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WEEKLY DIGEST
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LOCAL

FRESNO GRIZZLIES APOLOGIZE FOR VIDEO THAT RIPS OCASIO-CORTEZ

May 28, 2019 | Jody Murray

The Fresno Grizzlies apologized to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after it played a video on its scoreboard that included a picture of the New York congresswoman among “enemies of freedom.” The minor-league baseball team posted on Twitter late Monday that the video, based on a Memorial Day speech by President Ronald Reagan, was “a pre-produced video from outside our front office” and that it contained “some misleading and offensive editing.”

“We’re embarrassed we allowed this video to play without seeing it in its entirety first,” the team said. About an hour later, the Grizzlies sent another

“We’re embarrassed we allowed this video to play without seeing it in its entirety first.” — Fresno Grizzlies

tweet that said “we unconditionally apologize to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez in addition to our fans, community and those we hurt. It was a mistake and we will ensure that nothing like it ever happens again.”

The video, shown between games of a double-header against the El Paso Chihuahuas, was lifted by a Grizzlies staff member from a third-party YouTube account, Grizzlies president Derek Franks said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon. “This was taken off the internet. Borrowed, if you will,” Franks said.

Related Story: Ocasio-Cortez Reacts, Says Hateful Messages Inspire Death Threats

On the video, when Reagan cites “enemies of freedom” in the speech, the video shows images of Ocasio-Cortez, North Korean dictator Kim Jung-un, and the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro. People at the game, including Fresno Bee reporter Carmen George, reacted to the video. Images of an-

ti-fascist, alt-left protesters, along with what appears to be pictures from President Donald Trump’s State of the Union speech, also appear in the video.

Franks said the staff member who found and used the video was “remorseful.” He said the matter was being handled internally. “We didn’t take the full steps to make sure that video was the right content for the ball-club,” Franks said.

“Had this been intentional, we would have owned it, the same way we have owned that it was a mistake and that we didn’t do our job vetting the content.” — Grizzlies president Derek Franks

To those who went on social media to contend the Grizzlies showed the politically charged video intentionally, Franks said in response: “Had this been intentional, we would have owned it, the same way we have owned that it was a mistake and that we didn’t do our job vetting the content.”

Here is the video.

The Grizzlies, a team in the Pacific Coast League, is the Triple A affiliate of the Washington Nationals.



May 29, 2019 | *David Taub*

Jerry Dyer, who often has cut a larger-than-life figure in 18 years as Fresno’s police chief, is aiming for an even bigger stage as the city’s next mayor. Amid chants of “Jerry! Jerry!” Dyer announced his candidacy at a news conference Wednesday morning at Manchester Center, briefly outlining an approach that emphasized job creation, fixing streets and parks, addressing homelessness, and keeping residents safe.

“The only way we can accomplish this is if we all come together,” Dyer said. “There is no north Fresno way or south Fresno way, there is only one Fresno way, and that’s what we’re going to do.” The law enforcement veteran, who turned 60 earlier this month, immediately becomes a front-runner in a contest that was turned on its head nine days ago when Mayor Lee Brand announced he would not run for a second term. Dyer, who months ago had set in motion plans to retire as police chief, said he was looking forward to traveling and spending more time with this family. But when it became clear that

Brand was going to step aside, those plans changed. Dyer said he is committed to spending two terms in City Hall. “I think we’ve spent too much time talking about the potential of Fresno. I think it’s time we’ve achieved it,” he said. Dyer’s announcement was not a surprise. His candidacy was bandied about for months in political circles, and on the day Brand stepped aside, Dyer said he was “strongly considering” going for City Hall’s top job.

Related Story: Fresno Mayor Brand Won’t Run Again. ‘It’s Time I Moved ...

Among the people attending Dyer’s announcement were former mayor Alan Autry, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp and Fresno County Supervisor Steve Brandau. Others included Cornerstone Church Pastor Jim Franklin and former Fresno Police Officers Association president Jacky Parks. “I just wanted to say I tried to talk Jerry out of this,” joked...

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REWARD RAISED TO \$2,500. CALL IN TIPS ON GRANVILLE HOME OF HOPE THIEVES.

May 29, 2019 | *GV Wire*

The reward now stands at \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest of the men who ransacked the Granville Home of Hope. That’s \$1,500 more than the initial reward offered after two men stole everything but the dining room table May 8 after disabling the alarm system. The value of the stolen items — which included the stove and refrigerator — is estimated at \$17,500, making the crime a felony. The burglars also caused an estimated \$2,500 in damage.

“We are now offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the thieves that did this,” said Darius Assemi, Granville Homes president. Anyone with information should contact the Fresno Police Department at 559 621-6311 or Granville Homes at 559 492-4049. A passer-by saw the men and snapped a picture of one of the vehicles at about 5:50 a.m. Upon seeing the on-looker, the men fled. One of the suspects drove a white late-model Dodge Journey sports utility...

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‘MAYOR PETE’ ADDS A MEET-AND-GREET TO FRESNO STOP

May 29, 2019 | *GV Wire*

Fresno area residents will have a second opportunity to see Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg up close on Monday, June 3. While all the tickets for Buttigieg’s town hall with MSNBC’s Chris Matthews at Fresno State were quickly claimed, a meet-and-greet with the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is now scheduled earlier in the day.

Related Story: ‘Mayor Pete’ Joins 2020 Dem Race as Face of New Generation

The Fresno County Democratic Party announced on social media Wednesday that Buttigieg will be at Tuolumne Hall in downtown Fresno 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. before his town hall broadcast. Mike Evans, the Fresno County Democratic Party chair, said tickets aren’t needed for the meet-and-greet. Tuolumne Hall has a capacity of about 200. If an overflow crowd turns out, Evans said, arrangements will be made so that everyone gets...

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STATE

CALIFORNIA SENATE OKS RULE ON POLICE USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING

May 29, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — The California Senate approved legislation Tuesday requiring officers across the nation’s most populous state to be trained in ways to avoid using deadly force, one of two measures intended to deter shootings by police.

Senators unanimously passed the proposal requiring that policies on deadly force be standardized statewide, sending it to the Assembly. It also requires officers to learn ways to de-escalate confrontations, alternatives to shooting suspects and how to interact with those with mental illness or addictions.

Related Story: California Might Get One of the Nation’s Toughest Police Use-of-Force ...

The bill “makes fundamental changes to how law enforcement officers are trained, and this will enable the culture shift away from using force to get compliance,” said Democratic Sen. Anna Caballero of Salinas, who is sponsoring the legislation that’s backed by police. It is linked to a second measure awaiting an Assembly vote this week that would allow police to use deadly force only when needed to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to officers or bystanders.

Prompted by Public Outrage Over Fatal Shootings

The bills were prompted by public outrage over fatal shootings by police, including the killing of unarmed vandalism suspect Stephon Clark in Sacramento that set off protests last year. “This bill is a recognition that we have a problem,” Caballero said of her legislation.

The vote came the same day law enforcement leaders and dozens of rank-and-file officers held their first Capitol rally to lobby lawmakers. The pair of bills together

will “make the state of California the No. 1 in the nation on dealing with use-of-force issues,” said Brian Marvel, president of the rank-and-file Peace Officers Research Association of California.

The Senate bill includes training officers in how to work with suspects who are homeless, of different cultures, are mentally ill or have communication issues that can lead to deadly confrontations.

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“This bill is a recognition that we have a problem.”
— Sen. Anna Caballero



STUBBY-LEGGED DOGS RACE FOR GLORY, TREATS AT CORGI NATIONALS

May 30, 2019 | Jody Murray

Forget greyhounds. If you want the epitome of racing dogs, you want a pooch with ground-hugging aerodynamics, a compact wheelbase, and heart-melting button eyes.

You want a corgi.

What these economy-size spitfires lack in speed, they make up for with adorable, tongue-lolling smiles and an equally adoring fanbase. No wonder, then, that Santa Anita race-track last Sunday hosted the second annual Corgi Nationals. Corgi racing isn't limited to the Southland. These vertically challenged canines have similar events in Auburn, Washing-

ton, Shakopee, Minnesota, and Houston, Texas. About 2,000 fans gathered at Santa Anita to watch the little competitors as they negotiated, with wildly disparate levels of success, a 125-foot, straight course.

A maximum of 10 corgis dueled per race, with their human pets behind the finish line, waving treats, pom poms and favorite toys. After a series of races on the infield grass to winnow down the contestants, 10 finalists faced off, cold nose to cold nose, on a course located on the main track, where thoroughbreds normally reign. One of the finalists sported the fearsome name of Shortstack Wiggle Butt. Shortstack...

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AP File Photo

ASSEMBLY VOTES TO TIGHTEN RULES ON INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

May 30, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California residents working for companies like Lyft and Uber would get the rights of employees entitled to a minimum wage and workers compensation under a law the state Assembly passed on Wednesday. The sweeping bill, which now goes to the Senate, carries new standards defining whether workers are employees or independent contractors, upending how workers are treated in industries from trucking to the burgeoning gig economy.

Under those standards, for example, workers could only be classified as independent contractors if they are free from the control or direction of an employer and they do work outside a company's usual course of business. The measure, Assembly Bill 5, includes exemptions for some sectors, such as physicians and insurance agents. Democrats and major labor unions backing the bill contend it will protect workers'...

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RIP, BILL MANDERS. HE TOOK ON EVERYONE FROM LIBERALS TO NUNES.

May 28, 2019 | David Taub

Bill Manders held to his conservative ideals on the airwaves while holding our public officials accountable. Off the air, he valued his family most. The talk radio host, whose resume reads like an American atlas, passed away Monday (May 27). He was 68. Born in Detroit and raised in southern California, Bill worked in Bakersfield, in the early 2000s at KMJ in Fresno, and then in Reno (KOH 780) before returning to Fresno.

I produced Bill's show when he returned to the Fresno airwaves at Power Talk 96.7. That station flipped formats in January 2013, from easy listening to hard-core talk. The station hired Bill to anchor its local afternoon-drive time slot. Admittedly, I wasn't familiar with his background. I first met him about a week or so before we went on the air. He looked like a giant teddy bear. A big man, with gruff voice — perfect for radio. He always wore a University of Nevada pull-over. I begged him to update his wardrobe, at least something with Fresno...

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MUELLER: SPECIAL COUNSEL PROBE DID NOT EXONERATE TRUMP

May 29, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller said Wednesday he was legally barred from charging President Donald Trump with a crime but pointedly emphasized that his Russia report did not exonerate the president. If he could have cleared Trump of obstruction of justice he “would have said so,” Mueller said. The special counsel’s remarks, his first in public since being

“If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so. We did not however make a determination as to whether the president did commit a crime.” — Robert Mueller

tasked two years ago with investigating Russian interference to help Trump win the 2016 presidential election, stood as a strong rebuttal to Trump’s repeated claims that he was exonerated and that the inquiry was a “witch hunt” that found crime. Mueller made clear he was barred from indicting a sitting president and that it was Congress’ job to hold the president accountable for any wrongdoing.

“If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so,” Mueller said. “We did not however make a determination as to whether the president did commit a crime.” Under pressure to testify before Congress, Mueller did not rule it out. But he seemed to warn lawmakers that they won’t be pulling more detail out of him. His report is “my testimony,” Mueller said, and he won’t go beyond what is written in the report.

Trump Falsely Claimed That Report Cleared Him of Obstruction of Justice
He strongly indicated that Congress is the proper venue, not the criminal justice system, for deciding whether action should be taken against the president in connection with allegations that Trump and aides obstructed the investigation. Trump, who has repeatedly and falsely claimed that Mueller’s report cleared him of obstruction

of justice, modified that contention somewhat shortly after the special counsel’s remarks. He tweeted, “There was insufficient evidence and therefore, in our Country, a person is innocent. The case is closed!” Mueller’s comments, one month after his report on Russian efforts to help Trump win the presidency, appeared intended to both justify the legitimacy of his investigation against complaints by the president and to explain his decision to not reach a conclusion on whether Trump had obstructed justice.

Related Story: Trump Tried to Seize Control of Mueller Probe, Report Says

Indicting Trump, he said firmly, was “not an option” in light of a Justice Department legal opinion that says a sitting president cannot be charged. But, he said, the absence of a conclusion should not be mistaken for an exoneration of the president. “The opinion says the Constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system to formally accuse a sitting president of wrongdoing,” Mueller said, referring to the Justice Department legal opinion. That would shift the next move, if any, to Congress, and the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which would investigate further or begin any impeachment effort, commented quickly. It falls to Congress to respond to the “crimes, lies and other wrongdoing of President Trump – and we will do so,” said New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler. Trump has blocked the committee’s subpoenas and other efforts to dig into the Trump-Russia issue, insisting Mueller’s report has settled everything. Mueller’s statement came amid demands for him to testify on...

“Under longstanding department policy, a president cannot be charged with a federal crime while he is in office. That is unconstitutional. Even if the charge is kept under seal and hidden from public view that, too, is prohibited.” — Robert Mueller

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OVERTURNING ROE V. WADE WOULDN'T TURN BACK CLOCK TO 1973

AP File Photo

May 28, 2019 | AP News

A wave of state abortion bans has set off speculation: What would happen if Roe v. Wade, the ruling establishing abortion rights nationwide, were overturned? Although far from a certainty, even with increased conservative clout on the Supreme Court, a reversal of Roe would mean abortion policy would revert to the states, and many would be eager to impose bans.

What would not happen is a full-fledged turning back of the clock to 1973. Women now have far more methods to avoid unwanted pregnancies, as well as safer, easier options for

abortion. Many abortions are induced at home with a two-drug combination, and advocacy groups are spreading the word about home abortions using one of the drugs that can be done without a medical professional's involvement.

"I don't think you can put all those different genies back in the bottle," said medical historian Andrea Tone at McGill University in Montreal. "Women are in charge of their procreative destiny. I don't think women will put up with the absence of privacy and discretion that birth control and abortion provide." Here's a look at some of the abortion...

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AP File Photo

O'ROURKE'S IMMIGRATION PLAN CALLS FOR PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

May 29, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke on Wednesday unveiled a **sweeping immigration plan** to seek a pathway to U.S. citizenship for 11 million people in the country illegally, deploy thousands of immigration lawyers to the southern border to help with asylum cases and earmark \$5 billion to bolster the rule of law in Central America.

The former Texas congressman becomes just the second major candidate in the **packed field of Democratic presidential hopefuls** to offer a comprehensive immigration proposal, even though the U.S.-Mexico border and the thousands of people streaming across it illegally have dominated headlines and U.S. policy discussions for months. Other policy goals — including plans to slash carbon emissions nationwide to combat climate change and extend universal health care...

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IS A RECESSION COMING? ONE KEY INDICATOR SHOUTS YES.

May 29, 2019 | GV Wire

What happens when the interest rate for a 3-month Treasury bill is higher than the interest rate for a 10-year note? Many investors and economists sound the alarm about a coming recession. That's what happened Tuesday as the 3-month bill yield rose to 2.36% while the 10-year note yield dropped to 2.21% — its lowest since September 2017.

Why does this situation, which is known as "yield curve inversion," trigger widespread concern? Because, under normal market conditions, those who buy debt from the U.S. government over the long term are compensated with better interest rates than those who loan money for a few months. The Treasury yield curve inverted before the recessions of 2001, 1991, and 1981. It also predicted the 2008 financial crisis two years earlier. The first inversion occurred on Dec. 22, 2005. Does that mean a recession is coming in 2020? Not necessarily. The Federal Reserve says there's about a...

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WORLD

IN UAE, BOLTON WARNS IRAN OF 'VERY STRONG RESPONSE'

May 29, 2019 | AP News

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump's national security adviser warned Iran on Wednesday that any attacks in the Persian Gulf will draw a "very strong response" from the U.S., taking a hard-line approach with Tehran after his boss only two days earlier said America wasn't "looking to hurt Iran at all." John Bolton's comments are the latest amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran that have been playing out in the Middle East.

Related Story: Meet John Bolton, an Architect of the Iraq War Who's Now Agitating for Trump ...

Bolton spoke to journalists in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, which only days earlier saw former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warn there that "unilateralism will not work" in confronting the Islamic Republic. The dueling approaches highlight the divide over Iran within American politics. The U.S. has accused Tehran of being behind a string of incidents this month, including the alleged sabotage of oil tankers off the Emirati coast, a rocket strike near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and a coordinated drone attack on Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi rebels. On Wednesday, Bolton told journalists that there had been a previously unknown attempt to attack the Saudi oil port of Yanbu as well, which he also blamed on Iran. He described Tehran's decision to back away from its 2015 atomic deal with world powers as evidence it sought nuclear weapons, even though it came a year after America unilaterally withdrew from the unraveling agreement.

Bolton Points Finger at Iran

Bolton stressed the U.S. had not seen any further Ira-

nian attacks in the time since, something he attributed to the recent military deployments — America recently sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf. But he warned the U.S. would strike back if again attacked. "The point is to make it very clear to Iran and its surrogates that these kinds of action risk a very strong response from the United States," Bolton threatened, without elaborating. Bolton spoke before talks with Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He declined to have his remarks recorded by journalists.

A longtime Iran hawk, Bolton blamed Tehran for the recent incidents, at one point saying it was "almost certainly" Iran that planted explosives on the four oil tankers off the UAE coast. He declined to offer any evidence for his claims.

"Who else would you think is doing it?" Bolton asked at one point when pressed. "Somebody from Nepal?" Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has repeatedly criticized Bolton as a warmonger. Abbas Mousavi, a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said later Wednesday Bolton's remarks were a "ridiculous accusation."

Separately in Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani said that the "road is not closed" when it comes to talks with the U.S. — if America returns to the nuclear deal. However, the relatively moderate Rouhani faces increasing criticism from hard-liners and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over the collapsing accord. Speaking in Abu Dhabi, Bolton linked the rocket fire in Baghdad, the alleged sabotage of the ships and the drone attack by Yemen's rebels, describing them as a response from Iran and its proxies. "I think it's important that the leadership in Iran to know that we know," Bolton said. He...

"The point is to make it very clear to Iran and its surrogates that these kinds of action risk a very strong response from the United States." — John Bolton

"We're not looking for regime change — I just want to make that clear. We're looking for no nuclear weapons." — John Bolton

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ISRAEL FACES REPEAT 2019 ELECTION AFTER PARLIAMENT DISSOLVES

AP/Artel Schalit

May 30, 2019 | AP News

JERUSALEM — Israel embarked Thursday on an unprecedented snap election campaign — the second this year — after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition and instead dissolved parliament. In what seemed an improbable scenario just days ago, Israel's newly elected Knesset dissolved itself in an early morning 74-45 vote and set a new election date for Sept. 17.

The parliament's disbanding comes just a month after it was sworn in and sets the stage for a second election in the same year — a first in Israeli history. The developments were a shocking setback for Netanyahu, who had appeared to se-

cure a comfortable win in last month's election. But he was unable to build a parliamentary majority because his traditional ally, Avigdor Lieberman, refused to bring his Yisrael Beiteinu faction into the coalition.

Netanyahu's Likud party excoriated Lieberman, accusing him of betraying voters, abandoning his right-wing ideology and selfishly carrying out a personal vendetta against his former patron Netanyahu. Lieberman, a former top aide to Netanyahu who for two decades has alternated between a close alliance and bitter rivalry with his former boss, delivered his own rebuke Thursday. A former defense minister and...

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AP File Photo

6 MONTHS LATER, GENE-EDITED BABIES STIR NEW INTEREST, DEBATE

May 30, 2019 | AP News

Six months after a Chinese scientist was widely scorned for helping to make the world's first gene-edited babies, he remains out of public view, and new information suggests that others may be interested in pursuing the same kind of work outside the United States. A fertility clinic in the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai emailed scientist He Jiankui to seek training in gene editing, Stanford University bioethicist Dr. William Hurlbut said ahead of a speech Tuesday at the World Science Festival in New York.

Hurlbut, whose advice He often sought, said He told him that scientists from multiple countries and families with inherited health problems had messaged support and interest in altering the genes of embryos to prevent or treat disease. Hurlbut gave The Associated Press an email he said the Dubai clinic sent to He in December, altered to hide the clinic's name. "It reveals what eagerness there is out there to use this technology" and the need "for some sort of..."

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"AMERICAN TALIBAN" JOHN WALKER LINDH IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

May 24, 2019 | AP News

John Walker Lindh, the Californian who took up arms for the Taliban and was captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2001, got out of prison Thursday after more than 17 years, released under tight restrictions that reflected government fears he still harbors radical views. President Donald Trump reacted by saying, "I don't like it at all." "Here's a man who has not given up his proclamation of terror," he said.

Lindh, 38, left a federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, after getting time off for good behavior from the 20-year sentence he received when he pleaded guilty to providing support to the Taliban. It was not immediately clear where the man known as the "American Taliban" will live or what he will do. He turned down an interview request last week, and his attorney declined to comment Thursday. In a Fox News interview, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo decried Lindh's early release as "unexplainable and unconscionable" and...

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