

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a teal blazer, is speaking into a microphone at a public rally. She is holding a large white sign that reads "Keep Families Together" in bold black letters. In the background, several men in suits are visible, some with American flags. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST
NOVEMBER 15, 2019

**Keep Families
Together**

**DACA SUPPORTERS RALLY IN
FRESNO AS COURT WEIGHS CASE
TO END PROTECTIONS »**

**STATE REGULATORS LAUNCH
INVESTIGATION INTO POWER
OUTAGES »**

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\$134.5 BILLION IN OCTOBER »**



LOCAL

DACA SUPPORTERS RALLY IN FRESNO AS COURT WEIGHS CASE TO END PROTECTIONS

November 12, 2019 | David Taub

Hours after the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case on the legality of rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, about 40 DACA supporters held a rally at the federal courthouse in downtown Fresno. DACA gives legal work status — and temporary protection from deportation — for those brought into the United States illegally as children. An estimated 700,000 benefit from DACA. The program was enacted as an executive order by President Barack

America Hernandez has become the local face of DACA. The 36-year old Fresno woman came to the United States from Mexico when she was three months old. She is a DACA recipient and works as a social services coordinator for an immigrant rights group.

Obama in 2012 and reversed by Donald Trump five years later. The future of the program now rests with the nine justices of the highest court in the land. A combination of activists and elected leaders hope they rule in DACA's favor.

Related Story: Court Appears Poised to End DACA Protection

Recipient Wants to Be an American

America Hernandez has become the local face of DACA. The 36-year old Fresno woman came to the United States from Mexico when she was three months old. She is a DACA recipient and works as a social services coordinator for an immigrant rights group. Even if the court rules against DACA, Hernandez says she's staying. "It means I continue to fight," Hernandez said. "I've been completely without DACA before. It is difficult, but it's something that I've done, and I will figure it out." While DACA does not change her citizenship status, she wants to be an American. "I would love to not have any fear. I would love to be able to contribute in

more significant ways to this country, where I know that it is a permanent thing. Maybe go up and be a representative one day," Hernandez said.

Issue is 'Personal' for Soria

Fresno councilwoman and congressional candidate Esmeralda Soria led cheers among the crowd to support immigrants. She called the issue personal, noting her sister-in-law and some of her staff are DACA recipients. "I have seen it intimately how this issue, and how the uncertainty has impacted the lives of people that continue to be in limbo," Soria said. She wants Congress, the body she hopes to win an election to join, to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

She supported Obama's executive order, as a response to what she describes as a broken Congress. "He used his power through the executive order to create a program that would protect thousands of Dreamers that live, that are working in our society," she said. "You learn from a very early age that there is a right way and there is a wrong way to do things. The federal government tried to terminate DACA the wrong way. Today, we stand here very proud of the arguments that were made on behalf of the 700,000 DACA recipients. We're here to stand up for the right way to do things. Together, we're here to say DACA is legal and an American success story," Becerra said. As to her thoughts whether a president could take DACA away via executive order, Soria says she'll wait to see how the court rules on that argument. The state of California led the way on many lawsuits against the Trump...

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DA SMITTCAMP MAKES ENDORSEMENT IN JUDGE RACE WITH FORMER RIVAL

GV Wire/David Taub

November 11, 2019 | David Taub

Given its political logic, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp took little time making her choice official: she is supporting Douglas Treisman for judge. Treisman is a Senior Deputy District Attorney. Smittcamp is his boss. “Doug Treisman is the person everyone in the district attorney’s office goes to when they don’t know the answer,” Smittcamp told Politics 101. “He is one of the most ethical people I’ve had the pleasure to work with.”

Treisman is slated to face former DA Elizabeth Egan for the open seat. The current holder, Alan Simpson, is not seeking re-election and will retire at the end of his term in January 2021. Smittcamp defeated incumbent Egan for the district attorney position in 2014 in a hotly contested race. She calls Treisman “the most experienced candidate in the race.” The deadline for

any other candidates to enter the race is tomorrow.

Related Story: Former DA Egan Is Running for Judge

County Clerk Takes Long View on Election

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Brandi Orth has filed to run again, even though her next election isn’t until 2022. She filed paperwork with her own office for another term. Orth has served since 2012. She was initially appointed to fill a vacancy, then won election in 2014 and re-election in 2018.

Decision Day for Council

For the last two meetings, the Fresno City Council debated several hot topics. This Thursday, is the day of reckoning with scheduled votes. Among the issues to be decided...

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FRESNO EOC, TULARE COUNTY DA GET FEDERAL ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING GRANTS

November 12, 2019 | Nancy Price

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded nearly \$1.4 million in grants to agencies in Fresno and Tulare County to battle human trafficking and provide services to trafficking victims, the agency announced Tuesday.

DOJ is awarding more than **\$100 million in grants** through the Office for Victims of Crime Programs, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The awardees include the **Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission**, which was awarded \$499,998 in a three-year grant to provide services to victims through the **Central Valley Against Human Trafficking** project, and Tulare County, which was awarded \$899,737 for the District Attorney’s Office **Human Trafficking Task Force**.

“We’re able to expand services, but this has been a long time coming,” said Sarah Johnston, program manager for the Central Valley Against Human Trafficking project, which serves a...

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GENERAL PLAN NEEDS TO DO MORE FOR MARKET RATE HOUSING, COUNCILMEN

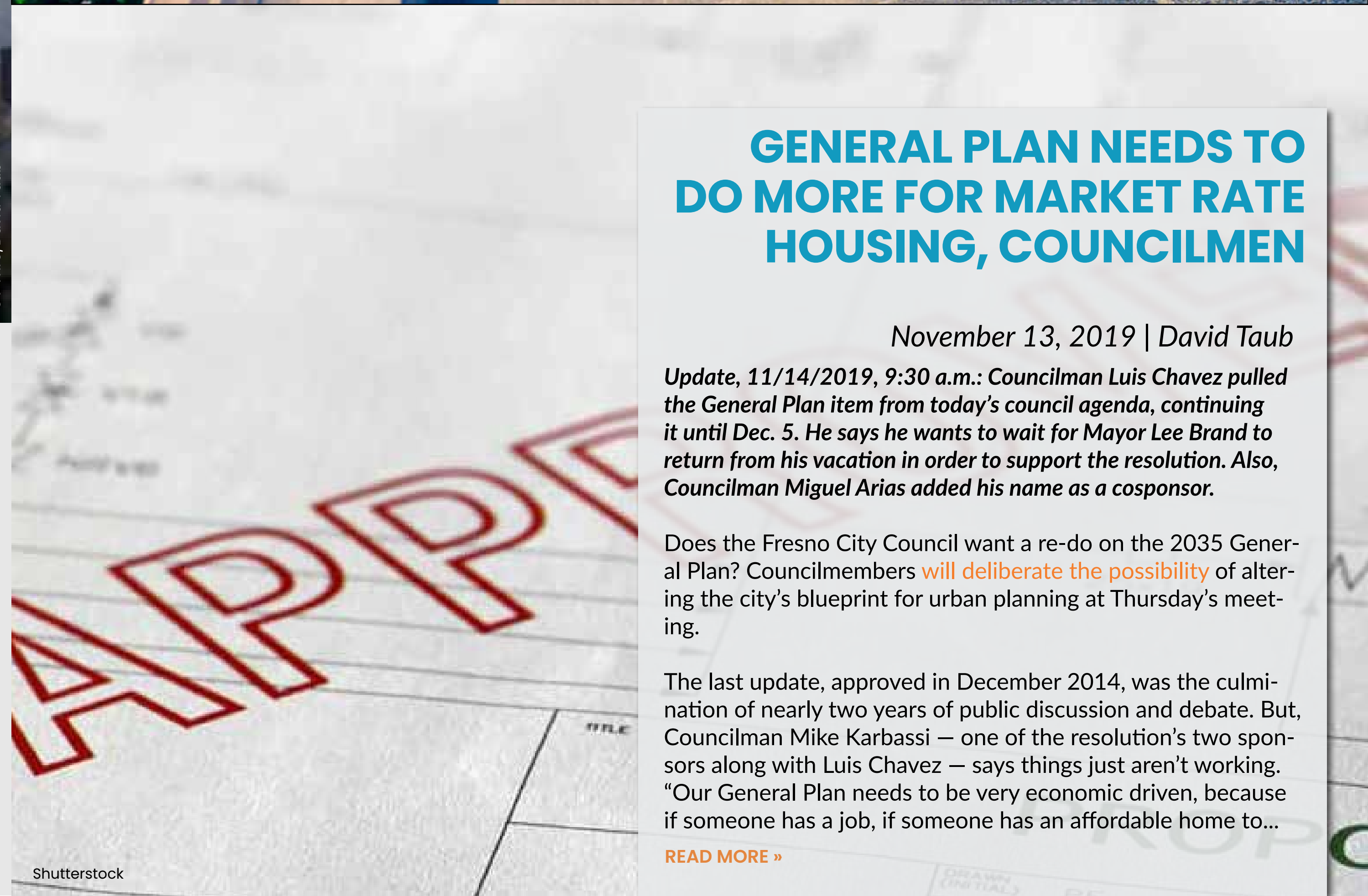
November 13, 2019 | David Taub

Update, 11/14/2019, 9:30 a.m.: Councilman Luis Chavez pulled the General Plan item from today’s council agenda, continuing it until Dec. 5. He says he wants to wait for Mayor Lee Brand to return from his vacation in order to support the resolution. Also, Councilman Miguel Arias added his name as a cosponsor.

Does the Fresno City Council want a re-do on the 2035 General Plan? Councilmembers **will deliberate the possibility** of altering the city’s blueprint for urban planning at Thursday’s meeting.

The last update, approved in December 2014, was the culmination of nearly two years of public discussion and debate. But, Councilman Mike Karbassi — one of the resolution’s two sponsors along with Luis Chavez — says things just aren’t working. “Our General Plan needs to be very economic driven, because if someone has a job, if someone has an affordable home to...

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STATE REGULATORS LAUNCH INVESTIGATION INTO POWER OUTAGES

November 4, 2019 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — California regulators opened a formal investigation Wednesday into preemptive power outages that blacked out large parts of the state in October, drawing strong rebukes from public officials and residents who said the shut-offs were too broad and poorly executed. The unanimous vote by the California Public Utilities Commission followed testimony

“Many Californians are debating whether California is still safe. Is this a safe place to live?”
— Will Abrams of Santa Rosa, whose house burned down in 2017 in wildfires that roared through Northern California wine country

from a handful of people who pleaded with the panel for leadership at a time of increased danger from fire and other natural disasters. “Many Californians are debating whether California is still safe. Is this a safe place to live?” said Will Abrams of Santa Rosa, whose house burned down in 2017 in wildfires that roared through Northern California wine country. The state’s largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., initiated multiple rounds of shut-offs and plunged nearly 2.5 million people into darkness at one point throughout Northern and Central California. Some of the outages lasted for several days. PG&E officials insisted on the shut-offs for public safety, but infuriated residents and a parade of public officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, who said cutting off power should be a last resort and that the company regularly botched communications.

Related Story: Regulators to Open Inquiry Into PG&E Outages

The Outages Raised Concerns

Nevada City Mayor Reinette Senum said Wednesday that her rural community had no working phones or internet. She wants local control over the power grid, which she said could take better care than PG&E, which is a for-profit utility. “Basically, we were sent back into

the dark ages,” she said. Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co. are also for-profit utilities that shut off power, but to far fewer people. The outages raised concerns about whether the utilities “properly balanced the need to provide reliable service with public safety,” said the order authorizing the investigation. Commission President Marybel Batjer requested the broad investigation, saying that widespread outages “cannot be the new normal for California.” Commissioners said Wednesday that they want to know what can be done to improve shut-offs or reduce their scope in the future. Batjer also signed an order Tuesday directing PG&E to show why it should not be fined for other violations related to the shutdowns. Each violation of state requirements involving power shutdowns could carry a \$100,000 penalty. Bill Johnson, the chief executive of PG&E, has said the outages kept people safe, although a transmission line in Sonoma County that was not powered off malfunctioned minutes before a wildfire erupted Oct. 23, forcing about 180,000 people to evacuate.

If PG&E doesn’t make changes, Newsom is threatening to try to turn the utility into a customer-owned cooperative run by the state and local governments. The company so far has defended its proposal as a fair deal for all parties involved in its bankruptcy.

Commissioners Have Been Stewing Over the Outages

Utility spokesman Ari Vanrenen said again Wednesday that the shut-offs were the right call. He said the company continues to improve and has “made every effort” to implement the commission’s requirements when it cuts power. Abrams not only lost his home in the 2017 wildfires, but his children had to endure smoke from a deadly 2018 wildfire in Paradise. Last month, the family evacuated from another Sonoma County wildfire. They were terrified to cross into the San Francisco...

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When the state of California licenses professionals, it is telling Californians that they can depend on licensees to perform their services competently, that miscreants will be disciplined and that in serious cases, their licenses will be lifted.

WALTERS: OUR LAWS PROTECT CRIMINAL COPS

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November 14, 2019 | Dan Walters, CalMatters

When the state of California licenses professionals, it is telling Californians that they can depend on licensees to perform their services competently, that miscreants will be disciplined and that in serious cases, their licenses will be lifted.

For instance, the state bar, which oversees attorneys, publishes all of its disciplinary actions, along with the underlying information that justifies its censures. Alas, it doesn't always work that way. Licensing agencies are often dominated by the professions they regulate and are reluctant to act on complaints. Moreover, professional trade associations lobby the Legislature for special protections.

Police unions have been especially aggressive in erecting barriers to disciplinary oversight, including a "peace officers bill of rights." Politicians, from the governor down, have been eager to do their bidding because their campaign endorsements are precious political commodities.

Cop unions' political clout has waned a bit in recent years, most noticeably in failing to block measures that impose stricter standards on use of deadly force and require the release of information on such cases. However, our laws still make it difficult, or even impossible, to discipline rogue cops, and one of those laws is back in the spotlight because of an...

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SOUR GRAPES: TRADE WAR PUTS CORK IN US WINE SALES TO CHINA

November 14, 2019 | AP News

LIVERMORE — Caught in the crossfire of President Donald Trump's trade war with China, U.S. vineyards are struggling to sell Syrah in Shanghai and Chardonnay in Shenzhen. They risk losing their foothold in one of the world's fastest-growing wine markets.

The 16-month dispute between the world's two biggest economies has nothing to do with wine. The Trump administration accuses China of stealing U.S. technology and forcing American companies to hand over trade secrets and has slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports. China disputes the allegations.

When the Chinese hit back with retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, they put a bull's eye on American wine. Since June, China has been imposing 93% tariffs and taxes on American wine, up from 48% before the hostilities began, according...

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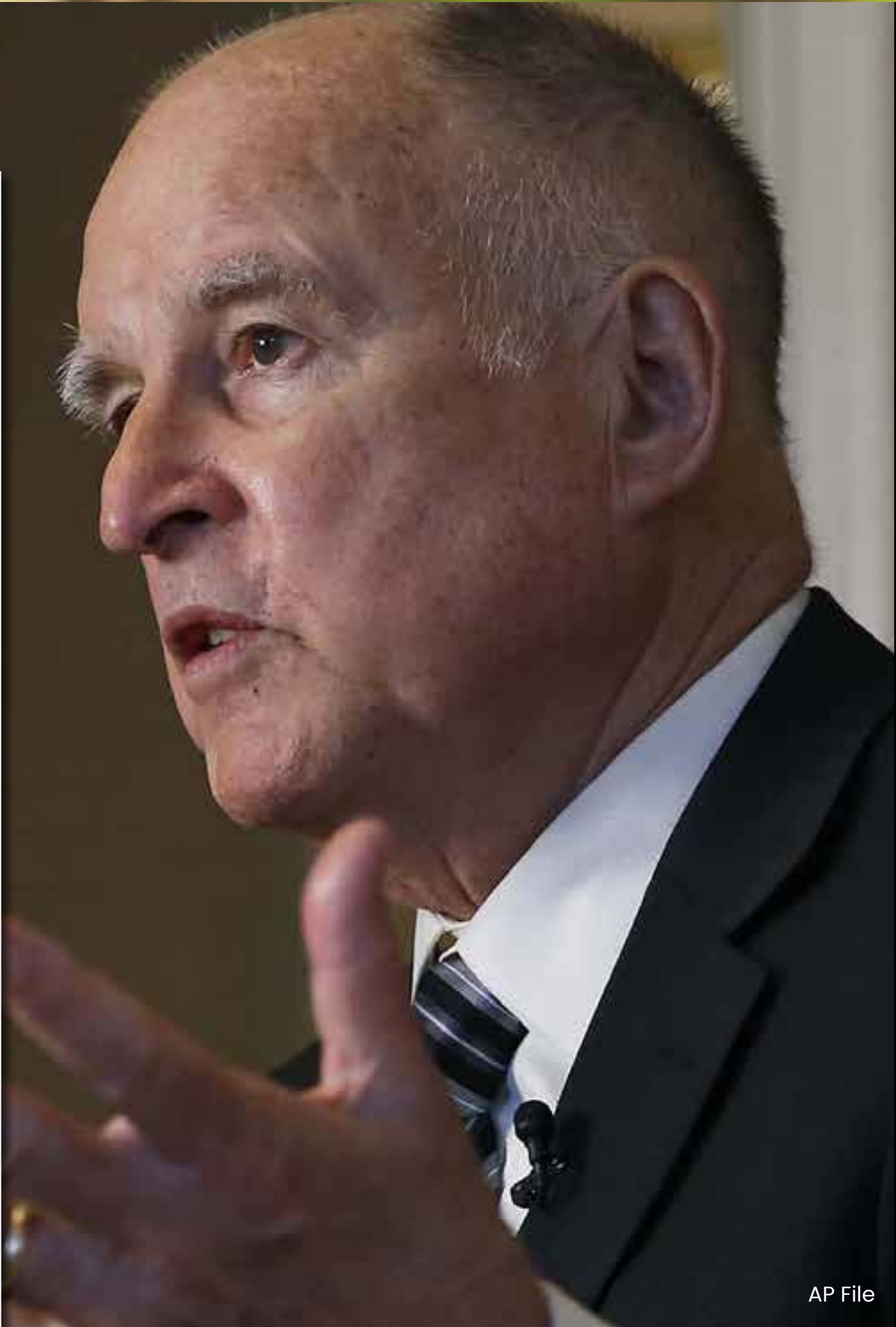
CALIFORNIA SUED AGAIN FOR REQUIRING WOMEN ON COMPANY BOARDS

November 13, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California's first-in-the-nation law requiring publicly held companies to put women on their boards of directors is facing a second legal challenge. The law requires publicly traded companies to have at least one woman on their boards by the end of this year. By 2021, boards with five members must have two women, while those with six directors must have three.

The Pacific Legal Foundation provided The Associated Press with the lawsuit it filed in federal court Wednesday, arguing that the law violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. The libertarian group wants to block such laws in California and other states. Similar proposals have been introduced in Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Washington state, the group said. Illinois ultimately enacted a pared-down law this year requiring publicly traded companies to report the demographics of their boards and plans for promoting...

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U.S. US BUDGET DEFICIT SURGES TO \$134.5 BILLION IN OCTOBER

November 13, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The federal government, which ended the 2019 budget year with its largest deficit in seven years, began the new budget year with a deficit in October that was 33.8% bigger than a year ago as spending hit a record. The Treasury Department said Wednesday that the deficit last month totaled \$134.5 billion, up from a shortfall in October 2018 of \$100.5 billion. The government ran up a deficit of \$984.4 billion for the 2019 budget year that ended Sept. 30, 26% larger than in 2018.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the deficit for 2020 will hit \$1 trillion and will remain over \$1 trillion for the next decade. The country has not experienced \$1 trillion annual deficits since 2009 through 2012 following the 2008 financial crisis. The projections of trillion-dollar deficits are in contrast to President Donald Trump's campaign promises in 2016 that even with his proposed tax cuts he would be able to eliminate future deficits with cuts in spending and growth in revenues from a stronger economy.

The Government's Budget Year Runs From Oct. 1 Through Sept. 30

The previous period of surging deficits spawned a political backlash that put Republicans back in power in

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the House, but the current surge in deficits has not sparked a similar uproar. Republicans are considering another round of tax cuts and Democrats running for president are putting forth big new spending proposals such as Medicare for All. The government's budget year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. For October, the big jump in the deficit reflected a 7.8% rise in spending from a year ago that pushed outlays for the month of October to a record \$380 billion.

Revenues in October fell 2.8% to \$245.2 billion from the same month a year ago. One revenue category that showed a big increase was tariffs on imports, which totaled \$8 billion, up 39% from a year ago. The Trump administration imposed a new round of tariffs on China in September after negotiations between the two nations failed to reach a trade agreement to address American concerns about protection of intellectual property and other issues.

Negotiations with China are ongoing, and Trump said Tuesday that the two countries were close to a partial agreement that would roll back some of the tariffs the two sides have imposed. But the president said, "If we don't make a deal, we will substantially raise those tariffs."

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RECORD COLD FOLLOWS EARLY SNOWSTORM OVER MUCH OF EASTERN US

AP File

November 13, 2019 | AP News

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Snow and cold records fell as an arctic air-mass that started in Siberia spilled over a big chunk of the eastern half of the U.S., including the normally mild South, on Tuesday.

The mid-autumn taste of winter brought record single-digit temperatures to Chicago and environs; set snowfall records in Buffalo and Detroit; dusted cars with snow in Memphis, Tennessee; and froze lakes in Minnesota weeks earlier than usual. Wisconsin farmer Bob Grove still has soybeans in the field, 20 miles south of Milwaukee, but said he can't harvest

them because the snow will clog the machinery. "Normally, you don't see this kind of weather to well into December," Grove said. "It's caught us off guard, as far as getting crops harvested. Doing what we can in between snow, rain, mud." The roughly 10 inches of snow in Buffalo and Detroit by Tuesday morning was a record depth for the time of year, weather service records show.

Areas of Vermont and Maine saw similar totals as a wintry mix also closed or delayed hundreds of schools in northern New England. "This is an air mass that's more typical for...

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AP File

TASTE FOR MILK SOURS, PUSHING TOP BRAND INTO BANKRUPTCY

November 12, 2019 | AP News

Dean Foods, America's biggest milk processor, filed for bankruptcy Tuesday amid a decades-long drop-off in U.S. milk consumption blamed on changing trends and a growing variety of alternatives. The Dallas company said it may sell itself to the Dairy Farmers of America, a marketing cooperative owned by thousands of farmers.

"Despite our best efforts to make our business more agile and cost-efficient, we continue to be impacted by a challenging operating environment marked by continuing declines in consumer milk consumption," CEO Eric Berigause said in a statement. Since 1975, the amount of milk consumed per capita in the U.S. has tumbled more than 40%. Americans consumed around 24 gallons per year in 1996, according to government data. That dropped to 17 gallons in 2018. An increasing variety of beverages, including teas and sodas...

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MOST DISTANT WORLD EVER EXPLORED GETS NEW NAME: ARROKOTH

November 13, 2019 | AP News

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The most distant world ever explored 4 billion miles away finally has an official name: Arrokoth. That means "sky" in the language of the Native American Powhatan people, NASA said Tuesday. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew past the snowman-shaped Arrokoth on New Year's Day, 3 ½ years after exploring Pluto. At the time, this small icy world 1 billion miles beyond Pluto was nicknamed Ultima Thule given its vast distance from us.

"The name 'Arrokoth' reflects the inspiration of looking to the skies," lead scientist Alan Stern of Southwest Research Institute said in a statement, "and wondering about the stars and worlds beyond our own." The name was picked because of the Powhatan's ties to the Chesapeake Bay region. New Horizons is operated from Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland. The Hubble Space Telescope — which discovered Arrokoth in 2014 — has its...

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NASA via AP



AP file

WORLD

US HELD RECORD NUMBER OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN CUSTODY IN 2019

November 12, 2019 | AP News

COMAYAGUA, Honduras — The 3-year-old girl traveled for weeks cradled in her father's arms, as he set out to seek asylum in the United States. Now she won't even look at him. After being forcibly separated at the border by government officials, sexually abused in U.S. foster

After being forcibly separated at the border by government officials, sexually abused in U.S. foster care and deported, the once bright and beaming girl arrived back in Honduras withdrawn, anxious and angry, convinced her father abandoned her.

care and deported, the once bright and beaming girl arrived back in Honduras withdrawn, anxious and angry, convinced her father abandoned her. He fears their bond is forever broken. "I think about this trauma staying with her too, because the trauma

has remained with me and still hasn't faded," he said, days after their reunion.

This month, new government data shows the little girl is one of an unprecedented 69,550 migrant children held in U.S. government custody over the past year, enough infants, toddlers, kids and teens to overflow the typical NFL stadium. That's more children detained away from their parents than any other country, according to United Nations researchers. And it's happening even though the U.S. government has acknowledged that being held in detention can be traumatic for children, putting them at risk of long-term physical and emotional damage.

Some of these migrant children who were in government custody this year have already been deported. Some have reunited with family in the U.S., where they're trying to go to school and piece their lives back together. About 4,000 are still in government custody, some in large, impersonal shelters. And more arrive every week. This story is part of an ongoing joint investigation between The Associated Press and the PBS series FRONTLINE on the treatment of migrant children, which includes the film "Kids Caught in the Crackdown"

premiering on PBS and online Nov. 12 at 10 p.m. EST/9 p.m. CST.

Younger Children Are at Greater Risk

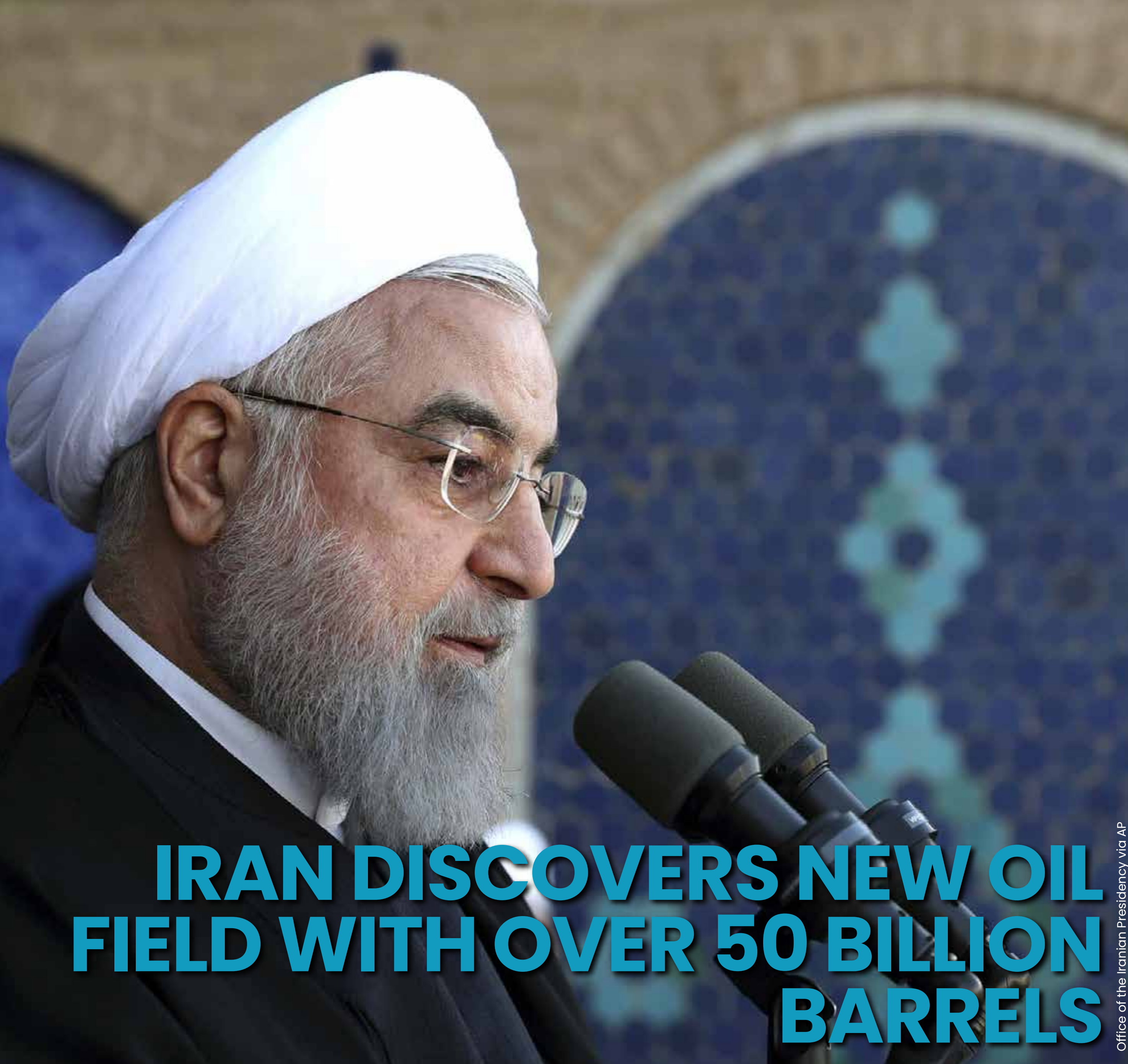
The nearly 70,000 migrant children who were held in government custody this year — up 42 percent in fiscal year 2019 from 2018 — spent more time in shelters and away from their families than in prior years. The Trump administration's series of strict immigration policies has increased the time children spend in detention, despite the government's own acknowledgment that it does them harm. In 2013, Australia detained 2,000 children during a surge of maritime arrivals. In Canada, immigrant children are separated from their parents only as a last resort; 155 were detained in 2018. In the United Kingdom, 42 migrant children were put in shelters in 2017, according to officials in those countries.

"Early experiences are literally built into our brains and bodies," said Dr. Jack Shonkoff, who directs Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child. Earlier this year, he told Congress that "decades of peer-reviewed research" show that detaining kids away from parents or primary caregivers is bad for their health. It's a brain-wiring issue, he said. "Stable and responsive relationships promote healthy brain architecture," Shonkoff said. "If these relationships are disrupted, young children are hit by the double whammy of a brain that is deprived of the positive stimulation it needs, and assaulted by a stress response that disrupts its developing circuitry." Younger children

are at greater risk, because their biological systems are less developed, he said. Previous harm and the duration of separation are also more likely to lead to trauma. One Honduran teen who was held in a large detention...

"They would cry sometimes, alone, or they would hit themselves against the wall. I thought that was because of them being here for such a long time."
— **detained Honduran teen**

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IRAN DISCOVERS NEW OIL FIELD WITH OVER 50 BILLION BARRELS

Office of the Iranian Presidency via AP

November 11, 2019 | AP News

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has discovered a new oil field in the country's south with over 50 billion barrels of crude, its president said Sunday, a find that could boost the country's proven reserves by a third as it struggles to sell energy abroad over U.S. sanctions.

The announcement by Hassan Rouhani comes as Iran faces crushing American sanctions after the U.S. pulled out of its nuclear deal with world powers last year. Rouhani made the announcement in a speech in the desert city of Yazd. He said the field was located in Iran's southern Khuzestan province, home to its crucial oil industry.

Some 53 billion barrels would be added to Iran's proven reserves of roughly 150 billion, he said. "I am telling the White House that in the days when you sanctioned the sale of Iranian oil and pressured our nation, the country's dear workers and engineers were able to discover 53 billion barrels of oil in a big field," Rouhani said.

Oil reserves refer to crude that's economically feasible to extract. Figures can vary wildly by country due to differing standards, though it remains a yardstick of comparison among oil-producing nations. Iran currently has the world's fourth-largest proven deposits of crude oil and the world's...

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AP File

INTERNATIONAL COURT JUDGES AUTHORIZE ROHINGYA INVESTIGATION

November 14, 2019 | AP News

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — International Criminal Court judges on Thursday approved a request from prosecutors to open an investigation into crimes committed against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority. A prominent rights group said the decision will give fresh hope to victims that those responsible for brutal crimes against the Rohingya will be brought to justice. "Rohingya victims may finally get their day in court," said Param-Preet Singh, associate international director at Human Rights Watch.

However, the court has no police force of its own and must rely on the cooperation of states to execute arrest warrants. The allegations stem from a counterinsurgency campaign that Myanmar's military began in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings...

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TURKEY DEPORTS AMERICAN IS SUSPECT STUCK AT GREEK BORDER

November 14, 2019 | AP News

ANKARA, Turkey — An American man suspected of being a member of the Islamic State group is being repatriated to the United States after spending three days in a no man's land between Turkey and Greece, Turkey's Interior Ministry said Thursday. The United States agreed to take him in and will provide him with travel documents, the ministry said, adding that the repatriation was underway.

The move comes a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington. The man was stuck in the heavily militarized border zone after Turkey tried to expel him to Greece on Monday but Athens refused him entry. Turkish media have identified him as 39-year-old Mohammad Darwis B. and said he was an American citizen of Jordanian background. The Ministry said Thursday the man had asked to be deported to a "third country" and chose Greece. He had been spotted in the no...

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DHA via AP



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