



# GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
NOVEMBER 30, 2019

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# WHAT WENT WRONG FOR FRESNO STATE FOOTBALL THIS SEASON?

November 25, 2019 | Bill McEwen

At 4-7, with a week to go, the Fresno State football team hasn't enjoyed the success its fans and the experts expected. It's hard to believe now, but back in July the Mountain West media overwhelmingly predicted the defending conference champs

**"I think it is still really important to try to end the season with a victory. It isn't about experimenting. Now, it's about sending these guys off with a positive memory of winning the last game against a rival."**  
— Fresno State Bulldogs coach Jeff Tedford

would again win the West Division and meet Boise State for the title. Well, the 10-1 and 20th-ranked Broncos did their part by clinching the Mountain Division for the third straight year with a 56-21 victory

Saturday over Utah State. Now they'll meet 8-4 Hawaii for the championship. That would be the same Hawaii team that lost at home 41-38 to Fresno State.

## Can Play With Anybody. Can Lose to Anybody

It has been that kind of year for the Bulldogs. They gave USC, which is now ranked No. 25 in the nation, all the Trojans could handle on their home turf. They twice had Minnesota, now ranked ninth nationally, beat in the latter stages of their game at Bulldog Stadium. The Bulldogs proved they could compete with anybody. Unfortunately, they could also lose to anybody as evidenced again by Saturday's 35-28 loss to Nevada. Most frustrating: Fresno State lost on its home field on Senior Night in a game it needed to win to keep hopes of a bowl game alive. And it lost after scoring 28 straight points to take a touchdown lead midway through the third quarter.

## The Only Thing Left to Play for Is Pride

All that's left is playing for pride, going to San Jose State on Saturday and possibly bloodying the nose

of a longtime rival. "It's like I told those guys, I feel bad that we weren't able to come away with the victory on Senior Night," Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford said. "They have been a part of a lot of great times in that stadium and those are the things they should remember. We had a lot of close games this year, but we haven't found a way to win. "I think it is still really important to try to end the season with a victory. It isn't about experimenting. Now, it's about sending these guys off with a positive memory of winning the last game against a rival."

## A Miserable Home Season

With a few breaks here and there, this could have been a winning season. But the Bulldogs failed to defend their turf and finished 2-4 at home. Three of those losses came against Mountain West opponents — Colorado State, Utah State, Nevada. So, what went wrong? For starters, the Mountain West media overrated the Bulldogs. Perhaps they didn't anticipate how much Fresno State would miss two stout defenders from the 2018 team — linebacker Jeff Allison and safety Mike Bell — who declared for the NFL draft as juniors. Perhaps they just expected Tedford to keep working miracles the way he did in resuscitating a program that had hit rock bottom. Certainly, the experts overlooked how young the Bulldogs are. With one game left, Fresno State has started eight true freshmen this season. That speaks to their young talent and to a season filled with injuries.

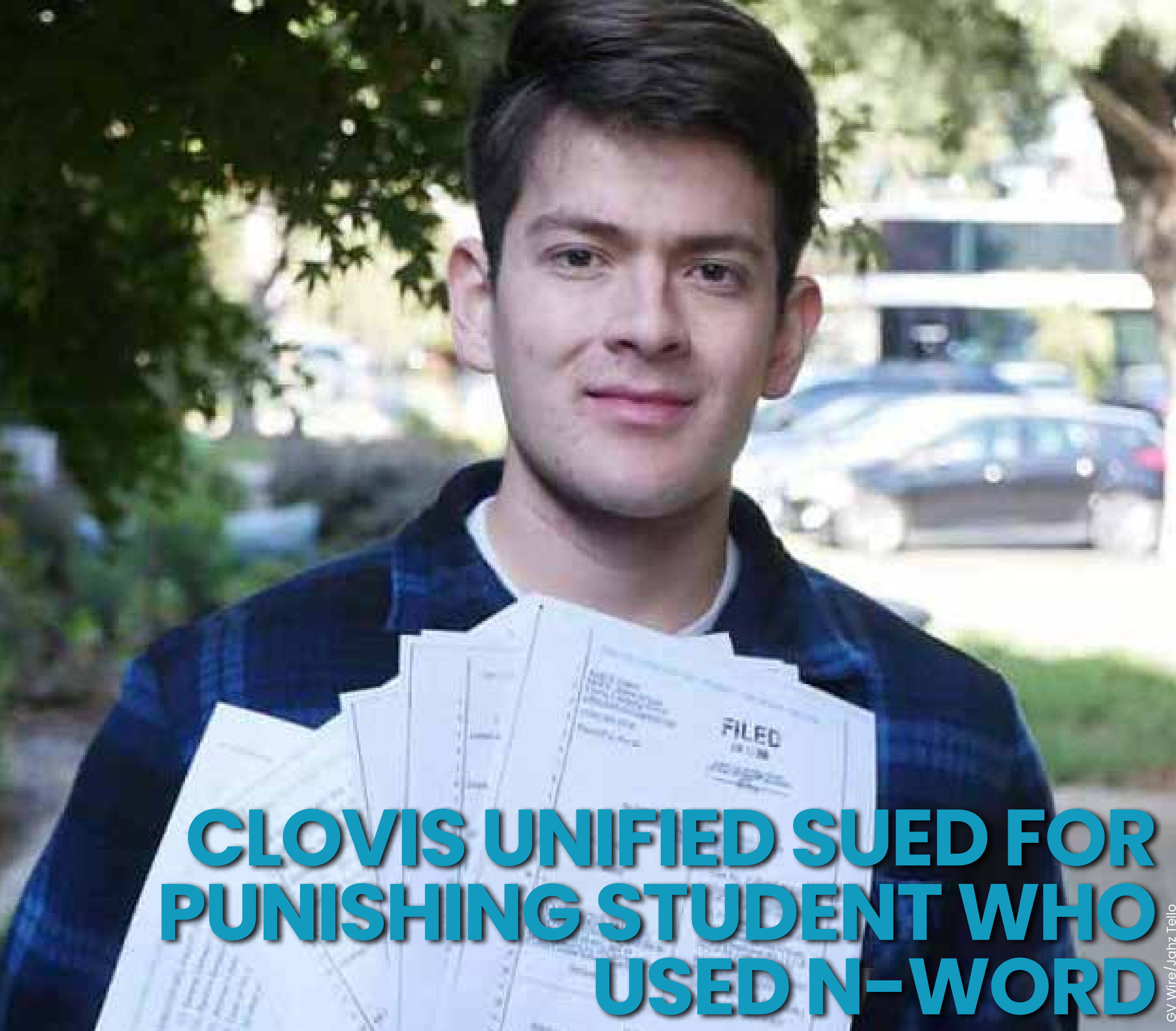
**A bend-then-break defense explains the Bulldogs' 1-4 record in games decided by eight or fewer points.**

## Bulldogs Are Danger to Themselves and Others

Amazingly, for a team that is three games under .500 overall and in conference play, the Bulldogs have scored the exact number of points as they're...

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## CLOVIS UNIFIED SUED FOR PUNISHING STUDENT WHO USED N-WORD

GV Wire/Janez Tello

November 22, 2019 | David Taub

Andy Castro felt it was unfair that Clovis High School stopped him from participating in graduation ceremonies. Just hours before the pomp and circumstance on May 30, 2019, the school's principal summoned the 18-year old Castro to her office and informed him that because of an offensive tweet, Castro wouldn't be allowed to attend. Two weeks later, and without the help of an attorney, Castro filed a federal lawsuit against Clovis Unified, the principal and others. While a recent ruling dismissed many aspects of the case, one key component will continue — whether the school violated Castro's constitutional free speech rights. At least one legal scholar says Castro has a case.

### No Legal Background

In an interview Thursday, Castro explained why he sued

the district. "It was the situation and how things played out and how quickly and forcefully they acted," Castro said. The self-described 3.67 GPA student still graduated but wasn't allowed to walk. He is now studying engineering at Clovis Community College and hopes to transfer to a four-year school.

Castro, and his father, Aladio — also an engineer — worked together on the suit. Neither has a legal background. Father and son researched the law online, sometimes at home and sometimes at Starbucks. His father helped pay for the costs of the suit. Castro wasn't sure about the total spent thus far. Despite this legal endeavor, Castro doesn't desire to practice law. "It's pretty stressful, considering what's at stake, and the implications of it," Castro said. Earlier on the day of the scheduled ceremony, Castro posted a message on Twitter "excited...

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## DISTURBING THE PEACE? 5 HIKES TO AVOID YOSEMITE CROWDS

November 25, 2019 | AP News

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — Dappled sunlight kisses the valley floor of Yosemite National Park. Granite monoliths, gushing waterfalls and giant sequoias abound. The wilderness is calling. But instead of hitting the trails in a place John Muir called "by far the grandest of all the special temples of nature," you're sitting in a traffic jam, vying for limited parking.

More than 4 million visitors poured into Yosemite in 2018, and because its main attractions are concentrated along a 7-mile loop, it gets congested. Like, 5 p.m. in downtown Los Angeles congested. Parking can take hours. "In general, national parks everywhere, they become more and more popular every year, and a place like Yosemite, you can't just show up unprepared," says James Kaiser, author of "Yosemite: The Complete Guide." "It feels like a huge disappointment visiting a place to experience natural beauty and spending your time looking for a parking space." But there's no reason anyone's trip to the majestic...

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GV Wire/Nancy Price

## THESE SUNNYSIDE STUDENTS ALL GET COLLEGE BIDS — AND SOME GO ON TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

November 26, 2019 | Nancy Price

The [Doctors Academy](#) freshmen cluster around tables in a Sunnyside High School science classroom, adding spoonfuls of sugar to a cup of water. Their assignment: Figure out just how much sugar they need to add to make the liquid taste as sweet as 20 ounces of soda pop. Their formulas are somewhat inexact, and there's a lot of giggling: "It's supposed to taste like soda, not horchata," one student says, referring to the popular Mexican sweet rice milk.

Sugar, explains Dr. Dan Lo, one of two medical residents from the [Valley Health Team](#) visiting the Doctors Academy class, is a carbohydrate, which the human body needs for energy — in moderation. Too much, and diabetes could result. Bringing doctors like Lo and Dr. Ramneek Kalsi to Sunnyside to teach about diabetes and how to wrap a sprained ankle, and to talk about what it's like to go to medical school, gives these freshmen a close-up look at the careers they may someday have. These...

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# STATE

## MCDONALD'S AGREES TO \$26M SETTLEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA WORKERS

November 25, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — McDonald's has agreed to a \$26 million settlement of a long-running class-action lawsuit over wages and work conditions at corporate-run locations in California, the parties said Monday. The agreement, which estimates the settlement covers about 38,000 individuals, requires the approval of a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge.

### Overtime Pay and Work Breaks at Issue

The lawsuit filed nearly seven years ago against McDonald's Restaurants of California Inc. made an array of claims including failure to pay minimum and overtime wages and to provide required meal and rest breaks.

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One aspect involved overnight shifts that began on one day and ended the next day but had all hours attributed to the day the shift started, avoiding overtime payments.

Initially there was one plaintiff and eventually three others joined to represent the class of cooks and cashiers. McDonald's Corp. said in a statement that it takes its responsibility as an employer seriously and is committed to fair treatment of all employees. "While we continue to believe our employment practices comply with the California Labor Code, we have decided to resolve this lawsuit filed back in early 2013," the company said. "With this settlement, the parties have reached a mutually acceptable resolution and have submitted the settlement to the Court for its review and approval."

### Settlement Includes Compensation for Back Wages

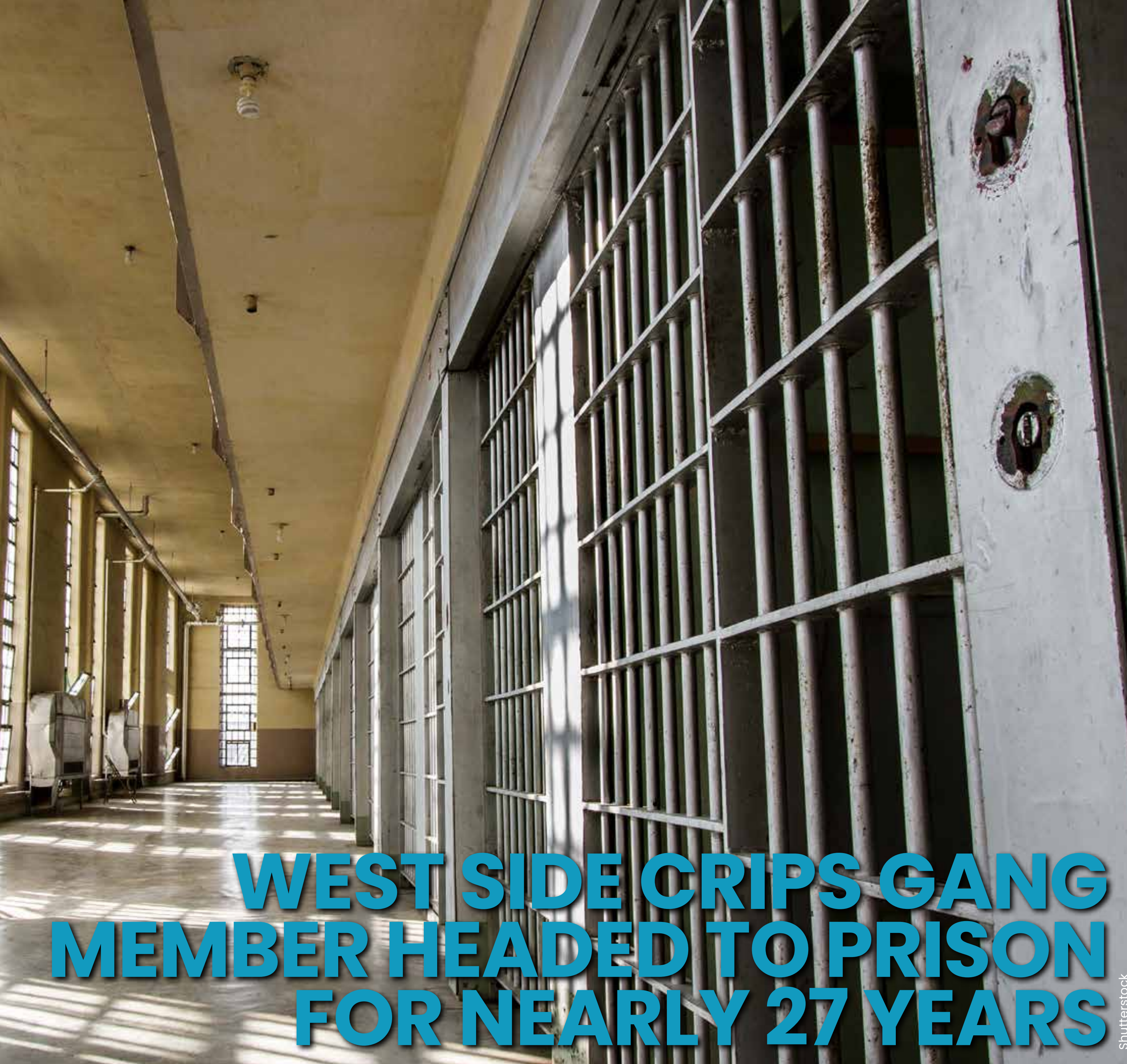
Terms of the agreement include compensation for back wages, unpaid overnight overtime, meal and rest breaks that were missed, late or shortened and unreimbursed time and expenses for maintenance of uniforms, ac-

cording to a plaintiffs' memorandum to the court. The settlement also requires periodic training for managers and crew members at corporate-owned restaurants.

McDonald's Corp. said in a statement that it takes its responsibility as an employer seriously and is committed to fair treatment of all employees.

A series of pragmatic terms require that crew members be told of rules and options covering meal periods and rest breaks, when they can't be required to stay on-site, and that McDonald's will provide uniforms without cost when work outfits become worn or damaged.





# WEST SIDE CRIPS GANG MEMBER HEADED TO PRISON FOR NEARLY 27 YEARS

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November 25, 2019 | GV Wire

Federal Judge Dale A Drozd dropped the hammer on one of Bakersfield’s most notorious gang members Monday. In a Fresno courtroom, Drozd sentenced Jarvis “Big Mice” Thomas, 34, to 320 months in prison for his role in a methamphetamine trafficking ring. According to court documents and evidence at trial, between Sept. 27, 2017, and Sept. 11, 2018, Thomas conspired with others to possess and distribute methamphetamine in Bakersfield and North Dakota.

**Operation Blind Mice**  
On Dec. 14, 2017, after a 10-month investigation, more than 35 members and associates of the West Side Crips were ar-

rested on federal and state charges including burglary, illegal gun possession, drug sales, and murder. Subsequently, all the defendants in federal custody except Thomas pleaded guilty to charged offenses. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Angela Scott and Thomas Newman prosecuted the case.

**Related Story: Former Merced Healthcare CEO Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison**

The website [unitedgangs.com](http://unitedgangs.com) says the West Side Crips built a reputation for viciousness and gun violence until the Department of Justice launched “Operation Blind Mice” two...

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Union City Police Department

# 2 BOYS SHOT TO DEATH OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 25, 2019 | AP News

UNION CITY — Two boys were fatally shot while sitting in a van outside an elementary school early Saturday morning, police said. The shootings of the boys, ages 11 and 14, took place in the parking lot of Searles Elementary School, the East Bay Times reported. Callers to 911 reported hearing gunfire at 1:26 a.m., the newspaper said. Authorities said that when officers arrived, they found the boys.

The older boy died at the scene, and the younger child died en route to a trauma center, the Times [reported](#). New Haven Unified School District Superintendent John Thompson said in a statement that the victims were minors. The boys attended schools in the district, Thompson and a district spokesman said. No arrests have been made in connection with the killings. Police Lt. Steve Mendez said there was no sign of a connection between the shooting and the school where it took place. People occasionally gather in the...

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# CALIFORNIA BOOSTS POT TAXES, SHOCKING UNSTEADY INDUSTRY

November 22, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — California is increasing business tax rates on legal marijuana, a move that stunned struggling companies that have been pleading with the state to do just the opposite. Hefty marijuana taxes that can approach 50 percent in some communities have been blamed for pushing shoppers into California’s tax-free illegal market, which is thriving. Industry analysts estimate that \$3 are spent in the illegal market for every \$1 in the legal one.

The California Cannabis Industry Association said in a statement that its members are “stunned and outraged.” The group said the higher taxes that will take effect Jan. 1 will make it even worse for a legal industry struggling under the weight of heavy regulation and fees, local bans on pot sales and growing and a booming underground marketplace. “Widening the price ... gap between illicit and regulated products will further drive consumers to the illicit market at a time when illicit products...

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# MICHAEL BLOOMBERG LAUNCHES DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL BID

November 25, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the world's richest men, has formally launched a Democratic bid for president. Ending weeks of speculation, the 77-year-old former Republican announced his candidacy Sunday in a written statement posted on a campaign website describing himself as uniquely positioned to defeat President Donald Trump. He will quickly follow with a massive advertising campaign blanketing airways in key primary states across the U.S. "I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg wrote. "We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," he continued. "He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage."

Bloomberg's entrance comes just 10 weeks before primary voting begins, an unorthodox move that reflects anxiety within the Democratic Party about the strength of its current candidates. As a centrist with deep ties to Wall Street, Bloomberg is expected to struggle among the party's energized progressive base. He became a Democrat only last year. Yet his tremendous resources and moderate profile could be appealing in a primary contest that has become, above all, a quest to find the

person best-positioned to deny Trump a second term next November. Forbes ranked Bloomberg as the 11th-richest person in the world last year with a net worth of roughly \$50 billion. Trump, by contrast, was ranked 259th with a net worth of just over \$3 billion. His business-

**"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions. He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage." — Michael Bloomberg**

es — among them are financial data services and news services in various formats — employ more than 19,000

people in 69 countries. They are also certain to raise ethical questions about how his news-oriented businesses will cover the campaign and financial conflicts of interest for a possible presidency.

## Democratic Rivals Like Bernie Sanders Pounced on Bloomberg's Plans

Already, Bloomberg has vowed to spend at least \$150 million of his fortune on various pieces of a 2020 campaign, including more than \$100 million for internet ads attacking Trump, between \$15 million and \$20 million on a voter registration drive largely targeting minority voters, and more than \$30 million on an initial round of television ads. He did not say how much he would be willing to spend overall on his presidential ambitions, but senior adviser Howard Wolfson did: "Whatever it takes to defeat Donald Trump." Wolfson also said that Bloomberg would not accept a single political donation for his campaign or take a salary should he become president. Even before the announcement was final, Democratic rivals like Bernie Sanders pounced on Bloomberg's plans to rely on his personal fortune.

"We do not believe that billionaires have the right to buy elections," Sanders said as he campaigned in New Hampshire on Sunday. He continued: "That is why multibillionaires like Mr. Bloomberg are not going to get very far in this election." Elizabeth Warren, another leading progressive candidate, also slammed Bloomberg on Saturday for trying to buy the presidency. "I understand that rich people are going to have more shoes...

**"I understand that rich people are going to have more shoes than the rest of us, they're going to have more cars than the rest of us, they're going to have more houses. But they don't get a bigger share of democracy, especially in a Democratic primary. We need to be doing the face-to-face work that lifts every voice." — Elizabeth Warren**

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# CONAN THE DOG, HURT IN TERROR RAID, WELCOMED AT WHITE HOUSE

AP/ Evan Vucci

November 25, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — A U.S. military dog that played a starring role in the raid that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi seemed oblivious to the praise that President Donald Trump heaped on it Monday at the White House.

Conan, a Belgian Malinois, seemed much more interested in the head scratches it was getting from Mike Pence, repeatedly looking up at the vice president in search of more attention. Trump used a slew of adjectives to describe Conan, which was injured when it was exposed to electric wires in the late October raid while chasing al-Baghdadi at the ter-

rorist's compound in northwest Syria. "Incredible." "Brilliant." "Smart." "Ultimate fighter." "Very special." "Tough cookie." "So this is Conan," Trump said. "Right now, probably the world's most famous dog." Trump said he bestowed a medal on Conan and presented the dog with a plaque. First lady Melania Trump stood a few feet away.

The president said initially Conan was going to be muzzled for the appearance, but Trump said he thought that would put the dog in attack mode. "He's not in a bad mood today," Trump told dozens of reporters, cameramen and members...

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## WHY LOSING A DOG CAN BE HARDER THAN LOSING A RELATIVE OR FRIEND

November 25, 2019 | The Conversation

Recently, my wife and I went through one of the more excruciating experiences of our lives – the euthanasia of our beloved dog, Murphy. I remember making eye contact with Murphy moments before she took her last breath – she flashed me a look that was an endearing blend of confusion and the reassurance that everyone was ok because we were both by her side.

When people who have never had a dog see their dog-owning friends mourn the loss of a pet, they probably think it's all a bit of an overreaction; after all, it's "just a dog." However, those who have loved a dog know the truth: Your own pet is never "just a dog." Many times, I've had friends guiltily confide to me that they grieved more over the loss of a dog than over the loss of friends or relatives. [Research has confirmed](#) that for most people, the loss of a dog is, in almost every...

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## AP-NORC/USAFacts POLL: SOCIAL MEDIA A POLITICAL NEWS PARADOX

November 26, 2019 | AP News

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — It's one of America's leading sources for news about the government, yet also among the least trusted. Social media, a new poll finds, is America's political news paradox. Julie Ferguson, an occupational therapist in central Washington state, remembers getting TV news from just a handful of networks.

"I grew up watching Walter Cronkite," she said. Today, she sees more political news on social media than anywhere else. She doesn't trust it, but worries many others do. "The information they're getting, who knows where it's coming from?" The irony of where Americans get their news about the government, and what sources they rely on to deliver news about the government they can trust, was exposed in a survey published this month by [The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Opinion Research](#) and [USAFacts](#). It found that 54% of Americans say they get government-related...

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AP File





# SECRET DOCUMENTS REVEAL HOW CHINA MASS DETENTION CAMPS WORK

November 25, 2019 | AP News

The watch towers, double-locked doors and video surveillance in the Chinese camps are there “to prevent escapes.” Uighurs and other minorities held inside are scored on how well they speak the dominant Mandarin language and follow strict rules on everything down to

“They confirm that this is a form of cultural genocide. It really shows that from the onset, the Chinese government had a plan.” — Adrian Zenz, a leading security expert on the far western region of Xinjiang, the Uighur homeland

bathing and using the toilet, scores that determine if they can leave. “Manner education” is mandatory, but “vocational skills improvement” is offered only after a year in the camps. Voluntary job training is the reason the Chinese government has given for

detaining more than a million ethnic minorities, most of them Muslims. But a classified blueprint leaked to a consortium of news organizations shows the camps are instead precisely what former detainees have described: Forced ideological and behavioral re-education centers run in secret.

The classified documents lay out the Chinese government’s deliberate strategy to lock up ethnic minorities even before they commit a crime, to rewire their thoughts and the language they speak. The papers also show how Beijing is pioneering a new form of social control using data and artificial intelligence. Drawing on data collected by mass surveillance technology, computers issued the names of tens of thousands of people for interrogation or detention in just one week. Taken as a whole, the documents give the most significant description yet of high-tech mass detention in the 21st century in the words of the Chinese government itself. Experts say they spell out a vast system that targets, surveils and grades entire ethnicities to forcibly assimilate and subdue them — especially Uighurs, a predominantly Muslim Turkic minority of more than 10 million people with their own language and culture.

“They confirm that this is a form of cultural genocide,” said Adrian Zenz, a leading security expert on the far western region of Xinjiang, the Uighur homeland. “It really shows that from the onset, the Chinese government had a plan.” Zenz said the documents echo the aim of the camps as outlined in a 2017 report from a local branch of the Xinjiang Ministry of Justice: To “wash brains, cleanse hearts, support the right, remove the wrong.”

China has struggled for decades to control Xinjiang, where the Uighurs have long resented Beijing’s heavy-handed rule. After the 9/11 attacks in the United States, Chinese officials began justifying harsh security measures and religious restrictions as necessary to fend off terrorism, arguing that young Uighurs were susceptible to the influence of Islamic extremism. Hundreds have died since in terror attacks, reprisals and race riots, both Uighurs and Han Chinese. In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched what he called a “People’s War on Terror” when bombs set off by Uighur militants tore through a train station in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, just hours after he concluded his first state visit there. “Build steel walls and iron fortresses. Set up nets above and snares below,” state media cited Xi as saying. “Cracking down severely on violent terrorist activities must be the focus of our current struggle.”

“Some media used underhanded tricks to sensationalize the Xinjiang issue. The plot to smear and slander China’s anti-terrorism and deradicalization efforts in Xinjiang will not prevail.” — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang

In 2016, the crackdown intensified dramatically after Xi named Chen Quanguo, a hardline official transferred from Tibet, as Xinjiang’s new head. Most of the documents were issued in 2017, as Xinjiang’s “War on Terror” morphed into an extraordinary mass detention campaign using...

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# DOG BEFRIENDS BABY GIRAFFE AFTER ABANDONED IN SOUTH AFRICA

AP/Jerome Delay

November 22, 2019 | AP News

MOKOPANE, South Africa — A dog in South Africa has befriended a baby giraffe that was abandoned at birth, rescued and taken to a local orphanage.

Jazz the giraffe arrived at The Rhino Orphanage just days after birth.

A farmer found him in the wild, weak and dehydrated, and called the center for help.

Resident watchdog Hunter quickly began to care for the newcomer. Caretaker Janie Van Heerden says they bonded

immediately. She says the baby giraffe had been given IV fluids and is doing much better.

He is being fed milk and is trying to eat leaves.

“Possibly soon he will be able to go home,” she said Friday.

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## PALESTINIANS PROTEST US SETTLEMENT DECISION IN ‘DAY OF RAGE’

November 26, 2019 | AP News

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Thousands of Palestinian protesters took part in a “day of rage” across the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, with some groups clashing with Israeli forces to protest the U.S. announcement that it no longer believes Israeli settlements violate international law.

Around 2,000 people gathered in the West Bank city of Ramallah by midday, where they set ablaze posters of U.S. President Donald Trump as well as Israeli and American flags. Schools, universities and government offices were closed and rallies were being held in other West Bank cities.

“The biased American policy toward Israel, and the American support of the Israeli settlements and the Israeli occupation, leaves us with only one option: To go back to resistance,” Mahmoud Aloul, an official with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah movement, told the crowd in Ramallah...

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## UN: ‘QUICK WINS’ NEEDED TO KEEP CLIMATE GOALS WITHIN REACH

November 26, 2019 | AP News

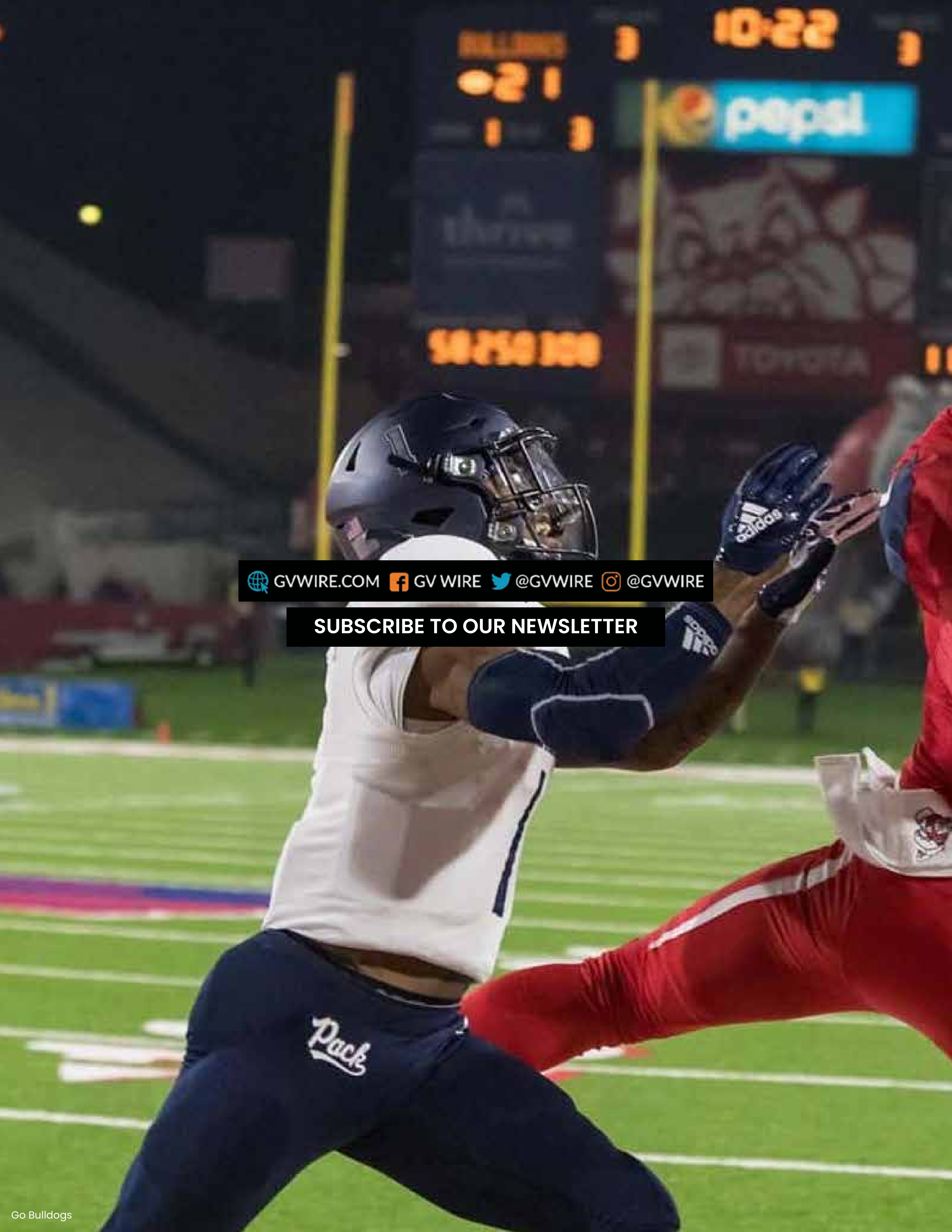
GENEVA — Countries need to begin making steep cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions immediately or risk missing the targets they’ve agreed for limiting global warming, with potentially dire consequences, senior United Nations officials said Tuesday.

A report by the U.N. Environment Program, published days before governments gather in Madrid for an annual meeting on climate change, showed the amount of planet-heating gases being pumped into the atmosphere hitting a new high last year, despite a near-global pledge to reduce them.

Man-made greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2018 to 55.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, according to the U.N.’s annual ‘[emissions gap](#)’ report. While much of the increase came from emerging economies such as China and India, some of those emissions are the result of manufacturing...

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