

**BIDEN TAKES THE HELM AS PRESIDENT: 'DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED' »**

**FROM VALLEY FARMS TO THE CAPITOL: RAMIREZ KEY PART OF BIDEN'S TEAM »**

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# LOCAL

## FROM VALLEY FARMS TO THE CAPITOL: RAMIREZ IS KEY PART OF BIDEN'S TEAM

January 20, 2021 | David Taub

Angela Ramirez's path to the Biden administration weaved through the Central Valley. It's where she learned the value of hard work.

**"My parents grew up both picking fruit from a pretty young age. ... Roll up your sleeves and really try. And I got that not just from them, but from my whole extended family. There is a dignity in all work." — Angela Ramirez, a President Biden aide with Valley roots**

Although she was born and raised in the Sacramento area, Ramirez's parents are from the Central Valley and graduated from Fresno State — her father, Frank, is

from Oroquieta and her mother, Karen, grew up in Fresno and Visalia. "My parents grew up both picking fruit from a pretty young age," Ramirez said. "Things don't always work out exactly how you think. Roll up your sleeves and really try. And I got that not just from them, but from my whole extended family. There is a dignity in all work." Today, Ramirez begins serving President Joe Biden as his liaison to Congress.

### Carrying Biden's Message

Ramirez comes to the Biden administration with plenty of Capitol Hill experience. She was named to the Politico Playbook Power List in 2019. She served as chief of staff for New Mexico Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, who rose to the assistant speaker in the Democratic leadership. Lujan is now a U.S. senator. Ramirez was also executive director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus before moving to the Biden-Harris transition team. Her official title for the Biden administration: Special Assistant to the President and House Legis-

lative Affairs Liaison. "I'm going to be working with the House of Representatives to provide information to them on the president's priorities and hopefully take back to the administration the priorities, interests and perspectives from the House," Ramirez said, describing her job.

### Knocking on Doors With Her UFW Organizer Dad

Ramirez tried her hand at comedy writing before breaking into politics, but those aspirations were always with her. Frank Ramirez organized with the United Farm Workers, which influenced Angela — even as she took a political detour. "My dad would always knock doors and campaign. I would stroll along with him, not really understanding what it was," Ramirez said. "It kind of just seeped into my soul a little bit."

### Ramirez Wrote Sit-Coms Before Entering Politics

Ramirez graduated from Princeton and co-chaired the school's humor magazine, The Princeton Tiger. She was the first woman to hold that post. "(Princeton was) unlike anything I had ever seen when I arrived and I accepted it sight unseen, other than that brochure which I studied meticulously," Ramirez said. She moved to Hollywood to try her hand at sitcoms, with limited success. Ramirez spent a summer as a writer's assistant for "Ned...

**"Something I learned from comedy writing is not to take myself too seriously. With everything going on right now, I want to remember my humanity and the humanity of the really important places I come from." — Angela Ramirez**





# STUDY: FIRST 10 DAYS AFTER LEAVING HOSPITAL POSE DEADLY RISKS FOR COVID PATIENTS

Facebook/VA Central California Health Care System

January 20, 2021 | Jim Jakobs

The first week-and-a-half after a COVID-19 patient is released from the hospital can be especially dangerous. That's the takeaway from a new study published by JAMA conducted by a team from the University of Michigan and the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

The researchers compared post-hospital outcomes for nearly 2,200 veterans who survived their coronavirus hospitalizations at 132 VA hospitals last spring and early summer. The study included outcomes from the Fresno VA Medical Center, "There seemed to be this very vulnerable period in the first 10 to maybe 14 days after hospital discharge," Dr. Hallie Prescott, one

of the study's authors, told GV Wire<sup>SM</sup> by Zoom. Rates of readmission or death were higher than for pneumonia or heart failure during the first 10 days after discharge following COVID-19 hospitalization. In the first two months, 9% of the COVID-19 patients who survived hospitalization had died, and almost 20% had suffered a setback that sent them back to the hospital. That's on top of the 18.5% who died during hospitalization.

### Most Common Reasons for Readmittance

"When we looked at why they came back to the hospital, by far the most common reasons were COVID...

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# BRIDGE PROGRAM EXPANDS TO HELP THOSE WITH ADDICTIONS BEYOND OPIOIDS

January 20, 2021 | Sponsored by Community Medical Centers

For the past 18 months, anyone struggling with opioid addiction could walk into Community Regional Medical Center's emergency department and find relief from cravings and withdrawal symptoms – and...

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# HARLEY-DAVIDSON ANNOUNCES NEW BIKE LINE-UP, LOCAL SALES REBOUND

January 19, 2021 | Jim Jakobs

Harley-Davidson hosted the company's first virtual launch event Tuesday to show off some of its 2021 motorcycles. This comes after Forbes magazine reported a few days ago that the company's stock had gained more than 151% since March.

But much of the social media reaction to Tuesday's event was less than stellar. "Just 40 minutes of "Bold New Graphics," wrote John Earnhart on the company's Facebook page. Said Calvin Kandarian, "Disappointed hopefully 2022 models see bigger changes." Avid riders might identify with a new lineup that includes a new Street Bob 114 and a slightly refreshed Fat Boy 114. Joining them for 2021 are the Softail Slim, Softail Standard, Fat Bob 114, Heritage Classic, Heritage Classic...

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# CALIFORNIA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO TOP 3 MILLION VIRUS CASES

January 19, 2021 | AP News

California on Monday became the first state to record more than 3 million known coronavirus infections. The grim milestone, as tallied by Johns Hopkins University, wasn't entirely unexpected in a state with 40 million residents but its speed stunning. The state only reached 2 million reported cases on Dec. 24. The first coronavirus case in California was confirmed last Jan. 25. It took 292 days to get to 1 million infections on Nov. 11 and 44 days to top 2 million.

California's caseload is also far ahead of other large states. Texas had more than 2 million and Florida topped 1.5 million. The state has recorded more than 33,600 deaths related to COVID-19. A caseload surge that began last fall has strained hospitals and especially intensive care units as a percentage of the infected

**The first coronavirus case in California was confirmed last Jan. 25. It took 292 days to get to 1 million infections on Nov. 11 and 44 days to top 2 million.**

— typically estimated to be around 12% by public health officials — become sick enough weeks later to need medical care. On average, California has seen about 500 deaths and 40,000 new cases daily for the past two weeks.

Officials warn that a recent slight downward trend in hospitalizations could reverse when the full impact of New Year's Eve gathering transmissions is felt. The state is placing its hopes on mass vaccinations to reduce the number of infections but there have been snags in the immunization drive. On Sunday, Dr. Erica S. Pan,

the state epidemiologist, urged that providers stop using one lot of a Moderna vaccine because some people needed medical treatment for possible severe allergic reactions. More than 330,000 doses from lot 41L20A arrived in California between Jan. 5 and Jan. 12 and were distributed to 287 providers, she said. In Northern California, Stanislaus County health officials responded by announcing they wouldn't be holding vaccination clinics until further notice. "Out of an extreme abundance of caution and also recognizing the extremely limited supply of vaccine, we are recommending that providers use other available vaccine inventory" pending completion of an investigation by state officials, Moderna, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the federal Food and Drug Administration, Pan said in a statement.

**The state is placing its hopes on mass vaccinations to reduce the number of infections but there have been snags in the immunization drive. On Sunday, Dr. Erica S. Pan, the state epidemiologist, urged that providers stop using one lot of a Moderna vaccine because some people needed medical treatment for possible severe allergic reactions.**

## Six San Diego Health Care Workers Had Allergic Reactions to Vaccines

Fewer than 10 people, who all received the vaccine at the same community site, needed medical attention over a 24-hour period, Pan said. No other similar clusters were found. Pan did not specify the number of cases involved...

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# FIERCE CALIFORNIA WINDS FAN FIRES, TOPPLE TREES AND TRUCKS

January 20, 2021 | AP News

SANTA CRUZ — Months-old embers from a deadly California fire were blown back to life Tuesday by powerful winds that raked the state and prompted safety blackouts to tens of thousands of people.

Firefighters chased wind-driven blazes up and down the state, trees and trucks were toppled, Yosemite National Park was forced to close and two coronavirus vaccination centers were shut down. South of San Francisco, the state's firefighting agency said it responded to 13 vegetation fires in San Mateo and

Santa Cruz counties in 12 hours, and isolated evacuations were ordered for a total of 120 homes near two of them. The fires were small, with the largest no more than a few dozen acres, and by nightfall were "creeping" rather than racing, according to state fire website descriptions. Two were within the area burned by last year's CZU Lightning Complex inferno.

"Fires within the CZU Lightning Complex burn area were regenerated by high winds," the local unit of...

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Mark Rightmire/The Orange County Register/SCNG via AP



AP File

## MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATION MOVES CLOSER TO EXTINCTION

January 20, 2021 | AP News

SAN FRANCISCO — The number of western monarch butterflies wintering along the California coast has plummeted precipitously to a record low, putting the orange-and-black insects closer to extinction, researchers announced Tuesday.

An annual winter count by the Xerces Society recorded fewer than 2,000 butterflies, a massive decline from the tens of thousands tallied in recent years and the millions that clustered in trees from Northern California's Marin County to San Diego County in the south in the 1980s. Western monarch butterflies head south from the Pacific Northwest to California each winter, returning to the same places and even the same trees, where they cluster to...

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## NEWSOM'S \$2 BILLION SCHOOL REOPENING FUND COULD ACTUALLY COST DISTRICTS MONEY

January 20, 2021 | CalMatters

In his bid to get California school campuses back open, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed giving extra money to schools that managed to open by a certain date. But the \$2 billion in grant money would come attached with strings that some districts say would mean paying more than if they didn't get the money in the first place.

That's because Newsom's proposal — and new state guidance, the first since last summer — calls for vastly increased testing of school staff and students, which the schools would have to pay for. The governor's "Safe Schools for All Plan," first released Dec. 30, aims to incentivize schools to offer in-person learning by offering between \$450 and \$700 in per-pupil grant...

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Aric Crabb, Bay Area News Group



AP/Andrew Hamik, Pool

# BIDEN TAKES THE HELM AS PRESIDENT: 'DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED'

January 20, 2021 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on Wednesday, declaring that “democracy has prevailed” as he

**“The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We’ve learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed,” Biden said. “This is America’s day. This is democracy’s day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve.”**

took the helm of a deeply divided nation and inherited a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

Biden’s inauguration came at a time of national tumult and uncertainty, a ceremony

of resilience as the hallowed American democratic rite unfurled at a U.S. Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks ago. The chilly Washington morning was dotted with snow flurries, but the sun emerged just before Biden took the oath of office, the quadrennial ceremony persevering even though it was encircled by security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We’ve learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed,” Biden said. “This is America’s day. This is democracy’s day. A day in history and hope, of renewal and resolve.” And then he pivoted to challenges ahead, acknowledging the surging virus that has claimed more

than 400,000 lives in the United States. Biden looked out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic’s deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation’s renewed reckoning on racial injustice.

“We have much to do in this winter of peril, and significant possibilities: much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain,” Biden said. “Few people in our nation’s history have more challenged, or found a time more challenging

or difficult than the time we’re in now.” His predecessor’s absence underscored the healing that is needed. Flouting tradition, Donald Trump departed Washington on Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the Capitol. Though three other former presidents — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — gathered to watch the ceremonial transfer of power, Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, instead flew to Florida after stoking grievance among his supporters with the lie that Biden’s win was illegitimate. Biden, in his third run for the presidency, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on...

**More history was made at his side, as Kamala Harris became the first woman to be vice president. The former U.S. senator from California is also the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government.**

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# VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS: A NEW CHAPTER OPENS IN US POLITICS

AP/Alex Brandon

January 20, 2021 | AP News

WASHINGTON — For more than two centuries, the top ranks of American power have been dominated by men — almost all of them white. That ends on Wednesday.

Kamala Harris will become the first female vice president — and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the role. Her rise is historic in any context, another moment when a stubborn boundary will fall away, expanding the idea of

what's possible in American politics. But it's particularly meaningful because Harris will be taking office at a moment of deep consequence, with Americans grappling over the role of institutional racism and confronting a pandemic that has disproportionately devastated Black and brown communities.

Those close to Harris say she'll bring an important — and often missing — perspective in the debates on how to overcome the many hurdles facing the...

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AP/Manuel Balce Ceneta

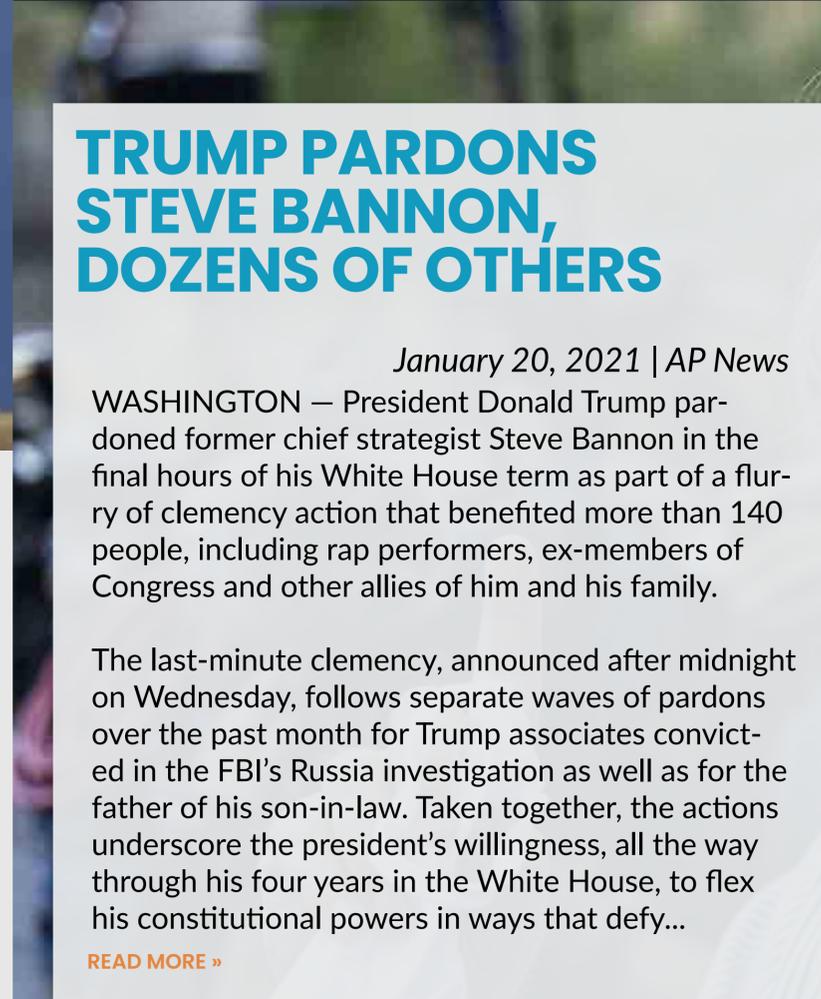
## FACT CHECK: TRUMP'S FICTION IN HIS GOODBYE TO WASHINGTON

January 20, 2021 | AP News

WASHINGTON — In his final remarks as president, Donald Trump tried to take credit for accomplishments of his predecessor and even those to come under President Joe Biden. Falsehoods suffused his farewell remarks Wednesday morning and the night before, though he was spot on with this: “We were not a regular administration.”

As well, in noting Americans were “horrified” by the storming of the Capitol this month, he brushed past the encouragement he had given to the mob in advance — by falsely claiming widespread voting fraud — and his praise of the attackers as “very special” people while they were still ransacking the seat of power. “There is truth and there are lies — lies told...

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## TRUMP PARDONS STEVE BANNON, DOZENS OF OTHERS

January 20, 2021 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump pardoned former chief strategist Steve Bannon in the final hours of his White House term as part of a flurry of clemency action that benefited more than 140 people, including rap performers, ex-members of Congress and other allies of him and his family.

The last-minute clemency, announced after midnight on Wednesday, follows separate waves of pardons over the past month for Trump associates convicted in the FBI's Russia investigation as well as for the father of his son-in-law. Taken together, the actions underscore the president's willingness, all the way through his four years in the White House, to flex his constitutional powers in ways that defy...

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AP/Kathy Willens

# WORLD

## IMMIGRANTS CHEERED BY POSSIBLE CITIZENSHIP PATH UNDER BIDEN

January 20, 2021 | AP News

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Immigrants cheered President Joe Biden’s plan to provide a path to U.S. citizenship for about 11 million people without legal status, mixing hope with guarded optimism Wednesday amid a seismic shift in how the American government views and treats them. The newly inaugurated president moved to reverse four years of harsh restrictions and mass deportation with a plan for sweeping legislation on citizenship.

Biden also issued executive orders reversing some of former President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, such as halting work on a U.S.-Mexico border wall and lifting a travel ban on people from several predominantly Muslim countries. He also ordered his Cabinet to work to keep deportation protections for hundreds of thousands of people brought to the U.S. as

**“This sets a new narrative, moving us away from being seen as criminals and people on the public charge to opening the door for us to eventually become Americans,” said Yanira Arias, a Salvadoran immigrant with Temporary Protected Status who lives in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory.**

children. “This sets a new narrative, moving us away from being seen as criminals and people on the public charge to opening the door for us to eventually become Americans,” said Yanira Arias, a Salvadoran immigrant with Temporary Protected Status who lives in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory. Arias is among about 400,000 people given the designation after fleeing violence or natural disasters. “It sets a more hopeful future for immigrants in the U.S., but it all depends on

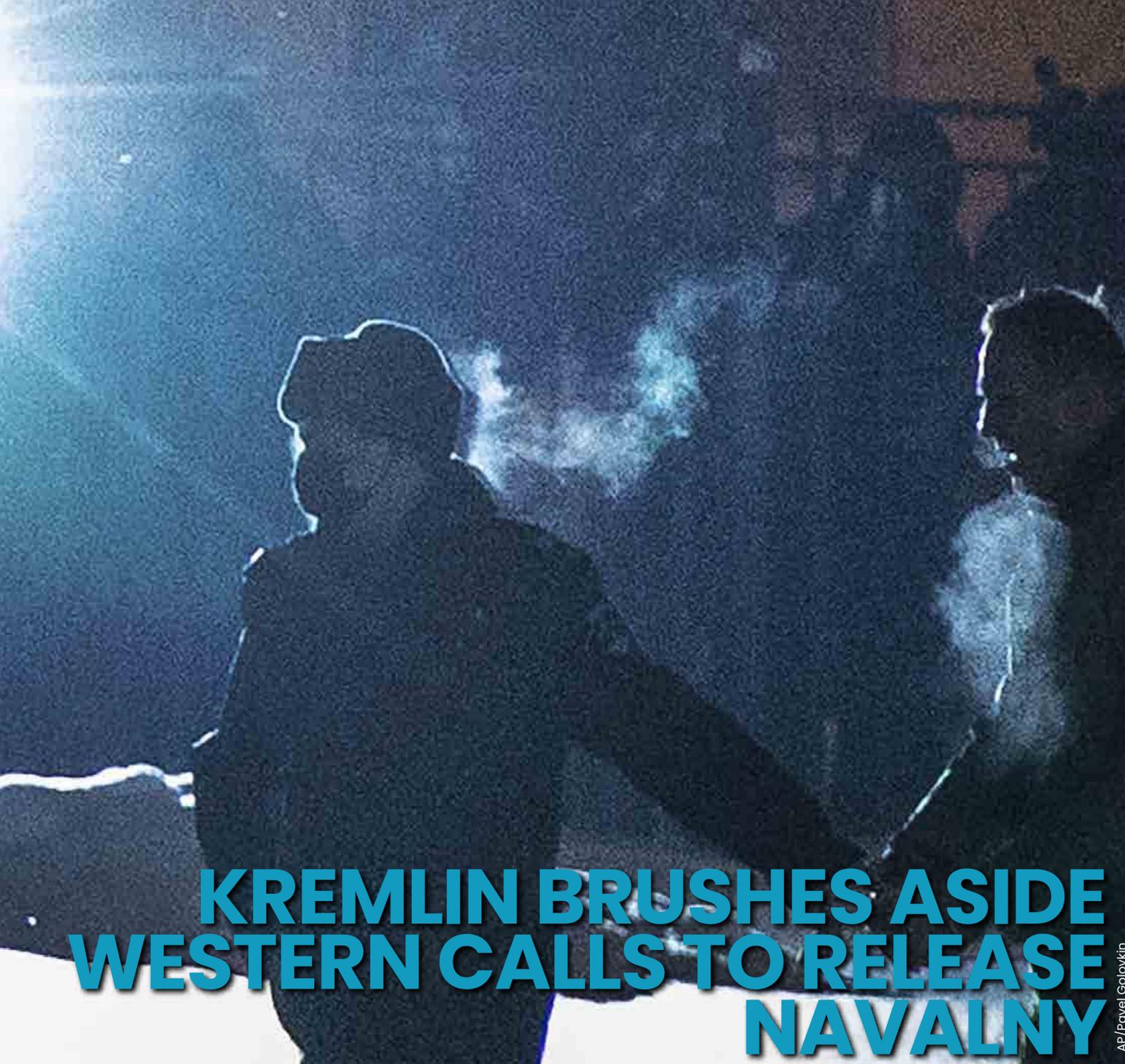
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the Congress, especially the Senate,” Arias, a national campaigns manager for the immigrant advocacy group Alianza Americas, said of the citizenship effort. Success of the legislation is far from certain in a divided Congress, where opposition is expected to be tough. The most recent immigration reform attempts on a similar scale failed — in 2007 under then-President George W. Bush and in 2013 under then-President Barack Obama. Ofelia Aguilar, who watched Biden’s inaugural address on TV with four other female farmworkers in agricultural Homestead, Florida, said she nevertheless felt positive about prospects for immigration reform.

**Ofelia Aguilar, who watched Biden’s inaugural address on TV with four other female farmworkers in agricultural Homestead, Florida, said she nevertheless felt positive about prospects for immigration reform.**

### Some Were Disappointed Biden Didn’t Mention Immigration Reforms in His Speech

“I am hopeful that he’ll give us legal status,” said Aguilar, who was pregnant and alone when she came to the U.S. from Mexico in 1993. She worked in the fields for years before starting her own business farming jicama root. “Hope has opened!” Aguilar cried out after Biden was sworn in. “So many people have suffered.” Some of the farmworkers at the backyard gathering about 35 miles south of Miami said they were disappointed Biden didn’t mention immigration reforms in his speech. “I only have hope in God, not in presidents,” said Sofía Hernández, an...



# KREMLIN BRUSHES ASIDE WESTERN CALLS TO RELEASE NAVALNY

AP/Pavel Golovkin

January 19, 2021 | AP News

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Tuesday brushed aside calls from the West to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested upon his return to Russia from Germany following treatment for poisoning with a nerve agent. Moscow called his case “an absolutely internal matter.”

Navalny blames his poisoning on President Vladimir Putin’s government, which has denied it. The condemnations of his arrest and the calls from abroad for his release have added to the existing ten-

sions between Russia and the West. Some European Union countries are suggesting more sanctions against Moscow. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that “we can’t and are not going to take these statements into account.”

“We are talking about a fact of noncompliance with the Russian law by a citizen of Russia. This is an absolutely internal matter and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it and do not intend to listen to such statements,” Peskov said. Navalny, 44, was...

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# LARGE MIGRANT CARAVAN DISSOLVES IN GUATEMALA

January 19, 2021 | AP News

EL FLORIDO, Guatemala — A once large caravan of Honduran migrants that pushed its way into Guatemala last week had dissipated by Tuesday in the face of Guatemalan security forces. Small groups pressed on toward the Mexican border, while others accepted rides from authorities back to Honduras.

Many of the migrants were driven by an increasingly desperate situation in Honduras, where the economic ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and two major hurricanes in November have piled atop chronic poverty and gang violence. That combined with a hope that the new U.S. administration of President-elect Joe Biden would be more welcoming gave birth to the year’s first caravan. But Tuesday, buses...

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AP/Sandra Sebastian

# POMPEO SAYS CHINA’S POLICIES ON MUSLIMS AMOUNT TO ‘GENOCIDE’

January 19, 2021 | AP News

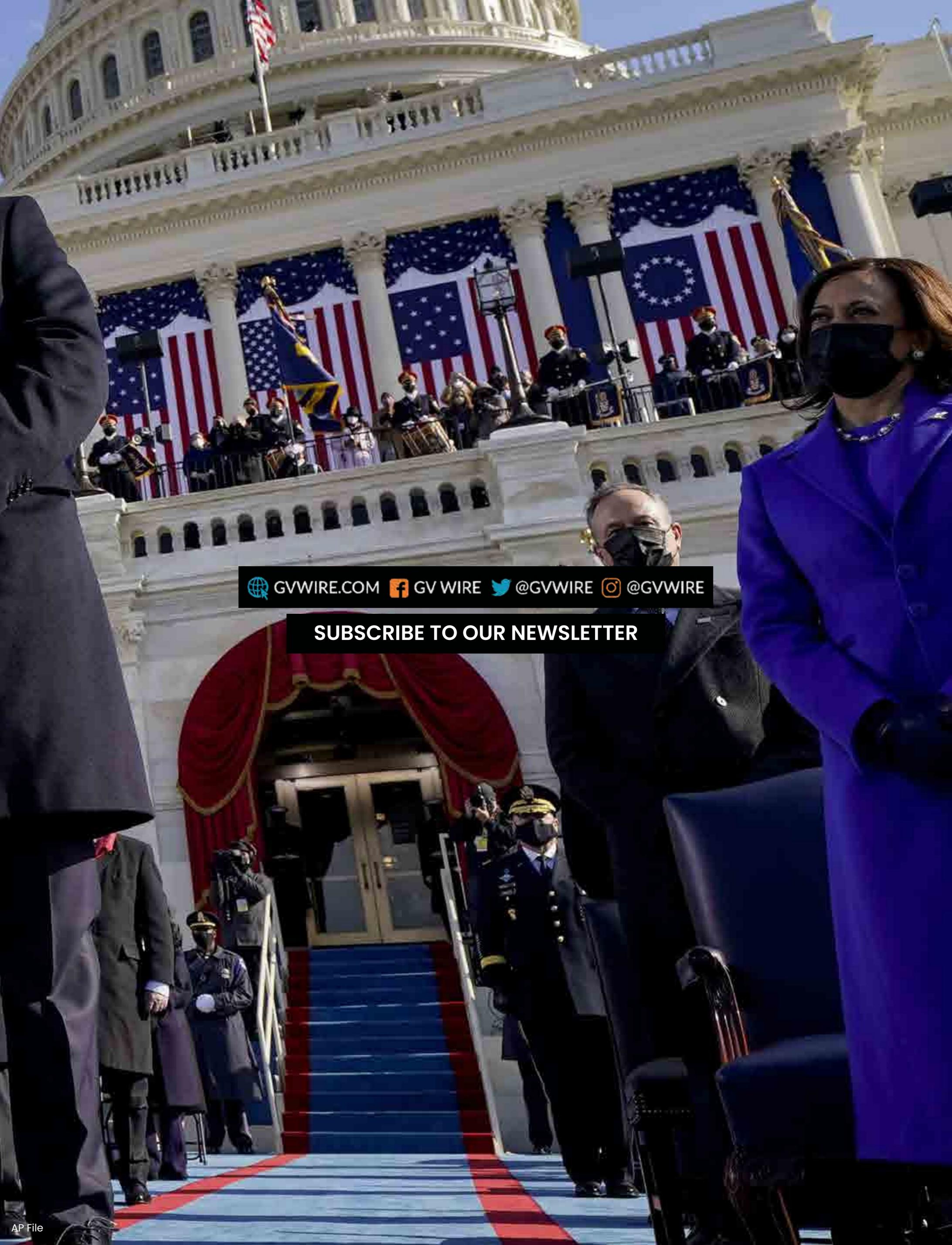
WASHINGTON — On his way out the door, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out anew at China on Tuesday by declaring that its policies on Muslims and ethnic minorities in the western Xinjiang region constitute “crimes against humanity” and a “genocide.” The rarely used designation is sure to provoke an angry response from Beijing.

Pompeo made the determination on Tuesday just 24 hours before President-elect Joe Biden takes office. There was no immediate response from the incoming Biden team, although several members have been sympathetic to such a designation in the past. Pompeo’s determination does not come with any immediate repercussions although the legal...

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AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, Pool



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