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TRUMP PLAN DELIVERS MORE WATER FOR VALLEY FARMERS

October 22, 2019 | GV Wire

The Trump administration **unveiled a new plan** Tuesday to govern California's water usage that would deliver more irrigation water for Valley farmers. But the proposal is ringing alarms from environmental groups that say it would have a

An analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service says the plan "will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species."

negative impact on endangered species such as salmon and delta smelt. An analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service,

however, says the plan "will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species." The plan includes spending \$1.5 billion to support endangered fish such as the delta smelt.

The government would also monitor rivers for endangered fish, with commitments to reduce pumping when they are present. Basically, the plan would give water agencies more flexibility on how much water they can pump out of the state's rivers. When it's raining a lot, agencies can pump more. When it's dry, they would pump less.

Environmental Groups Say Plan Won't Work

Doug Obegi at the Natural Resources Defense Council says the monitoring programs won't work because endangered fish species populations are too small. He predicted that environmentalists will challenge the Trump administration plan in court. "I think this biological opinion is the end result of the Trump administration's junk science and political interference," said Obegi, senior attorney for the NRDC. John McManus, president of the Golden State Salmon Association, **told The Sacramento Bee**: "It looks like this administration is trying to shut us down again — permanently."

Where Does Newsom Stand?

It's unclear how Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration will respond to the new rules. His office didn't provide comment on Tuesday. The Democratic-controlled Legislature passed a law earlier this year seeking to block a lot of these changes. But Newsom vetoed Senate Bill 1 last month after intense lobbying from water agencies. Related Story:

Editorial: SB 1 Is the Same Bad Legislation in a New Dress

What Feinstein, Valley Dems Say

Five California lawmakers — all Democrats — released a joint statement Tuesday saying that the previous monitoring programs, or biological opinions, relied on old science. However, they stopped short of backing the Trump proposal, saying it needed to be scientifically vetted by the state. Said Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Reps. John Garamendi, Josh Harder, Jim Costa, and TJ Cox: "The Endangered Species Act requires periodic reviews to determine the best available science. The federal government's science for Chinook salmon and Delta smelt was more than a decade old and needed to be updated, especially given climate change."

"We are examining the new biological opinions to ensure they incorporate the adaptive management and real-time monitoring needed to properly manage the Central Valley Project for the benefit of all Californians. The new biological opinions must also provide the scientific basis needed to finalize the voluntary settlement agreements between the State...

"It looks like this administration is trying to shut us down again — permanently." — John McManus, president of the Golden State Salmon Association

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HIGHWAY CITY'S NEW COMMUNITY CENTER PUTS RESOURCES UNDER ONE ROOF

October 22, 2019 | Nancy Price

Art exhibits, library books, parent education, health, and wellness — Fresno's newest community resource center is offering all that, and much more, to a community and neighborhood long thirsting for easy access to such services. The **Granville-Teague Community Resource Center**, the first of its kind in the Highway City community, held its grand opening Tuesday afternoon at 4718 N. Polk Ave. to great fanfare.

But the center, located in a 5,500-square-foot building that resembles a Prairie Style bungalow, had already been open for business for its three tenant organizations, **Centro La Familia**, **Central Unified School District**, and the **Fresno County Library**. The \$1.5 million project, located near Teague Elementary School in west Fresno, is owned by the local nonprofit Highway City Community Development Inc.

And business is brisk, said Ana Robleto, a family advocate and intake specialist for Centro La Familia, which offers parent education, victim services, health and wellness, and Department of Justice-authorized DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and immigration services. Up until now, Highway City residents have had to drive to downtown Fresno or Kerman for Centro La Familia services that are subsidized by Fresno County.

Robleto has watched over the past three months from her office as the Teague Library branch and Central Unified community resource office opened, attracting more community members, kids, and parents. "It's so exciting to see the library open, and Central Unified, and get to know the Highway City community," she said. Providing access to services under...

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SHIELDS FAMILY GIVES \$500K TO HELP LOW-INCOME STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD

October 22, 2019 | BoNhia Lee, Fresno State News
fresnostatenews.com

Elizabeth "Liz" Shields, and her late husband, John, loved to travel the world to meet people and see places that showed them what life was like in other parts of the globe. The couple met in Botswana after the southern African country received its independence in 1966. John Shields, professor emeritus at Fresno State, was a Peace Corps volunteer, and Elizabeth Shields, who was a Fresno State lecturer, was a volunteer from Britain.

They married in Turkey and traveled for about five months through Iran, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, into southern and central Russia, then to Scandinavia where they ran out of money — but were rich in experiences. That was the beginning of the couple's global adventures together and the start of a lifelong passion for travel that they would eventually share with Fresno State students who want to study abroad but can't afford to do so. The Shields family has established a \$500,000...

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IT TAKES MULTIPLE BALLOTS TO SELECT INTERIM CLOVIS UNIFIED TRUSTEE

October 24, 2019 | Nancy Price

Hugh Awtrey III, chairman of the **Foundation for Clovis Schools**, was selected Wednesday night by the **Clovis Unified School Board** to fill a board vacancy with a one-year provisional appointment.

Awtrey, 54, is an insurance broker with DiBuduo and DeFendis who attended Clovis Unified schools, as did his four children. His lengthy experience with the foundation and his community contacts were cited by trustees in support of his candidacy. Awtrey was one of five candidates seeking appointment to the Area 4 seat former held by longtime trustee Brian Heryford, who retired in September. He will be sworn into office and take his seat at the Nov. 13 board meeting.

He will resign from the foundation's board, said district spokeswoman Kelly Avants, who noted that the board also includes a Clovis Unified trustee who serves by appointment. Clovis...

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STATE

WALTERS: NEWSOM FUMBLES ON TRANSPORTATION

October 23, 2019 | Dan Walters, CalMatters

Gavin Newsom has a transportation problem — not personally, but politically. As governor, Newsom travels in an entourage with a personal driver and lots of security. However, he shares the road with millions of Californians who must cope with ever-increasing congestion, poorly maintained pavement and sky-high fuel prices. A couple of years ago, when Jerry Brown was still governor, he and legislators

Just before speaking to a global conference on climate change in New York, Newsom issued an executive order to the state transportation agency to “leverage the more than \$5 billion in annual ... spending for construction, operations and maintenance to help reverse the trend of increased fuel consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

mustered the courage to raise gas taxes to fix some of the state’s worst roadway conditions. It was not popular. One state senator who voted for it was recalled for doing so, and the \$5 billion a year package, Senate Bill 1, survived a repeal initiative thanks only to a very misleading ballot title and a massively financed campaign promising voters they would see

Newsom Denied That Funds Were Being Diverted

Just before speaking to a global conference on climate change in New York, Newsom issued an executive order to the state transportation agency to “leverage the more than \$5 billion in annual ... spending for construction, operations and maintenance to help reverse the trend of increased fuel consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” Newsom said he wanted to “reduce congestion through innovative strategies designed to encourage people to shift from cars to other modes of transportation” and wanted to “fund transportation

options that ... reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as transit, walking, biking and other active modes.” Shortly thereafter, the

Department of Transportation marked three long-standing highway projects for “deletion,” saying the funds would be “held in reserve for priority rail projects and other priorities aligned with (Newsom’s) executive order.”

“I’m confused. ... I think they’re conflating things. Some are doing it, respectfully, intentionally. SB 1 is locked in. That money is used for its intended purposes, period, full stop. One cannot legally redirect those dollars.” — Gov. Gavin Newsom

Boom. Republican politicians, later joined by Democrats, raised a ruckus, saying that the diversions, while involving relatively small amounts of money, were breaking promises to voters.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon publicly reminded Newsom that “the voters of California recognized those promises and resoundingly defeated a proposal that would have been a roadblock on the way to fixing roads used by residents, businesses and visitors,” adding, “Now is not the time to go back on those promises, and the Legislature will stand by those safeguards.”

Finally, after the flap had percolated in the media for days, Newsom last week denied that funds were being diverted.

Not the First Time That the First-Term Governor Had Fumbled on Transportation Matters

“I’m confused. ... I think they’re conflating things,” Newsom told reporters at an event. “Some are doing it, respectfully, intentionally. SB 1 is locked in. That money is used for its intended purposes, period, full stop. One cannot legally redirect those dollars.” The latter may be technically true, but given the tortured...

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SKELETON MAY BE JAPANESE AMERICAN FROM INTERNMENT CAMP

October 23, 2019 | AP News

SANTA MONICA — In the closing days of World War II, a Japanese American set out with other men from the infamous internment camp at Manzanar on a trip to the mountains, where he went off on his own to paint a watercolor and got caught in a freak summer snowstorm.

A hiker found Giichi Matsumura's body weeks later, and he was laid to rest in a spot marked only by a small pile of granite slabs. Over the years, as the little-known story faded along with memories, the location of Matsumura's remote burial place was lost to time, and he became a sort of ghost of Manzanar, the subject of searches, rumors and legends.

Now, 74 years later, his skeleton may have finally been found. The Inyo County sheriff's office told The Associated Press it is investigating the possibility that a set of bleached bones discovered earlier this month in the rugged Sierra Nevada is Matsumura's. If those suspicions prove correct, Matsumura will have the rare distinction of having been lost and found twice.

His fate is a footnote to one of the darkest chapters in U.S. history, when more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were deemed a security risk and herded into prison camps in remote locations. Matsumura, a 46-year-old gardener from...

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AP/Jacquelyn Martin

TRUMP SEEKS TO BLOCK CALIFORNIA AS GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADER

October 23, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Wednesday sued to try to block California from engaging in international efforts against climate change, charging that the state exceeded its constitutional authority by joining with a Canadian province in a program to cut climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions. The suit, filed in federal court in California, is the **latest Trump administration push** to stymie state efforts aimed at contesting the administration's rollbacks of environmental and climate protections. California says it's being punished for its advocacy.

The complaint, which names Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and others, alleges that California usurped federal power to conduct foreign policy and make international accords when it signed an ongoing agreement with Quebec to limit emissions. California "veered outside its proper constitutional lane," Assistant U.S. Attorney General Jeffrey Bossert...

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GOOGLE TOUTS QUANTUM COMPUTING MILESTONE

October 23, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — Google said it has achieved a breakthrough in quantum computing research, saying an experimental quantum processor has completed a calculation in just a few minutes that would take a traditional supercomputer thousands of years.

The findings, **published Wednesday** in the scientific journal Nature, show that "quantum speedup is achievable in a real-world system and is not precluded by any hidden physical laws," the researchers wrote.

Quantum computing is a nascent and somewhat bewildering technology for vastly sped-up information processing. Quantum computers are still a long way from having a practical application but might one day revolutionize tasks that would...

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AP/Mel Evans

TRAGEDIES DEEPEN JEWISH-MUSLIM BONDS TO FIGHT HATE CRIMES

October 23, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Muslim groups helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to help Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue recover after a gunman killed 11 people there, one year ago this week. The Jewish congregation mounted its own fundraiser for New Zealand's Muslims after a white supremacist shooter killed 51 people at two mosques there in March. Such outreach between Jews and Muslims often draws widespread attention only in the immediate wake of tragedy. But as both

"I said, 'I believe ignorance is a primary driver of hate, and it's time, if I want to make change that I get to know Muslim women.'" — Sheryl Olitzky

faiths grapple with a rise in reported hate crimes and fears within their communities of being attacked for their beliefs, Jews and Muslims are forging bonds that rely on shared personal values to help combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. For Sheryl Olitzky, 63, the "aha moment" that inspired her focus on Jewish-Muslim connections came almost a decade ago on a trip to Poland, when she asked a guide why she saw no locals in the head-covering garb of devout members of either faith.

Olitzky, who was married at Tree of Life synagogue, recalled being stunned by the exclusionary response she heard and telling herself that "I could not change history, but I could rewrite it by changing the future" and working to prevent further episodes of discrimination against Jews and Muslims. When the grandmother of seven returned home to New Jersey, however, it took several months for her to realize that, despite living in an area with "a fairly substantial number of Muslims and Jews," she had no Muslim friends.

Sisterhood Devotes Much of Its Attention to Education

"I said, 'I believe ignorance is a primary driver of hate, and it's time, if I want to make change that I get to know Muslim women,'" Olitzky said. When Olitzky was introduced to Atiya Aftab, a Muslim attorney and ad-

junct professor at Rutgers University, their partnership took off as the nonprofit Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. What began as a meeting of six Muslim and six Jewish women at Aftab's home now counts more than 170 chapters in 32 states and Canada, according to Olitzky. The Sisterhood devotes much of its attention to education and shared experiences that can deepen ties between its members, with its fourth annual trip this year taking dozens of Muslim and Jewish women and teenage girls to Germany and Poland. But a vow to fight hate crimes that target their respective communities is also woven into the group's foundation, with a "rise and respond" primer for speaking out against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia [released this year](#).

Other members of the two faiths have created formal alliances as well. The Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council was established by the American Jewish Committee and the Islamic Society of North America in the first days after President Donald Trump's 2016 election — following a campaign where Trump repeatedly stoked public fears of Muslims. MJAC is co-chaired by two business executives, one Jewish and one Muslim. The group opened regional affiliates after a 2017 spike in reported hate crimes that included the death of Heather Heyer, killed while demonstrating against a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

AJC held an event last week to show support for the majority-Muslim Syrian Kurds as they grapple with the fallout from Trump's decision to withdraw troops from the country's northeast and Turkey's subsequent attacks on Kurdish-held territory.

Hate Crimes Reported to the FBI Have Risen for Three Years Running

AJC Director of U.S. Muslim-Jewish Relations Ari Gordon said that some themes common in episodes of...

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ZUCKERBERG APPEARS IN CONGRESS AS FACEBOOK FACES SCRUTINY

AP/Andrew Harnik

October 23, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg endured hours of prickly questioning from lawmakers Wednesday as he defended the company's new globally ambitious project to create a digital currency while also dealing with widening scrutiny from U.S. regulators.

The immediate focus of the hearing by the House Financial Services Committee was the project for the currency, to be called Libra. Zuckerberg took pains to reassure lawmakers that he wouldn't allow Facebook to move forward without explicit approval from all U.S. financial regulators. Still, a

number of members of the House Financial Services committee were not convinced. Rep. Maxine Waters, the California Democrat who chairs the House Financial Services Committee, said that Facebook's cryptocurrency project Libra "create many concerns" and argued that maybe Facebook should be broken up.

On the Republican side, Rep. Ann Wagner of Missouri asked Zuckerberg why several high-profile corporations have recently departed the Libra project. Zuckerberg, momentarily at a loss for words, noted that "it's a risky enterprise." While...

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AP/Michael Dwyer

'JUST TOO MUCH': MEET THE UBER-RICH WHO WANT A WEALTH TAX

October 22, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — When the grand vacation homes of Newport Beach were empty on a beautiful Memorial Day weekend, Molly Munger decided it was time for the U.S. to consider taxing wealth.

As her family's boat moved through the harbor a few years ago, Munger, whose father is a billionaire investor, saw that many of her neighbors' houses were sitting dark and vacant. She knew why: The owners now controlled enough money to holiday at one of their several other luxury homes. It didn't sit right, she said.

"It's just too much to watch that happen at the top and see what is happening at the bottom," said Munger, 71, a California civil rights lawyer whose father, Charlie, built his fortune as vice chairman of Warren Buffett's firm Berkshire...

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OFFICIAL: SOLVING WILD HORSE PROBLEM WILL TAKE \$5B, 15 YEARS

October 24, 2019 | AP News

RENO, Nev. — It will take \$5 billion and 15 years to get an overpopulation of wild horses under control on federal lands across the West, the acting head of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management said Wednesday, adding that several developments have made him more optimistic about his agency's ability to get the job done.

William Perry Pendley said the agency adopted out more than 7,000 mustangs and burros captured last year — the most in 15 years and a 54% increase from the previous year.

He said that helps clear space in government holding pens, so they can accelerate roundups while scientists develop new fertility-control drugs to eventually shrink the size of the herds from 88,000 to the 27,000 he says the range can sustain. He said a new coalition of animal welfare advocates and ranchers is helping promote solutions and Congress...

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UK POLICE EXPAND PROBE, SAY 39 DEAD IN TRUCK ALL FROM CHINA

October 24, 2019 | AP News

LONDON — All 39 people found dead in a refrigerated container truck near an English port were Chinese citizens, British police confirmed Thursday as they investigated one of the country's deadliest cases of people smuggling. The Essex Police force said 31 men and

"This is an incredibly sensitive and high-profile investigation, and we are working swiftly to gather as full a picture as possible as to how these people lost their lives." — Pippa Mills, deputy chief of Essex Police

eight women were found dead in the truck early Wednesday at an industrial park in Grays, a town 25 miles east of London. A magistrate gave detectives another 24 hours to question the driver, a 25-year-old man from Northern Ireland who has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. He has not been charged, and police have not released his name.

Police in Northern Ireland searched three properties there as detective sought to piece together how the truck's cab, its container and the victims came together on such a deadly journey. Pippa Mills, deputy chief of Essex Police, said the process of conducting post-mortem examinations and identifying the victims would be "lengthy and complex." "This is an incredibly sensitive and high-profile investigation, and we are working swiftly to gather as full a picture as possible as to how these people lost their lives," she said. Police believe the truck and container took separate journeys before ending up at the industrial park. They say the container traveled by ferry from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge to Purfleet, England, where it arrived early Wednesday and was picked up by the truck driver and driven the few miles to Grays.

Groups of Migrants Have Repeatedly Landed on English Shores Using Small Boats

The truck cab, which is registered in Bulgaria to a company owned by an Irish woman, is believed to have

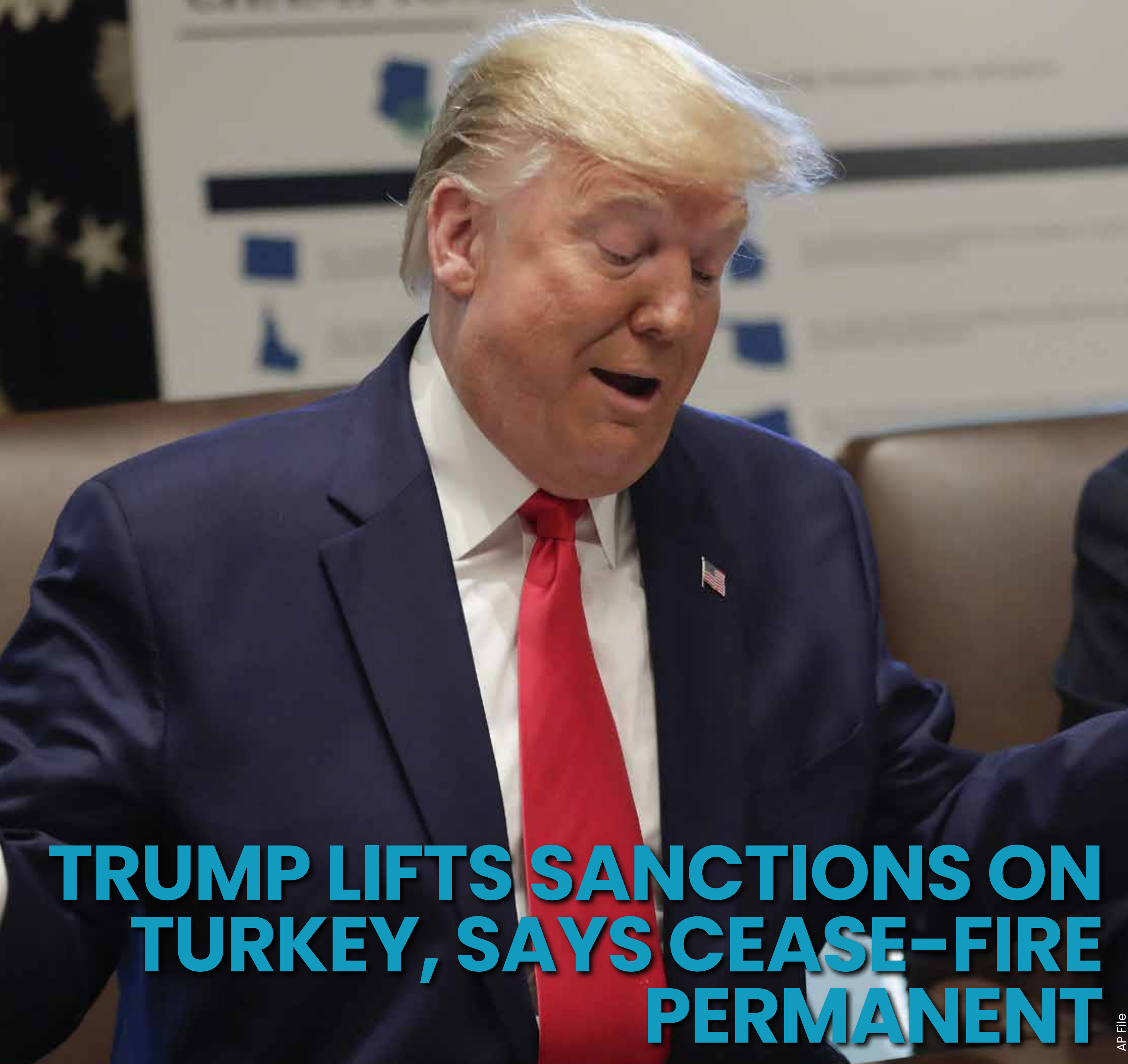
traveled from Northern Ireland to Dublin, where it caught a ferry to Wales, then drove across Britain to pick up the container. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Chinese Embassy employees in the U.K. were driving to the scene of the crime to aid the investigation and Belgian police were trying to track down information from Zeebrugge. Groups of migrants have repeatedly landed on English shores using small boats to make the risky Channel crossing, and migrants are sometimes found in the back of cars and trucks that disembark from the massive ferries that link France and England. But Wednesday's macabre find in an industrial park was a reminder that criminal gangs are still profiting from large-scale trafficking.

The tragedy recalls the deaths of 58 Chinese migrants who suffocated in a truck in Dover, England, in 2000 after a perilous, months-long journey from China's southern Fujian province. They were found stowed away with a cargo of tomatoes after a ferry ride from Zeebrugge, the same Belgian port that featured in the latest tragedy. In February 2004, 21 Chinese migrants — also from Fujian — who were working as cockle-pickers in Britain drowned when they were caught by treacherous tides in Morecambe Bay in northwest England. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed in Parliament on Wednesday that people smugglers would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Britain, with its high demand for tourism, restaurant and agricultural workers, remains a very attractive destination for immigrants from all countries, even as the U.K. is rethinking its immigration rules as it prepares to leave the 28-nation European Union.

U.K. Authorities Have Warned That People Smugglers Are Turning to Dutch and Belgian Ports

Nando Sigona, a professor of migration studies at the University of Birmingham, said tougher migration controls born of populist anti-immigrant sentiment across...

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TRUMP LIFTS SANCTIONS ON TURKEY, SAYS CEASE-FIRE PERMANENT

AP File

October 23, 2019 | AP News

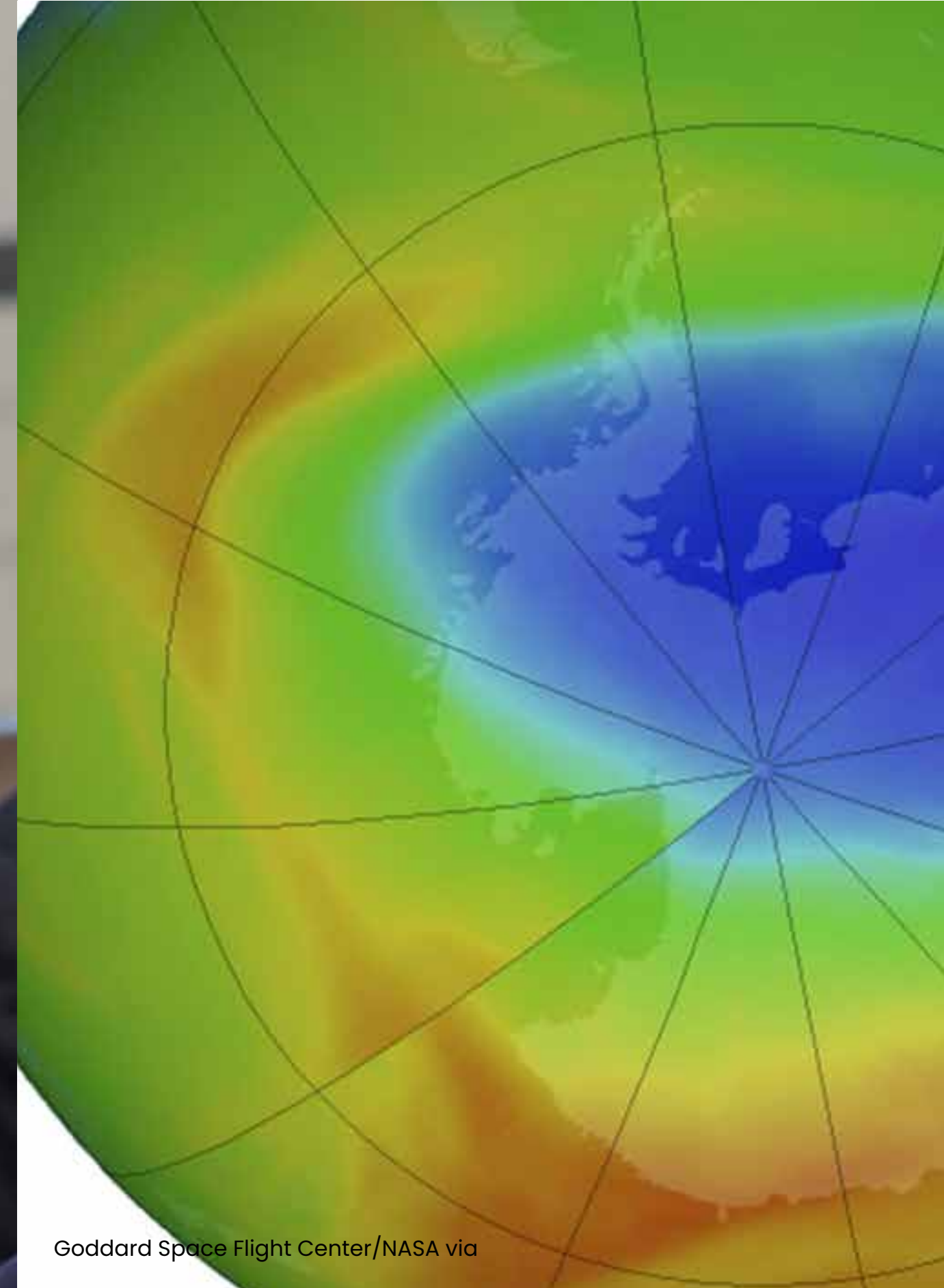
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he will lift sanctions on Turkey after the NATO ally agreed to permanently stop fighting Kurdish forces in Syria and he defended his decision to withdraw American troops.

“We’re getting out,” Trump said at the White House, asserting that tens of thousands of Kurdish lives were saved as the result of his actions. “Let someone else fight over this long, blood-stained sand,” he said. The president, who campaigned on a promise to cease American involvement in “endless wars,” took a victory lap as he lopped the American presence inside Syria in less than a year from about 2,000 troops to a

contingency force in southern Syria of 200 to 300. Lawmakers on both sides of aisle chastised the president for turning on the Syrian Kurds, whose fighters battled side by side with American troops to beat back the Islamic State group. They also questioned whether the move has opened up the region to a resurgence of IS.

“I am worried that a full withdrawal will create space for ISIS to regroup, grow and gain more strength,” said Michael McCaul of Texas, the lead Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. “We learned from President Obama’s reckless retreat from Iraq that power vacuums are...

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Goddard Space Flight Center/NASA via

SOUTH POLE'S OZONE HOLE SHRINKS TO SMALLEST SINCE DISCOVERY

October 22, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The ozone hole near the south pole this year is the smallest since it was discovered, but it is more due to freakish Antarctic weather than efforts to cut down on pollution, NASA **reported**. This fall, the average hole in Earth's protective ozone layer is 3.6 million square miles. That's down from a peak of 10.3 million square miles in 2006. This year's hole is even smaller than the one first discovered in 1985.

“That’s really good news,” NASA scientist Paul Newman said Tuesday. “That means more ozone over the hemisphere, less ultraviolet radiation at the surface.” Earth's **ozone layer** shields life on the surface from harmful solar radiation, but man-made chlorine compounds that can last in the air for 100 years nibble at the ozone, creating thinning and a gap over the Southern Hemisphere. The hole reaches its peak in September and October and disappears by late December...

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CANADA'S TRUDEAU WINS 2ND TERM BUT NATION MORE DIVIDED

October 22, 2019 | AP News

TORONTO — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau won a second term in a stronger-than-expected showing in Canada's national elections, claiming a “clear mandate” Tuesday despite a Parliament and nation increasingly fractured along regional lines. Trudeau's Liberal Party took the most seats in Parliament but lost its majority in Monday's balloting. That means it will have to rely on an opposition party to pass legislation. The prime minister's early morning address to supporters came as his Conservative rival, Andrew Scheer, had just begun speaking to his own backers, forcing TV networks to break away from Scheer.

Related Story: Canada's Trudeau Faces Furor Over Brownface Photo From 2001

But the prime minister struck a conciliatory note: “To those who did not vote for us, know that we will work every...

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Ryan Remiorz/The Canadian Press via AP

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