



WEEKLY DIGEST
JANUARY 31, 2020



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GV Wire/Jahz Tejo

GAP DOUBLES ITS GIFTS: LAND FOR ANIMAL SHELTER, BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

January 28, 2020 | Bill McEwen

Fresno youth and pets, along with good corporate citizenship, enjoyed a banner afternoon Tuesday at City Hall. First, Mayor Lee Brand and The Gap made it official. [As I reported last week](#), Fresno is getting 4.8 acres for a no-kill animal shelter near the airport from the global clothing retailer for \$1. In addition, The Gap is giving the Boys & Girls

"On behalf of the people of Fresno and all of our four-legged friends, I say thank you very much to Gap Inc. for stepping up to the plate in a very big way." — Fresno Mayor Lee Brand

Clubs of Fresno County about six acres of land in the same area. The parcels are part of 200 acres the city sold to The Gap for \$2 in 1997 in return

for building a distribution center. What Boys & Girls Clubs will do with the piece of prime industrial property is undetermined. As Diane Carbray, the nonprofit's CEO and president, pointed out, its popular Clovis club is just two miles from the site. But there's no doubt that the donation — however it is used — will benefit the organization. "We are very excited to receive such a tremendous and valuable gift," Carbray said at a City Hall news conference. "It is transformational to our organization in enhancing our resources for serving over 5,500 youth in Fresno County."

Related Story: Gap Returns a Favor With \$1 Deal for New Fresno Animal Shelter

An Unexpected Call From an Old Friend

Carbray said The Gap's gift came out of the blue with a phone call. But The Gap and the youth organization have longtime ties — here in Fresno and nationwide. Donald Fisher, who founded The Gap in 1972 with his wife, Doris, once served on the Boys & Girls Clubs national board of directors. And, after building the distribution center here, The Gap teamed up locally with the nonprofit.

it. Today, high school Boys & Girls Clubs members job-shadow Gap employees to get a taste of the working world. The Gap "has partnered closely with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County for many years, and we feel this donation will address multiple needs of this community we call home," said Gap executive Shawn Curran. "We are proud to be part of the community and are thrilled we could gift this land to the city for causes that will benefit the region and are important to our employees."

Summer 2021 Opening Eyed for Animal Shelter

While Boys & Girls Clubs leaders must decide their next steps, the city knows exactly what it will do with its land. It hopes to open a state-of-the-art animal shelter by summer 2021. [Fresno Humane Animal Services](#) will operate the shelter. "We looked at a number of locations around Fresno that would be suitable for a new animal shelter and this property is by far the best site because it's centrally located and close to the airport,"

Brand said. "On behalf of the people of Fresno and all of our four-legged friends, I say thank you very much to Gap Inc. for stepping up to the plate in a very big way." Councilmembers Garry Bredefeld and Esmeralda Soria brought their pooches to the news conference.

The new shelter will cost about \$20 million, Lee Brand said. Fresno businessman and animal lover Derrel Ridenour is providing the design plans free of charge.

Coco and Buddy Steal the Show

"This is Coco, who was rescued from the SPCA," Bredefeld said. "Our pets provide us unconditional love and they deserve shelter." Soria introduced Buddy "who has been with me for more than five years." If Buddy were to get lost, Soria said, she would want him to be treated well until he was reunited with her. "All residents expect that," she said. The new...

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FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST STAFF TO GROW NEXT YEAR

January 30, 2020 | Nancy Price

Fresno Unified School District’s staff of school psychologists will continue to grow with the addition of two positions in the 2021-22 school year, district officials said Wednesday night. And, depending on the outcome of ongoing budget discussions, there could be more. There has been significant growth in the number of school psychologists hired by Fresno Unified. Five new jobs were added over each of the past three years, raising the total to 77.

But a longtime Fresno Unified school psychologist had warned that the district was in danger of losing its eight psychologist interns, who she described as “the cream of the crop,” to neighboring districts offering early-hire contingency contracts. School board president Keshia Thomas appeared torn at Wednesday’s meeting over balancing the need for more

school psychologists against other district priorities. School psychologists are advocates for students’ well-being and assist them with processing issues such as problems with authority, poor academic performance, low self-esteem, and social anxiety.

School districts such as Fresno Unified, with a large number of students from disadvantaged communities, are in particular need of larger staffs of school psychologists. Thomas said she was aware that the district had no openings for school psychologists but suggested the board consider adding new positions. “I know that we don’t have a million dollars to hire seven people,” she said. “But seeing as our current status is where it is, is it possible — if the board chooses — is it possible for us to look into hiring a couple, a few? Two, three maybe? And...

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DYER OFFERS SPECIFICS ON SAFETY, HOMELESS, BUSINESS

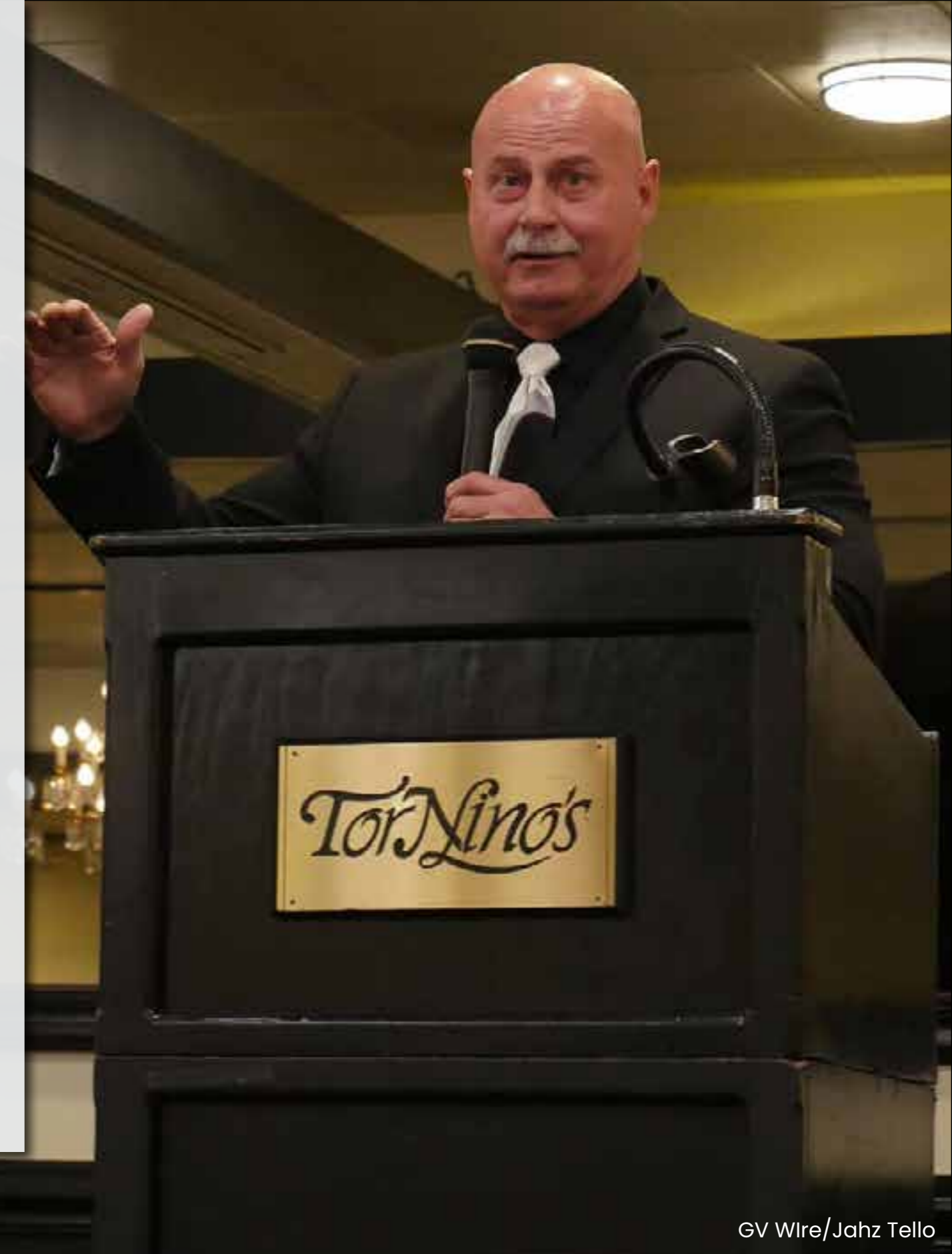
January 29, 2020 | David Taub

Jerry Dyer says Fresno residents all over the city have been consistent in sharing their priorities with him. Public safety and homelessness top the list. Dyer, a candidate for mayor, spoke to the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation on Wednesday morning at TorNino’s. In a 20-minute speech, Dyer outlined his plans to address those problems, as well as the city’s business climate. Fresno County prosecutor Andrew Janz was also invited but could not attend — for good reason. His wife gave birth to a baby girl on Tuesday night, Wilhelmina Rose Janz. Mother and baby (all 7 pounds, 14 ounces of her) are healthy.

Dyer Backs Navigation Centers to Cut Homelessness

Dyer touted navigation centers as the best approach for supporting homeless people. He sees it as a way to bring multiple services — dependency treatment and mental health counseling — directly to those living on the streets. “Currently the option we have today is that they are all over the city,” Dyer said. “They are in the shopping centers, they are in the neighborhoods...

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GV Wire/Janz Tello

WORLD AG EXPO PLANS EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

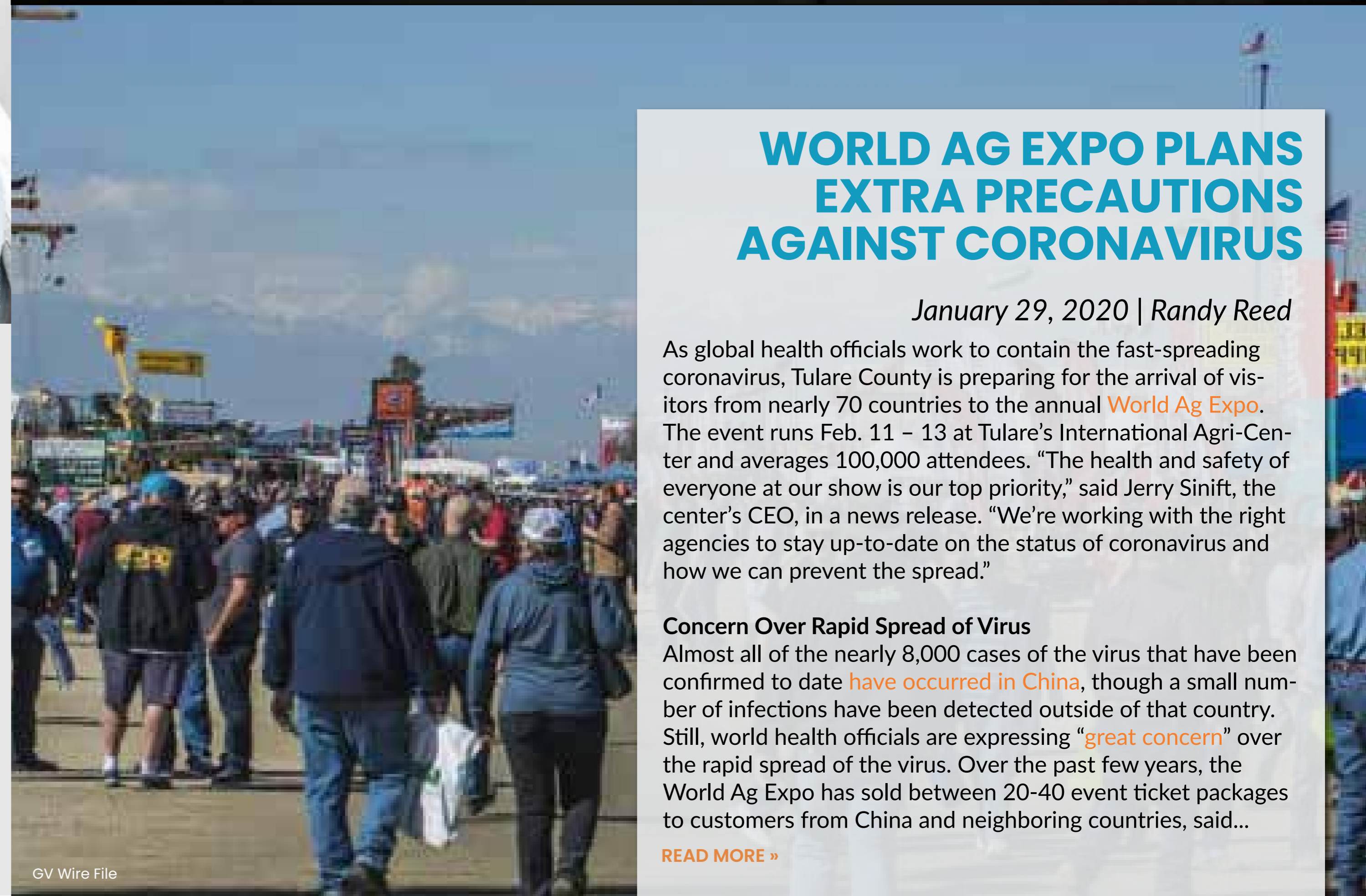
January 29, 2020 | Randy Reed

As global health officials work to contain the fast-spreading coronavirus, Tulare County is preparing for the arrival of visitors from nearly 70 countries to the annual [World Ag Expo](#). The event runs Feb. 11 – 13 at Tulare’s International Agri-Center and averages 100,000 attendees. “The health and safety of everyone at our show is our top priority,” said Jerry Sinift, the center’s CEO, in a news release. “We’re working with the right agencies to stay up-to-date on the status of coronavirus and how we can prevent the spread.”

Concern Over Rapid Spread of Virus

Almost all of the nearly 8,000 cases of the virus that have been confirmed to date [have occurred in China](#), though a small number of infections have been detected outside of that country. Still, world health officials are expressing “[great concern](#)” over the rapid spread of the virus. Over the past few years, the World Ag Expo has sold between 20-40 event ticket packages to customers from China and neighboring countries, said...

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GV Wire File



KOBE BRYANT LEFT DEEP LEGACY IN LA SPORTS, BASKETBALL WORLD

January 27, 2020 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant inspired a generation of basketball players worldwide with sublime skills and an unquenchable competitive fire. He earned Los Angeles' eternal adoration during his two decades as the fierce soul of the beloved Lakers, and he was respected by basketball fans from every place with a hoop and a dream, including his native Philadelphia and in Italy, his other childhood home.

Less than four years into his retirement, Bryant was seizing new challenges and working to inspire his daughters' generation through sports and storytelling when his next chapter ended shockingly early. Bryant, the 18-time All-Star who won five NBA championships

Bryant, the 18-time All-Star who won five NBA championships and became one of the greatest basketball players of his generation during a 20-year career all with the Lakers, died in a helicopter crash Sunday. He was 41.

and became one of the greatest basketball players of his generation during a 20-year career all with the Lakers, died in a helicopter crash Sunday. He was 41. The crash occurred in the foggy hills above Calabasas, California, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Bryant was killed, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, and a different person familiar with the case confirmed Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna also died. Both of the AP's unnamed sources spoke on condition of anonymity because few details of the crash had been released publicly.

The Crash Occurred About 20 Miles From Mamba Sports Academy

Bryant lived south of Los Angeles in coastal Orange County, and he often used helicopters to save time and avoid Southern California's notorious traffic. He traveled to practices and games by helicopter before his playing career ended in 2016. He continued to use

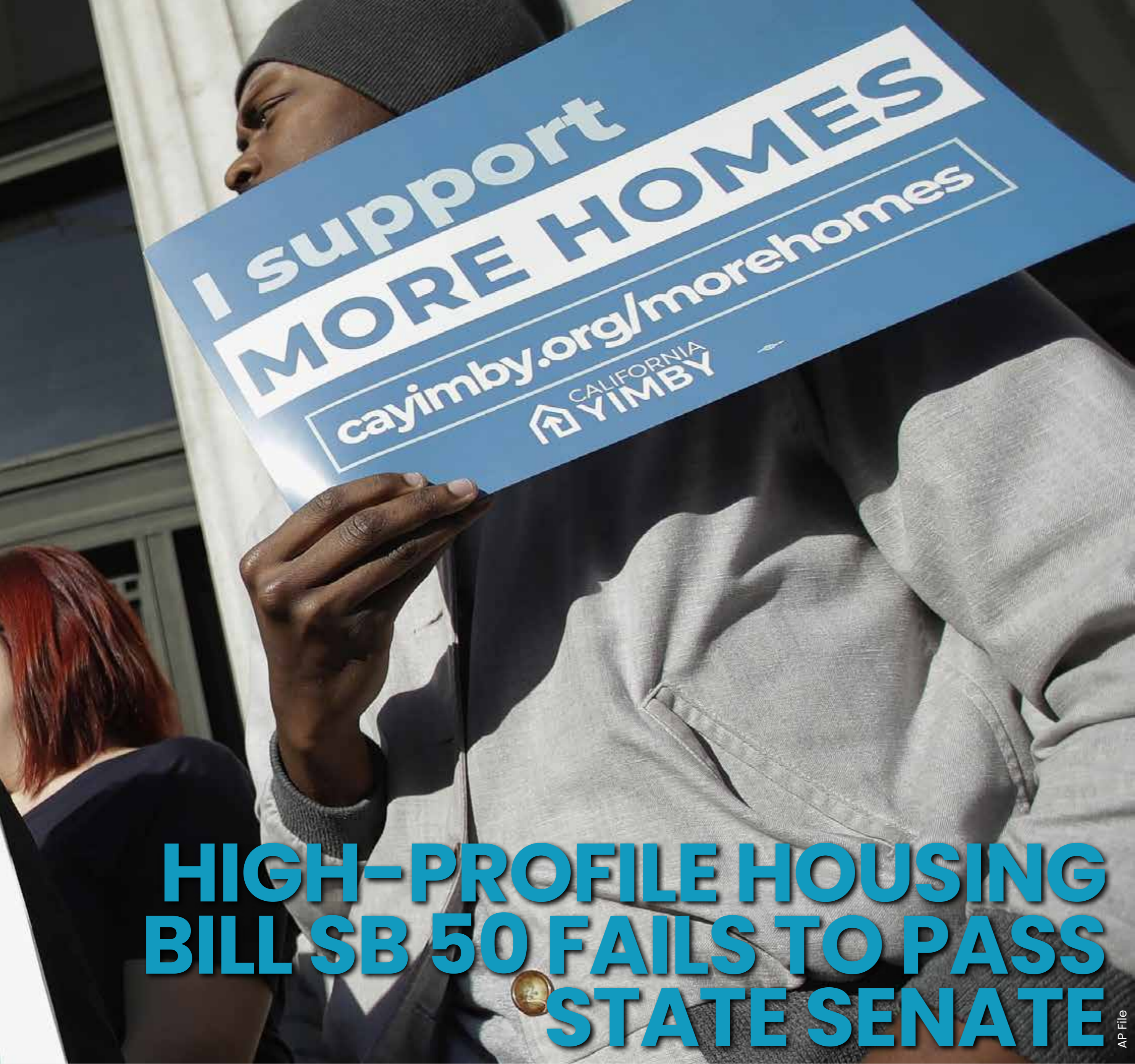
them after retirement as he attended to his new ventures, which included a burgeoning entertainment company that recently produced an Academy Award-winning animated short film. The basketball world and Los Angeles reacted with an outpouring of pain and disbelief. Bryant is all but certain to be elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame this year, when he is eligible for the first time. "For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game with accomplishments that are legendary ... but he will be remembered most for inspiring people around the world to pick up a basketball and compete to the very best of their ability."

"For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning. He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game with accomplishments that are legendary." — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver

The crash occurred about 20 miles from Mamba Sports Academy, Bryant's basketball training complex in Newbury Park, California. A youth basketball tournament — the Mamba Cup — was scheduled for a second day of competition Sunday at the facility, and Bryant had attended the opening day Saturday with Gianna. Bryant and his wife, Vanessa, had four daughters. He had been a vocal booster of women's sports since his retirement, coaching and mentoring basketball players around the world while also backing women's soccer and other endeavors.

Bryant retired as the third-leading scorer in NBA history with 33,643 points, all scored in Lakers purple and gold. The self-nicknamed Black Mamba was a prolific, gifted shooter with a sublime all-around game and a...

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HIGH-PROFILE HOUSING BILL SB 50 FAILS TO PASS STATE SENATE

January 30, 2020 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers have failed to pass the most ambitious proposal yet to combat a growing housing crisis in the nation’s most populous state, voting down legislation twice in two days that would have overridden local zoning laws to let developers to build small apartment buildings in neighborhoods reserved for single-family homes.

Senate Bill 50 was meant to address an estimated shortage of 3.5 million homes that has driven up rents and contributed to a growing homelessness problem. It was authored by Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco, home to some of the highest housing prices in the country.

The bill failed to pass Wednesday by three votes. It was brought up again on Thursday for “reconsideration,” which gave legislators another shot at passage. The bill failed again, with no change in vote totals from the previous day.

In a news conference following Thursday’s vote, Wiener said he was “deeply disappointed” that SB 50 failed. “Fundamentally, this is about addressing California’s debilitating housing shortage,” he said. Wiener pledged to continue pressing for legislative solutions. “Dramatically addressing the supply of housing in California must happen,” he said. Wiener had been working on the measure since last year, saying lawmakers...

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AP/Richard Vogel

CALIFORNIA TESTS FIND ILLEGAL VAPES TAINTED WITH ADDITIVES

January 23, 2020 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — California officials announced Monday that marijuana vape cartridges seized in illegal shops in Los Angeles contained potentially dangerous additives, including a thickening agent blamed for a national outbreak of deadly lung illnesses tied to vaping. Officials also found that the illegal vapes confiscated in the December raids typically were not as potent as advertised, and sometimes contained just a fraction of the THC claimed on the labels, according to state testing results. THC is the chemical in marijuana that makes users feel high.

The findings highlight the risk for consumers at underground shops and delivery services that are common in Los Angeles and elsewhere around California, officials said. “The prevalence of dirty and dangerous vape pens at unlicensed cannabis stores demonstrate how important it is for consumers to purchase cannabis goods from licensed retailers, which are required to sell products that meet state testing and...

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FATHER ARRESTED IN KILLINGS OF HIS VALLEY BORN CHILDREN

January 28, 2020 | AP News

A former Fresno man about to be freed from prison has been taken into custody in connection with the decades-old killings of five of his infant children in a case a sheriff said has haunted his agency for years. Paul Perez, 57, a convicted sex offender with a 20-year criminal history, was charged in the deaths of the children born between 1992 and 2001, California authorities said Monday, the same day he was supposed to be released from a state prison in Delano on unrelated charges.

Three of the children were born in Fresno and two were born in Merced. Yolo County Sheriff Tom Lopez said the case reflects an “unspeakable evil,” though a motive has not been determined. “I cannot think of a case more disturbing than this one,” he said. “There can be no victim more vulnerable and innocent than an infant and unfortunately this case involves five of them.” A homicide investigation was launched in the spring of 2007 after a fisherman found the badly decomposed remains of a 3-month-old boy recently identified as Nikko...

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Chinatopix via AP

U.S. US REPORTS 1ST CASE OF PERSON-TO-PERSON SPREAD OF NEW VIRUS

January 30, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — Health officials Thursday reported the first U.S. case of person-to-person spread of the new virus from China. The man is married to the Chicago woman who got sick from the virus after she returned from a trip to Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak. There have been cases reported of the infectious virus spreading to others in a household or workplace in China and elsewhere.

The new case is the sixth reported in the United States. The other five were travelers who developed the illness after returning to the U.S. from China. The latest patient had not been in China.

Related Story: World Ag Expo Plans Extra Precautions Against Coronavirus Outbreak

Chicago Husband and Wife Hospitalized
The Chicago woman returned from central China on Jan. 13, then last week went to a hospital with symptoms and was diagnosed with the viral illness. She and

The new case is the sixth reported in the United States. The other five were travelers who developed the illness after returning to the U.S. from China. The latest patient had not been in China.

her husband, both in their 60s, are hospitalized. Experts have said they expected additional cases, and that at least some limited spread of the disease in the United States was likely. Health officials think

the new virus spreads mainly from droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu spreads.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Illinois health officials said that health workers and people who have been in contact with the latest patient are being monitored for symptoms. “We anticipated this,” said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert. “The kind of contact that you

have in a household is very close and very prolonged. That’s the kind of circumstance where we would anticipate a virus such as this could be transmitted.” Virus has Sickened Thousands in China

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. It is a member of the coronavirus family that’s a close cousin to the SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past. The new virus has sickened thousands, mostly in China, and killed about 170. An international outbreak caused by the virus first emerged last month in China. Doctors there began seeing the new virus in people who got sick after spending time at a wholesale food market in Wuhan. Officials said the virus probably initially spread from animals to people, as did SARS and MERS. The other U.S. cases are in Arizona, Southern California and Washington state.

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. It is a member of the coronavirus family that’s a close cousin to the SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past.

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TRUMP: NEW TRADE DEAL WITH CANADA, MEXICO TO BOOST US GROWTH

January 29, 2020 | AP News

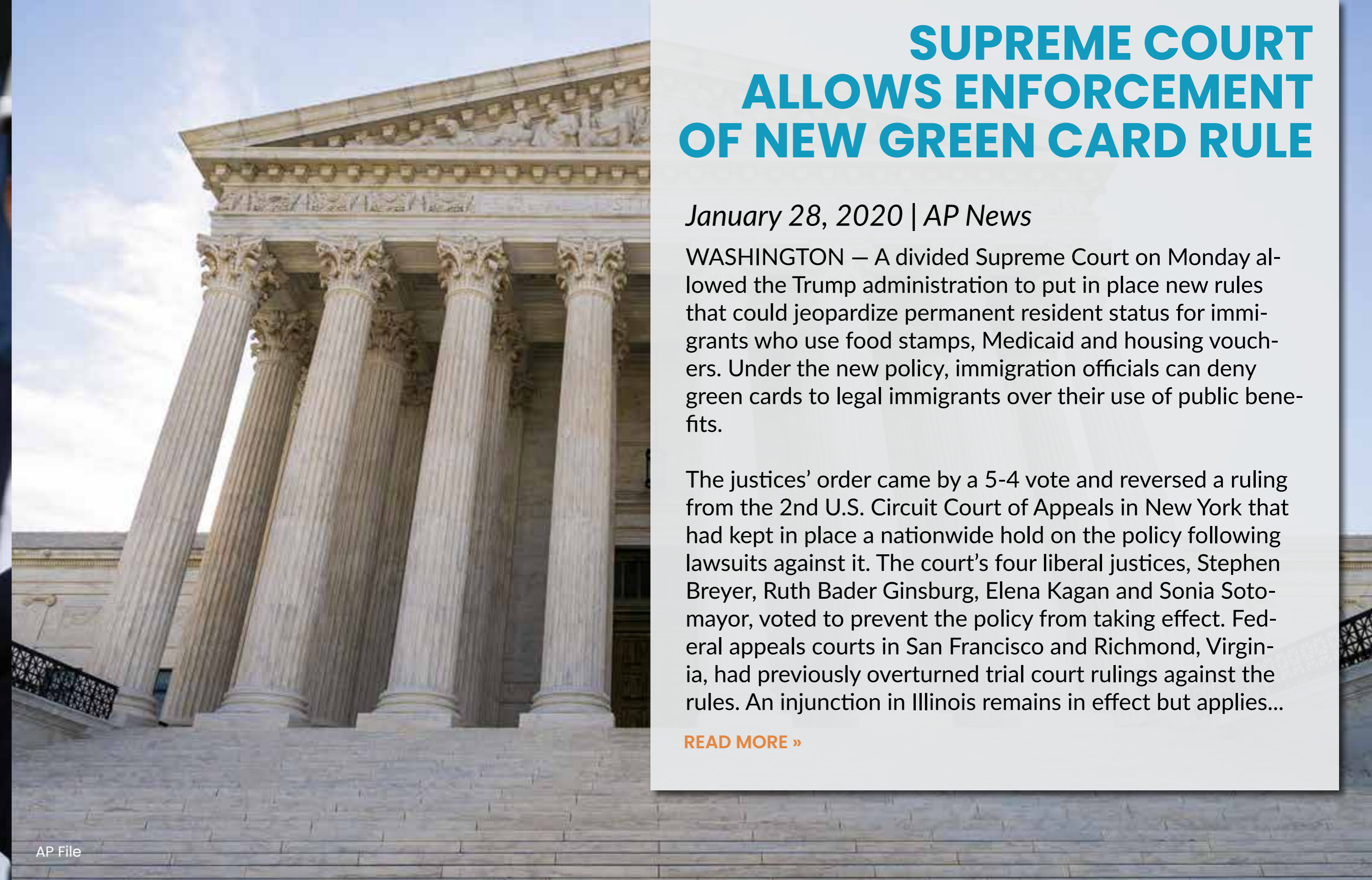
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed into law a major rewrite of the rules of trade with Canada and Mexico that he said replaces the “nightmare” of a Clinton-era agreement and will keep jobs, wealth and growth in America.

Trump made renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement a priority during his 2016 campaign, although trade experts say the impact of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement will be modest. “This is a cutting-edge, state-of-the-art agreement that protects, defends, and serves the

great people of our country,” Trump said in an outdoor signing ceremony at the White House, where the invitation list included more than 70 Republican members of Congress but no Democratic legislators. “Together we are building a glorious future that is raised, grown, built and made right here in the glorious U.S.A.”

Canada and Mexico already represent the top two export markets for U.S. goods. But the new pact, along with the signing of a “phase one” agreement with China, dials down trade tensions that contributed to slowing economic...

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SUPREME COURT ALLOWS ENFORCEMENT OF NEW GREEN CARD RULE

January 28, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to put in place new rules that could jeopardize permanent resident status for immigrants who use food stamps, Medicaid and housing vouchers. Under the new policy, immigration officials can deny green cards to legal immigrants over their use of public benefits.

The justices’ order came by a 5-4 vote and reversed a ruling from the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York that had kept in place a nationwide hold on the policy following lawsuits against it. The court’s four liberal justices, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, voted to prevent the policy from taking effect. Federal appeals courts in San Francisco and Richmond, Virginia, had previously overturned trial court rulings against the rules. An injunction in Illinois remains in effect but applies...

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BUDGET DEFICIT TO BREAK \$1 TRILLION DESPITE STRONG ECONOMY

January 28, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — An annual congressional report says the U.S. budget deficit is likely to burst through the symbolic \$1 trillion barrier this year despite a healthy economy. Tuesday’s Congressional Budget Office report follows a burst of new spending last year and the repeal in December of several taxes used to help finance the Affordable Care Act. Those have combined to deepen the government’s deficit spiral well on into the future, with trillion-dollar deficits likely for as far as the eye can see.

The annual CBO update of the government’s economic and fiscal health estimates a \$1 trillion deficit for the ongoing fiscal year, which would bring the red ink above \$1 trillion for the first time since 2012, when former President Barack Obama capped four consecutive years of \$1 trillion-plus budget deficits. The government, slated to spend \$4.6 trillion this year, would have to borrow 22 cents of every dollar it...

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WORLD

TRUMP PEACE PLAN DELIGHTS ISRAELIS, ENRAGES PALESTINIANS

January 28, 2020 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unveiled his long-awaited Middle East plan Tuesday, winning immediate praise from a beaming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but a swift rejection from the Palestinians, who called it “nonsense.” Trump’s plan calls for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state, but it falls

Netanyahu said he would move forward on Sunday and ask his Cabinet to approve plans to annex West Bank territory — an explosive move that is likely to be met with harsh international reaction.

far short of minimal Palestinian demands and would leave sizable chunks of the occupied West Bank in Israeli hands. Netanyahu said he would move forward on Sunday and ask his Cabinet to approve plans to annex

West Bank territory — an explosive move that is likely to be met with harsh international reaction. Trump called his plan a “win-win” for both Israel and the Palestinians, and Netanyahu called it a “great plan for Israel.”

At a speech in the West Bank, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the plan as “nonsense.” “We say 1,000 no’s to the Deal of the Century,” Abbas said, using a nickname for Trump’s proposal. “We will not kneel and we will not surrender,” he said, adding that the Palestinians would resist the plan through “peaceful, popular means.” With Netanyahu standing beside him, Trump presented the plan at a White House ceremony filled with other Israeli officials and allies, including evangelical Christian leaders and wealthy Republican donors but no Palestinian representatives.

The Palestinians Seek All of the West Bank and East Jerusalem

The ceremony came amid Trump’s impeachment trial and a U.S. election year, and after Netanyahu was indicted on counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in three separate cases. The longtime Israeli leader, who denies any wrongdoing, also faces a March 2 parliamentary election, Israel’s third in less than a year. The Pal-

estinians seek all of the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for an independent state and the removal of more than 700,000 Israeli settlers from these areas. But as details emerged, it became clear that the plan sides heavily with Netanyahu’s hard-line nationalist vision for the region and shunts aside many of the Palestinians’ core demands. Under the terms of the “peace vision” that Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner has been working on for nearly three years, all settlers would remain in place, and Israel would retain sovereignty over all of its settlements as well as the strategic Jordan Valley. The proposed Palestinian state would also include more than a dozen Israeli “enclaves” with the entity’s borders monitored by Israel. In addition, the areas of east Jerusalem offered to the Palestinians consist of poor, crowded neighborhoods located behind a hulking concrete separation barrier. Trump acknowledged that he has done a lot for Israel, but he said he wanted the deal to be a “great deal for the Palestinians.”

Thousands of Palestinians Protested in Gaza City, Burning Pictures of Trump and Netanyahu

He said his vision gives the Palestinians the time needed for them to meet the challenges of statehood. The only concession the plan appears to demand of Israel is a four-year freeze on the establishment of new Israeli settlements in certain areas of the West Bank. But Netanyahu clarified later that this only applied to areas where there are no settlements and Israel has no immediate plans to annex, and that he considered the plan to impose no limitations on construction. Thousands of Palestinians protested in Gaza City ahead of the announcement, burning pictures of Trump and...

“It’s going to work. If they do this, it will work. Your response to this historic opportunity will show the world to what extent you are ready to lead the Palestinian people to statehood.” — President Donald Trump

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'CONFUSED AND ANGRY': BREXIT UNSETTLES EU CITIZENS IN THE UK

January 28, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — Anxious, angry, abandoned. Brexit elicits strong emotions, and as Britain's departure from the European Union approaches, more than 3 million U.K. residents who are citizens of EU countries are feeling the impending separation more strongly than most.

Brexit is a huge economic and social experiment, and the U.K.'s European residents are among the guinea pigs. The U.K. government says they can stay and carry on with their lives as long as they apply for confirmation of their "settled status." For some, that process is easy, or mildly annoying. For others, it's deeply alienating. Tanja Bueltmann, a Nor-

thumbria University history professor who has studied the experiences of EU citizens in Britain as they grapple with Brexit, said many felt the country's decision to leave the EU as a "real rupture."

"People were promised that nothing would change for them. Yet for a good number, even the process already changes everything," she said. Free movement for people among the EU's member states is a core EU principle and Britain's 2016 vote to leave the bloc was, in part, a reaction to high levels of immigration from other EU nations. More than 1 million EU citizens moved to the U.K after eight formerly...

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AP/Czarek Sokolowski

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVORS WARN OF RISING ANTI-SEMITISM 75 YEARS ON

January 27, 2020 | AP News

OSWIECIM, Poland — Survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp recalled their suffering as they marked the 75th anniversary of its liberation, returning to the place where they lost entire families and warning about the ominous growth of anti-Semitism and hatred in the world. "We have with us the last living survivors, the last among those who saw the Holocaust with their own eyes," Polish President Andrzej Duda told the dignitaries at the commemoration, which included the German president as well as Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders.

"The magnitude of the crime perpetrated in this place is terrifying but we must not look away from it and we must never forget it," Duda said. About 200 camp survivors attended, many of them elderly Jews and non-Jews who have traveled from Israel, the United States, Australia, Peru, Russia, Slovenia and elsewhere. Many lost parents and grandparents in Auschwitz or other Nazi death camps, but were joined...

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SYRIAN TROOPS CAPTURE KEY TOWN IN REBEL-HELD IDLIB PROVINCE

January 29, 2020 | AP News

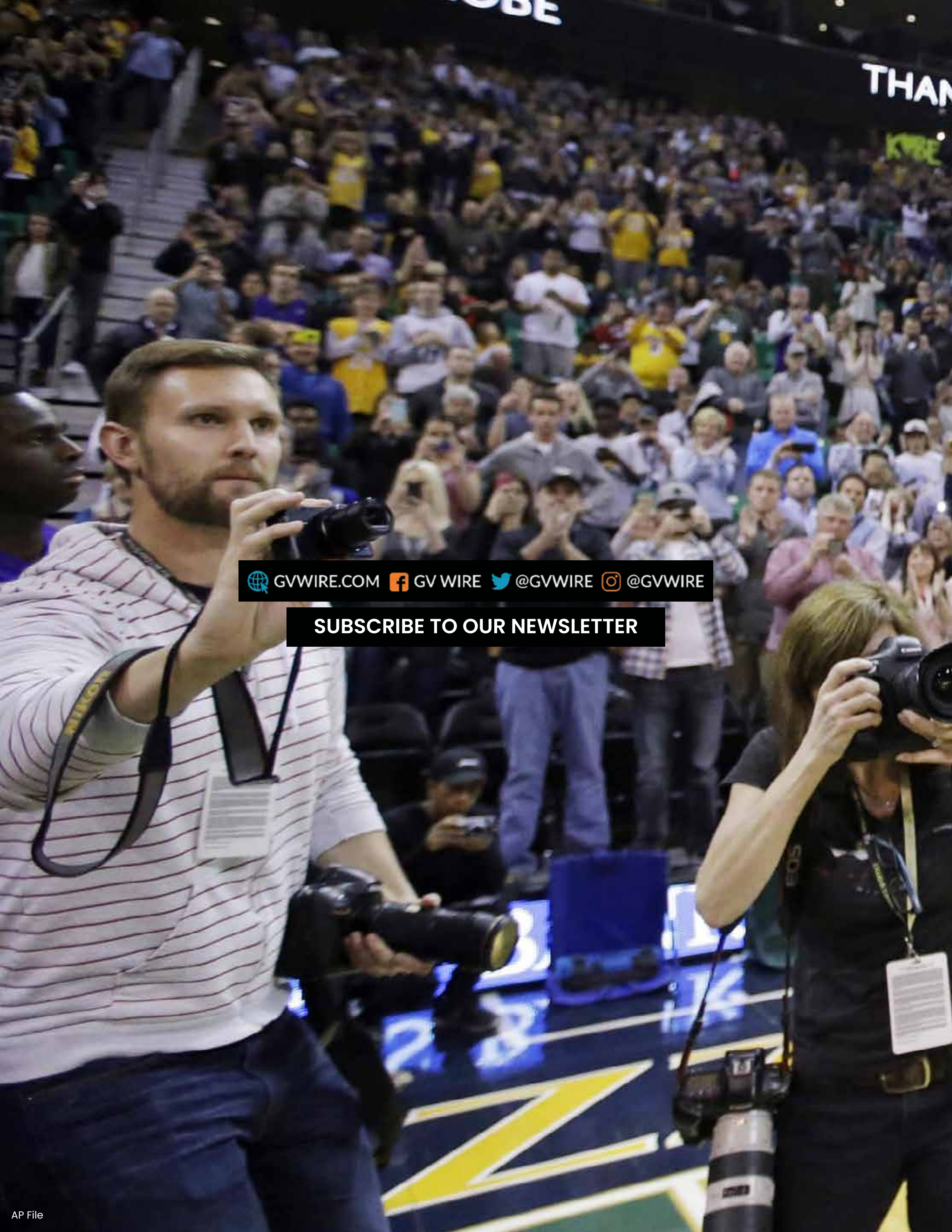
DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian government forces captured one of the largest and most strategic rebel-held towns in the country's northwest, the Syrian military and opposition activists said Wednesday, part of a Russian-backed military assault that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people fleeing to safer areas.

The town of Maaret al-Numan in Idlib province, which had been in rebel hands since 2012, sits on the highway linking Damascus with Aleppo and is considered critical to President Bashar Assad's forces. The town is now largely empty as a result of intense bombardment in recent weeks. Its capture is the latest in a series of military triumphs for Assad. His forces have retaken control of most of the country from rebel fighters, largely because of blanket air support from Russia, which helped turn the tide in the nearly nine-year civil war. Syria's nearly nine-year conflict has left more than 400,000...

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