

**January
2017**

Santa Barbara County

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The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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2017 Psychic Predictions

By Andy Caldwell

In the tradition of the best supermarket tabloids, for the past twenty years, I have been making psychic predictions for the New Year based on actual events. Enjoy!

Last year, meteorologists predicted a wet winter due to El Nino conditions. Suffice it to say, that prediction was a bust. This year, due to the presence of El Nina, the same prognosticators are predicting more drought, yet, thus far we are above average on our rain fall. If meteorologists can't predict short term weather patterns, why should we trust them to predict long term climate effects? Moreover, if they can't predict the weather, what gives Al Gore the temerity to believe we can control the weather? In the future, the public will drop any credence in El Nino and El Nina predictions. Instead, the public will adopt a more scientifically accurate term: El Neener Neener Neener.

Supervisor Joan Hartman is the most highly educated person ever to serve on the Board of Supervisors having both a Juris Doctorate and a Ph.D. She is also an ardent environmentalist who is concerned about sustainable fish populations. Well, Joan is going to be taking her considerable brain power and compassion for fish from the kitchen to the board room and back. This will occur when her district, including most all the South County and the Santa Ynez Valley, runs out of water due to the State and Feds demanding even more water releases from Lake Cachuma to benefit a fledgling population of artificially planted trout in the Santa Ynez River. To save the trout and get back our water supply, Joan is going to do her part by eating bass and sporting beaver pelts as a fashion accessory. This has to do with the fact that the trout we try to save in the Santa Ynez river end up being gorged by beavers and bass faster than we can

restock the river.

A few years back a county government construction crew was charged with killing two tiger salamanders. After spending hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to get out from under the penalty for the crime, the Board of Supervisors is going to finally submit to the fine and jail sentence imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Supervisor Janet Wolf will take one for the team and serve the jail sentence since she loves salamanders more than anybody.

There is an old saying that if the government were put in charge of sand in the Sahara, a shortage would ensue. That is not far from the truth. California has trillions of cubic feet of gas available to serve our needs, yet you can now expect to suffer shortages during relatively cold winters having to do with controversies involving the ability to store the natural gas we rely on to heat our homes. Thus, California has now perfected, by way of regulatory fiat, cold winter chills, hot summer blackouts, and year around water rationing!

Governor Jerry Brown will cement his legacy as the perfect lunatic who bankrupted the state of fruits and nuts by building \$300 billion worth of boondoggle projects. The first leg of his high-speed rail system will be christened "The Conjugal Express" as it primarily serves the state prison population in Corcoran. He will then initiate the Twin Tunnel project, without anybody having bothered to read the project's 80,000-page study, as he declares "we have to build it to see if it works". Finally, as promised, California will launch its very own climate satellite, manned by the Governor himself, dubbed Project Moonbeam.

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Shut Up And Act: ‘The Perfect Idiot’s Profession’

By Katy Grimes

The American people have spoken. Donald Trump was elected President of the United States, in a free and fair election (despite [cybertampering](#) by DHS...). But ignoramus Hollywood actors are urging members of the Electoral College to select someone other than Donald Trump.

A person’s true character and grit becomes evident when they face real adversity or fail at something. We know Democrats are sore losers, and Hollywood epitomizes this.

It’s so much easier to be liberal, but especially in liberal Hollywood.

“An actor’s a guy, who if you ain’t talking about him, ain’t listening.”
Marlon Brando

The latest attempt by vacuous actors to impact politics comes in a [star-studded video PSA](#) starring actors Martin Sheen, Debra Messing, Richard Schiff, James Cromwell, BD Wong, Noah Wyle, Freda Payne, Bob Odenkirk, J. Smith Cameron, Michael Urie, Moby, Mike Farrell, the unrecognizable Loretta Swit, Christine Lahti, Steven Pasquale, Dominic Fumusa and Emily Tyra.

The actors and actresses urge Republican electors to be “American heroes” and ensure Donald Trump doesn’t reach the 306 electoral votes he earned in November’s election.

It would take 37 so-called “faithless” electors to prevent Trump from reaching the required 270 electoral votes, Breitbart [reported](#). “I’m not asking you to vote for Hillary Clinton,” say several of the stars.

“By voting your conscience, you and other brave Republican electors can give the House of Representatives the option to select a qualified candidate for the presidency,” adds Schiff, who played White House communications director Toby Ziegler alongside Sheen on *The West Wing*.

The video ends with the vacuous actors telling the electors that they would earn their “respect” by performing this “service to the American people.”

Sheen and Schiff must think they know a lot about our Electoral College because they played a liberal president and his communications director on television for six years.



“Stop telling people how to influence and otherwise undermine our electoral system,” Democrat pollster Doug Schoen said on Fox News, calling these celebrities “self-appointed spokespeople whose only real credential is celebrity.”

“Acting is a masochistic form of exhibitionism. It is not quite the occupation of an adult.”
Sir Laurence Olivier

There’s nary an intellect to be found in most Hollywood actors, who live in a different world than people who work hard for a living, and have no way of understanding the issues the rest of the working public has to deal with. Trump attended [Fordham University](#) in [the Bronx](#) for two years, then transferred to the [Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania](#) in [Philadelphia](#), and graduated with a degree in Economics.

Martin Sheen went to high school. Schiff dropped out of high school.

“Acting is merely the art of keeping a large group of people from coughing.”
Sir Ralph Richardson

It is actually ironic that the Democrat Party demonizes the rich, but is supported by the bulk of Hollywood millionaires. The Democrat Party also demonizes Walmart, which employs an astounding 2.3 million people. Walmart also provides affordable food and merchandise to millions around the world. And we are supposed to pray at the altar of vacuous actors who

(Continued on page 18)

Let's Win The West Again

By Andy Caldwell

I am hoping that Donald Trump understands why the economy of the Western United States is suffering and reeling as it is. Hopefully, he will reset federal policy in order to inform Congress of how the West was lost and what we must do to win it back! Nowhere is this more obvious than the one million acres of California farmland that has been laid to waste by federal regulatory overreach and abuse having to do with water being diverted away from farms, not to mention the urban areas in our state.

President Obama has a bill on his desk that will address our dire water situation that stems not so much from drought as it does from policies that have squandered the water we would otherwise have in storage. Thankfully, last week, a bill with broad bipartisan support passed through both houses of Congress that will facilitate water storage, conservation, desalinization and recycling projects. If Obama fails to sign the bill, let's hope our next President will have a similar opportunity soon.

Now, to win back the West, we must beat back government overreach which has created vast wastelands of inertia, deprived the populace of the ability to transform raw materials into valuable resources, and deprived government of billions of dollars in tax revenue that would otherwise accrue.

Our problem has to do with the fact that the federal government owns and controls too much land, specifically, 47% of all the land in the west. Compare that to the Eastern United States where only 4% of the land is owned by the government! These western lands are managed by four principal agencies: The Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

What is worse is that the federal government has also established defacto control over much of the rest of the land that is still privately owned by way of overreach of the federal Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Even though everyone agrees with the premise of protecting our waters from pollution and protecting species from becoming extinct, these federal regulations are no longer being used for the purpose for which they were created. Instead, they are being used to control land in the West by way of regulatory obfuscation which arises to defacto



confiscation.

Quite honestly, the Federal government has no business controlling so much land because it is a pathetically poor land steward! This has to do with their hands-off approach to land management including prohibitions against production and use of natural resources.

I recently visited what was once one of the most beautiful forests in America. It has now been completely laid waste by a pest that killed all the trees which were then subsequently destroyed by fire. The National Park Service passively watched it all happen because they think letting nature take its course is a good thing. Private sector wisdom and knowhow, on the other hand, would have harvested the infected trees before the whole forest died and went up in smoke!

Opening these vast tracts of land to recreation, logging, mining, housing, and ranching would make wise use of the land in addition to creating jobs and tax revenues. It would also cut down on devastating fires that routinely ravage the West, including Santa Barbara County.

It is high time to realize that most of the earth's natural resources are in fact renewable and what could be more natural than enjoying the bounty of the same?

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Government Fights Inevitable Creative Destruction

By Andy Caldwell

It is called creative destruction. In this age of the internet and the sharing economy, a slew of new business models are threatening older models across America. This is no small phenomenon. Nearly one quarter of all adults in America have earned income by these new ways of doing business.

Although millions of people rent their abode, the general law is that rental agreements must be 30 days or longer. Anything less is considered a short-term rental to be served by hotels and motels. Hence, home sharing and short term vacation rentals are two of the most popular and disruptive industries out there. Home sharing involves renting a house that is owner occupied, while in a short-term rental situation the owner is not present. This new economy is having an impact on hotels, motels and in some cases, neighborhood compatibility.

Hoteliers and other brick and mortar businesses have a serious beef with the ramifications of these emerging business models because of the aspect of a competitive disadvantage built into the system. In a nutshell, brick and mortar businesses paid more for their property and accordingly, they pay higher taxes and fees in the ordinary course of business than somebody who is working out of their home or using their home for business purposes.

Now let's consider the hypocrisy and folly of local government's role in all this. The City of Santa Barbara over the years accepted millions in bed tax from short term rentals even though they knew the uses were not allowed.

The County Board of Supervisors, on the other hand,

asked voters to increase the transient occupancy tax (bed tax) while they were simultaneously in the process of eliminating the potential for more vacation rental units in the region that would otherwise generate a significant amount of bed tax. Accordingly, if the board of supervisors bans most vacation rentals at their hearing on Dec. 6, the result will be higher taxes on hotel and motel accommodations, but with fewer tax generating operations in the region. This give and take situation will serve to neutralize some of the economic benefit of the bed tax increase!

I find it utterly amazing that voters are so clueless that the main reason our government wants more of our money is because they have steadfastly opposed development of every kind, including people using their property to generate additional income. This is akin to numerous similar efforts such as raising taxes on gasoline and cigarettes, while simultaneously trying to shut down the oil industry and force people to quit smoking!

We cannot overlook the potential negative repercussions of vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods. Irresponsible owners and guests can certainly ruin the ambiance, peace and tranquility of a neighborhood. However, strict rules governing the number of people allowed to stay in a unit, the number of cars permitted, strict adherence to noise and lighting impacts, among other concerns can go a long way towards mitigating any negative impacts upon the neighbors while helping property owners supplement their income.

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The Chumash Difference

By Andy Caldwell

A long time ago, government made the decision to not tax government as it relates to the value of property owned by the government. Hence, in our county, 50% of the land mass which is owned in the form of Vandenberg Air Force Base and the Los Padres Forest pays no property taxes nor is the value of the land even calculated to determine the resultant lost property tax dollars to local jurisdictions. Our cities, the University of CA at Santa Barbara, our local schools, and special districts do not pay property taxes either.

Moreover, our government also made the decision a long time ago to not tax the property owned by non-profits. Hence, for instance, properties owned by foundations, hospitals, churches and the like pay no property taxes. We are not talking chump change. There are over 300 properties in the county owned by non-profits whose value exceeds one million dollars. All together, these 300 properties have an assessed value in excess of \$3.5 billion dollars!

Whereas, UCSB has taken an estimated \$200 million worth of property off the tax rolls by way of off-campus acquisitions, the biggest non-profit holdings in the county belong to Cottage Hospital whose property holdings exceed \$780 million, not including the \$124 million in holdings of the Hospital's foundation! The Hutton Parker Foundation is one non-profit that owns \$45 million worth of property.

If we were to lowball the value of all the properties in this county, including federal holdings, that are off the tax rolls, it would easily add up to tens of billions of dollars! What I have not mentioned is that the federal government has also declared foreign embassies and Indian reservations to be government installations and hence, they pay no property taxes either. Locally, the value of the land owned by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians pales in comparison to the value of property owned by UCSB, VAFB, Cottage Hospital, Westmont, and a host of other tax-free entities. The one difference?

The Chumash have offered to pay fees to make up the difference to the county and they have given millions of dollars in gifts to local schools to make them whole. The same cannot be said for any other tax-free government entity in our region, except for UCSB - which has recently been forced to start paying a pittance of what they owe to county taxpayers for all the services rendered and all the land they took off the tax



rolls!

For the past 15 years, I have maintained that recognizing the Chumash as a legitimate government entity, recognized as such by our federal and state governments, is the key to amicably settling the differences between the county and the Tribe. However, the county refused to enter government-to-government relationship with the Tribe until Congress put a gun to its head! Thankfully, the discussions between these two governments may have finally begun to bear fruit.

Whereas, this should be a welcome sign, some people in the valley are not happy that progress is being made! How could this be? It is obviously a long and complicated story, but suffice it to say the supposed opposition to the Tribe's property acquisitions as it relates to taking property off the tax rolls is a canard. The Tribe's litigious detractors are some of the same people opposed to affordable housing for the poor and seniors, winery development, and years ago, many of these of nimby activists went so far as to oppose a Ronald McDonald's camp for kids with cancer! You should, therefore, take everything they say with a grain of salt. They will never support change of any kind, regardless of the merits of the project.

Andy Caldwell is the executive director of COLAB

Trump, Merle Haggard And promises That Must Be Kept

By Mike Brown

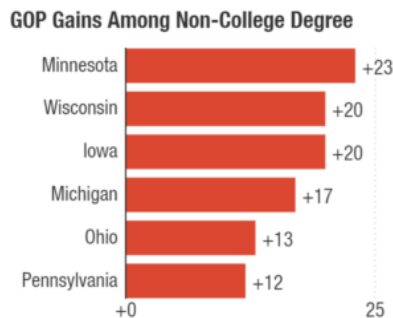
Recolling from the defeat of Hillary Clinton, the more astute and serious Democratic Party analysts have concluded that their party’s policies had failed its historic blue-collar labor base. That base finally revolted after decades of irrelevant Democratic promises and policies, aided and abetted by Republican compromise.

Those heretofore loyal Democratic voters gave Trump victories in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin – victories (some very narrow and some very large) that ran counter to the reigning political calculus – the so called blue wall.

But the Republicans shouldn’t gloat. Trump, the party crasher, won because he gave voice to the “deplorables” and coalesced the long simmering grievances of conservatives, the sinking disaffected middle class of both parties, and as it turned out, real workers. Those are the wrench-turning, machine operating, truck driving folks who sweat on the job and who actually harvest raw materials, grow food, build things, make stuff, and deliver it. Erroneously, this constituency was taken for granted and assumed to be safely in the Democratic fold.

As NPR’s Domenic Montanardo pointed out, the GOP, with standard-bearer Trump, made huge gains in voters lacking college degrees in the industrial north.

Like federal national security agencies in recent years, both the ever dithering checked pants Ivy League Republicans and the ever smugly social justice preaching Democratic Ivy League intelligentsia have experienced an intelligence failure. This is somewhat surprising, especially for the Democrats.



Out in America away from Malibu, Manhattan, Marin, Miami Beach, and Metro DC, the people have been crying for relief for decades, but instead, and notwithstanding which party was in charge, many of their communities have been in a death spiral since

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the early 70’s.

Since the 30’s, the Democrats have proclaimed themselves as the party of the working man and woman and in recent decades as the arbiters of social equality, environmental salvation, and political correctness. As it turns out, none of their massively accumulative and oppressively expensive initiatives, along with the accompanying \$20 trillion in Federal national debt, have actually saved Hartford, Allentown, Akron, Detroit, Flint, Dayton, or hundreds more.

We watched them like clouds as they have floated by. JFK’s “New Frontier,” Lyndon Johnson’s “Great Society,” Jimmie Carter’s “A Leader for Change,” Bill Clinton’s “We Need a Change” and Barack Obama’s “Hope and Change” never actually stopped the decline of hundreds of cities in New England, the middle Atlantic region, upper Midwest, or even some

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A Toast To The Selfish People

By Andy Caldwell

Grapes grow in clusters, so do policy failures. Since the proposed winery ordinance update was shelved after five years, wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in the process, it behooves us to assess the cause of this harvest of futility.

The age-old game of obfuscation and confiscation of property rights designed to inflict economic paralysis in this county invariably rises from a few selfish citizens who claim their quality of life is being threatened by some hobgoblin of their overwrought machinations. In other words, our economy and sense of community continues to suffer from activists in search of a solution to a problem of their own making. Their solution is always more government control and less economic freedom.

During my 25 years as a local government watchdog and business advocate, I have witnessed numerous similar examples of wasted time, energy and money. It is routine to spend millions on urban plans which do nothing to plan for the future as much as preserve the past. And then, there are the numerous plans which have served to afflict our farmers and ranchers to satisfy rural estate dwellers whom I refer to as ranchette vigilantes.

The list of these types of agricultural ordinances included one which effectively banned greenhouses in Carpinteria. The activists said that real agriculture only occurs in open fields. Then there was the oak tree ordinance, whereby activists claimed that farmers were needlessly cutting down oak trees even though landowners consider oaks an asset. Then we had a push to protect resources, i.e, brush and weeds, from the plow because newly planted farm fields were disrupting wildlife corridors. And, just a few weeks ago, the Board of Supervisors approved the Gaviota Coast Plan which pretty much banned the construction of mansions and ordinary second units for family members along the coast. I take it the supervisors didn't like the thought of disturbing the "pristine" view of the coastline in complete disregard of the blight and ecological impact of the county landfill!

Now we can add to our ag list the county winery ordinance update. The ordinance limited the ability of small wineries to have tasting rooms, as well as, limiting the number and size of events that could be held

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at larger wineries. The events they sought to curtail? Yoga classes, cooking classes, and fundraisers for non-profits, not to mention weddings, wine club gatherings and too many tourists just dropping in. Most of the activities the county sought to ban impacted absolutely no one.

What is very telling about this effort is the one real problem the Board of Supervisors failed to address. Fifty percent of the grapes grown here must be shipped out of county for processing because we suffer from a dearth of production facilities. That means we are shipping the profits elsewhere. Allowing winery expansions would address this problem, however, that is the last thing this ordinance sought to facilitate.

The ordinance completely ignored the fact that people can't afford to grow grapes just for the fun of it! The only chance for profit is by way of vertical integration. You grow grapes to make wine and you sell the wine by way of a tasting room that affords the opportunity to directly sell to consumers by attracting them to your winery. Accordingly, one would think that a community that says it values both ag and tourism would be happy with the synergy the wine industry brings to the table. Though the ordinance did not pass this time around, have no fear, the selfish people will soon be back with yet another plan.

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What Does Brown Do For You?

By Andy Caldwell

A new term has been created to describe the age we are living in as a post-truth/post-factual society indicating the trend in our society for people to think with their emotions while completely ignoring facts. The only thing that matters is the narrative, no matter how false, if it is repeated often enough. Therefore, I try to address issues in terms of presuppositions and worldview to reveal what a person is really thinking and impact what they believe and value as it determines their position on controversial issues.

Accordingly, let's explore Santa Barbara's dire water situation now that the City Council has banned outdoor watering. There is the one world view, dating back to Thomas Malthus, that mankind's incessant demands on natural resources will eventually exceed nature's capacity to furnish the same. Malthusians believe population must ultimately be controlled to avert tragedy.

Here locally, we see an extension and application of these arguments posited in terms of anti-growth rhetoric that manifests itself in opposition to importing water from other areas and the specious claim that we should be content to conserve as much water as possible, including our willingness to forego daily showers, let our landscape die, and avoid flushing toilets. In some California communities, the water shortage is so dire that people go to the town center to receive water brought in by truck for daily necessities. Could these third world conditions become our experience? You betcha!

An alternative world view indicates the resources of the earth are more than abundant to supply our needs. The only thing we need to do is employ technology to solve our problems. Hence, building dams, reservoirs, pipelines, desalination and reclaim water projects would provide more water than we need!

The fact that most all Southern California lives on borrowed water has been the case for 100 years. Yet, despite tremendous population growth over the past 40 years, Jerry Brown has seen to it that no new capacity has been created to serve our increasing needs. Why is that? It is because people in power, including politicians, bureaucrats and

activists, value the goal of conservation more than they do solving real world problems by increasing supply. These Malthusians believe that increasing supply will eventually increase demand and the cycle will simply start all over again!

President Obama signed a bill providing money for California communities to enhance their water supplies. I expect President-elect Donald Trump to do even more. Right now, our government officials should be putting together plans to build bigger desal and reclaim water facilities. They should also come up with a plan to dredge reservoirs to restore full storage capacity. And, we should bring back the plan to build the Lompoc Narrows Dam project that would increase our overall regional storage and recharge capacity. With timely plans in hand, we stand a better chance of securing federal funds.

Instead, expect our leaders to accomplish little except to demand more conservation, charge more for less water, and watch our town go brown and bust.

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The Wild, Wild West

By Andy Caldwell

I often write about the self-inflicted blows to our economy by our government, but what about the inflicted blows to public safety and welfare delivered by the electorate? Following the legislature's lead in approving AB109, voters subsequently approved Propositions 47 and 57 inflicting the most dangerous and dastardly atrocities on law and order imaginable.

AB109, if you recall, was Jerry Brown's attempt to deal with three huge problems all having to do with prison overcrowding. First, our state was being threatened by the federal government for not having adequate medical treatment facilities for inmates. We were expected to spend billions on prison hospitals. Second, we had severe overcrowding in the prisons meaning we needed to spend even more money building greater capacity. Third, due to extremely generous pay and benefits to state prison guards, a problem in and of itself, options one and two were not considered feasible. So, Governor Brown, with great sleight of hand, dumped thousands of prisoners out of state prison remanding them to county jails. Since most county jails were already overcrowded themselves, the domino effect resulted in the phenomenon of catch and release on our streets. In other words, cops would book and immediately release criminals on a routine basis because our county jails no longer had the capacity to retain criminals awaiting trial nor many who were convicted!

Then came Propositions 47 and 57. The first downgraded a long list of felonies, mostly having to do with various forms of theft to misdemeanor status, while the latter granted early parole and release to a number of felons with the claim that their crimes were non-violent in nature. These so-called non-violent crimes include rape by intoxication, human trafficking involving sex with minors, drive-by shooting, assault with a deadly weapon, hostage taking, domestic violence, failing to register as a sex offender, and the list goes on and on.

Why did these ballot propositions pass? Well, Attorney General Kamala Harris (our new US Senator) helped fool the voters by giving the measures deceptive titles and descriptions. Moreover, too many California voters are simply stuck on stupid!

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Our situation is now dire. For many crimes, we no longer catch and release, we simply issue tickets. Only felons are seeing the inside of a jail or prison, what is worse, thousands of criminals are not even bothering to show up for court proceedings because they no longer fear incarceration as a consequence for their crime. Some police departments are no longer investigating certain crimes because they know full well no prosecution or penalty will ensue. They have better things to do than write tickets and witness yet another failure to appear in court.

Moreover, our state legislature has surely and deliberately taken away the rights of the citizenry to protect their lives and property by way of a dozen or so gun and ammunition control laws leaving us at the mercy of the thousands of "non-violent" felons now roaming free in our communities. Herein, lies the legacy of Jerry Brown.

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Our Impending Brush With Death

By Andy Caldwell

America once considered private property rights sacrosanct. The way our founding fathers figured, every man has been granted divine rights, not just kings, and that meant that every man's home was his castle! Well, those days are long gone! Nowadays, property owners are required to obtain permits for virtually everything they want to do on or with their property meaning government control and overreach has served to completely obliterate the concept of private property.

The most recent egregious example of government control, obfuscation and interference affecting public health and safety comes by way of a resident of Toro Canyon. It appears that a homeowner may have figured it was easier to ask forgiveness than to get permission to establish a second means of ingress and egress to his property. He did the unthinkable when he cleared about 1% of the brush and trees on his property to make a second road to serve his residence. He got caught and now the County of Santa Barbara, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Fish and Wildlife department and perhaps, even the Army Corps of Engineers, all want a pound of his flesh! The crime? Disturbing brush along a creek that has been declared environmentally sensitive habitat. Complicating matters even further, the applicant has applied to place a bridge to cross the creek, but until these various agencies exact their vengeance, the bridge project is going nowhere.

The homeowner was successful in getting a letter from the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire District which stated "there would be benefits to life, health and

safety, by an alternate ingress/egress for emergency medical situations and/or evacuation, if the primary means were obstructed". The fire district therefore encouraged the Supervisors to grant the application for the construction project.

Government officials love to hang their regulator's hat on that peg, that having to do with preserving life, health and safety. They use this to justify regulating all sorts of activities that in truth do not warrant government action in most circumstances. Having said that, in this instance, preserving life, health and safety is legitimate, paramount concern!

Nevertheless, these various public agencies continue to weigh the desire to protect brush versus a commitment to protect life and property. Moreover, it is not just the life of the residents but also the very real potential of trapped firefighters whose lives hang in the balance. These policy considerations are imperative with over 100 million dead trees in California as entire communities are going to need additional emergency egress to survive the coming conflagration. As Supervisor Salud Carbajal truthfully noted to soon to be has -been Supervisor Farr (she is retiring), the next fire is a when, not an if, occurrence.

The public should be astounded to learn that Supervisor Doreen Farr nevertheless suggested that all involved should plan to just shelter in place rather than disturbing the habitat. She is suggesting that these people risk dying to protect brush that ironically will be the first thing to burn!

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Prosecutorial Ineptitude Costs Taxpayers

By Andy Caldwell

I worked in industry prior to becoming the executive director of COLAB. The tools of my trade were a grease gun, a shovel and a wheelbarrow. I used the grease gun to keep things working, while I used the shovel and the wheelbarrow when they broke! What I learned the hard way is that no matter how hard we try, things break. Unfortunately, this is a lesson lost on politicians and bureaucrats who are loath to acknowledge the fact that accidents do happen.

Greka Energy was at one time considered the poster child for bad behavior. They had a lot of spills from tanks and pipelines that justified more government oversight for an industry that prefers to run so smooth as to be immune to controversy. Greka, in its defense, would say that they have since cleaned up their act and that their original problems stemmed from aging infrastructure in their fields that could not be replaced fast enough to their own liking.

Regardless, Greka had one particular spill into a dry creek that caught the attention of the state and federal government, both of which have sought to use the incident to persecute and prosecute the company. Well, an interesting thing occurred on the way to the public lynching, namely a federal judge acknowledged the right of Greka to a fair trial as he sanctioned the state for not preserving evidence that could be crucial to Greka's defense. He likened the gap in evidence to the missing Watergate tapes as he proceeded to slap the state with a million dollar fine!

Next up is a consideration of whether the feds faked the justification to intervene based on a falsified weather report which predicted rain. The rain report was used to ramp up the charges against the company for violating the Clean Water Act. No rain meant no water which meant no problem in what should have been a no frills clean-up of an otherwise dry creek bed.

The other company being prosecuted is the Plains Pipeline Company. If you recall, a pipeline broke and oil from the pipeline found its way under a freeway culvert to Refugio Beach. Now government officials are prosecuting the company while dragging their feet in getting the pipeline reopened. I believe this prosecutorial effort is misguided and could blow up in the




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government's face in a similar manner to that of Greka. This has to do with the fact that at least some of the damage that occurred to the beach and the ocean can be tracked to what the government did not do, or allow to be done, in the immediate aftermath of the discovery of the leak. In other words, was there a complicit failure on the part of government agencies themselves to minimize and mitigate the damage in a timely manner?

Who here is the ultimate bad actor? Should companies be prosecuted for accidents unless willful negligence can be proven? Should government officials be prosecuted for trumping up charges? This could get very interesting.

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California's Petulant Leaders

By Andy Caldwell

It is nearly impossible to comprehend how political-ly tone deaf the democratic party has become. During the past few years, they have lost 63 House seats, 10 Senate Seats, 12 governorships, and now they have lost the White House too. In the meantime, the party has gained complete control of the State of California holding all the statewide offices including a super majority in our assembly and senate. Accordingly, we are about to witness a collision of politics and policies between our state and nation which will illuminate great political disparities.

House democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, along with California's newest US Senator Kamala Harris, Governor Jerry Brown, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsome, and our next State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, are all committed to doing everything they can to disrupt and defeat the agenda of President-elect Donald Trump with the help of California's Silicon Valley and the Hollywood elite.

One battle will involve the three dozen cities and public universities who have all declared themselves sanctuaries for illegal aliens including those who have committed serious felonies. The Trump administration is apparently committed to cutting off federal funds to any government entity that refuses to cooperate with the law. One weapon presumptive Attorney General Jeff Sessions can use against our university system has to do with the practice of charging illegal aliens in state tuition while charging legal residents of other states out-of-state tuition. This is a violation of federal law.

Not only do these leaders want to prevent Trump from making America great again, they have manifested an elitist contempt for what made America great in the first place. First, we have what is referred to as Calexit. I don't believe this call to secede from the Union is going anywhere. Neither do I believe that Senator Boxer's call to eliminate the Electoral College makes any sense whatsoever.

Both of these radical proposals speak to the extremism of California's hubris and narcissism. The leaders of these movements are complete ignoramuses. They are not happy that our government is a union of states that are guaranteed the right to be auton-

omous as long as they do not violate the Constitution which was created to form a more perfect union of the states. No, what they are signaling is that the rest of the nation must go the way of California or else they will do everything they can to disenfranchise the rest of the states or leave the union altogether. How petulant!

America is not ruled by the majority but by law that protects the rights of individuals and states. If we were to eliminate the Electoral College, then we should eliminate the US Senate for all the same reasons. The reason we have an Electoral College and a Senate is to purposefully balance and check the wherewithal of the states to protect their rights from simple majority rule. People who do not understand or appreciate our system of checks and balances are woefully ignorant of the fact that we live in a constitutional republic rather than a pure democracy.

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Coastal Act Tyranny

By Andy Caldwell

The Coastal Commission now can issue fines because the California Legislature, with Governor Jerry Brown's blessing, has appointed the unelected members of the commission judge, jury and executioner for all things pertaining to our coast. This is blatantly unconstitutional, but who cares? We live in California! In the good old days, the Coastal Commission would have had to file a suit and asked a judge for a remedy to any sort of regulatory impasse, but no more! Just in time for the holidays, in the spirit of Scrooge, the California Coastal Commission gave a doctor and his wife a fine of \$4.2 million arising from a dispute about beach access in Malibu!

I spoke with the Pacific Legal Foundation, America's leading defender of private property rights, about this case. PLF is an extremely successful public interest law firm that does not charge clients for representation. This is critically important because no one could possibly have enough time, energy or money to fight the government on their own dime. So, people like you and me who still believe in our Constitution donate to PLF so that they can do battle on our behalf.

When California voters enacted the California Coastal Act, it seemed like a good idea. The Act, as it is written, promised to balance the needs of California residents, tourists, property owners and coastal dependent industry. What was not to love? Unfortunately, as is always the case when politicians, activists, nimby's and bureaucrats get involved, over time, the members of the commission and its staff became downright abusive, punitive, tyrannical and destructive as it pertains to managing our coastline. They became the dictators of the coast to the detriment of all parties involved, including property owners and duly elected government bodies, such as City Councils and Boards of Supervisors, that should otherwise have respectively as much power determining land use on their property and within their boundaries as this unelected commission. Unfortunately, the State of California doesn't see things this way.

In this particular case, the Coastal Commission wants a gate removed on the resident's property that the commission claims is blocking beach access. However, if the gate is removed, and somebody tried to access the beach accordingly, an accident could ensue and the property owner would be liable! This has to do with the fact that the property in question sits well



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Personally, I believe we have enough City, County and State Beaches scattered throughout the length of our coastline that facilitate public access, and if we want more, then we should have to pay for the access instead of applying these types of confiscatory schemes. Moreover, I don't believe the tenet that anybody who owns property on the coast should have to grant access through their private property against their will.

By the way, the \$4.2 million fine in this particular case equals the value of the property. The message the commission is sending? Let us have the access or risk losing the entire value of your property!

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Safety Pins And The Diaper Generation

By Andy Caldwell

The 1960's was a catastrophe precipitating multiple fatalities including the death of God, common sense and decency, moral certainty, marriage, chastity, chivalry and virtue. The reverberations from this catastrophe have cascaded down upon us ever since resulting in the death of Western civilization itself, albeit, the impending epitaph reads more like a celebratory birth announcement.

The announcement reads "Multiculturalism and Political Correctness" are proud to announce the birth of their child "The Death of White Privilege". The celebration of this so-called societal evolution inspires young people today to throw off the last vestiges of a construct inspired by dead white guys.

Hence, across America, but primarily on college campuses, there are simultaneous calls for the eradication of white dominion, privilege, and supremacy in the wake of promoting the faux meme of Black Lives Matter and the utterly racist concept of La Raza (which means *the* race in Spanish) in addition to the end of gender norms.

What is interesting about these movements is the complicit admission by the revolutionaries that the last vestiges of bias in America today manifest themselves in the form of "microaggressions". Thus, it is agreed that these microaggressions are primarily inculcated bias that are locked away in the subconscious of the aggressor.

What does that mean in practicality? If you are to ask an acquaintance, to get to know more about them, the simple question, "Where are you from?" - well, you just committed a microaggression by suggesting that the

person does not come from here; an insinuation that you perceive the person is different and by inference, inferior to you. Another example is assuming the gender of the person you are speaking with in any situation as being a male or female, a he or a she. That too is a no no.

This new and enlightened generation is easily offended by such aggression. You could say they are as sensitive as a baby and proud of it! The most recent ultimate social and political macroaggression was the election of Donald Trump. Ironically, all the people who feel threatened by what a Trump presidency purportedly represents would kindly appreciate you to signal to them that you mean no harm by wearing a safety pin as a sign of submission, er, I mean cooperation and sympathy.

So, what must we do now and in the future to comply with the demands to eradicate the source and abate the effects of something that is raging in our subconscious? After all, this is nothing less than a call for mind control and the abandonment of inculcated values, mores and precepts.

Should we all go back to college, major in the social sciences and hope that does the trick? Should we avoid making eye contact or speaking to anyone of obvious moral and intellectual superiority, i.e. a millennial, lest we offend them by the hopeless ignorance of our ways? Honestly, I don't know how to live apart from my subconscious.

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Alien Terrorists VS Unalienable Rights

By Andy Caldwell

Last week, I picked up a copy of the San Francisco Chronicle to see what the paper of record for all things progressive had to say. I was appalled, but certainly not surprised, to find a story on the front page having to do with a proposal by a San Francisco Supervisor to spend \$5 million to provide legal representation to illegal aliens facing deportation. The reporter noted this was a test to see whether local officials were going to put their money where their mouth was in defending sanctuary city policies against the Trump administration.

After that, I had to go to page seven to find a below-the-fold story about the Somali terrorist suspect who wounded 11 people on the campus of Ohio State University with his car and a knife. The students at Ohio State are lucky. A campus cop killed the assailant in less than a minute.

This attack should come as no surprise. Online jihad propaganda has been encouraging knife and car attacks for months and this was the second knife attack by a Somali this year! The literature recommends knives giving instructions for maximum carnage. Knife control anyone?

I believe the contrast of the relatively newsworthiness of these two stories speaks volumes about what is important to liberals in America. Plainly speaking, it is more important to protect illegal aliens from the federal government than it is to protect Americans from terrorists, despite our unalienable right to life.

To wit, consider these words "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, and promote the general welfare...do establish this Constitution". Couple these words with the oath of office taken by electeds which states "I do solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies...without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion..."

Despite the law and the oath, in this age of sanctuary cities, political correctness and multiculturalism, liberals have run roughshod over the concept of secure borders, strict enforcement of immigration laws, and intense vetting of immigrants while abandoning all concerns to insuring our tranquility and safety.

Their fallback position? Ohio State and other govern-



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ment officials issue the following directive to citizens under attack- Run, Hide and Fight! Run because we have failed to protect you. Hide until someone authorized to carry a weapon arrives on scene- which in many cases will be too late for some. Fight without real weapons because we have effectively taken away your right to adequately protect your life against all enemies.

This flaccid and immoral concept of run, hide and fight reminds me of Supervisor Doreen Farr's directive to shelter in place in the event of a conflagration. She considers this a preferable alternative to preventative measures which would disturb brush in order to protect life and property. Our electeds have thus not only failed to protect us, they interdict our unalienable right to protect ourselves.

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Trump, Merle Haggard And promises That Must Be Kept *Cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

in California such as Oakland, San Bernardino, Stockton, and Richmond.

In fact, and in California, their water and environmental policies have turned the San Joaquin Valley into an economic disaster zone and social tragedy. As predicted, plastic bag bans, carbon taxes, Obama Care, piling on public pension debt, and diverting water for extinct fish haven't exactly helped expand our roads, fix our decaying public buildings, generate jobs that can support a household, or reduce California's massive welfare role.

For decades, Merle Haggard, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel (regardless of their stated political preferences), and many other singers have reeled off scores of songs warning about the heartbreaking plight of people in the country's declining or dying industrial cities and smaller mill towns. The late Bakersfield balladeer and country music legend Merle Haggard, discerning the thoughts and hopes of tens of millions and perhaps anticipating a Donald Trump, wrote the song "America First" (from the 2005 Chicago Wind Album):

Why don't we liberate these United States,
We're the ones that need it worst.
Let the rest of the world help us for a change,
And let's rebuild America first.

Our highways an' bridges are fallin' apart:
Who's blessed an' who has been cursed?
There's things to be done all over the world,
But let's rebuild America first.

Who's on the Hill and who's watchin' the valley?
An' who's in charge of it all?
God bless the army an' God bless our liberty,
And dadgum the rest of it all.

Clinton and Obama never really heard the songs metaphorically or understood that a vibrant and free economy with manufacturing, energy extraction/production, and capital investment is an important key to saving our obsolescing communities and their people. Not everyone can be a lawyer or a cloud solution architect and you sure can't eat, wear, or keep warm with what they produce. The promised salvation of education and job training never panned out. As Billy Joel so poignantly said in



"Allentown" (from the 1982 Nylon Curtin album):

Well we're waiting here in Allentown
For the Pennsylvania we never found
For the promises our teachers gave
If we worked hard
If we behaved
So the graduations hang on the wall
But they never really helped us at all
No they never taught us what was real
Iron and coal
And chromium steel
And we're waiting here in Allentown

Trump capitalized on this failure and promises to make "America great again," which really means making our economy and all those hundreds of cities and towns great again. In turn this means abandoning the decades of land use tyranny, regulatory oppression, government expansion, and job killing taxation. Hopefully, he and the Republican Congressional majority along with their colleagues in many of the state houses will have the fortitude, resolve, and resiliency to take Merle's prescription and "liberate these United States."

They had better, because if they fail, and given the current set of promises, the backlash will thrust the enviro-socialist – collectivist elite into unassailable power. If that happens, not only will America not be great again, but it won't even be America.

Mike Brown is the government affairs director of the Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business (COLAB) of San Luis Obispo County. He had a 42 year career as a city manager and county executive officer in four states including California

Shut Up And Act: ‘The Perfect Idiot’s Profession’ *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

only entertain?

“Show me a great actor and I’ll show you a lousy husband. Show me a great actress, and you’ve seen the devil.”

W.C. Fields

The 538 electors will convene around the country today to vote for the next president. On Election Day, Trump surpassed the necessary 270 electoral votes and won with a total of 306 electoral votes. But in the ensuing weeks, electors have been harassed, attacked, followed and threatened, and find themselves under pressure from politicians, mainstream news, and academia, and now, Hollywood actors, to change their votes.

Thirty-seven GOP electors would have to switch their votes to someone other than Trump to delay making his election official, which is highly unlikely.

Never before have the Democrat Party and its comrades in the main stream media, academia, government and Hollywood, dropped their mask of faux-patriotism to so blatantly reveal their Marxist agenda for all of America to see.

“Insecurity, commonly regarded as a weakness in normal people, is the basic tool of the actor’s trade.”

Miranda Richardson

The goal of the left is to subvert the President-elect at every step, if not actually overthrow him. Remember when George W. Bush was President and Hillary Clinton claimed dissent was the highest form of patriotism? Then Barack Obama was elected and the left claimed that dissent was racist, treasonous, unconstitutional and obstructionist. Now that Trump, a Republican, is headed for the White House, it’s patriotic once again to dissent.

The GOP establishment is even plotting Trump’s impeachment.

Obama took his parting shot in a recent speech, telling military service men and women not to obey

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Trump.

Let’s take a trip down memory lane with Obama: From his 2008 victory speech: “...generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth.”

These are just words from an empty suit.

(Continued on page 19)

Shut Up And Act: 'The Perfect Idiot's Profession' *Cont.*

(Continued from page 18)

The reality of Obama's presidency: Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq, China, Israel, Russia, Dakota pipeline, TPP, Worst Economic Numbers in 80 Years, Social Unrest, 95 million unemployed, GDP Barely Keeps Even With Rate Of Inflation, Obamacare, crippled Military, 250+ Executive Orders. Barack Obama is the most dishonest politician to ever serve as US president, and will go down in history as the Worst President Ever and likely a Marxist.

***"There are two types of actors: those who say they want to be famous and those who are liars."
Kevin Bacon***

Remember actors pitched Obamacare, even though none of them would ever use Obamacare for their health insurance. A key player behind FunnyOrDie.com collaborated with Team Obama "for months" to help pitch the health care overhaul, Newsbusters reported earlier this year. "Celebrities like Michael Cera, Jennifer Hudson, Kal Penn and Amy Poehler visited the White House to learn their marching orders to help pitch Obamacare. Olivia Wilde starred in a now embarrassing video about the glories of ObamaCare. Stars like John Legend, Mark Ruffalo, Rosario Dawson, Katy Perry, Kerry Washington, Sophia Bush, Connie Britton and Taye Diggs aggressively used Twitter to promote ObamaCare. Gabrielle Union and Aisha Tyler lent their voices to pro-ObamaCare propaganda for a Planned Parenthood campaign. Late Night with Seth Meyers debuted with guest Vice President Joe Biden promoting the reform."

Consider the source. They're actors.

***"Acting is the perfect idiot's profession."
Katherine Hepburn***

Katy Grimes, Investigative Reporter and Senior Correspondent at FLASHREPORT

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