

**December
2019**

Santa Barbara County

**Volume 7
Issue 12**



COLAB

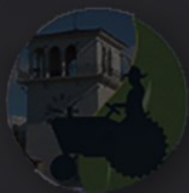
The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

**Inside the
December Issue:**

No Risk, No Return, No Electricity	2
Government Is Failing At Solving California's Self-Imposed Homeless Crisis	3
The Last Paper Standing?	5
Hidden Agenda In Masquerading Big Bond Measure	6
There Is No Freedom Without Truth	8
Thanks Be To Government?	9
No Other State Has These Problems!	10
Anti-Contractor Bill Shows California's Aristocracy At Work	11
America Needs Reformation Not Socialism	12

COLAB

PO Box 7523
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone:
805-929-3148
E-mail:
Andy@colabsbc.org



**The
COLAB FOUNDATION**

Dear COLAB Members,

Did you know that lessening the burden of government is a bonafide and legitimate function of a charitable endeavor, i.e. a 501c3 tax exempt foundation? Is that not a cause you can believe in and support? Well, thankfully, COLAB now has its own foundation!!!

COLAB can now raise funds from other foundations, as well as, individuals who don't own their own business! That means that everyone who contributes to the COLAB Foundation can write off their contributions.

The COLAB Foundation is a public charity formed to procure funding for the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and other select non-profit entities to advance education and science, combat community deterioration and lessen the burden of government.

Of course, the donations to the COLAB Foundation can only be used to educate the public about the work that COLAB and others are doing in our community, but we have been educating people all along!

The COLAB Foundation!

Donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution!

Please send your contribution to:

**The COLAB Foundation
PO Box 7523
Santa Maria, CA 93456**

Or online at:

<http://www.colabsbc.org/COLAB-foundation-form.php>

Donations to the COLAB Foundation are deductible IRC 170 as the foundation is an IRS approver 501 C3 charity.

Our EIN is 81-1088586

No Risk, No Return, No Electricity

By Andy Caldwell

In my nearly 30 years of serving as a local government watchdog, I would be hard pressed to recall a more foolish proposition than that which is known as community choice energy (CCE).

CCE is a scheme by which local government entities assume responsibility to purchase electrical energy supplies for the residents they represent. CCE requires our regular utility providers, namely PG&E and Edison, to use their power distribution network to deliver the power from energy producers purchased via the dictates of the CCE.

The goal of the CCE is not to obtain cheaper or even more reliable energy supplies for customers, but rather to pocket what would otherwise be the profit that accrues to our current utility providers. That is because green energy is neither cheaper nor more reliable. Nonetheless, these fiscally challenged politicians ignore the fact that all business models must risk loss in pursuit of profit.

Here are some of the more remarkable aspects of this scheme. First, local electeds such as County Supervisors Das Williams, Greg Hart and Joan Hartman would have us believe that initiating a CCE program is the only way that local consumers can opt to purchase 100% green energy. That is not true. Both PG&E and Edison offer their customers that same option right now! Insult to injury? The County of Santa Barbara could choose this option right now for their own energy consumption but they declined to do so because it costs too much! Go figure!

The second thing you need to know about this boondoggle in the making has to do with the timing of the same. The county, along with cities such as Santa Barbara and Goleta, are pursuing this new energy paradigm at the worst possible time. That is, both PG&E and Edison are facing bankruptcy by way of lawsuits against them as a result of their operations having a role in any number of wildfires that have plagued the state.

In the meantime, the state of CA is threatening to take over these utility franchises and/or break them up, in part because they are now shutting off power to avoid future liability as it relates to fires. What all this means is that there is a great deal of uncertainty as to what the costs are going to be in the future with regard to power delivery. Nonetheless, our local CCE partners are in essence signing a blank check to pur-

chase power that will have to be delivered by way of these same distribution lines that are the subject of the liability lawsuits.

Simply put, CCE is an energy startup in the midst of energy chaos. As I mentioned before, this is the equivalent of the Titanic booking more passengers after it hit the icebergs! If the utilities go bankrupt, that means that the stockholders will no longer be partners in the cost of energy distribution, leaving it all to taxpayers and ratepayers, who are one and the same. Our local elected officials are seeing dollar signs in their eyes, by way of becoming energy brokers, in disregard of exposure to catastrophic liabilities.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



#AdvancingTogether17

f t

unitedag

Providing Members with Innovative Health Benefits & Services

Health Benefits	Advocacy	Education
		

Let's Advance Together

www.unitedag.org

(800) 223-4590 • membership@unitedag.org

Government Is Failing At Solving California's Self-Imposed Homeless Crisis

By Katy Grimes

If the problem or crisis is solved, the need for more money dries up

Local Mayors value their worth on how much public funding they can spend and spread around to campaign donors.

In a new White House strategy on homelessness aimed at California, Trump administration officials say that housing needs to be deregulated to reduce skyrocketing costs, shelters delay launching into permanent housing, and police presence must be increased in the interest of public safety.

"Almost half of all unsheltered homeless people in the United States are found in California, about four times as high as their share of the overall United States population," says a recent report from the Trump Administration, *The State of Homelessness in America*. "Among the five cities with the highest rates of unsheltered homelessness, four are in California (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Rosa, and San Jose), and the other is Seattle."

Reacting, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Gavin Newsom accused President Trump of using the hundreds of thousands of homeless vagrants living on California streets as political fodder. In fact, many "homeless advocates" targeted the Trump administration for lacking in solutions — for a problem not created by the federal government.

"If joining and funding real solutions to homelessness, instead of political theater and points scoring, are the Trump administration's objective, California continues to be ready to engage," says California Gov. Gavin Newsom spokesman Jesse Melgar, *USA Today* reported.

California politicians, homeless advocates and state government agency heads say the federal government has always had the power to provide relief, yet never taking time to self-evaluate to understand the complexity of the issue, but more importantly, what policies led to this crisis.

What they want is more federal funding without any strings attached.

USA Today reported:

"It is my hope that if the administration issues an Executive Order, it will be one that supports and expe-



dites proven solutions to homelessness," [says](#) Nan Roman, president and CEO of the nonpartisan National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Roman says helpful measures could include providing access to surplus federal properties for shelter and linking health and behavioral care to housing.

"Instead, the administration has suggested providing more shelter, but nothing about getting people from those shelters into the housing that would end their homelessness," she says. "It has promoted more aggressive policing, which has proven not to end homelessness, and proposed policies that create barriers for people trying to access shelter and housing."

While members of the Trump administration, including Health and Human Services Secretary Ben Carson have met with faith leaders in California to observe the crisis first hand and discuss temporary and long-term solutions, the California state government and city governments have kept faith-based organizations out of the loop on real solutions.

Yet it is the faith based organizations which actually have any real success at getting people off of the

(Continued on page 15)

Jesus Plays Second Fiddle

By Andy Caldwell

Some scholars in America believe we are so divided that we are on the verge of, if not already in the midst of, a civil war! In the opinion of many, the impeachment hearings going on in Washington, D.C. are but a reflection of the same. I would posit that this division came about by no accident, but by way of a deliberate march through our institutions which seeks to destroy the foundations of our society, namely the tenets of Western Civilization and our Judeo-Christian heritage, not to mention our Constitution.

The Barna Research group recently did a survey having to do with truth. Truth is now increasingly regarded as something felt, or relative (44%), rather than something known, or absolute (35%)! This reflects the degree our society, culture and body politic are in serious trouble.

My colleague, Joe Armendariz, likes to say that a lie can make it half-way around the world before the truth has the time to get its pants on! That is especially true in this age where most young people form their opinion, based on the “facts” as they know them, from the likes of Twitter. That is, they glean their opinions from quips and sound bites, not policy papers. They do not afford themselves the luxury of reading and listening to competing theories and explanations having to do with current events, as that would require the application of critical thinking skills applied to complex subjects.

Unfortunately, young Americans have never heard of Joseph Goebbels, who described one of the most important facets of Hitler’s reign of terror as a function of the Third Reich’s ability to utilize propaganda. His famous quote: “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.”

All this is vitally important because our nation was founded on principles derived from self-evident truths, derived from divinely endowed rights and presumed responsibilities, all of which relied on faith in “a Supreme Judge of the world”. Lest we forget, these words and concepts were taken from the Declaration

of Independence, which was, in context, a declaration of war!

Speaking on another level of analysis, that is, a spiritual level, Jesus described himself as the manifestation of truth whereas he described Satan as the father of lies. In the context of the spiritual forces of darkness and light, it is no coincidence therefore that we are living in an age simultaneously described as both a post-Christian and post-truth era.

Today’s war, therefore, is nothing less than a departure from all things having to do with the impetus of our independence, namely a descent into god-less, secular-humanist socialism based on propaganda, while relegating the truth to playing second fiddle!

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



The Last Paper Standing?

By Andy Caldwell

The San Luis Obispo Tribune appears to be on the verge of bankruptcy. The Lompoc Record only publishes a couple of times a week. The Santa Maria Times no longer publishes on Mondays and they just let go of their long time publisher in an apparent cost-cutting move. What this means is that the Santa Barbara News Press could be the sole surviving daily newspaper in the region. Why is all this important?

One aspect of our freedom involves free speech and a free press. Ergo, the words "Congress Shall Make No Law" abridging the same is listed in the first amendment to our Constitution. This safeguard to our liberty has to do with the realization by our founding fathers that the freedom to publish news and opinion is vital to public discourse and the body politic. That is, our country was founded by principled thought leaders- astute critical thinkers one and all, who laid out their views and opinions in great detail so as to enable the members of the general public to ruminate on and debate the same.

What the founding fathers sought, by way of the Federalist papers, for example, was the approbation of the people. Federalist paper number one laid out the scope and purpose of the discourse as follows: "It has been frequently remarked, that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not, of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend, for their political constitutions, on accident and force."

As the saying goes, how far have we fallen. In America, the freedom to think and free speech are both constrained, including on college campuses where free speech is limited to a very small geographic area

of the campus, lest a snowflake be offended by hearing something that doesn't comport to their pathetically limited world view. That is, college students no longer believe in the unalienable right of free speech if that speech is deemed offensive and, by golly, anything that is not politically correct will certainly not pass muster, mister!

With regard to the freedom of the press, well, young people only want press that is free! That is, why should they purchase a newspaper or subscribe to local television news when they can get the same on the internet for free? Because most internet and even some network news, rely on local newspapers and local television stations to deliver the original content! That is, except on national stories, internet news sources don't publish localized content themselves, except in limited areas of the country. Instead, they pick up and repackage stories they glean from local news organizations. The burden is on local news organizations to bear the cost of hiring the people to generate the original content while their market share declines. In this regard, the internet news conglomerates have become the parasite eating the host.

Compounding the antipathy of young people towards the local press, there is another problem having to do with the fact that the national and internet news sources have become exceedingly biased. Couple this with the fact that much of the so-called news on the internet is often nothing more profound or in-depth than a tweet, a quip or a sound bite.

These trends leave our country in a bad place as it pertains to the inability of young people to apply critical thinking skills to complex issues further limited by an attention span that is severely attenuated to say the least.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association
established in 1978

Hidden Agenda In Masquerading Big Bond Measure

By Jon Coupal

In a bit of irony, this March there will be a Proposition 13 on the California statewide ballot. But unlike the landmark taxpayer protection of 1978, the Prop. 13 of 2020 will put taxpayers on the hook for \$27 billion.

There's another big difference between Prop. 13 (1978) and Prop. 13 (2020). The first was the result of a massive grassroots campaign by citizen taxpayers and homeowners striking back against out-of-control property taxes while the fake Prop. 13 was put on the ballot by the California legislature.

Prop. 13 (2020) is a huge \$15 billion statewide school bond chock full of hidden traps for taxpayers. First, it reflects typical credit card math by Sacramento politicians because it would borrow \$15 billion from Wall Street and then make taxpayers pay it back plus 80% in total interest costs. That's an additional \$12 billion we'll be forced to pay, bringing the entire bill to \$27 billion.

While no one disputes the need for adequate school facilities, the problem is that the state's education establishment has failed to show that it uses existing school facility bond money effectively. California voters already have approved big school bonds, including a recent 2016 \$7 billion measure, only to see much of those funds squandered. (Remember the infamous Belmont High School scandal when LAUSD wasted *hundreds* of millions building the nation's most expensive high school on top of a toxic waste site?)

But this measure also presents a huge threat to homeowners.

In a bit of irony, this March there will be a Proposition 13 on the California statewide ballot. But unlike the landmark taxpayer protection of 1978, the Prop. 13 of 2020 will put taxpayers on the hook for \$27 billion.

There's another big difference between Prop. 13 (1978) and Prop. 13 (2020). The first was the result of a massive grassroots campaign by citizen taxpayers and homeowners striking back against out-of-control property taxes while the fake Prop. 13 was put on the ballot by the California legislature.

Prop. 13 (2020) is a huge \$15 billion statewide school bond chock full of hidden traps for taxpayers. First, it reflects typical credit card math by Sacramento politicians because it would borrow \$15 billion from

Wall Street and then make taxpayers pay it back plus 80% in total interest costs. That's an additional \$12 billion we'll be forced to pay, bringing the entire bill to \$27 billion.

While no one disputes the need for adequate school facilities, the problem is that the state's education establishment has failed to show that it uses existing school facility bond money effectively. California voters already have approved big school bonds, including a recent 2016 \$7 billion measure, only to see much of those funds squandered. (Remember the infamous Belmont High School scandal when LAUSD wasted *hundreds* of millions building the nation's most expensive high school on top of a toxic waste site?)

But this measure also presents a huge threat to homeowners. While it is true that the bond itself will be repaid out of the state's general fund, local school districts are required to provide matching funds except on very rare occasions. Those matching funds are generated by *local* bond measures which are repaid exclusively by *property* owners.

Currently, there are strict limits on how much bond debt local school districts are allowed to carry. But a hidden provision of Prop. 13 (2020) nearly doubles the limits school districts can borrow. This means

(Continued on page 13)



Americans Killed The Mormons In Mexico!

By Andy Caldwell

America was shocked by the massacre in Mexico of Mormon family members who are dual citizens of both Mexico and the United States. Unfortunately, Americans should be appalled, but not surprised, as such brutality is nearly an everyday occurrence in Mexico. In fact, the only reason this story made the news here has to do with the fact that the decedents were dual citizens. Mexico is at war, a war between the various drug cartels, and between the cartels and the government, which has cost the lives of some 200,000 people.

Several years ago, I attended a border security conference in El Paso, Texas. The conference included the same content and was presented by the same experts, who brief law enforcement officials from throughout the country. The information conveyed was prescient and nothing less than mind-boggling.

The first thing America needs to come to grips with is the magnitude of the problem in Mexico. The cartels have armies comprised of tens of thousands of soldiers who are often better equipped than the Mexican army and our American border control agents, let alone the members of any local police force. They have murdered high-ranking government officials including judges, mayors, prosecutors, police chiefs, journalists and anybody else who gets in their way or simply publicly criticizes them.

Second, northern Mexico is a failed state. That is, neither America nor Mexico controls our common border. The cartels control the border and the northern portions of the country by way of bribery, intimidation, blackmail, mayhem and murder. Their calling card, "plato o plomo", translated from Spanish, reads "take our silver (money) or take our lead (bullets)".

The narco-terrorists have succeeded in infiltrating every strata of society and every department in the government and the military. The people of Mexico, therefore, have little choice except to accept the silver or the lead, after all, who is going to come to their rescue? America? Any attempt by us to do so would be as complicated as taking out the Islamic terrorists inside Iraq and Afghanistan.

Truth be told, this war has already crossed over into the United States, but the press is not covering the story. This has to do with the most foreboding warning mentioned at the conference I attended. That is,



Health Sanitation Services
(805) 922-2121

the intimidation and corruption that has become commonplace in Mexico has been successfully imported into the United States. The cartels have people in every major city across America and they are now infiltrating our law enforcement agencies throughout the land, including our border security and drug enforcement agencies. In essence, members of American law enforcement are quickly succumbing to the silver or lead ultimatum in droves.

How bad is it? Judith Miller writing in City Journal outlines the extent of the corruption in a piece titled "The Mexicanization of American Law Enforcement". She quotes various experts about the cartel's strategy to "hollow out our institutions just as they have in Mexico". Some tell-tale signs the plan is working? The FBI has assigned 120 agents to investigate public corruption, drug related and otherwise. Our custom and borders protection agency has had to increase the number of internal affairs investigators over the past three years from five to 220! The level of enforcement efforts is a reflection of the corruption and rot within, due to the fact that scores of agents are being recruited and placed into these agencies by the cartels and/or they are being bought off. Ergo, the number of cases filed against Department of homeland security personnel in recent years is in the hundreds.

Lost on America? The cartels exist and thrive only because of our nation's consumer demands for the vices they peddle.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

There Is No Freedom Without Truth

By Andy Caldwell

Andrew Breitbart was famous for saying that politics is downstream of culture. What that means is that our political leaders are a reflection of our culture, but they themselves don't really shape our culture. Put another way, when politicians take certain positions and/or exhibit and pontificate on certain values, or a lack thereof, it is not because they are opinion leaders or cultural icons, rather they themselves are simply following the flow of culture. In that regard, America is in serious trouble due to the fact that our divide runs much deeper than politics.

As an example of where we are at as a culture, let's consider the fate of former Congresswoman Katie Hill, who, as a freshman, was elevated to the vice-chair position of the all-powerful House Oversight Committee in the House of Representatives. Katie Hill was forced to resign before her first term was up due to the fact that she is a moral degenerate! But, don't tell her that! She wants to believe she was sacrificed on the altar of misogynistic double standards. Of course, that would be news to fellow democrat Senator Al Franken who was also forced to resign for much less, in terms of photographic evidence that is, despite being a man.

In case you missed this sordid affair, Katie Hill was a bisexual, wife-swapping, polymorphous swinger who loved to photograph her sexual exploits with her campaign and congressional staff. I believe she resigned to avoid prosecution. Nevertheless, despite all the photographic evidence surrounding her case, she would have us believe she was simply a victim of revenge porn and double standards.

What is even more disturbing is an otherwise unrelated report by Patrice Lee Onwuka of the Independent Women's Forum about a survey conducted by Area Vibes, a real estate data website. The survey asked respondents about their concerns of who lives next door. Well, as it turns out, more people would prefer to live next door to someone like Katie Hill than your average Trump supporter! That is, living next door to a Trump supporter was deemed "less safe" than living next door to people with a non-violent criminal record or a polyamorous neighbor, among others. Patrice Onwuka's explanation for this? The increasing polarization in our society due to the constant smearing of conservatives, example given, Hillary

Clinton's condemnation of Trump supporters as deplorables.

Another take on our cultural and political divide posits that feelings are more important than facts! That is, we are now living in what is called the post-truth society. As the Barna research group reported, truth is increasingly regarded as something felt, or relative (44%), rather than something known, or absolute (35%)! Think, rather than feel, about this trend, won't you?

Sarah Mills, in an article published by Conatus News warns us that "The hysterical shift to a post-truth environment, where evidence is secondary to feelings, group values and agendas, is closely related to what author George Orwell called 'groupthink' in his salient work, 1984...with its acute insight into the perils of misinformation and manipulation of language. In the dystopian world, reality shifts to accommodate propaganda."

How did we transition from a nation, culture, society and body politic founded on the principle of self-evident truths to a post-truth society? The turning point from my perspective was the 60's revolution. When God was declared dead, so was the concept of absolute truth and along with it, objective moral standards. That is, the "do it if it feels good" and "don't judge me" generation have produced grandchildren who live in an echo chamber void of truth having to do with moral standards, objective reality, common sense and decency.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

Walker Wilson & Huguen,
CPA's

**Tax Preparation and Planning, Trusts
and Estate Planning**

1201 E. Ocean Ave. Lompoc, CA.

805-736-7534

Thanks Be To Government?

By Andy Caldwell

Our nation's origin is rooted in the belief that all people have been endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights based upon self-evident truths. Unfortunately, these two aspects of our founding are lost on young Americans. That is, many millennials don't recognize that every right comes with a commensurate responsibility and they no longer believe in self-evident truth. Instead, they believe rights and privileges come by way of entitlements and that all truth is relative.

So, what does this have to do with Thanksgiving? Well, the pilgrims initially attempted to create a society and economy based upon a communal type arrangement of share and share alike. This arrangement was more akin to a socialist style economic model than a free-market based one. That is, the noble goal was to have everyone share equally in the bounty of the harvest. However, as is always the case, some people worked really hard for the good of the community, while others figured "why bother".

Well, it didn't take long for the community at large to realize that unless everybody did as much work as possible, the community as a whole would suffer mightily. That is, people who shirked their collective responsibility endangered the well-being of the entire community. The pilgrims discovered that the moral high ground in this situation required some tough love in the form of the biblical imperative that "if you don't work, you don't eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Thus, our forefathers learned to live out their spiritual world view in practical ways. They gave thanks to God for the food they had to eat, but they also worked as hard as humanly possible because they believed that God promised they would reap what they sowed. They did not, therefore, countenance for long their fellows who insulted the providential beneficence of God by way of laying illicit claim to the fruit of their neighbor's labor and sacrifice. Unfortunately, today, young Americans are tempting fate as they seek to jettison their liberty while shirking personal responsibility in exchange for a mirage of equality by way of socialism. They no longer believe in God; they believe in government.

Today's entitlement generation, despite the luxuries afforded them by virtue of living in relative abundance,

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Friday, December 6th
98 Degrees

Friday, December 20th
Felipe Esparza

Tuesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve Dance Party

Friday, January 10th
WFC 120 World Fighting
Championship

ChumashCasino.com
800-248-6274

is nevertheless living a life of envy, rather than thanksgiving in their pining for socialism. They believe that society owes them everything, including free college, free health care, and a free universal basic income. They believe government can give them an equal share in all the blessings of modernity by way of illicitly and inordinately taxing rich people and corporations. They actually believe taking money away from those who earned it is the ethical thing to do as the ends justify the means. They selfishly countenance the belief that equality of outcomes is morally superior to equality of opportunity.

Winston Churchill said it best, "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

No Other State Has These Problems!

By Andy Caldwell

I have been writing about California's lone descent into chaos and calamity for quite some time, relative to our perennial raging infernos compounded by power shutoffs, both of which can and should be avoidable. Nevertheless, the people responsible for this mayhem and destruction (namely our past and present state governors and state legislature) are doing their best to avoid culpability by way of blaming these disasters on corporate negligence and climate change in an attempt to greenwash their own ineptitude and misfeasance.

The thought of blaming our utilities, whose every move and expenditure must be countenanced by the Governor's appointed Public Utility Commission, is ludicrous. Couple that with the mandates flowing from the state legislature and it is safe to say, the responsibility for our current situation falls squarely on the shoulders of politicians and activists.

Here is a recap of how we got to where we are. First, we have 143 million dead trees in this state, not because of drought, but because we have not managed these forests for decades. We allowed the density of trees per acre to increase to 10x the level of a healthy forest, resulting in too many trees competing for water, nutrients, and sunlight. This failure to manage the overgrowth by way of logging and control burns left these trees vulnerable to drought and disease resulting in mortality. These trees are now waiting for a spark because our government won't suspend the requirement to obtain hundreds of permits to remove them.

Second, the state of California, by way of the Public

Utilities Commission and the State Legislature, along with the US Forest Service, ultimately controls what the state utilities can and can't do, including the ability to remove all vegetation in the vicinity of their power lines that could spark a fire. In this state, the utilities are often restrained from clearing brush mere inches from their lines instead of hundreds of feet. This has, and will continue to foment unmitigated disaster.

Third, the aforementioned government powers, namely the PUC and the legislature, have determined their number one priority is the production of green energy not the safety of distribution lines. Hence, the utilities were forced to develop or buy any and all green energy projects regardless of the cost or practicality of the same.

As Katy Grimes of the California Globe reported, two CA republican legislators did the math on the carbon emissions from forest fires in comparison to other sources. The contest wasn't close. Fires are a top producer of greenhouse gases. Regardless, in the midst of all the fires burning throughout the state, the bill they introduced that would grant the utilities relief from the renewable portfolio mandate in order to spend money upgrading their lines by way of burying or hardening the same, has been rejected outright.

Any person who is truly concerned about public safety and alleged climate change due to carbon emissions would have gladly supported the bill. This proves that the progressives in this state don't mind if things are burning, including homes, forests and residents, as long as it is not fossil fuels.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

TESTA  **Catering**

Full Service Culinary and Bar Catering

The Premier Caterer in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties

Since 1983

"Locally Owned by Martin & Debi Testa"

Anti-Contractor Bill Shows California's Aristocracy At Work

By Steven Greenhut

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, the San Diego Democrat who authored a landmark labor law (Assembly Bill 5 [1]), apparently is one of the most intelligent people in the state. Her colleagues who voted for that law, and the governor who signed it, have boundless knowledge, as well. The same holds true for the California Supreme Court justices who authored the decision that's at the foundation of the law and for the regulators who will enforce it.

I used to believe that individuals knew the best way to pursue their professions and arrange their family schedules and lives. I might not be as bright as these policymakers [2], but I have found that working a full-time job and supplementing it with freelance writing is the most efficient use of my time and limited skills. My wife believes — based on 30 years of experience as a librarian — that assembling some part-time and contracting gigs works best for her. But what do we know?

By contrast, Gonzalez, despite her limited background [3] as a union organizer and politician, seems better versed in journalism, librarianship, and even our personal family situation than we are. In fact, she has better insight than hundreds of thousands of other Californians — in professions including trucking, rabbinical work, exotic dancing, and delivery driving — about the complex and imperfect choices and tradeoffs that they all face in this world.

It's amazing, really. As I've described [4] for *The American Spectator*, AB 5 forbids many companies from hiring contractors even though such relationships are the result of voluntary arrangements. We're all accustomed to paying higher taxes than other places, filling out more paperwork, and following more rules. But this new law outlaws the kind of work that more than 8 percent of the state's workforce relies upon to pay their bills.

The measure codifies last year's California Supreme Court decision in the *Dynamex* ruling [5]. It involved a same-day delivery company that converted its drivers from permanent employees into independent contractors. The court sided with the plaintiffs and concocted — thanks to their supreme wisdom — an "ABC" test that companies must pass in order to use contractors instead of full- or part-time employees. The workers

must not be under the company's direction, nor can they be involved in the firm's main business, and they must have made the conscious decision to go into business for themselves.

Most media reports focused on the impact on gig-economy [6] economies such as Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash, which have created business models based entirely on using contractor labor. The typical ride-sharing driver only works four hours a week, given that such work serves mostly as a form of supplemental income for people who have other jobs or are pursuing other educational or business opportunities. These companies aren't going to hire all of these drivers as permanent employees, so we're watching a slow-motion wreck that imperils drivers' income and flexible schedules.

But the ruling also potentially threw much of the service economy into a tailspin, as it imperiled the working arrangements of real-estate agents, insurance salespeople, doctors, lawyers, and you name it. As I noted, California lawmakers think they understand how all of us should live, down to the details of our working relationships, but they didn't realize that the economy has changed so dramatically that fewer people are working in shifts or cubicles. They never considered that many of us prefer our newfound flexibility [7]. So they littered the final bill with exemptions,

(Continued on page 14)



America Needs Reformation Not Socialism

By Andy Caldwell

A few years back, I read three books that served to update my world view. The books were "Family and Civilization" by Carle Zimmerman, "What to Expect When No One is Expecting" by Jonathan Last, and "How Civilizations Die" by David Goldman. These books disclose

the intact nuclear family as the building block of advanced civilizations and those factors which precipitate the decline of civilization via the breakdown of family. The factors of declination include the lapse of faith as it affects the preservation of the family unit and demography. That is, as the saying goes, demography is destiny, but religion influences both!

Alexis de Tocqueville, nearly two centuries ago, witnessed a goodness in the American people that was the product of faith and values instilled and inculcated by religious and civic institutions, including the two most important institutions, the family and the church. The church, and the family as a member of it, raised and educated the next generation with the goal of producing responsible adults and citizens who in turn would create stable families and a successful society.

In America today, both the family and the church have become increasingly irrelevant with respect to the purpose of building a strong family, society and a moral body politic. That is, the family construct has moved from a foundation of stability to one of relativism, and from there, to anarchy and chaos, i.e., high divorce rates, single parent families, porn addiction, and the hookup culture, all of which is contributing to a precipitous decline in marriage with children.

In the meantime, our children have been adrift sans any institution, including a stable family, available to them to serve as an anchor of their soul and the inculcator of faith and values. Instead, government schools, and our children's peers, along with media, social and otherwise, now shape and inform our children resulting in a generation that is living in what is called a post-truth society.

Besides the decline in family, too many churches nowadays eschew getting involved in "politics" or controversy. However, once upon a time the church prominently took its rightful place in the public square as an arbiter of truth and it served to vouch for the character of our political leaders. Of course, those



Home of
"Santa Maria Style" Banking®

(805) 922-2900
www.yourcbsm.com

Member
FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Nutrien
Ag Solutions™

***The One Name In Crop
Production Inputs***

***1335 W. Main St.
Santa Maria, CA. 93454
(805) 922-5848***

were the days when America still believed in absolute truth, that is, the days when our leaders declared and the populace agreed to "hold these truths to be self-evident..."

Regarding President Trump's theme to make America great again, I don't believe we can achieve that goal simply on the basis of renewed patriotism. That has to do in part with the fact that the democratic party is

(Continued on page 13)

Hidden Agenda In Masquerading Big Bond Measure *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

huge increases in property taxes are a near certainty. Who pays property taxes? We all do, either directly in property tax bills or through higher rents and other costs. Unlike the Prop. 13 from 1978, this Prop. 13 puts all taxpayers at risk of higher taxes.

There are other hidden landmines in this bond proposal including a preference for school construction projects that employ a "project labor agreement." This gift to the construction trade unions can easily add 25% to 30% to the cost of school construction and freeze out responsible construction companies. That additional cost is money that could be spent building and refurbishing more school projects that benefit our children.

Of course, the real problem here is that the governor and legislature have failed to make the actual education of California's youth a priority. Instead of spending the state's \$21 billion surplus on upgrading school facilities and providing high quality education for our children, the governor and the legislature are wasting our money on pet projects like high speed rail. That surplus money could have gone into solutions for our education system *without new debt*.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

America Needs Reformation Not Socialism *Cont.*

(Continued from page 12)

becoming increasingly hostile to lifestyles and values shaped by religious beliefs. This antagonism is manifest via the party's current love affair with socialism founded on secular humanism. That is, socialism is a totalitarian ideology which threatens the very foundations of our nation, namely religious freedom and individual liberty, while it obliterates the tenet of limited government.

The full quote attributed to de Tocqueville reads as follows: "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers – and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

Family owned and operated by Cheryl & George Bedford

**COLAB Members, we are here
for you! Always have been, always will be!**
We want to sell you your next vehicle and the next one too!
Dare to compare!



*The home of...
True Value, Up
Front LOW Pricing!*

CHEVY • BUICK
SUNSET
AUTO CENTER

1300 North H Street • Lompoc

805-736-7577

sunsetautocenter.com



Anti-Contractor Bill Shows California's Aristocracy At Work *Cont.*

(Continued from page 11)

which were granted mainly to industries with the most political influence.

Many industries, however, were not exempted. Freelance writers and photographers, for instance, are now panicking [8] given that Gonzalez arbitrarily decided that they could only submit 35 pieces a year unless they were employed by the publication. That means that newspapers can no longer afford to publish, say, weekly columnists who don't want to work for the newspaper but enjoy contributing to the community debate. I already have benefits, and assembling various other writing projects allows me to pay my many bills. Then again, how could I understand what works best for me?

Other old-line industries are in trouble, too. A new federal lawsuit filed by the California Trucking Association [9] claims that AB 5 violates the U.S. Constitution by impeding the livelihoods of tractor-trailer drivers who don't always limit their routes to within California. The Commerce Clause restricts the ability of states to impede interstate commerce. What better example of such commerce than interstate trucking? The lawsuit also alleges a violation of the Supremacy Clause, given that federal trucking laws trump state restrictions.

The main issue [10] involves the choice of truck drivers and trucking firms to fashion work relationships that suit them, not to mention their customers and end consumers. The trucking group notes that many of its members "regularly contract with individual independent contractors who own and operate their own trucks ... to provide interstate trucking services." The law would make such relationships cost-prohibitive by forbidding these truckers from completing a run from, say, Utah or Nevada to California.

These truckers are entrepreneurial owner-operators. Not many of them would want to reduce their earnings and flexibility by becoming mere employees.

"Independent truckers are typically experienced drivers who have previously worked as employees and have, by choice, struck out on their own," said California Trucking Association CEO Shawn Yadon in a statement [11]. "We should not deprive them of that

choice."

We'll see if the lawsuit [12] — as well as other actions [13] to change the measure — helps save California workers from their would-be protectors. If it doesn't, I'll put in a call to Gonzalez's office. I'm sure she knows how my wife and I are supposed to pay that college tuition.

Steven Greenhut, R Street Institute Resident Senior Fellow and Western Region Director, State Affairs



WE HELP OUR CLIENTS SUCCEED BY LOWERING THEIR TOTAL COST OF RISK

Not understanding the risks that affect your business, or underestimating the potential impact of those risks, may be the biggest risk of all.

At **Tolman & Wiker**, *Innovative Risk Advice™* isn't just our tag line, it's in our DNA. Our clients deserve and receive best-in-class risk advice and employee benefits consulting from an expert team with deep experience in key industry segments, who deliver outstanding results that help our clients succeed. For 90 years we've served businesses and individuals across California, the West, and around the globe as we've grown to be one of the top privately held, independent insurance brokerages in the nation. We look forward to working with you, too!

TW **TOLMAN & WIKER**
INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC
INNOVATIVE RISK ADVICE SINCE 1923™

(805) 922-7301

www.tolmanandwiker.com

1525 E. MAIN STREET | P.O. BOX 1099

SANTA MARIA, CA 93456 DOI LICENSE #0E52073

AGRICULTURE | CONSTRUCTION | OIL & GAS
MANUFACTURING | SECURITY | TECHNOLOGY | HEALTHCARE

Government Is Failing At Solving California's Self-Imposed Homeless Crisis *cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

streets through accountability measures and faith.

"We can't let Los Angeles, San Francisco and numerous other cities destroy themselves by allowing what's happening," Trump told reporters in September. "The people of San Francisco are fed up and the people of Los Angeles are fed up, and we're looking at it, and we will be doing something about it at the appropriate time," Trump said.

The President is correct. Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, Modesto, and Redding residents feel local politicians care more about the rights of those living on the streets than the victims of their drug use, theft, property damage, and even personal assaults.

It has become abundantly clear that local Mayors are merely holding their hands out for state and federal funds – and that is because they value their worth on how much public funding they can spend and spread around to campaign donors.

Yet money doesn't solve everything, as we see in California.

The more California spends on anything, the worse it gets: public education, roads and highways, Covered California (Obamacare), DMV, utility costs, illegal immigration, and housing, to name just a few issues with record-high spending and historical crises.

If the problem or crisis is solved, the need for more money dries up.

After Trump officials visited Los Angeles to discuss homelessness, his team presented a conservative approach to addressing the homeless crisis in its report, "The State of Homelessness in America."

"More liberal prescriptions favored in the city include a massive and costly plan to build apartments for the homeless."

Los Angeles has already failed at housing, including their attempt at providing tiny homes to drug addicts living on the street. These tiny homes became tiny crack houses.


"Due to decades of misguided and faulty policies, homelessness is a serious problem," the White House report


on homeless opens with.

"Homelessness almost always involves people facing desperate situations and extreme hardship. They must make choices among very limited options, often in the context of extreme duress, substance abuse disorders, untreated mental illness, or unintended consequences from well-intentioned policies," the Trump strategy says. "Improved policies that address the underlying causes of the problem and more effectively serve some of the most vulnerable members of society are needed."


The Trump Administration is addressing the root

(Continued on page 16)


PATTERSON REALTY
SINCE 1979


**LEADING REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES OF THE WORLD**


"The Top Independent Brokerage on the Central Coast"



Wendy Teixeira

REALTOR®

(805) 310-3505
wendyteixeira@aol.com
CalBRE #01345995



**"Exactly who you need
to get exactly what you want."**

CALL 805-310-3505 + WWW.CALLWENDY.COM

Government Is Failing At Solving California's Self-Imposed Homeless Crisis *cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

causes of homelessness. "President Trump signed an executive order that will seek to remove regulatory barriers in the housing market, which would reduce homelessness due to an outward shift in the supply of homes."

The Trump Administration is addressing this several ways:

- the expansion of drug treatment and reduction in the supply of illicit drugs;
- an increased emphasis on serious mental illness and helping formerly incarcerated individuals reconnect with society;
- supporting the police in promoting safe cities;
- the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has improved Federal homeless assistance programs by providing flexibility for communities to utilize service participation requirements and more strongly encouraging self-sufficiency.

The Trump Administration report identifies mental illness, substance abuse disorders, former incarceration, poverty, and weak social ties that place individuals at a higher risk of homelessness.

With California cities increasing the "tolerability of sleeping on the streets," outside of housing or shelter, increases homelessness as well.

Lastly, cities with right-to-shelter policies in place will have a larger supply of homeless shelters, which only encourages more homelessness.

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?



722 West Betteravia Rd.

Santa Maria, CA 93455 805-922-1262

www.GermanAutoSM.net - www.facebook.com/germanautosm