



## WITH NO EL NINO, HOW DOES CALIFORNIA'S WINTER SHAPE UP?

### October 8, 2019 | GV Wire

Back in August, blogger Nat Johnson declared the El Niño of 2019 "officially done." Johnson isn't just any blogger, either. His day job is with the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory. The question is, what will winter 2019-2020 look like in

"Winter will be cooler than normal. Rainfall will be below normal in the north and above normal in the south, with below-normal mountain snows. The coolest temperatures will occur in mid- and late December, mid- to late January, early to mid-February, and early and late March."— The Old Farmer's Almanac's prediction for California

California? Will we have a second straight year of big snows and periodically heavy rains? Or is California headed for the start of another drought?

### AccuWeather's Prediction

AccuWeather's longrange forecast expert,

Paul Pastelok, says that "the winter will yield enough precipitation to stave off drought conditions into the spring." Pastelok adds that the Southwest and California "could also have back-and-forth conditions, between some periods of dry weather and some active weather in the early winter, which is not really typical." The AccuWeather map below forecasts mild weather for northern California and the northern Central Valley, with ample rain in the remainder of the state.

#### What Do the Almanacs Say?

Two old standbys — the Farmers' Almanac and the Old Farmer's Almanac — mostly agree on their Golden State winter predictions. The Old Farmer's Almanac, which was founded in 1792, provides this very specific forecast:

"Winter will be cooler than normal. Rainfall will be below normal in the north and above normal in the south, with below-normal mountain snows. The coolest temperatures will occur in mid- and late December, mid- to late January, early to mid-February, and early and late March. The stormiest periods will be in late November, mid- to late December, and early February; from late February into early March; and in mid- and late March. April and May will be cooler than normal, on average, with rainfall below normal in the north and above normal in the south."

The rival Farmers' Almanac, which was founded in 1818, calls for cool temperatures and normal precipitation for the western third of the United States.







### October 9, 2019 | GV Wire

California Health Science University in Clovis celebrated a recruiting milestone as school leaders welcomed their newest class of pharmacy students this term. Nearly 80% of the students just beginning their studies at the privately-funded university are from the Central Valley, school officials announced. The new cohort of 68 students brings total enrollment in CHSU's Doctor of Pharmacy degree program to 256.

The school is now in its sixth year. This (achievement) directly supports the university's mission to provide health care education to local students and empower them to serve their community as future health care providers," said Dr. Wendy Duncan, dean of pharmacy for CHSU. Thirteen of the local students began their studies at Clovis Community College, while three others attended Fresno Pacific University. CHSU's

College of Pharmacy has partnered with both colleges to develop pathway programs to aid their students in making the transition into the four-year pharmacy school. In addition, 36 students in the new class were accepted from California State University and University of California campuses.

"Our initial pathway programs have proven vital to help students reduce the time and cost of their higher education," said Florence Dunn, president of CHSU. She said the university is working to expand its pathway partnerships to other undergraduate programs across the Valley. CHSU welcomed its incoming students with a "White Coat" ceremony on Sept. 28 at the Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall. Each incoming student was fitted with a traditional laboratory coat at the event to symbolize their entry into the health care field. The CHSU...

### GET READY FOR FRESNO COUNTY'S NEW VOTING SYSTEM IN 2020

### October 8, 2019 | GV Wire

The Voters Choice Act is an exciting new model for elections administration. California Senate Bill 450 was passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor in 2016, which authorizes counties to send every voter a mail ballot and provide ballot drop-off locations and Vote Centers throughout the county. In 2018, five counties successfully initiated the new law: Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, and San Mateo.

For the upcoming 2020 election, 10 other counties will launch the modernized voting practice under the Voters Choice Act: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Orange, Santa Clara, Tuolumne – and Fresno! The Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved the new model in March 2019 beginning with the upcoming presidential primary in March 2020. As we transition to Vote Centers for the March 2020 election, it means that Fresno County voters will have more choices on where, when and how they would like to cast their ballot. It is essential that Fresno County voters check...

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## PAROLE DENIED AGAIN IN CHOWCHILLA SCHOOL BUS HIJACKING

### October 8, 2019 | AP File

SACRAMENTO — California officials again rejected parole Tuesday for the last of three men convicted of hijacking a school bus full of children for \$5 million ransom more than four decades ago. State parole officials decided that Frederick Woods, 67, can try again in five years. It's the 17th time he has been denied release. The two other men, brothers Richard and James Schoenfeld, were paroled several years ago. The three, who were all from wealthy San Francisco Bay Area families, kidnapped 26 children and their bus driver near Chowchilla in 1976.

#### Victims Dug Their Way Out

They buried the children and driver in a ventilated underground bunker about 45 miles east of San Francisco, but the victims were able to dig their way out more than a day later. Attorney Gary Dubcoff, who previously represented Woods, did not immediately return a telephone message. The three planned for...

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# GOV. NEWSOM SIGNS STATEWIDE RENT CAP LAW

### October 9, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California will limit rent increases for some people over the next decade after Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law Tuesday aimed at combating a housing crisis in the nation's most populous state. Newsom signed the bill at an event in Oakland, an area where a recent report documented a 43% increase in homelessness over two years. Sudden rent increases are a contributing cause of the state's homeless problem, which has drawn national attention and the ire of Republican President Donald Trump. "He wasn't wrong to highlight a vulnerability," Newsom said of Trump's criticisms to an audience of housing advo-

"He wasn't wrong to high-light a vulnerability. He's exploiting it. You're trying to solve it. That's the difference between you and the president of the United States." — Gov. Gavin

Newsom

cates in Oakland. "He's exploiting it. You're trying to solve it.

That's the difference between you and the president of the United States." The law limits rent increases to 5% each

year plus inflation until Jan. 1, 2030. It bans landlords from evicting people for no reason, meaning they could not kick people out so they can raise the rent for a new tenant. And while the law doesn't take effect until Jan. 1, it would apply to rent increases on or after March 15, 2019, to prevent landlords from raising rents just before the caps go into place. California and Oregon are now the only places that cap rent increases statewide. Oregon capped rents at 7% plus inflation earlier this year.

### It Does Not Cover the 2 Million People in California Who Already Have Rent Control

California's rent cap is noteworthy because of its scale. The state has 17 million renters, and more than half of them spend at least 30% of their income on rent, according to a legislative analysis of the proposal. But California's new law has so many exceptions that it is

estimated it will apply to 8 million of those 17 million renters, according to the office of Democratic Assemblyman David Chiu, who authored the bill Newsom

signed. It would not apply to housing built within the last 15 years, a provision advocates hope will encourage developers to build more in a state that desperately needs it. It does not apply to single family homes, except

"Sometimes I lived with no lights, sometimes I lived with no water, depending on who I was living with (because) they were also struggling. Sometimes I just had to use my money to go to a hotel room so I could finish my homework." — Sasha Graham

those owned by corporations or real estate investment trusts. It does not cover duplexes where the owner lives in one of the units. And it does not cover the 2 million people in California who already have rent control, which is a more restrictive set of limitations for landlords. Most of the state's largest cities, including Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco, have some form of rent control. But a state law passed in 1995 bans any new rent control policies since that year.

### For Most Places in California, Landlords Can Raise Rent at Any Time and or Any Reason

Last year, voters rejected a statewide ballot initiative that would have expanded rent control statewide. For most places in California, landlords can raise rent at any time and or any reason if they give notice in advance. That's what happened to Sasha Graham in 2014.

She said her rent went up 150%. She found the money to pay it on time and in full, but her landlord evicted her anyway without giving a reason. She was homeless for the next three years, staying with friends, then friends of friends and then strangers. "Sometimes I lived with no lights, sometimes I lived with no water, depending on who I was living with (because) they...

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## REPORT FINDS CASES OF STDS REACH 30-YEAR HIGH IN CALIFORNIA

### October 9, 2019 | AP File

LOS ANGELES — The number of cases of three major sexually transmitted diseases in California reached a 30-year high in 2018, according to a state report released Tuesday. More than 336,000 cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis were reported last year, as rates of all three STDs continued to increase across the state, the California Department of Public Health reported.

Officials said they are particularly concerned by the number of congenital syphilis cases, which were 14% higher than the previous year and nearly 900% higher than in 2012. There were 22 stillbirths or neonatal deaths because of syphilis last

year, the report said. If left untreated, syphilis can result in blindness, hearing loss and neurological problems. Chlamydia and gonorrhea can lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancy and chronic pelvic pain. Many STDs can be cured with antibiotics.

The highest rates of STDs are among young people ages 15 to 24, officials said. The department's acting director, Dr. Charity Dean, urged sexually active people to use condoms and get tested. "Regular testing and treatment are essential prevention strategies, even for people who have no symptoms," Dean said in a statement. "Most people infected...

Alan Dep/Marin Independent Journal via AP

## REP. COSTA BLASTS TRUMP'S DECISION TO ABANDON KURDS

### October 7, 2019 | GV Wire

Rep. Jim Costa of Fresno said Monday morning that President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from northern Syria "is disgraceful and deeply harmful to our national security." Said Costa in a news release: "Not only does this open the door to ISIS regrouping and resuming its horrendous acts of violence, but it also sends the message that the United States will not stand by those who fight at our side.

By leaving our Kurdish allies at the mercy of President Erdogan of Turkey, a leader with a clear track record of human rights abuses, we are betraying the ideals of our nation and the core principles that have long underpinned our national security strategy. "There is simply no justification for this abrupt and startling abandonment of our responsibilities and principles. The American people will be less safe because of it." Leading Republicans also criticized Trump for making a decision that likely would endanger America's Kurdish allies in the region...

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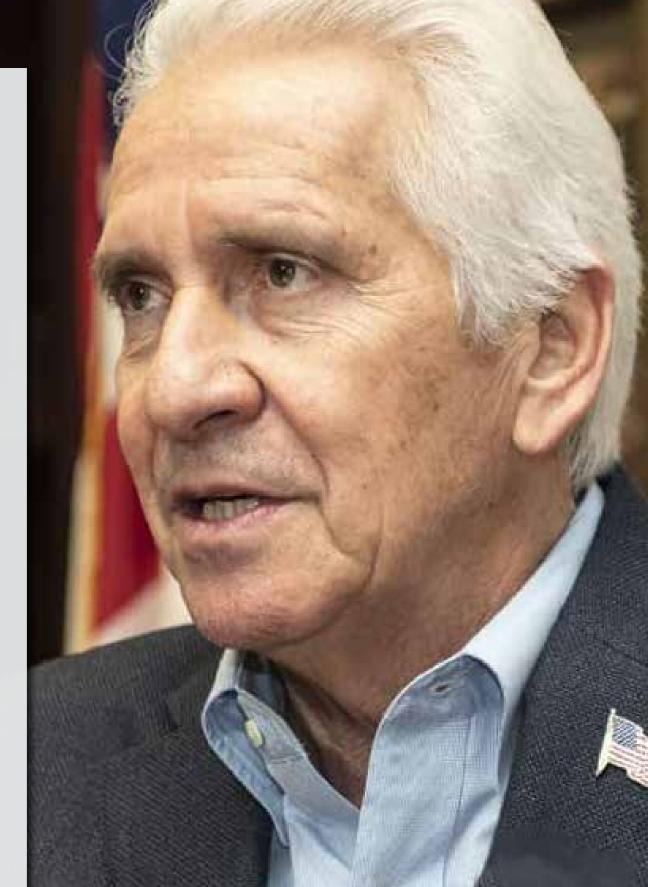


### October 9, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric shut off power to more than a million people Wednesday for what could be days on end, in the most sweeping effort in state history to prevent wildfires caused by windblown power lines. The move came after two years of catastrophic fires sent the utility into bankruptcy and forced it to take more aggressive steps to prevent blazes.

PG&E said it cut power to more than 500,000 customers in Northern California and that it plans to gradually turn off electricity to nearly 800,000 customers to prevent its equipment from starting wildfires during hot, windy weather. A second group of about 234,000 customers will lose power starting at noon, the utility said. The power outages are expected to affect about 2.5 million people. Deliberate outages like these could become the new normal in an era in which scientists say climate change is leading to fiercer blazes...

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## FOR 1ST TIME, JOE BIDEN CALLS FOR TRUMP TO BE IMPEACHED

### October 9, 2019 | AP News

ROCHESTER, N.H. — Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said Wednesday for the first time that President Donald Trump must be impeached for abusing the powers of his office to help his own reelection. Biden made the remarks as part of a blistering 25-minute speech in New Hampshire, departing from his usual

"We're not going to let Donald Trump pick the Democratic nominee for president. I'm not going to let him get away with it. He's picked a fight with the wrong guy." — Joe Biden campaign pitch and signaling that he will aggressively confront Trump as the president pushes unfounded accusations that the former vice president and his son had nefarious dealings in Ukraine. Trump is "shooting holes in the

Constitution," Biden said, by asking foreign powers to interfere in the 2020 election by pursuing dirt on the Bidens and then refusing to cooperate with a resulting House impeachment inquiry.

"This is a president who has decided this nation doesn't have the tools, the power, the political will" to punish bad behavior, Biden said, cataloguing a litany of Trump's actions that the former vice president said warrant impeachment. "He's not just testing us," Biden said. "He's laughing at us." Before Biden had concluded in New Hampshire, Trump retorted via Twitter. "So pathetic," he wrote, to see Biden calling for his impeachment. The president maintained that he had done nothing wrong. In a July 25 phone call to Ukraine's leader, Trump asked for "a favor" of investigating Biden and his son Hunter, who previously served on the board of a Ukrainian energy firm that had drawn scrutiny in that country.

### The Speech Comes as Biden's Campaign Continues Internal Deliberations

Without evidence and contrary to the accounts of several Ukrainian officials, Trump insists that Biden used his role as vice president to protect his son from corruption

investigations when he pressed for the firing of the top Ukrainian prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, during President Barack Obama's second term. Ukrainian officials, including one Shokin successor, have disputed Trump's theories, and Biden has previously noted that the Obama administration's position was supported by many other Western governments, who saw Shokin as incompetent or corrupt. Biden on Wednesday again blasted Trump's "lies and smears and distortion" and said the president peddles them because he fears facing Biden in a general election. "He's trying to create a campaign where truth and facts are irrelevant," Biden said, adding that the spectacle covers the president's "manifest incompetence."

"We're not going to let Donald Trump pick the Democratic nominee for president," Biden added. "I'm not going "I'm not going to be distracted. None of these attacks are true, and I'm going to stay focused on your lives. That's what this election is about." — Joe Biden

to let him get away with it. He's picked a fight with the wrong guy." The speech comes as Biden's campaign continues internal deliberations over the best way to handle Trump's broadsides and an impeachment inquiry that could last months — and potentially never result in the Republican-led Senate removing Trump from office even if the Democratic-led House impeaches him. In New Hampshire, Biden noticeably did not mention the Senate or its potential role in deciding whether to remove Trump from office.

#### Biden Got an Enthusiastic Reception

Some Biden aides note that the situation underscores the fundamental argument that the former vice president has made about Trump from the start of his campaign, a point the candidate himself made Wednesday. "When I announced my candidacy," he recalled, "I said I was running in order to restore the soul of America. That wasn't hyperbole." But his advisers also point to...

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### SANDERS TELLS AIDES HE'S COMMITTED TO 2020 RACE

#### October 8, 2019 | AP News

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Bernie Sanders began the slow process of reintroducing himself to the 2020 campaign on Tuesday, venturing outside his Vermont home briefly to say he'd been more fatigued than usual in recent weeks and was boneheaded for ignoring symptoms that might have foretold his heart attack last week. But he provided no hints on how he'll restart his suspended White House bid.

"I must confess, I was dumb," the 78-year-old Vermont senator said, speaking in soft, calm tones with his wife, Jane O'Meara Sanders, looking on behind him. "Thank God, I have a lot of energy, and during this campaign I've been doing, in some cases, three or four rallies a day all over the state, lowa, New Hampshire, wherever. And yet I, in the last month or two, just was more fatigued than I usually have been. And I should have listened to those symptoms." Sanders'...

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# WHITE HOUSE AND DEMOCRATS CLASH OVER SAND RULES FOR IMPEACHMENT SAND RULES

### October 9, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Constitution gives the House "the sole power of impeachment" — but it confers that authority without an instruction manual. Now comes the battle royal over exactly what it means.

In vowing to halt all cooperation with House Democrats' impeachment inquiry, the White House on Tuesday labeled the investigation "illegitimate" based on its own reading of the Constitution's vague language. In an eight-page letter, White House counsel Pat Cipollone pointed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's failure to call for an official vote to proceed with

the inquiry as grounds to claim the process a farce. "You have designed and implemented your inquiry in a manner that violates fundamental fairness and constitutionally mandated due process," Cipollone wrote. But Douglas Letter, a lawyer for the House Judiciary Committee, told a federal judge Tuesday that it's clear the House "sets its own rules" on how the impeachment process will play out.

The White House document lacked much in the way of legal arguments, seemingly citing cable TV news appearances as often as case law. And legal experts cast doubt upon its...

### FBI: INMATE IS THE DEADLIEST SERIAL KILLER IN US HISTORY

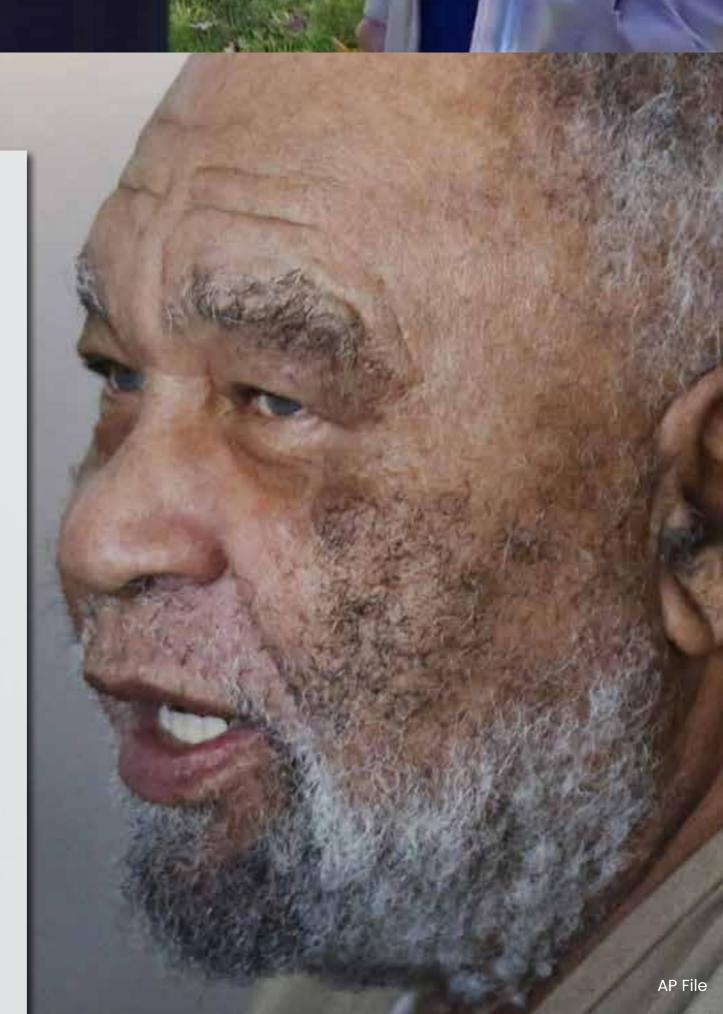
### October 8, 2019 | AP News

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The inmate who claims to have killed more than 90 women across the country is now considered to be the deadliest serial killer in U.S. history, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said. Samuel Little, who has been behind bars since 2012, told investigators last year that he was responsible for about 90 killings nationwide between 1970 and 2005.

In a news release on Sunday, the FBI announced that federal crime analysts believe all of his confessions are credible, and officials have been able to verify 50 confessions so far. nvestigators also provided new information and details about five cases in Florida, Arkansas, Kentucky, Nevada and Louisiana. The 79-year-old Little is serving multiple life sentences in California. He says he strangled his 93 victims, nearly all of them women. Some of his victims were on the margins of society. Many were originally deemed overdoses, or...

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## FRESNO STATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS WEAVES SWASHBUCKLING TALE OF IRAN TANKER CONFLICT

### October 9, 2019 | Nancy Price

U.S. officials were determined to keep a tanker that they thought was full of Iranian oil from reaching wartorn Syria, putting cash into the hands of Iran's government and fuel into Syria's, and violating European Union sanctions on Syria. What transpired was a story

Fayazmanesh, who retired from Fresno State as professor emeritus of economics and director of the Middle East Studies program, compiles a lengthy aggregation of news articles from The New York Times, The Guardian, the Associated Press, Aljazeera, Reuters, Bloomberg and other news sources to detail the saga of the tanker Grace 1.

of modern-day attempted piracy, author and Fresno State professor emeritus Sasan Fayazmanesh says. In his satirical article "The Pirates of Gibraltar," published last month in the magazine CounterPunch, Fayazmanesh identifies the pirates as former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, former British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo, Brian Hook, the U.S. special representative for Iran in the State Department, and Sigal Mandelker, Treasury Department undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence.

Fayazmanesh, who retired from Fresno State as professor emeritus of economics and director of the Middle East Studies program, compiles a lengthy aggregation of news articles from The New York Times, The Guardian, the Associated Press, Aljazeera, Reuters, Bloomberg and other news sources to detail the saga of the tanker Grace 1, which was a Panamanian-flagged vessel when it was captured by British marines at Gibraltar but then took on a new name – Adrian Darya 1 (Darya means sea in Persian) – and the Iranian flag after it was released by the British more than a month later. He quotes from news reports that one country after another in the Mediterranean refused entry to the massive ship carrying 2.1 million barrels of crude oil. The Financial Times reported that a U.S. representative had even

tried to bribe the tanker's captain with "several million dollars" if he would sail to a country willing to impound the ship on behalf of the U.S. The crude oil alone was estimated to be worth \$130 million, Fayazmanesh reported.

Author Provides Insight Into Article GV Wire asked Fayazmanesh in an email interview to talk about his article, the issues, and what brought him to the U.S. and to Fresno State.

### GV Wire: Why did you opt for the "pirates" satirical approach?

U.S. foreign policy toward Iran has been tragic since 1953, when the U.S. helped to carry out a coup d'état in Iran and overthrow a constitutionally elected government in favor of a U.S. strongman. The policy has become increasingly more tragic since the 1979 Revolution in Iran, as the U.S. has tried continuously to overthrow the government of Iran by using coercive measures, such as sanctions and threats of war. However tragic, at times the policy has been such a farce that just retelling it appears to be satirical. The image of bumbling grown men and women — albeit U.S. and its allies' diplomats — trying desperately, but unsuccessfully, to steal a foreign ship is both tragic and comical. Their behavior reminded me of hilarious Hollywood movies made about pirates.

### Why did you decide to take up this topic for your article? What drew you to it?

As a professor emeritus of economics and a Middle East researcher, I follow closely Iran's economic and political relations with its adversaries, particularly the U.S. and Israel. The attempt by the U.S. and its allies to capture an Iranian oil tanker was among the news that I came across and tracked daily. Had the U.S. succeeded in seizing the tanker, Iran would have retaliated, and the situation could have gotten out of hand. For this...

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### CLIMATE ACTIVISTS BLOCK ROADS, CAMP OUT IN GLOBAL PROTESTS

October 8, 2019 | AP News

LONDON — Hundreds of climate change activists camped out in central London on Tuesday during a second day of world protests by the Extinction Rebellion movement to demand more urgent actions to counter global warming. Determined activists glued themselves to the British government's Department of Transport building as police working to keep streets clear appealed to protesters to move to Trafalgar Square.

Cities in Australia, elsewhere in Europe and other parts of the world also had climate change protests for a second day. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson appealed Monday to the protesters to stop blocking London's streets. He called the activists "uncooperative crusties" who should abandon their "hemp-smelling bivouacs." Mike Gumn, 33, a National Health Service manager with two children, said he used a day of annual leave so he could attend the demonstration...

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# TURKEY LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE AGAINST KURDISH FIGHTERS IN SYRIA

### October 9, 2019 | AP News

AKCAKALE, Turkey — Turkey launched a military operation Wednesday against Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria after U.S. forces pulled back from the area, with a series of airstrikes hitting a town on Syria's northern border.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the start of the campaign, which followed an abrupt decision Sunday by U.S. President Donald Trump that American troops would step aside to allow for the operation. Trump's move represented a shift in U.S. policy that essentially abandoned the Syrian Kurdish fighters who have been America's only allies on the ground in Syria. They were longtime U.S. allies in the

fight against the Islamic State group. After Turkey's offensive began, there was sign of panic in the streets of Ras al-Ayn—one of the towns under attack with residential areas close to the borders. Cars raced to safety, although it was not clear if they were leaving the town or heading away from border areas. Near the town of Qamishli, plumes of smoke were seen rising from an area close to the border after activists reported sounds of explosion nearby.

The Kurdish forces have warned of a "humanitarian catastrophe" that could potentially unfold because of the Turkish military operation. "Our mission is to prevent the creation of a...

## NOBEL PRIZE HONORS BREAKTHROUGHS ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

October 9, 2019 | AP News

STOCKHOLM — If you're reading this on a mobile phone or laptop computer, you might thank this year's three laureates for the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their work on lithium-ion batteries. Yet the batteries developed by the British, American and Japanese winners that make those devices possible are far more revolutionary than just for on-the-go computing and calling. The breakthroughs the three achieved also made storing energy from renewable sources more feasible, opening up a whole new front in the fight against global warming.

"This is a highly-charged story of tremendous potential," said Olof Ramstrom of the Nobel committee for chemistry. The prize announced Wednesday went to John B. Goodenough, 97, a German-born American engineering professor at the University of Texas; M. Stanley Whittingham, 77, a British-American chemistry professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton; and Akira Yoshino, 71, of...

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