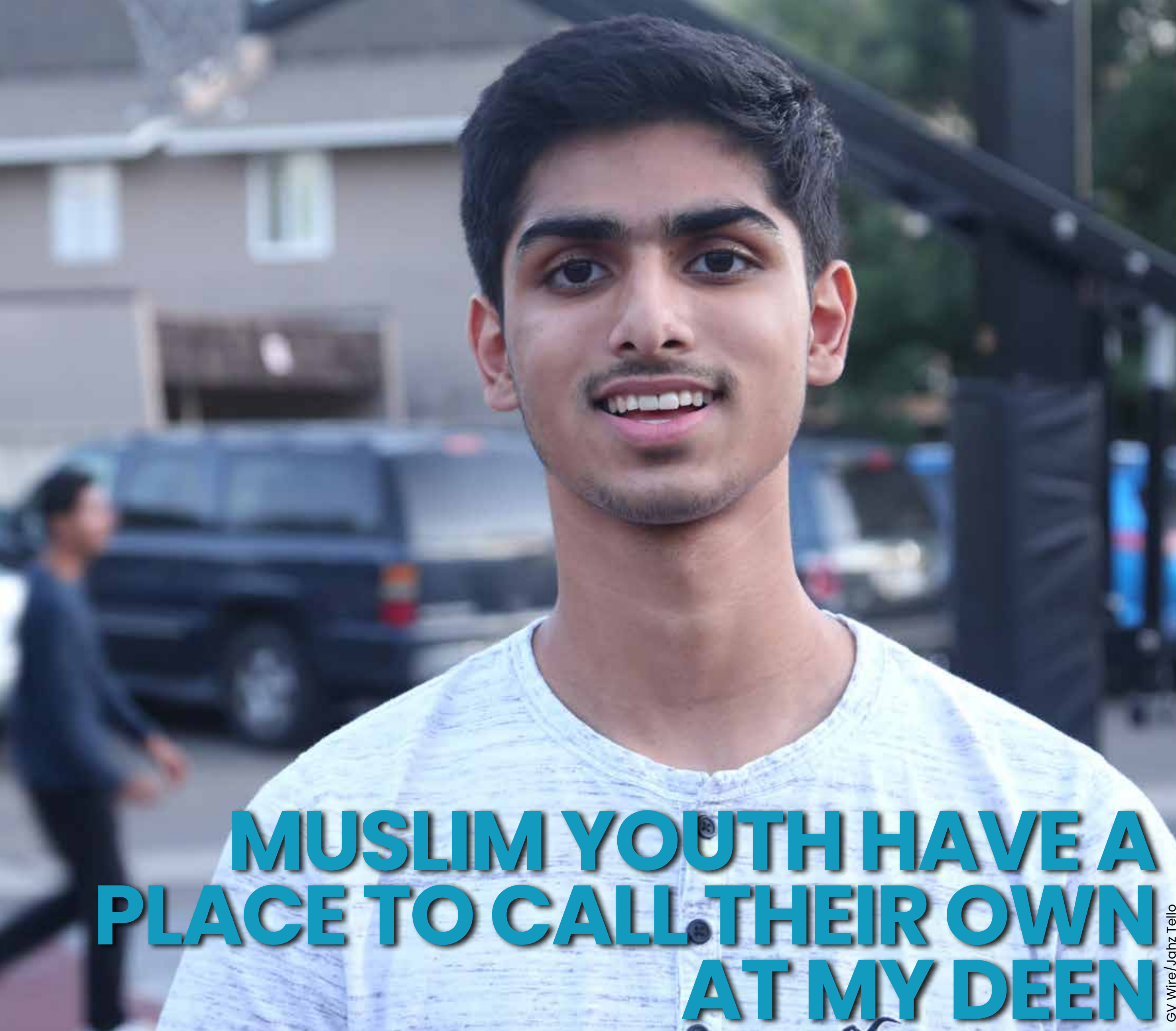
President Trump

"You have President Trump fighting for his political life. It is political war. And, for people who think President Trump is going to maybe cower here, you don't know President Trump. This is the same Trump I've always covered and he's telling people inside the White House, fight, fight, fight!"

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

"Mitch McConnell is the person to watch because he has had such a transactional relationship with President Trump. The federal judiciary has been overhauled by McConnell to such an extent that it's historic. We've never seen more conservative judges installed than through McConnell.

But if you look at (his) career, go back to '73, '74, he was the chairman of the Republican Party in the Louisville area. He broke, in a sense, from (President Richard) Nixon. Not in a full dramatic way, but he told the Nixon White House during Watergate to clean house. Will he do the same with President...



MUSLIM YOUTH HAVE A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN AT MY DEEN

GV Wire/Jahz Tello

October 2, 2019 | Nancy Price

Eighteen-year-old Salman Khan is outside shooting hoops with a handful of friends, some of them his buddies since elementary school. Like Khan, the other players are Muslim young men; their basketball “court” is in a parking lot behind **My Deen** (it’s Arabic for “My Faith”), a nonprofit organization founded over a decade ago to give Muslim children and teens a place to gather in the Fresno area.

Khan, a Clovis North High School graduate who just started his freshman year at Cal Poly Pomona and plans to major in biomedical engineering, says he’s been coming to My Deen since he was a sixth-grader. It’s been an important part of his life. “I definitely felt a sense of security, and more than that a sense of unity because going to public school, there isn’t a lot of Muslim youth that you can connect with,” says Khan, who

previously served on the Muslim Youth Board. “But going here to meet all these Muslim youth being united and having one common goal, having the same values, is really, really neat and really helped me.”

Muslim Community Evolves

My Deen was founded in 2007 as an organization for youth with a mission statement of “building character, fostering unity, and serving humanity.” Community outreach was important, as were the classes that taught Muslim youngsters about their faith and helped them develop their own community. Over time, My Deen has become more of a family-oriented organization, but it hasn’t lost sight of its original mission. Organizations like My Deen are doing more than giving Muslim youngsters and their families a place where children can...

[READ MORE »](#)

SALE OF LONG-VACANT UMC LAUDED AS A BIG WIN FOR FRESNO

October 2, 2019 | David Taub

Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig says the sale of the county-owned University Medical Center campus is a win-win-win. “It’s a win for the city of Fresno, a win for the residents not only of the city but also the county, and the county government — it’s a win for us. By having the ability to offload this property. It relieves a burden for us having to pay for systems that are antiquated,” Magsig said. Housing advocates are also optimistic that the deal will increase the supply of much-needed affordable housing in Fresno.

Supervisors Approve Sale

The supervisors voted 5-0 on Sept. 24 to sell the mostly-vacant facility to a local developer for \$4 million. In turn, **CMG Construction Management, Inc.** of Fresno promised to use the facility at Cedar Avenue and Kings Canyon Road for housing, with 40% of the units designated as affordable. The hospital closed in 2007, but the county uses the other buildings as office space. The sale for \$4 million is scheduled to close escrow in...

[READ MORE »](#)



GV Wire/Jahz Tello

LOCAL SIKHS HOLD VIGIL FOR SLAIN TEXAS POLICE OFFICER

October 2, 2019 | GV Wire

The slaying of a trailblazing Houston area deputy sheriff last week has prompted renewed calls of tolerance and justice from the Fresno Sikh community. Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal was fatally shot Friday while conducting a daytime traffic stop. He was among the first police officers in the country **to wear a traditional Sikh turban** while on duty.

“Ambush-Style” Slaying

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales described the shooting of Dhaliwal as an “ambush-style” attack. The killing of the trailblazing deputy prompted a candlelight vigil Tuesday night in front of the Fresno Police Officers Memorial in Courthouse Park. “On behalf of the Fresno community, we want to let Deputy Dhaliwal’s family know that we are here for them and we have them in our thoughts and prayers,” said vigil participant Gurjant Singh. While the alleged killer is in custody, the motive for the shooting remains under investigation. But local...

[READ MORE »](#)



GV Wire/Jahz Tello



AP File

STATE

NEWSOM SIGNS LAW OVERHAULING CHARTER SCHOOLS

October 3, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law overhauling California's charter schools Thursday in a move seen as a compromise between teachers' unions and charter school supporters, who have long argued over how charter schools impact public education. Charter schools are privately-run or nonprofit public schools that operate by different rules than traditional public schools. Anyone can apply to create a charter school, and state law requires school districts to OK them if they meet certain basic requirements

Charter schools are privately-run or nonprofit public schools that operate by different rules than traditional public schools. Anyone can apply to create a charter school, and state law requires school districts to OK them if they meet certain basic requirements.

The law gives school districts more authority to choose which charter schools are approved within district boundaries. It would allow the districts to consider factors including how new charter schools would impact communities and existing schools within districts. And it requires districts to close charter schools if they are not providing students with a good education or if there are concerns with the finances of charter schools or how they are run.

Charter School Enrollment Has More Than Doubled Over the Last Decade

"This is historic legislation that marks a new chapter of collaboration between charter and traditional schools in California," Newsom said in a statement. Charter school enrollment has more than doubled over the last decade in California. The state now has more than 1,300 charter schools that serve about 10% of the state's more than 6.2 million public school students, according to the California Department of Education.

More than 60% of the state's charter schools are in Los

Angeles County, San Diego County and the nine counties in the Bay Area. A legislative analysis of the bill that led to the charter school law said that most charter school growth has been in areas where students come from low-income families.

More than 60% of the state's charter schools are in Los Angeles County, San Diego County and the nine counties in the Bay Area.

Critics have often blamed the proliferation of charter schools for putting pressure on local education budgets. But supporters have said the schools are a needed alternative for students seeking more than what traditional schools offer.



FIVE CONVICTED OF AIDING ACCUSED KILLER OF POLICE CPL. RONIL SINGH

October 1, 2019 | GV Wire

A federal jury in Fresno convicted two illegal immigrants Monday of attempting to help the accused killer of Newman Police Cpl. Ronil Singh flee to Mexico, according to U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott. Paulo Virgen Mendoza, a Mexican national living illegally in Newman, **allegedly killed Singh during a traffic stop on Dec. 26 of last year.** President Donald Trump has cited **Singh's killing** as an example of why the United States should build a wall along its southern border with Mexico.

Virgen Mendoza's brother, Conrado Virgen Mendoza, 34, an illegal immigrant from Colima, Mexico, residing in Chowchil-

la; and a friend, Erik Quiroz Razo, 28, an illegal immigrant from Michoacán, Mexico, residing in Merced, were found guilty of conspiring to aid and abet Virgen Mendoza's flight to avoid prosecution for murder.

Conrado Virgen Mendoza and Razo are scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dale A. Drozd on Jan. 13, 2020. They face a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, three other illegal immigrants who tried to smuggle Virgen Mendoza out of California and into Mexico have been sentenced after pleading guilty to federal charges. Virgen Mendoza's girlfriend, Ana Leydi Cervantes Sanchez...

[READ MORE »](#)



Shutterstock

GOP ATTORNEY SUES CALIFORNIA FOR ALLEGED VOTER VIOLATIONS

October 2, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — A Republican lawyer who has waged lawsuits on behalf of the Trump administration sued the state of California and Department of Motor Vehicles Tuesday, saying the agency is failing to verify citizenship for voter registration. A federal lawsuit filed by attorney Harmeet Dhillon comes after a state audit found the California DMV's "motor voter" program that started last year was riddled with technical problems that led to hundreds of thousands of discrepancies in voter registrations. Dhillon said that audit helped bring issues raised in her lawsuit to light.

The lawsuit alleges that Secretary of State Alex Padilla and the DMV director Steve Gordon have violated the National Voter Registration Act and that Padilla has "forsaken his duty to ensure that non-citizens" are kept off voter rolls. She said the lawsuit does not allege voter fraud but that the state is neglecting one of its duties as outlined by the voter act...

[READ MORE »](#)

JUUL STOPS FUNDING SAN FRANCISCO VAPING MEASURE

October 1, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Juul Labs Inc. announced Monday that it will stop supporting a ballot measure to overturn an anti-vaping law in San Francisco, effectively killing the campaign. The nation's largest maker of e-cigarettes said it will end its support for Proposition C after donating nearly \$19 million. It was virtually the only financial backer of the measure.

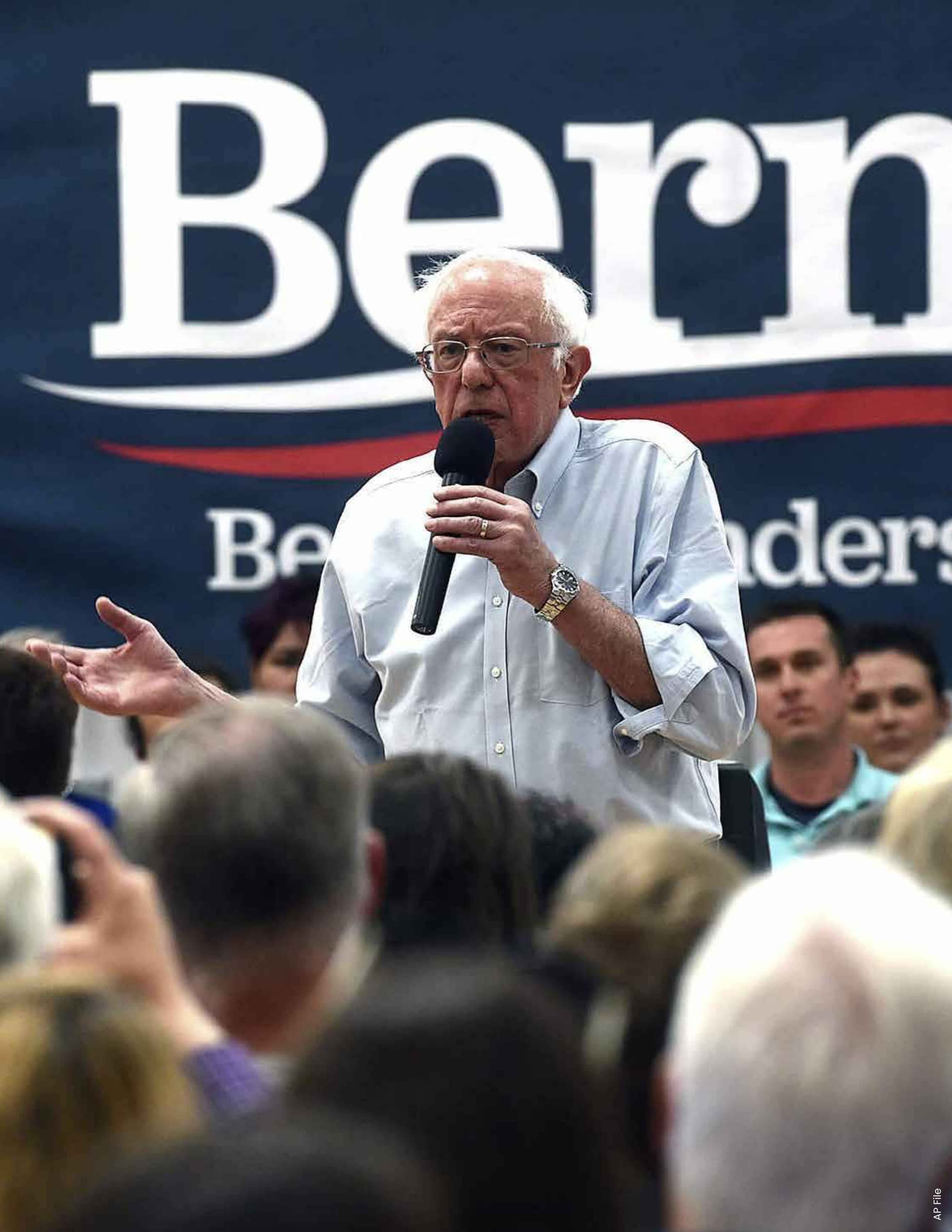
Related Story: Juul Stops Advertising E-Cigarettes, Replaces CEO

"Based on that news, we have made the decision not to continue on with the campaign," Yes on C said in a statement. However, the proposition will still appear on the November ballot. Proposition C would have allowed the sale of vape products to adults, partially overturning the city's June ordinance that as of next year would ban sales of e-cigarettes and vape products not reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The move was part of a broad review of...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP File



BERNIE SANDERS HAS PROCEDURE, CANCELS CAMPAIGN EVENTS

October 2, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders' campaign says the Democratic presidential candidate has had a heart procedure for a blocked artery. The Vermont senator is canceling events and appearances "until further notice." Sanders was scheduled to stop at Fresno City College on Thursday. The 78-year-old Sanders was in Las Vegas when, according to a campaign statement, he experienced chest discomfort during a campaign event Tuesday and sought medical evaluation. Two stents were "successfully inserted" and that Sanders "is conversing and in good spirits," according to the campaign.

The 78-year-old Sanders experienced chest discomfort during an event Tuesday and sought medical evaluation, according to a campaign statement. It said two stents were "successfully inserted" and that Sanders "is conversing and in good spirits."

Sanders' wife, Jane O'Meara Sanders, was en route to Las Vegas on Wednesday and said in an email to The Associated Press that her husband was "doing really well." Tick Segerblom, a Clark County, Nevada, commissioner who was at Sanders' fundraiser Tuesday said Sanders seemed fine at the time. "He spoke well. He jumped up on the stage. There was just nothing visible," Segerblom said.

The Democratic field's oldest candidate, Sanders sometimes jokingly refers to his age at town halls and other events, especially when interacting with younger participants. His aides have tried to project him as a candidate with energy levels that surpassed his 2016 presidential campaign.

He is one of three candidates over age 70 in the Democratic primary, which has spurred debate over whether the party should rally behind a new generation of political leaders, and President Donald Trump is 73. Sanders' health issue is certain to revive that discussion in the

weeks before the next presidential debate this month.

The Health Issue Comes as Sanders' Campaign Has Been Trying to Turn a Corner

Sanders' campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, was on a telephone call with supporters Tuesday night but didn't mention any health concerns about the candidate. Shakir said the "state of the campaign is strong" and he played up Sanders' strong fundraising total for the third quarter. The Vermont Senator's campaign raised \$25 million, the highest among the candidates who have reported so far, and scheduled its first television ads in Iowa. On Wednesday, it suspended those spots, too.

Sanders had been among 10 Democratic candidates scheduled to appear later Wednesday at a forum on gun control in Las Vegas. He recently canceled some appearances in South Carolina because he lost his voice. The campaign said at the time he felt fine. During the first debate in June, Sanders heatedly defended his 76-year-old rival, Joe Biden, after California Rep. Eric Swalwell, 38, said it was time to step aside for a new generation. Sanders told reporters later the question smacked of "ageism." "The issue is, who has the guts to take on Wall Street, to take on the fossil fuel industry, to take on the big money interests who have unbelievable influence over the economic and political life of this country?" Sanders said on the stage that night.

The health issue comes as Sanders' campaign has been trying to turn a corner after a summer that saw him eclipsed as the premier liberal in the field by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 70.

The health issue comes as Sanders' campaign has been trying to turn a corner after a summer that saw him eclipsed as the premier liberal in the field by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 70. Sanders has dropped well behind Warren and Biden in most polls and...

[READ MORE »](#)



ROILING IMPEACHMENT FUROR, TRUMP URGES CHINA TO PROBE BIDENS

AP/Andrew Harnik

October 3, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Ensnarled in an impeachment investigation over his request for Ukraine to investigate a chief political rival, President Donald Trump on Thursday called on another nation to probe former Vice President Joe Biden: China.

“China should start an investigation into the Bidens,” Trump said in remarks to reporters outside the White House. Trump said he hadn’t directly asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to investigate Biden and his son Hunter but said it’s “certainly something we could start thinking about.” Trump and per-

sonal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have also tried to raise suspicions about Hunter Biden’s business dealings in China, leaning on the writings of conservative author Peter Schweizer. But there is no evidence that the former vice president benefited financially from his son’s business relationships.

Trump’s requests for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on Biden, as well as Giuliani’s conduct, are at the center of an intelligence community whistleblower complaint that sparked the House Democratic impeachment probe last week. The president’s reference to China came...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP Pool

SLAIN MAN’S BROTHER HUGS DALLAS COP AFTER SHE GETS 10 YEARS

October 3, 2019 | AP News

DALLAS — A white Dallas police officer who said she mistook a neighbor’s apartment for her own and fatally shot him in his living room was sentenced Wednesday to a decade in prison in a stunning courtroom scene that included the dead man’s brother and the black judge embracing the sobbing officer.

People outside of the courtroom reacted angrily to the sentence given to Amber Guyger in the death of Botham Jean, believing it was too lenient. But Jean’s brother addressed her directly from the witness stand. Brandt Jean told Guyger that his brother would have wanted her to turn her life over to Christ, and that if she asks God for forgiveness, she will get it. “I love you as a person. I don’t wish anything bad on you,” he said to the 31-year-old Guyger, before asking the judge, “I don’t know if this is possible, but can I give her a hug?”...

[READ MORE »](#)

TRUMP TWEET OF NICKELBACK VIDEO AIMED AT BIDEN REMOVED

October 3, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Twitter has removed a tweet from President Donald Trump that featured an edited Nickelback music video clip that took aim at former Vice President Joe Biden. The post was removed because of a copyright complaint. It featured a doctored version of the band’s 2005 music video “Photograph,” showing singer Chad Kroeger holding a photo of Biden, his son, a Ukrainian gas executive and another man.

Trump’s tweet came as the president has repeatedly criticized Democrats for launching an impeachment inquiry into his telephone call with Ukraine’s president in which Trump pressed for an investigation of his Democratic rival Biden and his son. A Twitter spokeswoman said Thursday the company responded “to valid copyright complaints sent to us by a copyright owner or their authorized representatives.” Nickelback representatives have not returned messages seeking...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP File



AP File

WORLD

NETANYAHU'S LEGAL SAGA REACHES CRITICAL STAGE IN ISRAEL

October 2, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — Prosecutors began a pre-indictment hearing for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday, opening a critical stage in a lengthy legal saga that threatens to end the career of the long-serving Israeli leader and has paralyzed the country's political system.

"We are going to present not only the evidence everyone is aware of but also new evidence. We are sure that once we present our findings there will be no choice but to close the case." — Netanyahu attorney Amit Haddad

Netanyahu's lawyers sat down with Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit for over 10 hours of discussions that will determine whether criminal charges will be pressed against the prime minister in a series of corruption cases. If formal

charges are filed, Netanyahu, who denies any wrongdoing, could come under heavy pressure to step down. Mandelblit already has recommended that Netanyahu be indicted on fraud, breach of trust and bribery charges in three cases. Under Israeli law, Netanyahu is entitled to plead his case at a hearing in a last-ditch attempt to persuade prosecutors to drop their case.

Netanyahu did not appear at Wednesday's hearing, sending instead a high-powered 10-member legal team. As they entered the Israeli Justice Ministry, his lawyers ruled out a plea bargain and expressed confidence that the charges would be dropped. "We are going to present not only the evidence everyone is aware of but also new evidence. We are sure that once we present our findings there will be no choice but to close the case," Netanyahu attorney Amit Haddad said. Throughout the day, Netanyahu took to social media to make the case for his innocence, defiantly pledging that the case against him would "fall apart."

Netanyahu Working to Stay on as Prime Minister

Netanyahu's legal woes lie at the heart of a deadlock that has left the country with a caretaker government.

In national elections last month, neither Netanyahu nor his chief challenger, Benny Gantz, secured the required parliamentary majority to form a new government. Both men have expressed support for a unity government as a way out of the deadlock. But they remain far apart on who should lead it and what smaller parties would join them. Gantz and his centrist Blue and White Party have so far rejected a partnership with Netanyahu, citing his legal woes. A failure to reach a deal could trigger an unprecedented third election in less than a year.

Netanyahu is desperate to stay on as prime minister, a post he can use as a pulpit as he tries to fend off any charges. Israeli law requires Cabinet ministers to step down if charged with a crime. But the law is vague for sitting prime ministers, meaning he could theoretically remain in the post if he is indicted, though he would likely face calls to step aside. For this reason, his opponents accuse him of stalling in unity talks and pushing for another election, which would allow Netanyahu to remain as prime minister for at least another three months. Late Tuesday, Gantz abruptly called off a planned meeting with Netanyahu. "One man is holding the country hostage," said Yair Lapid, a top Blue and White leader. "One man is doing everything to lead us to elections: Benjamin Netanyahu." The allegations against Netanyahu include suspicions that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars of

"One man is holding the country hostage. One man is doing everything to lead us to elections: Benjamin Netanyahu." — Yair Lapid, a Blue and White leader

champagne and cigars from billionaire friends, offered to trade favors with a newspaper publisher and used his influence to help a wealthy telecom magnate in exchange for favorable coverage on a popular news site. Netanyahu has called the allegations part of a witch hunt, lashing out against the media, police, prosecutors and the justice system. In last month's election, he...

[READ MORE »](#)



DUTCH INVENTOR SAYS HIS OCEAN CLEANING BOOM IS WORKING

The Ocean Cleanup via AP

October 2, 2019 | AP News

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — After a series of setbacks, a system for catching plastic floating in the Pacific between California and Hawaii is now working, its Dutch inventor said Wednesday. Boyan Slat, a university dropout who founded The Ocean Cleanup nonprofit, announced that the floating boom is skimming up waste ranging in size from a discarded net and a car wheel complete with tire to chips of plastic measuring just 1 millimeter.

The results are promising enough to begin designing a second system to send to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an area of floating plastic trash twice the size of Texas, Slat said.

But he sounded a note of caution, saying “if the journey to this point taught us anything it is that it’s definitely not going to be easy.”

The floating boom with a tapered 10-foot-deep screen is intended to act like a coastline, trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in the patch while allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it. After it was towed out to sea last year, the barrier did not catch any trash in its first weeks of operation because it was moving at the same speed as the plastic. That problem was overcome by using an underwater parachute anchor to...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP/Mohammad Anwar Danishyar

TALIBAN SEND HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO ISLAMABAD

October 2, 2019 | AP News

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban announced Wednesday they are sending a high-level delegation to Pakistan’s capital as part of a tour that has included Russia, China and Iran in a push to resurrect an Afghanistan peace deal with Washington that seemed imminent just a month ago. Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Taliban and head of their political office in Qatar, will lead the 11-member delegation during talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

Zalmay Khalilzad, Washington’s special peace envoy, is also in the Pakistani capital for “consultations” with the Pakistani leadership, a U.S. official said. He spent the last year negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban, which seemed imminent until Sept. 7 when U.S. President Donald Trump declared the deal “dead.” The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to...

[READ MORE »](#)

BORIS JOHNSON’S CONCILIATORY TONE ON BREXIT FALLS FLAT ON EU

October 3, 2019 | AP News

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought Thursday to build a coalition at home to back his new Brexit approach even as key European leaders declared that the measures he just proposed fall far short of the concessions needed to forge a deal.

Johnson offered a strikingly more conciliatory tone Thursday than in his previous tempestuous appearances in the House of Commons, arguing that the changes his government just offered on regulating trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit represented a significant compromise. Johnson thinks the concessions should resolve the concerns that prompted British lawmakers to reject the previous Brexit deal three times.

“We have made genuine effort to bridge the chasm, to reconcile the apparently irreconcilable and to go the extra mile...

[READ MORE »](#)



AP/Kirsty Wigglesworth

A person with long, dark, wavy hair is seen from behind, looking out a window. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings and greenery. The person is wearing a dark-colored top.

 [GVWIRE.COM](https://gvwire.com)  [GV WIRE](https://www.facebook.com/gvwire)  [@GVWIRE](https://twitter.com/gvwire)  [@GVWIRE](https://www.instagram.com/gvwire)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER