AFTER NEW BULLDOGS AD TUMEY ARRIVES, BIG SHAKE-UP FOLLOWS

RESISTANCE FINALLY FADING TO CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

TESLA’S AUTOPilot DRIVES BETTER THAN YOU, STATISTICALLY
The summer hiring of Terry Tumey as Fresno State’s new athletic director has been followed by a shake-up in the department’s top ranks. Steve Robertello, who served as the interim athletics director and was a finalist for the job that Tumey landed, was reassigned in August.

He now is the special assistant to the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, the university said Thursday. Robertello came to Fresno State in 2012 after more than 10 years at Washington State, where he rose to associate athletic director.

Ladwig, Kriebs Put on Paid Leave
Paul Ladwig, an athletic department administrator since 2005, has been on paid leave since Sept. 6. A university spokeswoman said that his employment will end June 7, 2019. Ladwig joined the Bulldogs in 2005, following then-athletic director Thomas Boeh from Ohio University. Ladwig served as the senior associate athletics director for external communication since 2011.

He previously was the associate athletics director for external relations and broadcasting. He kicked off the news conference announcing the hiring of Tumey on June 25, 2018. An 18-year department veteran, John Kriebs, also went on paid leave on Sept. 6. His ending date with Fresno State is June 24, 2019, the university said. Kriebs most recently was the associate athletics director for internal operations. Carl Ueland, vice president of the Bulldog Foundation, said Ladwig’s departure took him by surprise. “I liked Paul, he was a pretty good guy. It’s the new athletic director’s choice, but I don’t know what his rationale was,” Ueland said.

Fresno State Turnover
President Joseph Castro dismissed Boeh in 2014, hiring Steve Bartko later that year. Bartko resigned last November amid controversy. Fresno State hired Tumey, a former NFL executive and UC Davis athletics director, from Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Watch Terry Tumey Introductory News Conference »
O’NEILL LEAVING FEDERAL BENCH, WARNS OF JUDGE SHORTAGE

October 8, 2018 | David Taub

Judge Lawrence O’Neill is leaving the federal bench in 16 months. He’s circled the date on his calendar: Jan. 31, 2020. But he’s concerned hyper-partisanship will delay his replacement and cause such crippling judicial gridlock that some suspects will have to go free. Serving as the chief district judge for the Eastern District of California since 2016 (and on the federal bench since 1999), O’Neill told a Maddy Institute luncheon crowd last week of an impending crisis. “We’re in trouble in the eastern district,” he said.

Judicial Shortage

The judge notes that there are only six district judges on staff for the Eastern District of California since 2016 (and on the federal bench since 1999). O’Neill isn’t the only judge planning to leave the federal bench. U.S. District Judge Morrison England (based in Sacramento, Bakersfield, Redding, and Yosemite National Park) plans to retire next year. Civil cases, especially involving water, would be in jeopardy, according to O’Neill. Criminal suspects could go free because there is just not enough time or space to try them at the federal court. A June 2018 open letter, by O’Neill and eight other judges, warned that the lack of new judges and increased caseload “will result in an incapable consequence of being wholly unable to handle civil matters.” The letter also noted increased staffing in the U.S. Attorney’s office, leading to more prosecutions.

“It has) immediate and obvious consequences on the Court’s ability to conduct civil matters due to the statutory an Constitutional mandates that result in giving priority to criminal cases over civil ones,” the judges wrote The Washington Post noted that O’Neill discussed the judicial labor shortage in many decisions, asking the “parties and counsel” to contact California’s senators to address the problem. O’Neill blames Congress for the logjam. He related a story about testifying at a congressional hearing, letting them know of the problem...
When they get their high school diploma, Jim Yovino, the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, is excited about the options that career technical education exposes students to. More than half of the county’s students will be enrolled in at least one career technical education class during their high school years, he said.

Districts in Fresno County understand the importance of introducing students to a wide range of career opportunities so they can be better directed for career or college, Yovino said.

He said his own post-secondary educational experience might have been vastly different if more career tech education options had been available to him. When he graduated from Central High School in Fresno in the 1970s, “I went to college because I was told that’s what I should do. I didn’t know what I wanted, I had an idea of things. I actually wanted to be a sports journalist – I don’t know how I picked that.”

Yovino said he considered several fields before he finally gained a focus. With career tech education, he said, “We want kids to see many different things so they can start dreaming about what they want to do in the future.”

Superintendent Shares His Learning Experiences

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CTE Graduates Do Well in College

Career tech students who do go on to college have a
CALPERS PRESIDENT VOTED OUT AFTER POLITICALLY CORRECT INVESTMENTS

SACRAMENTO — The president of the nation’s largest public pension fund was unseated Thursday by a critic who says fund directors are attempting too much social investment at the expense of pensioners. Corona police officer Jason Perez defeated Priya Mathur, a 15-year member of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System’s Board of Administration. Perez received 9,208 votes while Mathur received 7,008, The Sacramento Bee reported.

It was Perez’s first run for the board. He’s said he worries about the $360 billion pension fund and wants it to concentrate on maximizing returns from its investments.

The system has enough money to cover roughly 70 percent of the money it owes to 1.8 million members. “I’m selfish; I want to retire,” he said when he announced his campaign, according to The Bee.

He’s previously objected, for instance, to calls for the fund to stop investing in companies that sell assault weapons and devices that allow guns to fire more rapidly. Mathur is a San Francisco Bay Area mass transit financial analyst. She was narrowly elected board president in January, and the board will now pick a new president next year.

October 5, 2018 | AP News

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE VICTIMS SAY CLEANUP CREWS ADDED TO WOES

SANTA ROSA — One year after wildfires devastated Northern California’s wine country and destroyed thousands of homes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ first experience cleaning up after a wildfire has turned into an expensive bureaucratic mess. The state’s top emergency official suspects fraud played a role.

In October 2017, state and local officials lacked the resources to quickly clear still-smoldering toxic debris from 4,500 homes destroyed by a wildfire in and near Santa Rosa. So the Army was called in. The Army was in charge of awarding $1.3 billion in cleanup contracts to three contractors, which hired dozens of smaller companies to haul away the debris and dispose of it in landfills. The hauling companies were paid by the ton. The more they hauled, the more they earned. The first complaints started almost as soon as the first dump truck was loaded in November. Homeowners said workers...

October 8, 2018 | AP News

CALIFORNIA DMV: NON-CITIZENS MAY BE REGISTERED TO VOTE

SACRAMENTO — At least one non-citizen and perhaps many more were improperly registered to vote in California by the Department of Motor Vehicles, prompting the secretary of state to demand a new investigation of the embattled agency Monday. The DMV said about 1,500 people may have been incorrectly registered between April 23 and Sept. 25 because of a “processing error.”

That includes legal residents who are not citizens, although the DMV says none of the people mistakenly registered are people living in the country illegally. Incorrect registrations will be canceled by the secretary of state, DMV spokeswoman Jessica Gonzalez said. DMV Director Jean Shiomoto and California Department of Technology Director Amy Tong notified the secretary of state about the problem in a Monday letter. It’s the latest issue the department has reported with its new...

October 9, 2018 | AP News
NEW YORK — When it’s machine versus man, it’s more likely you’ll be exchanging insurance information with man, according to data released by the electric-car maker Tesla. In the first quarterly report on the safety of its autonomous vehicles, Tesla said it recorded one accident for every 3.34 million miles driven when the autopilot was engaged. That is a vastly better record than the one compiled by humans.

The most recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data shows one auto crash for every 492,000 miles driven in the U.S. without an autonomous assist. In Tesla cars that do not have the autopilot engaged, the company said it recorded one accident or crash-like event every 1.92 million miles.

The crash of any autonomous Tesla vehicle receives intense coverage due to the fascination over the confluence of technology and man, and also fascination with the company’s CEO, Elon Musk.

Model S Collides With a Firetruck
Musk has grown agitated over that coverage. After a Model S collided with a firetruck this spring in Utah and the driver suffered a broken ankle, Musk tweeted that “It’s super messed up that a Tesla crash resulting in a broken ankle is front page news and the 40,000 people who died in US auto accidents alone in past year get almost no coverage.”

Tesla says it’s now going to start publicly releasing accident data every quarter.

“Extremely difficult to achieve a general solution for self-driving that works well everywhere.” — Elon Musk

*Extremely difficult to achieve a general solution for self-driving that works well everywhere,* Musk tweeted. Shares of Tesla Inc. slid 5 percent in early trading Friday with a broader sell-off in U.S. markets.
OUR WARS ARE HIDDEN NOW, BUT THE COSTS ARE STILL STAGGERING

Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden are long dead. The Iraq War officially ended in 2011. But the Afghanistan War grinds on, 17 years and counting with no resolution in sight.

It was on Oct. 7, 2001, that President George W. Bush — backed by Congress — ordered U.S. troops to invade Afghanistan in retaliation for the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America.

Something else grinds on, too: The staggering costs of war, in Afghanistan and around the globe.

Most obvious is the tragic loss of life, the crippling physical and psychological injuries, and the millions of people forced to flee their homes and homelands. But there is also the huge amount of money used to pay for weapons and armies — not to build schools, roads, and hospitals or to invest in life-saving medical research.

Post 9/11 War Costs: $5.6 Trillion and Climbing

The Costs of War Project at Brown University estimates the price tag for America’s post-9/11 wars and Homeland Security at $5.6 trillion. That estimate includes the cost of these wars (including actions in Pakistan and Syria), interest on borrowing, and funding for care of our war veterans...

October 7, 2018 | Bill McEwen

UN AMBASSADOR HALEY OFFERS NO REASON FOR QUITTING

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley is leaving the administration at the end of the year. Trump spoke as he and Haley met in the Oval Office, shortly after word came of her plans to resign.

He called Haley a “very special” person, adding that she told him six months ago that she might want to take some time off. Trump said that together they had “solved a lot of problems.”

It’s the latest shake-up in the turbulent Trump administration just weeks before the November midterm elections. Haley’s resignation was a closely guarded secret. Congressional Republicans involved in foreign policy matters and some key U.S. allies did not get advance word from Haley or the White House. No reason for the resignation was immediately provided. Haley, who is speculated to hold aspirations for higher office, said at the White House: “No I’m not running in...
BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan — A booster rocket failed less than two minutes after launching an American and a Russian toward the International Space Station on Thursday, forcing their emergency — but safe — landing on the steppes of Kazakhstan. It was the latest in a recent series of failures for the troubled Russian space program, which is used by the U.S. to carry its astronauts to the station. NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos’ Alexei Ovchinin were subjected to heavy gravitational forces as their capsule automatically jettisoned from the Soyuz booster rocket and fell back to Earth at a sharper-than-normal angle and landed about 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the city of Dzhezkazgan in Kazakhstan.

“Thank God the crew is alive,” said Dmitry Peskov, the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, when it became clear that they had landed safely. He added that the president is receiving regular updates about the situation.

Booster Suffered an Unspecified Failure

Hague, 43, and Ovchinin, 47, lifted off as scheduled at 2:40 p.m. (0840 GMT; 4:40 a.m. EDT) Thursday from Baikonur. The astronauts were to dock at the International Space Station six hours after the launch and join an American, a Russian and a German currently aboard the station. But the three-stage Soyuz booster suffered an unspecified failure of its second stage about two minutes after launching. Search and rescue teams were immediately scrambled to recover the crew, and paratroopers were dropped from a plane to reach the site quickly. While the Russian space program has been dogged by a string of launch failures and other incidents in recent years, Thursday’s mishap marked the program’s first manned launch failure since September 1983, when a Soyuz exploded on the launch pad. It was to be the first space mission for Hague, who joined NASA’s astronaut corps in 2013. Ovchinin spent six months on the orbiting outpost in 2016. The astronauts were flown by helicopter to Dzhezkazgan and then by plane to Baikonur. Russian officials said they may spend the night in Baikonur before being flown to Star City, Russia’s space training center outside Moscow, the Tass news agency said.

Astronauts Underwent a Medical Check-Up

NASA posted pictures of Hague and Ovchinin undergoing a medical check-up at Dzhezkazgan’s airport. One of the pictures showed Hague smiling and another had him sitting next to Russia’s space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin. Dzhezkazgan is about 280 miles northeast of Baikonur, and spacecraft returning from the ISS normally land in that region. Flight controllers kept the three space station residents abreast of the situation after Thursday’s aborted launch.

“The boys have landed,” Mission Control assured the International Space Station crew. Russian controllers told the space station astronauts that Hague and Ovchinin endured 6.7 times the force of gravity during their entry. “Glad our friends are fine,” space station commander Alexander Gerst, a European Space Agency astronaut from Germany, tweeted from orbit. “Spaceflight is hard. And we must keep trying for the benefit of humankind.” — Alexander Gerst, a European Space Agency astronaut from Germany
ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey has summoned the Saudi ambassador to request the kingdom’s “full cooperation” in an investigation into the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who Turkish officials say was killed while visiting the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. The 59-year-old Khashoggi went missing last Tuesday while visiting the consulate for paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Saudis need to provide evidence to support their claim that he left the consulate. "Consulate officials can’t save themselves by saying 'he left here.' And relevant authorities are obligated to provide proof of this claim," Erdogan said during a visit to Hungary. "If he left, you must prove this, you will prove this, even if it’s with visuals. Those who ask Turkish authorities ‘where is he?’ should first be asking ‘how did this happen?’"

A Turkish official said the Saudi ambassador met with Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal on Sunday at the ministry. The Turkish private NTV television said Ankara requested permission for Turkish investigators to search the consulate building in Istanbul, but a Foreign Ministry official would not confirm the report. Turkish officials say the Washington Post contributor was killed at the consulate and that his body was later...

AMERICANS WIN NOBEL PRIZE FOR WORK ON CLIMATE AND GROWTH

STOCKHOLM — The Nobel prize in economics was awarded Monday to one American who has studied the economics of climate change — and to another whose research on technological innovation has raised hopes that human beings are creative enough to do something about it.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the $1 million prize to William Nordhaus of Yale University and Paul Romer of New York University. Nordhaus, who has been called "the father of climate-change economics," developed models that suggest how governments can combat global warming. One key step he has endorsed is a universal tax on carbon, which would require polluters to pay for the costs that their emissions impose on society. By using a tax rather than government edicts to slash emissions, the policy encourages companies to find innovative ways to reduce pollution — and their tax burden. Versions of a carbon tax have...

JERUSALEM — In a groundbreaking case, Israel has detained an American graduate student at its international airport for the past week, accusing her of supporting a Palestinian-led boycott campaign against the Jewish state. The case highlights Israel’s concerns about the boycott movement and the great efforts it has made to stop it. The grassroots campaign has made significant inroads in recent years, particularly among university students and millennials.

Lara Alqasem, a 22-year-old U.S. citizen with Palestinian grandparents, landed at Ben-Gurion Airport last Tuesday with a valid student visa. But she was barred from entering the country and ordered deported, based on suspicions she is a boycott supporter. An Israeli court has ordered that she remain in custody while she appeals. The weeklong detention is the longest anyone has been held in a boycott-related case, and it was not immediately clear on Tuesday when a...