



WEEKLY DIGEST
JUNE 7, 2019

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WHY FRESNO? BUTTIGIEG SAYS IT REMINDS HIM OF HOME.

June 3, 2019 | David Taub

Mayor Pete Buttigieg delivered a progressive presidential agenda at two campaign stops in Fresno and to a national cable television audience Monday. At a morning meet-and-greet at Tuolumne Hall, Buttigieg spoke to a receptive audience and took questions. He hit the progressive high notes — health care for all, the economy, abortion rights.

He made his appeal, using a reference of an icon to the right. “And we might even wind up asking that question that Ronald Reagan famously asked. Are you better off than you were four years ago? Are you better off than you were 10 years ago? And I think for too many Americans, the answer is that we are no better off. And that’s why we’ve got to change the structures that perpetuate inequality in our economy and in our government,” Buttigieg said.

Buttigieg on Fresno

Later, Buttigieg appeared at a live “Hardball with Chris Matthews” airing at Fresno State. He supported the impeachment of Donald

“There are so many communities like Fresno, that maybe don’t feel like they are part of the conversation when people talk about when they think of when they think California. It reminds me of home...”

— Mayor Pete Buttigieg

Trump, affordable college, and a \$15 per hour minimum wage. As he shook hands after the show went off the air, he spotted a friend — Ashley Swearengin, a former Fresno mayor. The two chatted for a moment. Swearengin said she knew Buttigieg from when she led Fresno not too many years ago. Buttigieg compared Fresno to the city he’s mayor of — South Bend, Indiana. “Fresno is really welcoming. We had a great time here, I’m looking forward to coming back. There are so many communities like Fresno, that maybe don’t feel like

they are part of the conversation when people talk about when they think of when they think California. It reminds me of home, both the challenges and opportunities in a community like this,” Buttigieg told GV Wire.

Playing ‘Hardball’

The audience lined up early at Fresno State, snaking around the Speech Arts Building. Smartly, they made sure the line stayed in shaded areas. Buttigieg supporters filled every seat in the house, with about a hundred more on stage behind host Matthews and the upstart candidate. Matthews asked his “hardball” questions on whether he would impeach Trump (yes, saying Trump deserves impeachment), what he would say to Russian president Vladimir Putin (“don’t mess with our elections”) and if he ever fired a gun while serving in Afghanistan (Buttigieg said no, but there were some scary times).

A clip played of Buttigieg asking a question of one-time presidential contender Dick Gephardt at a 2003 Hardball townhall at Harvard. Then, Gephardt appeared via satellite from Santa Rosa, California, touting Buttigieg as a legitimate contender. Buttigieg graduated from Harvard in 2004.

[Watch clips of Buttigieg on “Hardball” via MSNBC.](#)

MSNBC will air a live town hall with Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren moderated by Chris Hayes on Wednesday night in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

[Related Story: Buttigieg Is Breath of Fresh Air in Dem Presidential Race](#)

Buttigieg supporters filled every seat in the house, with about a hundred more on stage behind host Matthews and the upstart candidate.



COUNCILMEMBERS GO TO D.C., MEND FENCES WITH AOC OVER GRIZZLIES VIDEO

Special to GV Wire

June 5, 2019 | Jody Murray

Two Fresno councilmembers met with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday to cool down any residual angst from a politically volatile video displayed at a Fresno Grizzlies home game. Councilmembers Miguel Arias and Esmeralda Soria visited with the New York congresswoman at the U.S. Capitol. Images from the meeting show the congresswoman accepting Grizzlies merchandise from the two. “AOC was gracious,” Arias told GV Wire. “She felt bad that this led to sponsorships being withdrawn.”

Related Story: Dos Equis/Tecate Drop Grizzlies Over Video Controversy

On May 24, a video was shown on the Chuckchansi Park scoreboard that was supposed to honor Memorial Day. The video, which the baseball team’s officials later said was lifted from a third-party YouTube account, was based on a Memorial Day speech by former President Ronald Reagan. At a point

where Reagan cites “enemies of freedom,” the video showed images of Ocasio-Cortez, North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un, and the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Grizzlies officials apologized, saying the video was not properly vetted. In the days that followed, Sun-Maid Raisins pulled its sponsor support of the Washington Nationals’ minor-league affiliate, followed by Heineken USA, brewers of the Tecate and Dos Equis beer brands.

Related Story: Fresno Grizzlies Apologize for Video That Rips Ocasio-Cortez

“She knows the role baseball teams have in creating jobs for a city,” Arias said of Ocasio-Cortez. Rep. TJ Cox (D-Fresno) said he was happy to help the councilmembers connect with Ocasio-Cortez. “We should all take every opportunity we can to be kind, empathetic and forgiving,” he said. In a joint news release, Soria and Arias said they also went to Washington to...

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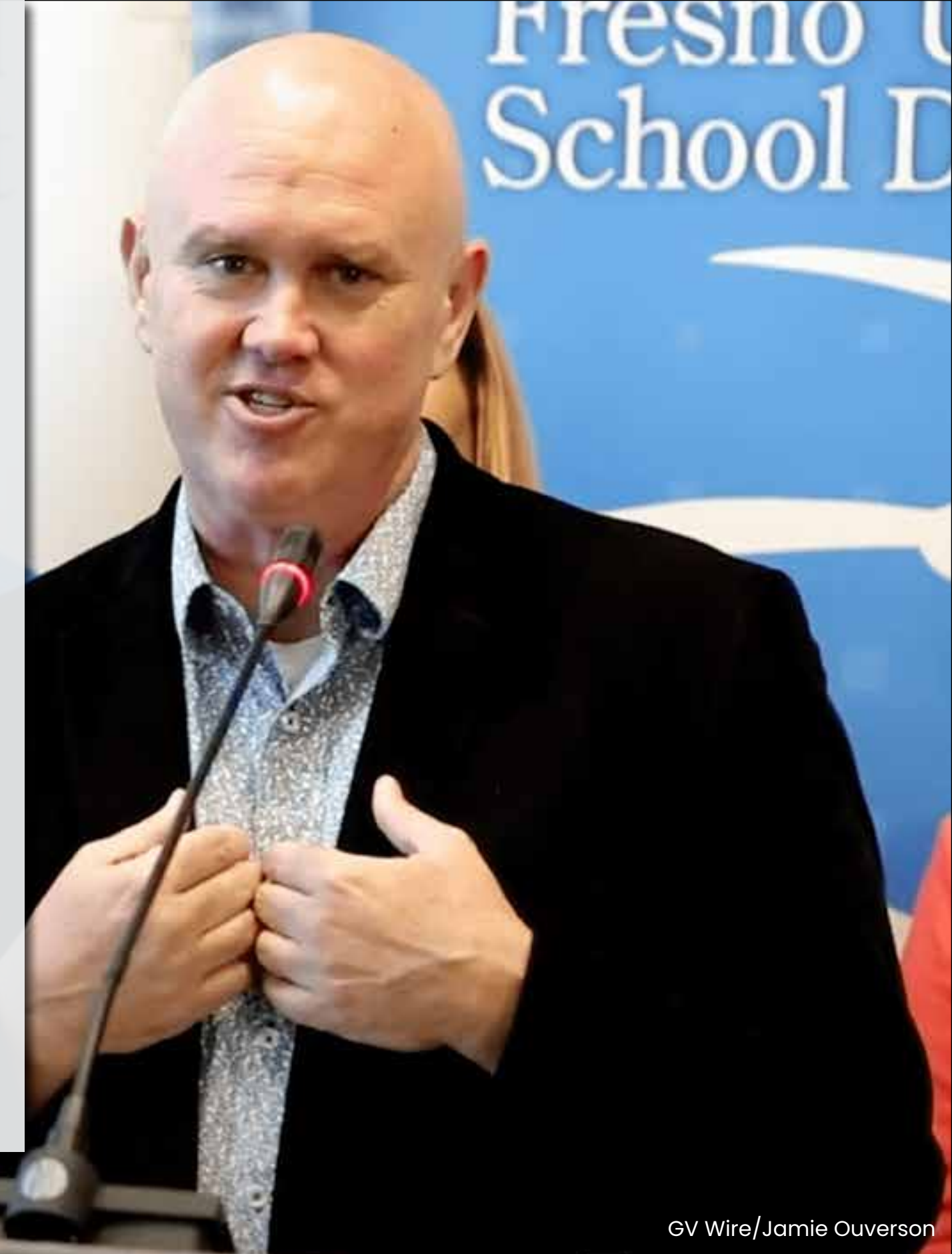
FRESNO UNIFIED LAYS OUT RESPONSE TO STUDENT’S RACIST POSTS

June 4, 2019 | Jody Murray

Fresno Unified plans to double down on teaching students about the many aspects of racism and the urgent need to keep campuses safe, following an uproar over racially offensive social media posts that included a Bullard High student posing in blackface. District Superintendent Bob Nelson, standing alongside 15 people from inside and outside Fresno Unified, said at a news conference Tuesday that the district led community meetings Monday to address the problem.

“It was incredibly heart-wrenching to listen to the stories of our students who shared their pain, not only about the video but about their ongoing need to feel safe and feel heard,” Nelson said. The offending posts were first reported by a Bullard student on May 24. Freshman Amya Wilson saw the blackface post on Snapchat on May 23. After talking to her mother, she decided to go to the school’s office to report it. “They were very upset, and as concerned as I was,” said Wilson, who...

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GV Wire/Jamie Ouverson

PEACE IS THE MESSAGE AS VALLEY MUSLIMS MARK END OF RAMADAN

June 5, 2019 | GV Wire

Valley Muslims celebrated the end of **Ramadan** with prayers, food, and gifts to the underserved Wednesday morning at the **Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno**. “We thank God for the blessing to ourselves, our community, our nation, and the world,” said Reza Nekumanesh, executive director of ICCF. During the event, Imam Seyed Ali Ghazvini led a prayer for peace. “We celebrate peace and we ask for peace,” Imam Ghazvini said. “Our message is to be an agent of peace. Promote peace in your acts and your words. This is what we like to focus on.”

Retired Naval Officer Explains Conversion to Islam

Clovis resident Robert Clegg was among those taking part. A health sciences professor, Clegg explained how he became a Muslim after 15 years as a U.S. Navy officer. “We would meet with the elders and pray with the elders,” Clegg said of his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. “So I gained a real appreciation for Islam during that time. “After I retired from the...

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GV Wire/Jamie Ouverson



Sacramento Pride

STATE

'PRIDE' DOESN'T EXTEND TO GAY UNIFORMED SACRAMENTO POLICE

June 4, 2019 | GV Wire

Organizers of the Sacramento Pride Festival again have banned police in uniform, saying their presence may make others feel uncomfortable, [CBS 13 reports](#). "I take a lot of pride in who I am and being on the police department and representing the Sacramento Police and representing our community," said Sacramento police officer Jeff Kuhlmann. The event begins Saturday at the Capitol Mall.

Event Pays Tribute to Stonewall

Openly gay, Kuhlmann says he has worked hard to dispel rumors and myths among his fellow police officers after his hiring in 2005. Kuhlman questions why he can't take participate in an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.

In June of 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in New York's Greenwich Village. During the mass arrest, confused patrons were rounded up. Many complained their rights were violated and the widespread outrage ignited two days of rioting.

Festival Leaders Say LGBT Community Distrusts Police

Sacramento Pride Festival organizers say many in the LGBT community still distrust police and having uniformed officers in the parade would re-open old wounds. This is the second straight year that uniformed officers have been banned from the PRIDE parade.

Organizers have suggested that police officers wear casual clothes or polo shirts instead. Kuhlmann counters that this compromise falls well short of what inclusion looks like. "By having us in uniform it can show, that this is who we are, people can come up to us and talk to

us," said Kuhlmann. "But if we're in civilian clothes or polo shirts, that's not who we are."

In a statement [emailed to The Sacramento Bee](#), the police department said, "Our police department is disappointed that the LGBT Center does not want our officers attending upcoming public community events while in uniform. We support our LGBTQ officers who proudly serve our community on a daily basis. They have worked hard to earn these uniforms and are proud to wear them."

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.

Watch: Police in Polos for Pride Week? Gay Officer: 'That's Not Who We Are.'



CALIFORNIA HAS HOUSING CRISIS, LEGISLATURE HAS NO FIX YET

AP/Rich Pedroncelli

June 4, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Crisis. Emergency. California lawmakers are describing the state's housing crunch in dire terms. But few seem to agree on what to do about it.

The political wrangling over the last few weeks around bills to cap rent increases, set new rules for evictions and cut red tape to build more housing reveal big splits in the Legislature when it comes to one of the most pressing issues of the session. All of it comes even after Democrats expanded their majorities in the Senate and Assembly during the 2018 election while also watching a new governor from their own party ride to office pledging that California would build millions

of new housing units. Randy Shaw, a longtime housing activist in San Francisco, is among those who believe Gov. Gavin Newsom must get more involved to follow through on his pledges of building new housing and curbing homelessness. Shaw was particularly upset the Assembly didn't even vote on a bill to make it harder for landlords to evict tenants.

"A supermajority of Democrats in the bluest of states completely abandoned the state's tenants," said Shaw, author of "Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America." Newsom came to office in January urging lawmakers to pass legislation protecting tenants but has stayed...

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AP/Rich Pedroncelli

MORE STATES SUE OPIOID MAKER ALLEGING DECEPTIVE MARKETING

June 4, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — California, Hawaii, Maine and the District of Columbia filed lawsuits Monday against the maker of OxyContin and the company's former president, alleging the firm falsely promoted the drug by downplaying the risk of addiction while it emerged as one of the most widely abused opioids in the U.S. The lawsuits were the latest by states and local governments against drugmaker Purdue Pharma as the country grapples with an opioid epidemic. About a dozen states have also targeted Richard Sackler, the company's former leader, or members of his family.

[Related Story: 5 States Announce New Suits Over Prescription Opioids](#)

"Purdue and the Sacklers traded the health and well-being of Californians for profit and created an unprecedented...

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PATTERSON INQUIRY TRIGGERS SUSPENSION OF BULLET TRAIN CONSULTANT

June 4, 2019 | GV Wire

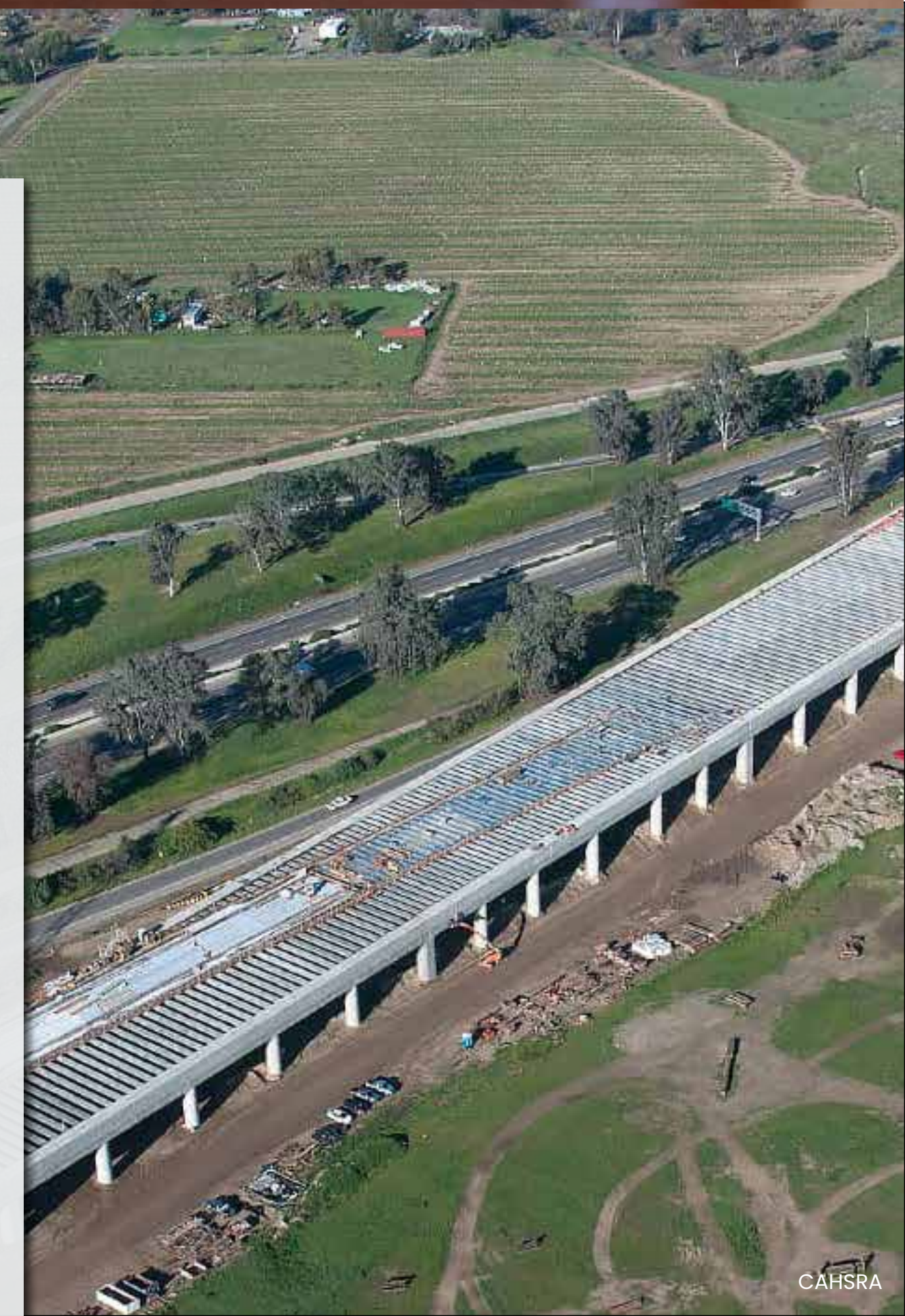
A state watchdog agency is reviewing a complaint filed by Assemblyman Jim Patterson of Fresno against the top consultant on the California bullet train project. In addition, the consultant's company has suspended him because of the probe, [The Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday](#).

Questions About \$51 Million Change Order

Roy Hill, deputy chief operating officer for the California High-Speed Rail Authority and a senior executive at the lead consulting firm WSP, signed a \$51-million change order for the construction team led by the Spanish firm Dragados.

The change-order authorization by Hill happened in the same year he may have owned more than \$100,000 of stock in Jacobs Engineering. The firm is part of the Dragados team, records show. Patterson, a longtime critic of the project, asked the Fair Political Practices Commission to review Hill's...

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CAHSRA



AP/Rafael Yaghobzadeh

QUEEN, WORLD LEADERS HONOR VETERANS ON D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

June 5, 2019 | AP News

PORTSMOUTH, England — Queen Elizabeth II and world leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump gathered Wednesday on the south coast of England to honor the troops who risked and sacrificed their lives 75 years ago on D-Day, a bloody but ultimately triumphant turning point in World War II. Across the Channel, American and British paratroopers dropped into

“The heroism, courage and sacrifice of those who lost their lives will never be forgotten. It is with humility and pleasure, on behalf of the entire country — indeed the whole free world — that I say to you all, thank you.”
— Queen Elizabeth II

northwestern France and scaled cliffs beside Normandy beaches, recreating the daring, costly invasion that helped liberate Europe from Nazi occupation.

With the number of veterans of World War II dwindling, the guests of honor at an international ceremony in Portsmouth were several hundred men, now in their 90s, who served in the conflict — and the 93-year-old British monarch, also a member of what has been called the “greatest generation.”

The queen, who served as an army mechanic during the war, said that when she attended a 60th-anniversary commemoration of D-Day 15 years ago, many thought it might be the last such event. “But the wartime generation — my generation — is resilient,” she said, striking an unusually personal note. “The heroism, courage and sacrifice of those who lost their lives will never be forgotten,” the monarch said.

“It is with humility and pleasure, on behalf of the entire country — indeed the whole free world — that I say to you all, thank you.” About 300 World War II veterans, aged 91 to 101, attended the ceremony in Portsmouth, the English port city from where many of the troops embarked for Normandy on June 5, 1944.

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Bringing Together Presidents, Prime Ministers and Other Representatives

Mixing history lesson, entertainment and solemn remembrance, the ceremony was a large-scale spectacle involving troops, dancers and martial bands, culminating in a military fly-past. But the stars of the show were the elderly veterans of that campaign who said they were surprised by all the attention: They were just doing their jobs. “I was just a small part in a very big machine,” said 99-year-old John Jenkins, a veteran from Portsmouth, who received a standing ovation as he addressed the event. “You never forget your comrades because we were all in it together,” he said. “It is right that the courage and sacrifice of so many is being honored 75 years on. We must never forget.”

Related Story: D-Day Veterans Revisit Normandy, Recall Horror and Triumph

The event, which kicked off two days of **D-Day anniversary** observances, paid tribute to the troops who shaped history during the dangerous mission to reach beachheads and fight in German-occupied France. D-Day saw **more than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy** in northwest

France on June 6, 1944, carried by 7,000 boats. The Battle of Normandy, codenamed Operation Overlord, was a turning point in the war, and helped bring about Nazi Germany’s defeat in May 1945. Wednesday’s ceremony brought together presidents, prime ministers and other representatives of more than a dozen countries that fought alongside Britain in Normandy. The leader of the **country that was the enemy in 1944**, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, also attended— a symbol...

“What happened to me is not important. I’m not a hero. I served with men who were. I’m very lucky I’m a survivor.” — Les Hammond, 94, who landed at Juno Beach with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers



June 3, 2019 | AP News

CHICAGO — Pardeep Singh Kaleka has surveyed the landscape of an America scarred by mass shootings. Seven years ago, a white supremacist invaded a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and killed six worshippers — among them Kaleka’s father, who died clutching a butter knife he’d grabbed in a desperate attempt to stop the shooter.

Now, whenever another gunman bloodies another town, Kaleka posts a supportive message on social media. Then later, either by invitation or on his own initiative, he’ll journey to the community to shore up others who share his pain.

He’s been to Newtown, Connecticut. Charleston, South Carolina. Pittsburgh. “We’ve become kind of a family,” Kaleka says. It’s true. The unending litany of mass shootings in recent years — the latest, on Friday, leaving 12 dead in Virginia Beach, Virginia — has built an unacknowledged community of heartbreak, touching and warping the lives of untold thousands. All the survivors, none of them unscathed.

The loved ones of the living and dead. Their neighbors, relatives and colleagues. The first responders, the health care workers, the elected officials. The attacks have changed...

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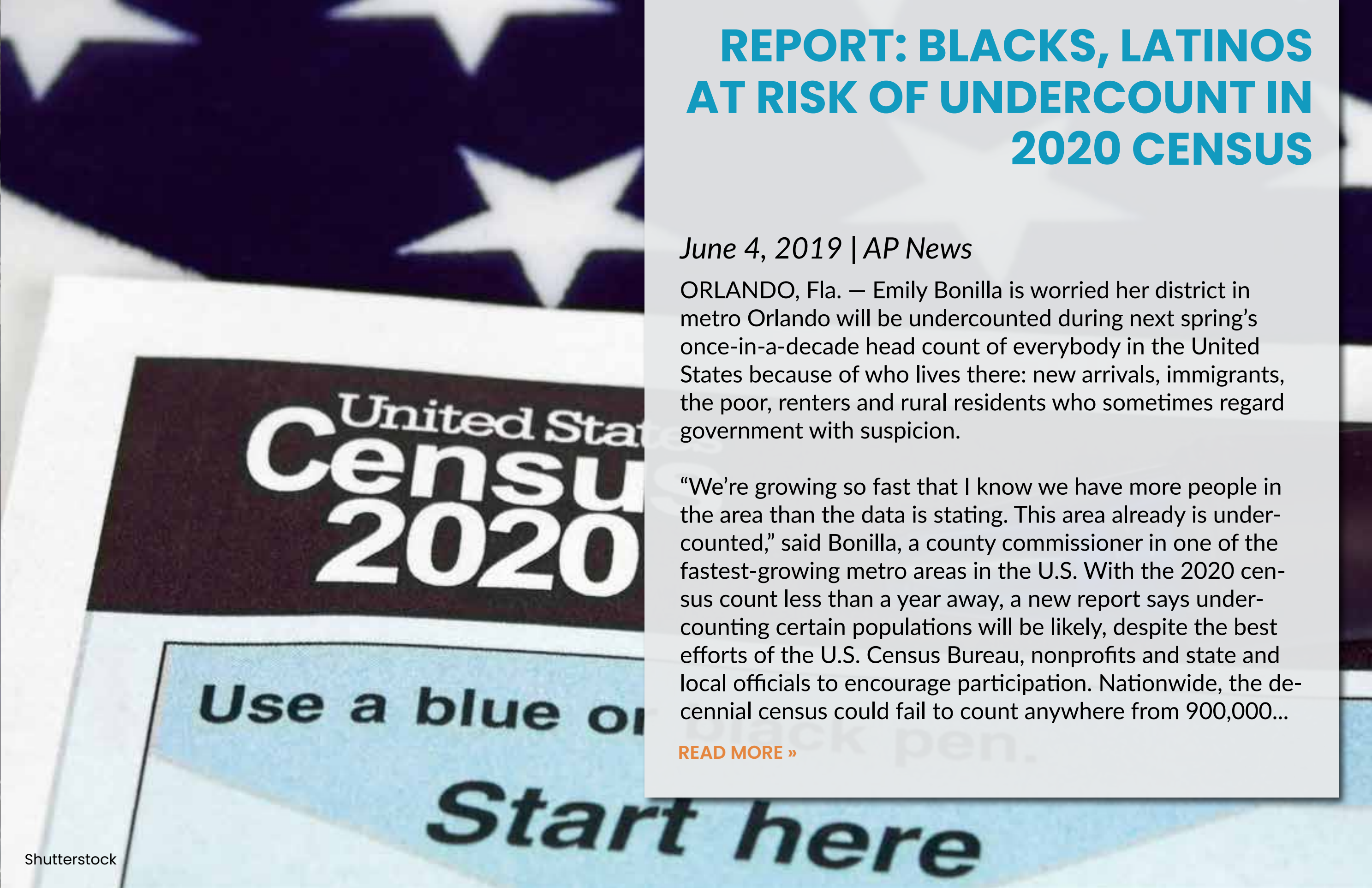
REPORT: BLACKS, LATINOS AT RISK OF UNDERCOUNT IN 2020 CENSUS

June 4, 2019 | AP News

ORLANDO, Fla. — Emily Bonilla is worried her district in metro Orlando will be undercounted during next spring’s once-in-a-decade head count of everybody in the United States because of who lives there: new arrivals, immigrants, the poor, renters and rural residents who sometimes regard government with suspicion.

“We’re growing so fast that I know we have more people in the area than the data is stating. This area already is undercounted,” said Bonilla, a county commissioner in one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the U.S. With the 2020 census count less than a year away, a new report says undercounting certain populations will be likely, despite the best efforts of the U.S. Census Bureau, nonprofits and state and local officials to encourage participation. Nationwide, the decennial census could fail to count anywhere from 900,000...

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CHAIRMAN SAYS FED READY TO RESPOND TO TRADE CONFLICTS

June 4, 2019 | GV Wire

WASHINGTON — Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday the Federal Reserve is prepared to respond to the Trump administration’s trade conflicts to protect the U.S. economy, signaling the Fed will cut interest rates if necessary. Powell’s comments gave a lift to stock markets, with the Dow Jones industrial average up over 400 points at mid-day.

Speaking at a Fed conference in Chicago, Powell said, “We are closely monitoring the implications of these developments for the U.S. economic outlook and, as always, we will act as appropriate to sustain the expansion.” Powell didn’t explicitly say what the Fed would do if it concluded the administration’s trade conflicts were damaging the economy. But expectations are rising that the Fed will cut rates at least once and possibly twice before year’s end, in part because of the consequences of the trade war. There is also concern that the U.S. economy faces a growing risk of a recession...

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WORLD

MOON SIGHTINGS, POLITICS PLAY A PART IN MUSLIM HOLIDAY

June 4, 2019 | AP News

BEIRUT — Muslims across the Middle East and beyond began Tuesday marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, one of the most celebrated holidays for the world's 1.5 billion Muslims, amid confusion about the start of the three-day holiday fed partly by political differences.

The holiday marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when devout Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. But the start of the holiday varies from country to country — with splits even within the same country — because the start of Eid is traditionally based on sightings of the new moon, which sometimes differ from astronomical calculations and vary according to geographic location.

The holiday marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when devout Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. But the start of the holiday varies from country to country.

As with everything else in the Middle East, politics often plays a part — seemingly this year more than others — with countries that traditionally followed Saudi Arabia's lead breaking with it this year, including the Palestinians and Jordan.

Related Story: What Ramadan Means to Muslims: 4 Essential Reads

Muslim Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, announced the first day of Eid is Tuesday, whereas Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and others said the Shawwal crescent moon was not visible across the country and won't start till Wednesday.

In Gaza, mosques blared with Eid calls Monday evening, shortly after Saudi Arabia announced the end of Ramadan, only to be interrupted swiftly when the Palestinian Grand Mufti in Jerusalem said they could not spot the

crescent, thus extending Ramadan by one more day.

Not Clear Why Gaza Didn't Follow Saudi Arabia's Lead
An Imam at al-Khalidi mosque on the Gaza City beach apologized and told worshippers: "We can't but follow the instructions of our Mufti," and asked them to stay in the mosque for the Ramadan night prayer known as Taraweeh. It was not clear why Gaza did not follow Saudi Arabia's lead, as it usually does. But the change by the local Islamic authorities drew anger, jokes and criticism on social media.

Some posts urged the faithful to wake up in the morning and eat, pretending they did not know the Eid decision had changed. Other criticism was more serious. One post complained the change in timing "stripped our children of Eid happiness." A similar blunder occurred in Libya, where religious authorities in the capital Tripoli, the seat of the U.N-supported government, initially said Eid starts Wednesday, only to reverse themselves and say it begins Tuesday.

In Jordan, the announcement Monday evening that Tuesday would be the last day of Ramadan and that Wednesday would be the first day of Eid triggered jokes

on social media, including one that said Jordan is now officially an "adult" and can make its own decisions. Farid Abu Dhair, an expert in Islamic movements and professor at An-Najah National University in Nablus, said there is speculation that Gaza, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority broke with Saudi Arabia for political reasons because of implicit Saudi support for President Donald Trump's plan for peace between Israel and the...

"Muftis will always and have always questioned astronomers. If Muslim society could have agreed on astronomical observation it would have been a positive sign for finding common ground in the Arab world." — Farid Abu Dhair, an expert in Islamic movements and professor at An-Najah National University

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TRUMP MEETS QUEEN, ESCALATES FEUD WITH LONDON MAYOR

June 3, 2019 | AP News

LONDON — Mixing pageantry and political pugilism, President Donald Trump embarked on his long-delayed state visit to Britain on Monday, belligerently insulting London’s mayor but being feted with smiles by the royals at a time of turmoil for both nations in the deep, if recently strained, alliance.

It was a whirlwind of pomp, circumstance and protest for Trump, who had lunch with Queen Elizabeth and tea with Prince Charles before a grand state dinner at Buckingham Palace. Eager to flatter Trump, the British lavished him with spectacle, beginning his visit with a deafening royal gun salute as the president and first lady Melania Trump walked to

the palace where a waiting queen greeted them with a smile.

Related Story: Self-Impeach? Talk Shifts Toward Trump's Defiance of Congress

Those were the images sought by a White House eager to showcase Trump as a statesman while, back home, the race to succeed him — and talk of impeaching him — heated up. Yet Trump, forever a counter-puncher, immediately roiled diplomatic docility by tearing into London Mayor Sadiq Khan. The agenda for Trump’s weeklong European journey is mostly ceremonial. Later this week come D-Day commemoration...

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AP File Photo

ENGLISH CLASSES, LEGAL SERVICES CUT FOR IMMIGRANT KIDS

June 5, 2019 | AP News

PHOENIX — Immigrant children in the care of the U.S. government may no longer have access to English-language courses and legal services, officials said Wednesday. The Health and Human Services department notified shelters around the country last week that it was not going to reimburse them for teachers’ pay or other costs such as legal services or recreational equipment. The move appears to violate a legal settlement known as the Flores agreement that requires the government to provide education and recreational activities to immigrant children in its care.

But the agency says it doesn’t have the funding to provide those services as it deals with a soaring number of children coming to the U.S., largely from Central America. It’s now up to the various nonprofit and private organizations that care for the children to cover the cost of teachers, supplies, legal services and even recreational activities and equipment — if they can, or choose to. Health and Human Services says it...

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AGENTS SHOOT, KILL MAN AT CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER CROSSING

June 4, 2019 | AP News

SAN DIEGO — U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents fatally shot a motorist who refused to stop at California’s border with Mexico. San Diego police say the shooting took place Monday night in a secondary vehicle inspection area near the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Police say the suspect’s vehicle was blocked and he opened fire on the officers. KNSD-TV obtained video showing gunfire erupted as cars waited in line to get into the U.S. Border agents yelled, “Get down, everybody get down!” At least a dozen shots were heard. The officers returned fire, and the suspect was hit.

CBP officers and fire-rescue attempted life-saving measures, but he did not survive. Police say the name of the 23-year-old U.S. citizen was withheld for family notification. None of the seven officers involved was injured...

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AP File Video



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