



TEDFORD SAVED THE BULLDOGS. NOW HE'S SAVING HIMSELF.

December 6, 2019 | David Taub

Jeff Tedford, who breathed new life into Fresno State's down-on-its luck football program, has resigned in order to save his own life. "It is with a heavy heart, and there is no pun intended in that, I am announcing today I need to step down as head

"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

coach," Tedford said
Friday morning. At a
hastily called news
conference, Tedford
said he experienced
unusual symptoms at
a practice about two
weeks ago. He said
his heart had to be
shocked because of

Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), an irregular heartbeat.

Procedure Scheduled at Mayo Clinic

He has an ablation — described by the American Heart Association, as "a procedure that uses radiofrequency energy (similar to microwave heat) to destroy a small area of heart tissue that is causing rapid and irregular heartbeats" — scheduled in January at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. "While I appreciate football," Tedford said, "the stresses and anxieties of this job do not match up well with my cardiac issues." Tedford said he plans to stay with Fresno State in an unspecified role in the athletic department. He said he and his wife, Donna, plan on staying in Fresno.

Evaluating Family Life

Tedford, 58, acknowledged how difficult the job of a head coach could be on family. "This is a very selfish profession," said Tedford, a football lifer. "It's 24-7, 365 days a year. (My wife) deserves from me some quality time ... sometimes even when I'm physically present, I'm not necessarily listening or well connected. There's a lot on my mind."

Toward the end of his 30 minutes news conference, Tedford fought back tears while reflecting on his family. "My wife and my sons have sacrificed a lot. Now it's time to live," Tedford said. Technically, this is a resignation rather than a retirement, a designation that has to do with a state pension, Tedford said.

Transitioning to a New Coach

The timing of Tedford's exit and state law may complicate filling the vacancy by the Dec. 18 National Letter of Intent signing day. State law mandates a 14-day window between when a job becomes vacant, and when it can be filled. Tedford announced offensive coordinator Ryan Grubb as the interim coach.

Tumey: 'Everything We Want in a Bulldog'

Both Tedford and athletic director Terry Tumey said the Fresno State job is an attractive one. Tumey said a coach with character is important. But, someone

with Central Valley or Fresno State ties is not a prerequisite. "That's something you can take into consideration. But it will not

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

be the decisive point as it comes to this very, very important position," he said. Tumey also spoke about the positive mark that Tedford leaves on the program. "This is a very difficult day for me and as an athletic director," Tumey said. "Jeff Tedford embodies everything we want in a Bulldog. That is the legacy that Jeff Tedford will leave here as a coach, and that is the legacy we will continue to carry on, as an athletic department, and as a program here at Fresno State."

Tedford Disappointed That Resignation Was Leaked "I am disappointed how this news broke. Because...

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December 3, 2019 | David Taub

Congressman TJ Cox wants more rural communities in his district to be eligible for federal funding to provide clean drinking water. On Monday, he announced the Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act in Parlier.

The act would expand the criteria for rural communities to have access to \$100 million in federal grants. Some of the changes would allow communities with populations of up to 60,000, and median household incomes of \$64,800 to apply. The legislation would also provide funds to apply for the money, a process that can sometimes be burdensome.

Cox called it the most important piece of legislation he's introduced in his first term in office. It would solve the problem of Central Valley cities being too big for some grants, but too

small for others. "I don't think Washington, D.C. dysfunction should stop families in Delano or Parlier or any other community in the Central Valley from getting clean water," Cox said. Parlier Mayor Alma Beltran says the funds will help her city, especially with a filtering system at the wells.

"The water is still drinkable, but the (chemical) levels are extremely high. I would recommend it is better to use bottled water," Beltran said. Cox is confident the legislation will gain bipartisan support. "Having clean, fresh drinking water is not a partisan issue," Cox said.

He said he already had support from Democratic leadership, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California), Natural Resources Committee chair Raul Grijalva (D-Arizona), and...

AGGIANT WONDERFUL SUES FRESNO COUNTY OVER ASSEMI NUT PLANT

December 5, 2019 | David Taub

One of the world's largest pistachio growers is suing Fresno County, alleging that it violated state environmental review regulations. The suit seeks to halt a nut processing plant being built by the Assemi family in the western part of the county.

Wonderful Nut Orchards LLC filed the suit Tuesday in Fresno County Superior Court, listing the county and the county Public Works and Planning Department as defendants. Wonderful says the county issued construction permits counter to the California Environmental Quality Act — commonly called CEQA— to four entities under the same corporate umbrella involving the Assemi Group, Inc.

Darius Assemi, a partner in the pistachio enterprise, is the publisher of GV Wire. Jennifer Reisz, general counsel for Maricopa Orchards, which is an Assemi company, said Thursday that the lawsuit is without merit. "We believe we have done all the...

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VISITING CHRISTMAS TREE LANE? HERE'S A PREVIEW.

December 4, 2019 | Rnandy Reed

Fresno's Christmas Tree Lane welcomed thousands of visitors with colorful displays of seasonal cheer Tuesday night. The 97th edition of the annual holiday celebration opened with an evening reserved for walkers, who had the festive, two-mile stretch of Van Ness Avenue all to themselves.

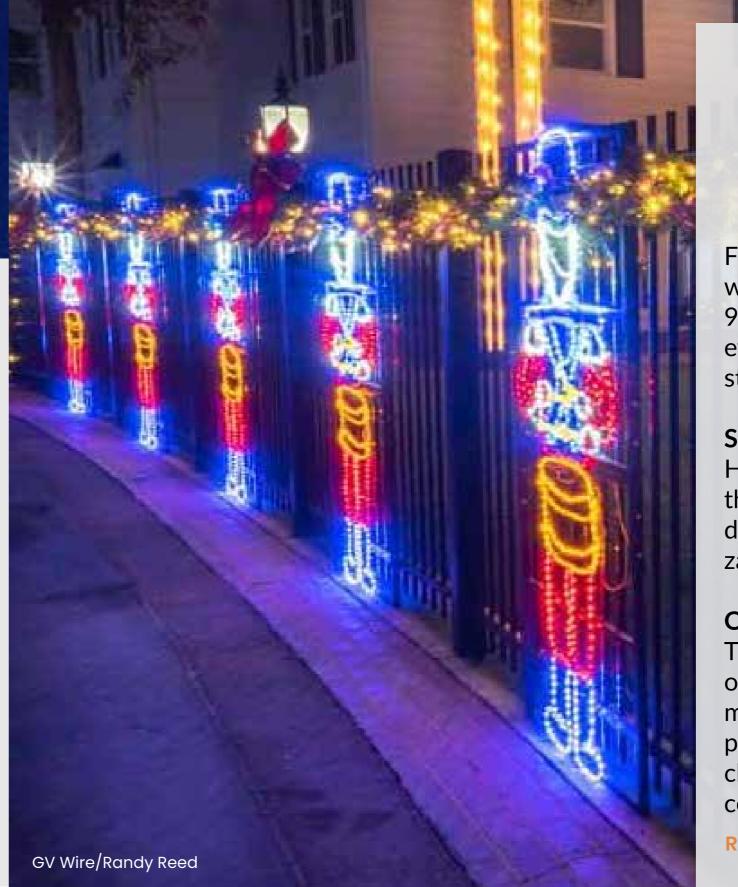
Simple to Elaborate Displays

Here's a small sampling of the creative lighting and scenery they enjoyed as they strolled down the lane, ranging from traditional home decorations to elaborate multimedia extravaganzas.

Open Nightly Through Christmas

The next walk-only night is Dec. 11. Otherwise, the Lane is open to vehicles and pedestrians through December 25. Christmas Tree Lane runs nightly, rain or shine from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. On Christmas night, the Lane closes at 10 p.m. There's no charge to walk or drive through the Lane, but donations are accepted. The Fig Garden Homeowners Association, which...

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KAMALA HARRIS STUNS SUPPORTERS BY EXITING PRESIDENTIAL RACE

December 3, 2019 | GV Wire

Sen. Kamala Harris of California ended her quest for the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, citing a lack of financial resources. "My campaign for president simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue," Harris said in a statement released by her campaign. "I'm not a billionaire. I can't fund my own campaign. And as the campaign has gone on, it's become harder and harder to raise the money we need to compete."

Decision Is a Shock to Some Supporters

Politico, which broke the story about Harris' withdrawal from the race, reported that the "news came as a shock to some of her biggest supporters." Harris' decision to suspend her campaign came even though a super PAC had cleared more than \$1 million in TV ads in lowa to boost her struggling campaign, Politico noted.

Faltered After Promising Start to Campaign

Harris launched her campaign in front of 20,000 people at a chilly, outdoor event in January. The first woman

"And I want to be clear: although I am no longer running for President, I will do everything in my power to defeat Donald Trump and fight for the future of our country and the best of who we are." – U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris,

D-California

and first black attorney general and U.S. senator in California's history, she was widely viewed as a candidate poised to excite the same segment of voters that sent Barack Obama to the White House. She raised an impressive \$12 million in the

first three months of her campaign and quickly locked down major endorsements meant to show her dominance in her home state, which offers the biggest delegate haul in the Democratic primary contest. But as the field grew, Harris' fundraising remained flat; she was unable to attract the type of attention being showered on Pete Buttigieg by traditional donors or the grassroots firepower that drove tens of millions of dollars to

Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

Inconsistent Message to Voters

Harris suffered from what allies and critics viewed as

an inconsistent message. Her slogan "for the people," referenced her career as a prosecutor, a record the campaign struggled to pitch to the party's most progressive voters. Through

Harris' decision to suspend her campaign came even though a super PAC had cleared more than \$1 million in TV ads in Iowa to boost her struggling campaign, Politico noted.

the summer, she focused on pocketbook issues and her "3 a.m. agenda," a message that never seemed to resonate with voters. By the fall, she had returned to her courtroom roots with the refrain that "justice is on the ballot," both a cry for economic and social justice as well as her call that she could "prosecute the case" against a "criminal" president, Donald Trump.

Related Story: Walters: Kamala Harris' Campaign Sputtering

Pledges to Keep Working to Defeat Trump

Harris against cited the importance she places on defeating Trump in her statement Tuesday. "And I want to be clear: although I am no longer running for president, I will do everything in my power to defeat Donald Trump and fight for the future of our country and the best of who we are."

(Associated Press contributed to this report.)



December 3, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Racial disparities have narrowed across the U.S. criminal justice system over 16 years, though black people are still significantly more likely to be behind bars than white people, new federal figures show.

Racial gaps broadly declined in local jails, state prisons, and among people on probation and parole, according to the study released Tuesday by the nonpartisan Council on Criminal Justice. The divide in state imprisonment rates dropped for all major crimes but was most pronounced for drug offenses — a key driving factor for the racial shift. Black people were 15 times more likely than white people to be in state

prisons for drug crimes in 2000, but that dropped to five times as likely by 2016, the most recent year available. Many don't realize how much the racial gap has narrowed, not only in incarceration but in parole and probation, said Adam Gelb, president and chief executive of the politically diverse council that launched in July to seek solutions to problems in the criminal justice system.

"Most people think this is a bad problem that's getting nors of both parties, police officials and Black Lives Matter organizers. "It turns out it's a bad problem that's getting a...

worse," said Gelb, whose group has brought together gover-

TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP LIGHTS ON COULD HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES

December 2, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — B. Don Russell wasn't thinking about preventing a wildfire when he developed a tool to detect power line problems before blackouts and bigger disasters. The electrical engineering professor at Texas A&M University figured he might save a life if his creation could prevent someone from being electrocuted by a downed live wire.

But fire prevention may be his product's biggest selling point in California and other places that have experienced devastating wildland blazes blamed on electrical equipment.

"If we can find things when they start to fail, if we can find things that are in the process of degrading before a catastrophic event occurs, such as a downed line that might electrocute someone or a fire starting or even an outage for their customers, that's kind of the Holy Grail," Russell said. The technology he bills as a one-of-a kind diagnostic tool called...

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LOCALS GEAR UP TO KEEP KINGS RIVER WATER

December 3, 2019 | AP News

Just as they did more than two generations ago, Kern County farmers are looking to another Central Valley river to the north to refill their groundwater shortfall. But this time around, natives in the Kings River watershed are "sharpening their knives" to fight off what they say is a desperate water grab. The sprawling Semitropic Water Storage District, in the northwest corner of Kern County, has filed an application with the State Water Resources Control Board claiming the Kings River Water Association has forfeited two of its floodwater licenses by not using that water.

It has applied for 1.6 million acre-feet of water from the Kings River, about a year's supply for million and a half homes. To some, the action is unsettlingly familiar to what happened on the San Joaquin River more than 80 years ago. Farmers on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley petitioned the federal government to build Friant Dam and the Friant-Kern Canal...

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HOUSE WILL DRAFT TRUMP IMPEACHMENT ARTICLES, PELOSI SAYS

December 5, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House is pressing forward to draft articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Thursday. "Our democracy is what is at stake," Pelosi said somberly. "The president leaves us no choice but to act." Pelosi delivered the historic announcement as Democrats push toward a vote, possibly before Christmas.

In solemn tones, drawing on the Constitution and the Founding Fathers, Pelosi stood at the speaker's office at the Capitol and said she was authorizing the drafting of formal charges "sadly but with confidence and humility." "The president's actions have seriously violated the Constitution," she said. "He is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit.

Related Story: Rep. Cox Says Constituents Don't Ask About Impeachment

The president has engaged in abuse of power, undermining our national security and jeopardizing the integrity of our elections." "Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and a heart full of love for America, today I am asking our chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment," Pelosi said At the core of the impeachment probe is a July call with

"Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and a heart full of love for America, today I am asking our chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment." — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

the president of Ukraine, in which Trump pressed the leader to investigate Democrats and political rival Joe Biden as the White House was withholding military aid to the country bordering an aggressive Russia. Trump tweeted that if Democrats "are go-

ing to impeach me, do it now, fast." He said he wanted to get on to a "fair trial" in the Senate. The president also said that Democrats have "gone crazy."

Republicans Are Standing Lock-Step With Trump

At the White House, press secretary Stephanie Grisham tweeted that Pelosi and the Democrats "should be ashamed,"" then she, too, looked past the likely impeachment in the Democratic-majority House to trial in the Republican-controlled Senate. Drafting articles of impeachment is a milestone moment, only the fourth time in U.S. history Congress has tried to remove a president, and it intensifies the deeply partisan under-

taking that is consuming Washington and dividing the nation. Once reluctant to pursue impeachment, warning it was too divisive for the country and needed to be a bipartisan endeavor, Pelosi is now leading Congress

Some liberal Democrats want to reach further into Trump's actions, particularly regarding the findings from special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

into politically riskier waters for all sides ahead of an election year.

Republicans are standing lock-step with Trump, unwilling to be swayed that his actions amount to wrongdoing, let alone impeachable offenses, leaving Democrats to go it alone in a campaign to consider removing the 45th president from office. Trump's allies argue that voters, not lawmakers, should decide the president's future. But Democrats say the nation cannot wait for the 2020 election, alleging Trump's past efforts to have foreign countries intervene in the presidential campaign is forcing them to act to prevent him from doing it again. The number of articles of impeachment and the allegations they will include will be both a legal and political exercise as lawmakers balance political dynamics while striving to hit the Constitution's bar of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Pulling from the House's investigation, Democrats are focusing on at least three areas. They argue that Trump abused the power of his office by putting personal political...

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December 3, 2019 | AP News

12 GV Wire Weekly Digest

WASHINGTON — A new report from Democrats compiling evidence on impeachment has revealed extensive contact between President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and California Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the Intelligence panel.

The report released Tuesday includes phone records obtained from AT&T and Verizon that show Giuliani also was in frequent contact with the White House and with Lev Parnas, a Giuliani associate who is under indictment on charges of using foreign money to make illegal campaign contributions.

Prosecutors said the donations by Parnas and Igor Fruman, another Giuliani associate with Ukraine ties, were made while the men were lobbying U.S. politicians to oust the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

Giuliani, who has said he knew nothing about illegal campaign donations, was trying to get Ukrainian officials to investigate the son of Trump's potential Democratic challenger, Joe Biden. Parnas and Fruman had key roles in Giuliani's quest. The records show that Parnas and Nunes were in frequent contact last April, when Giuliani was publicly calling...

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PATRIOTISM IS THE THEME OF CHRISTMAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

December 2, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump is celebrating American patriotism at the White House this Christmas, incorporating red and blue into the traditional holiday green, adding a timeline of American design, innovation and architecture and studding a Christmas tree with her family's annual ornament, the American flag. The traditional gingerbread White House shares its stage with American landmarks including the Statue of Liberty and the Golden Gate Bridge.

"It is with great joy that our family welcomes you to the White House this holiday season as we celebrate the Spirit of America," President Donald Trump, the first lady and their son, Barron, say in the signed introduction to a souvenir book that visitors will receive as a holiday keepsake. "We hope you enjoy our tribute to the traditions, customs and history that make our nation great." The White House...

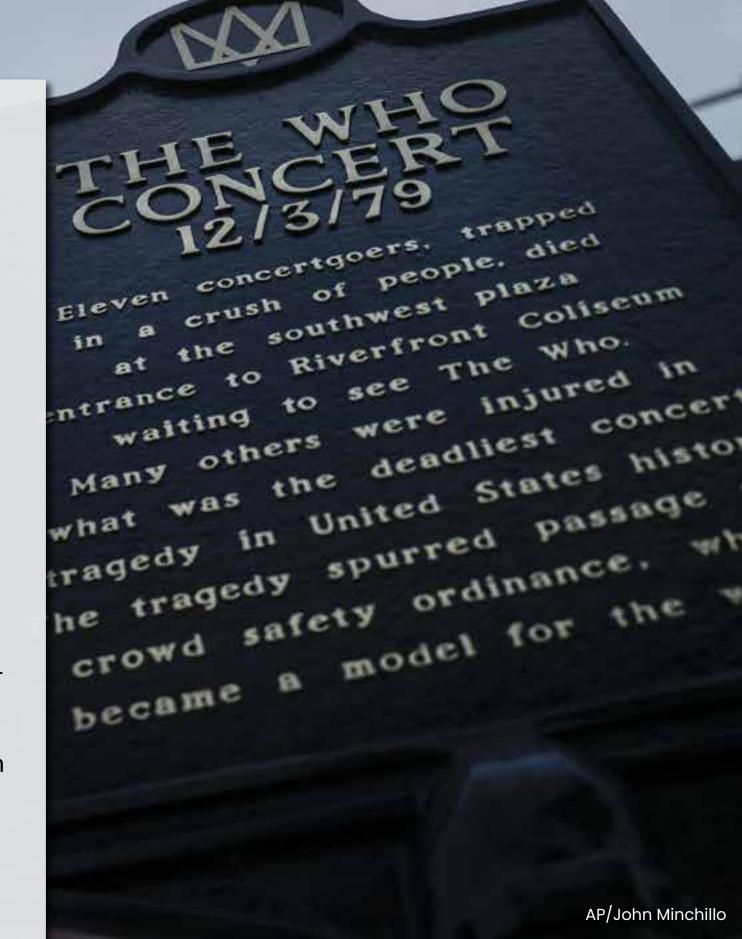
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ROCK TRAGEDY: MUSIC SUPERSTARS, SMALL SUBURB FOREVER LINKED

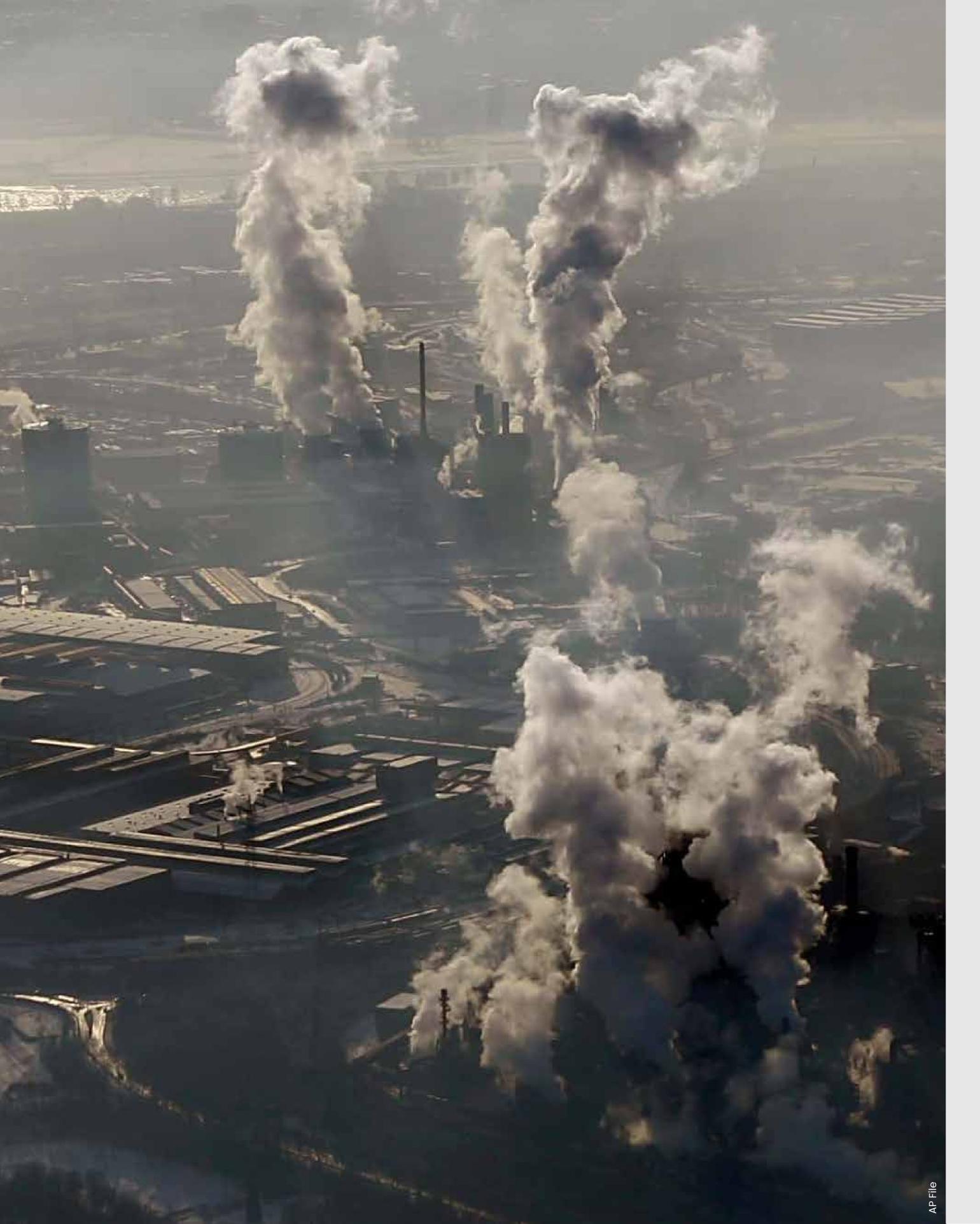
December 2, 2019 | AP News

FINNEYTOWN, Ohio — The concrete bench in a small northern Cincinnati suburb depicts a guitar, with the message "My Generation" just below it. In the background are plaques with the faces of three teenagers, Jackie Eckerle, Karen Morrison and Stephan Preston, frozen in time 40 years ago. Bricks in the plaza around the bench carry eight other names.

All 11 were killed in a frantic stampede of people trying to get into the British rock band The Who's concert on Dec. 3, 1979, at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. The city of Finneytown suffered disproportionately, and its three losses included the two youngest victims, 15-year-olds Eckerle and Morrison. Their schoolmates say well over 100 other people from Finneytown were there. "Everyone's connected to it, everywhere you go around here," said Fred Wittenbaum, who was a freshman at Finneytown High School then but did not...



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GLOBAL CARBON POLLUTION CONTINUES TO RISE, BUT MORE SLOWLY

December 4, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The world continues to increase the amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide it pumps into the air, but it's not rising as fast as in the previous couple years. Led by big jumps from China and India, the world is projected to spew 40.57 billion tons of car-

"Emissions grew more slowly than last year but we still set a global record. It's hard to be upbeat about that. The U.S. **National Academy of Sci**ences sounded the alarm on carbon and climate 40 years ago. Since then, global carbon dioxide emissions have doubled, and the world is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change." — Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist

bon dioxide into the air in 2019. That's up nearly 255 million tons from 2018, according to two scientific studies released Tuesday. The studies by Global Carbon Project, a group of international scientists who track emissions, show a 0.6% increase from last year. In previous years, global carbon dioxide emissions grew by 2.1% and 1.5% after a few years in the mid 2010s when global

emissions barely rose, according to the studies in Environmental Research Letters. Carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas has caused 1.8 degrees of warming since pre-industrial times and world leaders are meeting in Madrid to try to limit warming to another 1.8 degrees from now.

"Emissions grew more slowly than last year but we still set a global record. It's hard to be upbeat about that," said study co-author Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist. "The U.S. National Academy of Sciences sounded the alarm on carbon and climate 40 years ago. Since then, global carbon dioxide emissions have doubled, and the world is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change." The 2019 estimate is based on data through the first nine to ten months of the year, with a few national estimates based only on six months of data, said co-author Glen Peters, a climate scientist in Norway. Past projections have proven pretty accu-

rate, he said. That means every second this year people put 2.57 million pounds of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. That's the equivalent weight of two Airbus A380s, the world's largest passenger airliner, going into the air every second.

Carbon Pollution From Coal Dropped Worldwide 1% Both the United States and the European Union saw emissions drop 1.7% from 2018 to 2019, but China saw a 2.6% increase and India had a 1.8% rise. China is by far the biggest carbon polluter, with 28% of the 2019 emissions. The United States is No. 2 at 14.5%. "Generally, I think this is bad news. Not terrible news, but bad news," said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, who wasn't part of the report. "A stronger switch from coal to solar or wind needs to happen to reach low climate targets."

Led by 10% drops in both the United States and Europe, carbon pollution from coal dropped worldwide nearly 1% but increased 2.6% from cleaner natural gas,

according to the studies. Coal still is the No. 1 source of man-made carbon pollution putting 16 billion tons of carbon dioxide in the air this year, followed by oil and then gas. Coal generally emits 76% more carbon dioxide than natural gas to produce the same amount of energy, according to the U.S. Energy Information Adminis-

"The numbers show that the U.S. is not leading in terms of overall emissions reductions and this proves that we could be doing better. This highlights that more, not less, U.S. international leadership is urgently needed. I'm still hopeful we can turn this all around... If we don't, the planet is cooked." — University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck

tration. "I don't think we have completely seen the end of coal yet, but it is certainly in the death throes," Peters said. "Though, I would imagine a slow and protracted decline of coal because of the young infrastructure in...

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NOW ROQUEFORT: US EYES TARIFFS ON \$2.4B IN FRENCH IMPORTS

December 3, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is proposing tariffs on up to \$2.4 billion worth of French imports — including Roquefort cheese, handbags, lipstick and sparkling wine — in retaliation for France's tax on American tech giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative charged Monday that France's new digital services tax discriminates against U.S. companies. The trade office will accept public comments on the tariffs, which could hit 100%, through Jan. 6 and hold a hearing Jan. 7.

The French tax is designed to prevent tech companies from dodging taxes by putting headquarters in low-tax European Union countries. It imposes a 3% annual levy on French revenues of digital companies with yearly global sales worth more than 750 million euros (\$830 million) and French...

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HOW THE GUNFIGHTS IN NORTH MEXICO THAT LEFT 23 DEAD UNFOLDED 24

December 3, 2019 | AP News

VILLA UNION, Mexico — When dozens of pickup trucks crowded with armed men and mounted machine guns roared into Villa Union, residents of the small town near the U.S. border began to realize they were the target of a military-style invasion.

What followed were hours-long gunbattles between a cartel force estimated to number 70 to 150 men and state police that left 23 people dead. At least 50 homes and buildings were riddled with bullet holes. In the aftermath, authorities found about 20 abandoned vehicles, some with machine-gun turrets and welded armoring; the doors of many were pro-

fessionally printed with the initials of a drug cartel. At least four had .50 caliber mounted machine guns. Residents claimed there were at least twice that many pickups, with some escaping. In a statement Tuesday, the Coahuila state government raised the death toll by one from 22 previously and said 10 suspects had been arrested. Townsfolk, most of whom asked that their names not be used for fear of reprisals, described how the day of terror unfolded:

Residents of the town of 6,000 were still recovering from Thanksgiving, when hundreds of relatives return from the United States to join their families in a border version of...

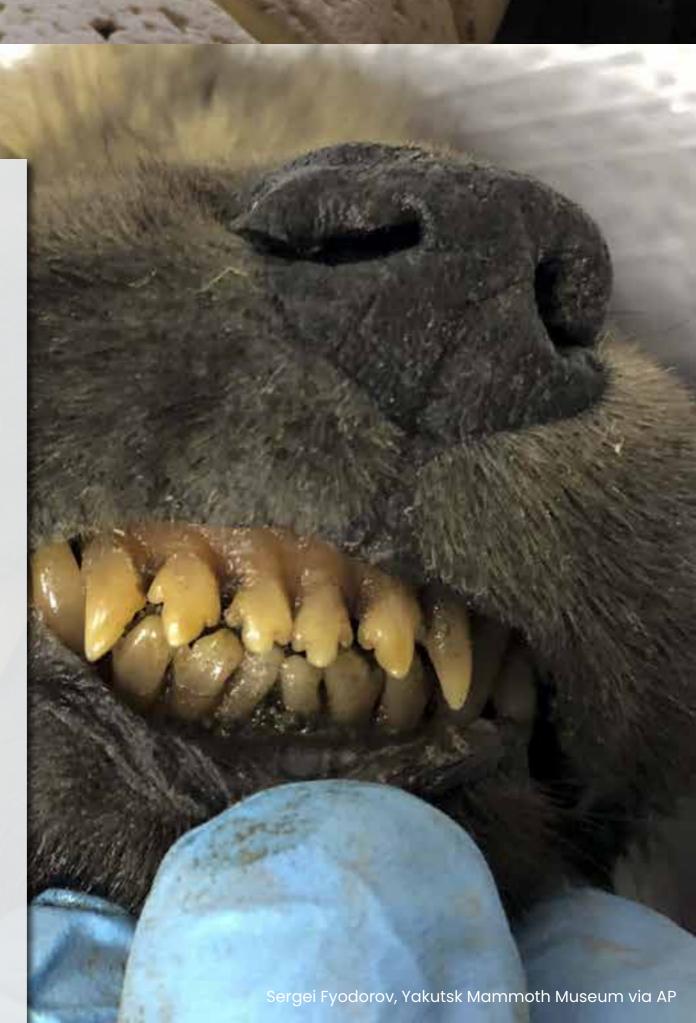
RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS PRESENT ANCIENT PUPPY FOUND IN PERMAFROST

December 2, 2019 | AP News

YAKUTSK, Russia — Russian scientists on Monday showed off a prehistoric puppy, believed to be 18,000 years old, found in permafrost in the country's Far East. Discovered last year in a lump of frozen mud near the city of Yakutsk, the puppy is unusually well-preserved, with its hair, teeth, whiskers and eyelashes still intact.

"This puppy has all its limbs, pelage – fur, even whiskers. The nose is visible. There are teeth. We can determine due to some data that it is a male," Nikolai Androsov, director of the Northern World private museum where the remains are stored, said at the presentation at the Yakutsk's Mammoth Museum which specializes in ancient specimens. In recent years, Russia's Far East has provided many riches for scientists studying the remains of ancient animals. As the permafrost melts, affected by climate change, more and more parts of woolly mammoths, canines and other prehistoric animals...

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