Inside the October Issue:

Holy Bird And Bat Slaughter!  2
Climate Change Pimp Gov. Jerry Brown, Ignores Energy Jobs  3
Uncle Looney And Spartacus To The Rescue?  5
The Deadly Coyote Buffet  6
Bring Back Beanie Propeller Hats!  7
Santa Barbara Priest MIA!  9
The Battle Of Gates vs Ingrates  11
Hold The Crow And Pass Some Blame!  13
California’s Boondoggles Threaten Property Owners And Taxpayers  15
Nike Fallout Shows We’re A Nation Of Snowflakes  16

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Holy Bird And Bat Slaughter!

By Andy Caldwell

Here is your chance, Supervisor Das Williams! You want the South County to be off the grid as much as possible by having its own renewable power source, right? Well, Lompoc has just the right project for the Gaviota Coast, if you wouldn’t mind moving the project just a little bit towards your neck of the woods, er, coastline!

It is no mystery that I am not a fan of the California Environmental Quality Act, better known as CEQA. CEQA, in no uncertain terms, is California’s dream killer in oh so many ways. It not only requires endless analysis and review of any and all projects that have the slightest chance of having an environmental impact, it also welcomes endless litigation.

Now, to be clear, the concept of “environmental impacts” has morphed over the years. I have seen the county require mitigation because lichen on a boulder that needed to be moved was going to be disturbed. I have seen a single family home denied because people who lived on a hill high above the project just might be able to see it.

More precisely, we have seen numerous projects delayed for a decade or more, because the county, and the activists who love to major in the minors, via the machinations of CEQA, wanted to study alternative locations for the project. Think the Naples housing project on the coast, it has been through the CEQA ringer going on some 40 years now. Or, the Bacara resort! Surely, the decision-makers figured, there must be a better location to build it than the one owned by the project applicant?

Well, folks, the wind doesn’t only blow in Lompoc! It also blows along the Gaviota Coast and on the Channel Islands. And, since the county is determined to create a local renewable energy project in the south county, why not move this project from Lompoc to the south coast?

Moreover, due to the fact that Edison has put the South County on notice that it is planning on pulling the proverbial plug every time the wind starts to blow during a red flag fire alert, the timing is perfect. In other words, why not build an energy source for the south county that will actually generate power when the wind is blowing, instead of having your power turned off every time you get a wind event due to the threat of fire? Sounds practical doesn’t it?

Of course everything requires a tradeoff. Instead of looking at those relatively few off-shore derricks that produce energy 24/7 and support innumerable teeming masses of sea life underneath the surface of the water (they function as reefs), why not feast your eyes on thirty 500 foot wind towers looming over the coastline? No doubt this could be a big tourist draw. Birders could come here to watch endangered species meet their demise ala San Francisco’s Altamont Pass. That is, birds and bats falling from the sky like rain drops after meeting their fate via thirty giant (Continued on page 20)

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Climate Change Pimp Gov. Jerry Brown, Ignores Energy Jobs

By Katy Grimes

The doomsday predictions of global-warming alarmists would have us believe there are more droughts, more extreme hurricanes and tornados, that arctic snow caps are melting, and all coastal cities are in danger of rising seas.

Convinced the sky is falling, Henny Penny and a band of gullible friends march off to tell the king, only to meet their end at the hands of a wily fox. "The sky is falling!" Henny Penny said, in a silly tale about a chicken who believes the world is coming to an end.

Does this sound familiar? The defacto leader of “The Sky is Falling” Chicken Little Party, Gov. Jerry Brown warned in 2016, “If Trump turns off the satellites, California will launch its own damn satellite,” after he called Trump a “fraud” at the Democratic National Convention for his continued denial of global warming.

When President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Accord, California Gov. Jerry Brown said the world is only just beginning to feel the environmental harm inflicted by the Trump administration. “He has set in motion initiatives that will cause damage,” the Los Angeles Times reported Brown said, comparing the planet under Trump’s climate policies to a person who has just fallen from the top of the Empire State Building. “You are falling down four stories, but have 80 to go,” he said. “Maybe you are not damaged yet, but it is certain you will die.”

“The governor said his overriding concern is that global progress has stalled. ‘This is real,’ Brown said. ‘It is far more serious than anybody is saying.’"

Global Warming hypocrite Tom Steyer warned: “If Trump pulls the US out of the #ParisAgreement he will be committing a traitorous act of war against the American people.” Remember that Steyer made his billions on coal and oil.

The LA Times’ Evan Halper falsely reported, “Coal plants have continued shutting down at a brisk pace since Trump took office.”

Sorry Evan Halper… Even NPR disagrees.

When President Trump announced his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, he said he was putting American jobs ahead of the needs and desires of other countries.

My favorite money quote: “I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris,” Trump said in June 2017.

Trump said the agreement was “very unfair” for the U.S., especially the U.S. coal industry, NPR reported. And he reported good news for the battered industry: the development of new mines.

Yet doubling down once again, last week California Gov. Jerry Brown signed two bills making it all-but-impossible for the Trump administration to drill for oil in federal waters off California by banning any new infrastructure to support the projects.

Apparently, Gov. Brown hates the people of California who need jobs. Under his leadership, California has not only lost hundreds of thousands of voters and residents through outbound migration to Texas, Arizona, Nevada and Florida, the state has shifted to a part-time economy. Other than Silicon Valley, Hollywood, and a threatened agriculture industry, Democrats in California have shunned manufacturing jobs, and replaced them with part-time, minimum wage workers.

(Continued on page 19)
Governor Jerry Brown got one thing right. It truly is illogical, irresponsible, and unreasonable for activists to demand that we cut off oil production in this state until and unless consumer demands abate. Unfortunately, he is the same Governor who is willing to have California go it alone in order to reduce our climate footprint as he is ever-willing to cut off our nose to spite our face! That is, California is, despite all the virtue-signaling, an enormous pig when it comes to consuming energy.

Not all politicians are as pragmatic or double-minded. There have been numerous attempts to use state legislation and the courts to punish and sanction oil companies for doing nothing more than meeting consumer demands. These include outright bans against the use of fossil fuels, along with various legal challenges, including brazen attempts to criminalize and bankrupt the oil industry.

One attempt involved seventeen liberal state attorney generals, accompanied at a press conference by Al Gore, no less, announcing prosecutions against the oil industry for allegedly hiding the truth about climate change. The attorney generals likened the alleged conspiracy to that of the tobacco companies hiding the truth about the risks of cancer arising from the use of their products. In the meantime, a dozen or so conservative republican attorney generals have indicated they may do the opposite. That is, if it is a crime to minimize the risks of climate change, then it should also be a crime to exaggerate the same!

In the meantime, two cases against the oil industry have already been dismissed and the judgement of the courts are worthy of our consideration and reflection.

A federal district judge in San Francisco dismissed a lawsuit brought by the cities of Oakland and San Francisco who were seeking compensation from oil companies for the cost of fighting climate change, including protecting the municipalities from sea rise. The judge stated the obvious that “our industrial revolution and the development of the modern world has literally been fueled by oil and coal. All of us have benefitted. Having reaped the benefit of that historic progress, would it be fair to now ignore our own responsibility in the use of fossil fuels and place the blame for global warming on those who supply what we demanded?”

Meanwhile, in New York, another federal judge kicked some lawyers and their case to the curb when they tried to sue some major oil companies for creating a “public nuisance” by selling oil and gas! Judge John Keenan pointed out the utter hypocrisy of New York city, which had filed the suit, when he called attention to the fact that the city itself uses fossil fuels, thereby making it just as liable as the oil companies for contributing to the alleged public nuisance. What the judge stated rather plainly was that New York city continues to benefit from and participate in the use of fossil fuels as a source of power as they have been doing for decades.

There is not a single one of us that hasn’t greatly benefitted by using fossil fuels and their byproducts. Consumers should not demonize the producers while pretending to be victims.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press
The New York Times came out with the startling details about looney Sen. Bernie Sanders’ plans to offer anyone a federal job if they want it! The way Sanders figures, just about anybody can fill the positions available in child care and construction and, if all else fails, we can hire hordes of people for make-work jobs in “park maintenance”.

Would you trust your child to someone who the federal government hired, regardless of their qualifications? For as you know, Sanders wants to guarantee anyone and everyone a job despite the fact that some people don’t have jobs because they are not responsible enough to hold one in the first place, sans a guarantee from the government.

With regard to construction, has it ever dawned upon Sanders and the other democrats who are supporting his proposal, including Senator Cory Booker, aka Spartacus, that not everyone is cut out for a construction job? Besides the fact that these jobs are physically arduous, there are skill sets necessary to be a plumber, electrician, framer, and finish carpenter. Not just anybody can do these jobs. In fact, it can take years of training in order to qualify to work in most construction jobs. Is the federal government going to pay for training too? What about worker’s compensation insurance? A lot of people in construction, especially roofers, are subject to work-related accidents because the work is dangerous.

With regard to park maintenance, it is true that most people can pick up trash or rake leaves. But, that would be like China paying people to sweep streets with brooms in order to pretend they have full employment (this is probably where Bernie got the idea!). Unfortunately, these jobs that just about anybody can do, can more often than not be done by a machine. The harder jobs, such as fixing sprinklers, planting things and trimming trees, can be physically demanding and these jobs too require skills.

Of course, the one thing that escapes the attention of Sanders and his fellow democrats is the fact that there are job openings in the private sector right now in countless fields of employment! Count them, six million job openings in America have been created by way of the republican tax cuts and President Trump’s regulatory reset. Hence, there is no need for the dems to rescue the economy from success by creating make-work situations at the expense of taxpayers.

Sanders is floating this idea as a variation of a universal-guaranteed income in anticipation of masses of uneducated, unskilled and unmotivated workers about to be replaced by technology. Regardless, he is promising a job to all comers who lack a work ethic and/or the necessary skill sets to keep a job, many of whom possess numerous debilitating factors which pose a threat to anyone who would consider hiring them!

In the final analysis, Sanders is simply pandering for votes while he floats communist ideals. Unfortunately, the young ignoramuses among us love it so! Thankfully, the rest of us know that nothing in life is free, including a job.

*First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press*
The Deadly Coyote Buffet

By Andy Caldwell

Having grown up in Lompoc, I spent quite a lot of time at Surf Beach, the only beach easily accessible, at no charge, to valley residents. That is because both the state and the county charge for beach access while VAFB keeps all other area beaches off limits. Adding insult to injury, VAFB closes Surf Beach every year ostensibly out of concern for Snowy Plovers.

Snowy Plovers are tiny shore birds that are one of 65 sub-species of Plovers that are found throughout the world and on various beaches throughout Santa Barbara County, including at Coal Oil Point in Isla Vista. They are considered endangered. Yet, Surf Beach is the only beach I am aware of that gets closed to the public out of concern for the birds. Why is that?

What has never made sense about the Lompoc beach closure has to do with literally fatal logic in implementing the Endangered Species Act, along with disdain for residents of Lompoc, aka, the “armpit” of the county, per Salud Carbajal. With regard to the ESA, the act is guilty of restricting the activities of mankind as if humans are always the problem. Yet, when the subject of saving the snowy plovers at Surf Beach was originally studied, it was clear that 90% of the predation of the species was by coyotes!

Now, to help the Channel Islands go back to nature, after the farmers and ranchers were removed, the US Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy started slaughtering thousands of animals, including pigs. Well, it so happened that golden eagles were feasting on the piglets. When the pig population plummeted, the eagles started hunting kit foxes. The population of kit foxes plummeted. What to do? The US Fish and Wildlife Service started capturing and relocating the eagles!

Relatedly, even though 90% of the original plover predation at Surf Beach was due to coyote activity, mankind got kicked off the beach! Well, you don’t have to be a biologist to understand and appreciate that with humans and their beach-loving dogs gone, the coyotes began to enjoy a literal all-you-can-eat plover buffet. That is, until the government began extremely aggressive predator control there too. Coyotes are “dispatched” after being caught in a leg trap by way of a rifle or revolver. Another hunter, the raven, goes to the hereafter courtesy of a 12-gauge shotgun! Falcons? Well, they are the lucky ones. Being a protected species themselves, if they manage to get caught, they are relocated rather than “dispatched”.

Meanwhile, people get cited at Surf Beach for encroaching on the plover habitat, but I have yet to read about any humans actually contributing to the mortality rate of the species. Nonetheless, humans get kicked off the beach each and every year when the threshold for citations has been reached.

(Continued on page 18)
Bring Back Beanie Propeller Hats!
By Andy Caldwell

Still crazy after all these years! That pretty much sums up politics in the state of California! We are suffering from high energy prices, record poverty levels, unaffordable housing, unbearable traffic, failing infrastructure, and insurmountable debt. Instead of addressing these problems, that most other states manage to avoid, California keeps doubling down on lunacy. The way they figure, they can legislate scientific progress and discovery!

California just passed a law requiring the state to produce 100% of its electricity by 2045 from carbon-free sources. And, not far behind on this legislative platform, but not approved yet, is a proposal to ban the sale of gas and diesel-fueled vehicles altogether. Personally, I would rather we bring back beanie propeller hats! They were way ahead of their time.

What will it mean that no oil, gas, or coal generated power will be available to state residences and businesses in the future? It means that the companies currently producing and using these power sources will have to think twice about continuing to invest in this state. After all, the only other sources of power available produce only on an intermittent basis, that is, wind and solar. In view of the fact that our last state nuclear power source is closing prematurely due to overwrought environmental concerns, that will leave us with no large reliable source of base load power (power that is available 24/7) in this state.

Here in Santa Barbara County, the biggest fan of alternative energy scams, or sources, is Supervisor Das Williams. He would love to see enough green energy produced here that would allow our county to move towards green energy independence. But, has he or anyone else for that matter, figured out the cost of such a move?

The proposed wind energy project in Lompoc, that will consist of thirty 500 foot tall wind turbines, scattered and spaced over 3,000 acres of ag land, is expected to generate enough electricity, 102 megawatts, to power 44,000 homes. That is, of course, if and when the wind is blowing! Considering there are 142,000 homes in the county, that means we would have to construct some 90 of these wind turbines to produce just some of the power that we need. But, again, when the wind isn’t blowing, where would we get our energy from?

Well, some folks from around the country got together in New Orleans for an energy conference to discuss this issue. One of the keynote speakers was the Attorney General of Louisiana. He spoke of a study having to do with Houston, the fourth largest city in the country. If Houston were to rely on corn ethanol to replace fossil fuels, it would require over 21,000 square miles of cornfields! To produce the same amount of electricity from wind, it would take almost 900 square miles or 150 square miles of solar panels. Compare all that with the Diablo nuclear power plant. It produces 18,000 gigawatts of electricity all day long, all year long, rain or shine, on a 12 acre footprint, enough to serve nearly 10% of California’s energy supply, or 1.7 million homes!

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How could it be that some people have been camping in and around the Santa Ynez River as it courses through Lompoc for over 15 years? Well, as the saying goes, everyone was in charge but nobody was responsible! During my tour of the river bed, I kept asking how this could have gone on for so long? Everyone’s first answer was that homelessness is not a crime. And, in reply to my retort that squatter settlements are nevertheless illegal, well that is when things got tricky.

The river bed itself is owned by the city of Lompoc but it is under the jurisdiction of the county of Santa Barbara. If that is not confusing enough, smack dab in the middle of this city/county gray area is a piece of property owned by Caltrans, except that Caltrans didn’t know they owned it! Honest! This confusion resulted in upwards of 150 people living in a place the Lompoc police department rightly labeled “no man’s land”.

What was perhaps most amazing was the range of accommodations. There were two full-time construction workers who built a unit on a ledge below the bank of the river that probably could have met code requirements! They were not living in the river because they were poor; they were simply living tax and rent free!

Then, there was a man who built a three room hovel into the bank of the river. His place was surrounded by a fence with a gate and a door bell! How did he power the doorbell? With solar panels of course! He was not the only resident in no man’s land that had solar power. Several other residents had the same, including some of the people who lived in their own gated community and had formed their own homeless homeowners association to enforce rules and keep out the riffraff!

Along the way, there were some people living out of cars that had been abandoned in the riverbed years ago and some people that were living in conditions so squalid that living in a dumpster would have been more sanitary and appealing.

Regardless, all of the people are now being forced to move out. Why? Because things were getting out of control with respect to crimes being committed by people living in no man’s land. These crimes included robbery and theft in Lompoc, in addition to crimes committed against other residents of no man’s land including rape and sexual assault.

The city of Lompoc finally had enough and took it upon themselves to clear everybody out. But first, they had to ensure these people had a place to go, or else, some social justice warriors would have been sure to take them to court, as was the case in Orange County, where a judge ordered the county to provide housing at taxpayer expense for the displaced homeless.

(Continued on page 10)
Growing up Catholic in Lompoc, I cherish and value the sanctity, honor, respect, and solemnity of the faith that was inculcated in me. Fortunately, I knew nothing of the unspeakable and unholy tragedy that befell other boys in the church who suffered at the hands of priests who belonged in jail rather than before the altar. Looking back now, the child molesters who have since been exposed (albeit too few were prosecuted), including several here in Santa Barbara, were only the tip of Satan’s spear. That is, instead of being able to believe the worst is behind the church, we must now confront the fact that other heinous acts by wicked men were sanctioned to continue while the church only pretended to repent.

John Zmirak, PhD, is a devoted Catholic lay scholar, prolific author and senior editor of The Stream. In an interview last week, we discussed an article he wrote for The Stream concerning a Santa Barbara priest, Fr. Juan Carlos Gavancho, of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Another priest, Fr. John Zuhlsdorf informed Dr. Zmirak that Father Gavancho gave a powerful sermon a week ago demanding that the pope and bishops open up their record books on sex abuse. The day after, he was removed from his parish, his name was deleted from the church’s website and he was kicked out of the rectory. The parish insists, however, that his dismissal has nothing to do with the sermon.

Unfortunately, this pattern of dismissing priests who have been trying to blow the whistle on wicked men inside the church is an altogether too familiar pattern. Recently, the most senior whistle blower of all, the former ambassador of the Catholic Church to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, charged the Pope and several Cardinals with complicity in the current coverup that was recently exposed by a Pennsylvania Grand Jury, and the events that led to the dismissal of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. To make a long story short, the Catholic Church, far from distancing itself from an era in which it served as a protective haven for pedophiles, has managed to morph into a sanctioned cult of gay priests and bishops.

In the meantime, the Pope is pretending to be the silent martyr being burned at the stake of public opinion, while he sends his minions out to try and change the discussion. One such minion was Cardinal Cupich of Chicago who remarked that “the pope has more important stuff to talk about than sex abuse, including climate change and immigration. We are not going down a rabbit hole on this. And, the real reason the pope is under fire is because he is Latino”. Playing the race card Cardinal Cupich? Really?

Unfortunately, one reason the Cardinal was running interference for the Pope has to do with the fact that he himself, along with half of all the other senior leaders in the Catholic Church in America, all of whom were appointed or promoted by Pope Francis, were being named by Archbishop Vigano, as being implicit in the coverup of this scandal that could serve to destroy the church they vowed to serve and protect.

Less than one week after Cardinal Cupich issued his statement defending the Pope, he precipitously fell down that rabbit hole himself. As it turns out, two priests working in his diocese were arrested in Miami for having sex with one another in a car parked on a very busy street in broad daylight and in plain view of children who were passing by on their way home from school. Unfortunately, you cannot make this stuff up and no one can any longer deny what it all represents.

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Another interesting tidbit? The number of the homeless who arrived in Lompoc by way of Santa Barbara. Somebody in Santa Barbara keeps arranging rides for one person after another, ostensibly to get services at the Bridge House shelter, aptly named because it is near the river bridge in no man's land. These rides keep coming despite the fact that the Bridge House is always full!

What irks me about all of this, besides the human misery component, is that the County of SB managed to shut down youth soccer fields along this same section of the river because of zoning violations, but nobody seemed to care about all the violations being triggered by the homeless?

That is, we treat the homeless as perpetual helpless victims, instead of cognizant responsible adults, and the soccer kids as criminals?

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The Very Green Homeless HOA!  Cont.
The Battle Of Gates vs Ingrates

By Andy Caldwell

Last week, I wrote about the effort to crash the gate and storm the beach of the private, gated community of the Hollister Ranch. People live in gated communities for the same reason most people have a gate and fence around their yard. They want privacy and security. This is especially true for people with children and people of wealth and fame. There is nothing wrong with these values. In fact, they are universal values.

This effort to crash gates in order to force public access across private property is all too common. For example, the man who donated what is now Ellings Park found himself in tears. In return for giving the community a park, the County of Santa Barbara condemned a lot he owned for a thoroughfare! Currently, the Reagan Ranch is in court as the county is trying to force a public trail through the ranch despite the incredible security threat posed by the same to this national treasure.

In the case of the Hollister Ranch, ingrates have been trying to crash that gate for years. I don’t know why. I have been on that ranch. It has the same views of the same exact ocean as does all the other public access points along the coast, including the Gaviota beach park that lies just outside the gate. The same Gaviota beach that was given to the community by the Hollister family.

What’s the necessity of crashing the gate and violating the investment-backed expectations of the ranch residents who paid a small fortune for their privacy and security? You need to ask Assemblywoman Monique Limon and her partner in crime, State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, that question. They just orchestrated a rather violent overthrow of the property rights of the Hollister Ranch. They did so by way of a notorious dirty trick, taking unrelated legislation, gutting it and amending it, so that they could force the property access with no advance notice to anyone!

Ironically, more than a few people who live on the Hollister ranch are famous environmental philanthropists and political activists who give a significant amount of their money and support to the very people who are now hoisting them on their own petard! That is, they are now getting royally screwed by their own peeps. Regardless, the gate crashing is wrong. I would welcome them to come over and see the world from the COLAB perspective.

COLAB opts to protect both the environment and the economy by way of protecting private property rights. That is, private property is absolutely essential to the protection of both the environment and the economy. How so? Nobody in their right mind purposely destroys what they own. Conversely, socialist countries have the most atrocious environmental records on the planet!

There are many other gates along our coast, including those erected by our city and state government. And, surely, Ms. Limon and Ms. Jackson must personally own a gate or two! Channeling my inner Ronald Reagan, I say to them “Tear Down Your Gate” so we can walk through your property for a change.

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California’s Fake Real ID

By Andy Caldwell

It is official! California is a stand-alone banana republic! This is the direct result of its belligerence, indifference and ineptitude, in comparison to the rest of the nation! When airplane travelers leave the United States, they must have a passport in order to return. Well, soon you will need a passport to fly out of our once-great state!

The ability to use our old driver’s licenses to board planes or get into federal installations was to expire at the beginning of 2018. Fortunately, several states, including California, have been granted an extension to 2020. In the meantime, our DMV is falsely advertising that the new REAL ID’s are available here and now. The result is extremely long lines to obtain a driver’s license that the feds have still not approved as being in compliance with the law!

As a way of background, some thirteen years ago, the federal government put states on notice that they will require all state driver’s licenses to become compliant with a new standard dubbed “Real ID”. The purpose of the federal program was to create a form of identification that would not be easily duplicated by forgers, including would-be terrorists who might want to hijack another airplane ala 9/11.

Well, thirteen years later, with the mandate just around the corner, California has managed to not comply! That means, that people waiting in long lines at the DMV to get their new driver’s licenses will be, nonetheless, out of luck because the federal government has still not approved our CA version.

You have to wonder, just how hard could it be, since a majority of other states have managed to comply? Well, veteran Sacramento reporter, Katy Grimes, has ventured a guess! Despite the fact that the Department of Homeland Security has declined to answer her inquiry, she has questioned whether two legislative acts passed into law are part of the problem. First, the REAL ID requires gender identification, whereas, California passed the “Gender Recognition Act” which allows people to not only change their gender on their birth certificates and their driver’s license, but it also allows them to indicate their gender as “non-binary”.

Katy Grimes second question has to do with the driver’s licenses our state has issued to illegal aliens. To get a federally compliant REAL ID, the applicant must present a valid birth certificate, a social security card, and proof of citizenship and/or proof of legal residence in the United States. Finally, every state must agree to share its driver’s license data base with the feds and all other states!

Accordingly, Ms. Grimes rightly surmises that California may have something to hide. After all, CA has refused the opportunity to compare and contrast the data list of all the illegals who have been issued driver’s licenses with the state’s voter rolls! Perhaps, they think the feds might do just that once they gain access to our DMV files?

In the meantime, some republican lawmakers in the state, have asked for an audit of the DMV. Governor Brown and his fellow “banana republicans” declined, insisting there is nothing to see here, except the long lines and false ads!

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In the words of Hillary Clinton, “What difference does it make”?

Plains All American Pipeline company was charged with 46 counts of criminal wrongdoing as a result of a pipeline leak that occurred more than three years ago. At issue, was whether or not the company was negligent in maintaining the pipeline and in responding to the spill, including alerting all relevant authorities in accordance with established emergency response plans and protocols. As it turns out, three-quarters of the overwrought charges against Plains were dismissed. And, of the twelve that were applied, one was a specious felony. The rest were misdemeanors.

All but one of the misdemeanors had to do with the death of wildlife as a result of the spill. The felony count was for engaging in behavior the company knew or should have known would have caused the spill. This, despite the fact, that the company had conducted tests on the pipeline, that indicated the pipeline was sound, not long before the spill.

Now, with respect to the final misdemeanor count, it had to do with the fact that Plains made the call to federal authorities 25 minutes later than prescribed. However, these federal responders could be considered blameworthy themselves! How so? Even though the federal response team wouldn’t arrive until the next day, part of their standard protocol has it that the locals are not to start any clean up on the beach and in the water until they get there! Why? The feds believe local responders will only make things worse.

Truth be told, our county fire department has experience in dealing with a variety of emergencies, including oil spills. And, ironically, the fire department, which happens to be the first responder in these type of situations, was already on site that day before anyone else knew there was a spill! They were on site to conduct an emergency practice drill with Plains no less. How did that go by the way?

To this day, I have wondered how long it should have taken the county to send a bulldozer or two to the site of the leak, and another to the beach, along with a convoy of vacuum trucks, in order to minimize the damage? Instead, there is reason to believe the call that was 25 minutes late, ended up creating a 24-hour delay in the cleanup operation. Regardless, the company was prosecuted as if everything was their fault alone.

In the end, the verdicts exonerated Plains with regard to deliberately causing the spill. Nevertheless, the various government attorneys prosecuting the company want to crow about their relatively hollow victory of sorts which neither accomplished or proved much of anything. That has to do with the fact that Plains accepted full responsibility for the spill almost immediately, meaning they have not balked at paying for the cleanup. And, while the government and other parties, who claim to have been injured by this accident, will continue to exact their pound of flesh, Mother Nature will continue to dump the same amount of oil into our local waters every 14 days by way of natural seeps!

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Activists Playing Kids Like A Pinata!

By Andy Caldwell

In the name of bridging differences between those of diverse backgrounds and cultures to strengthen our schools and communities, the non-profit Just Communities is promoting racism and stereotypes against white people!

The Santa Barbara school curriculum by Just Communities defines racism as “A system of oppression based on race that privileges white people and targets people of color”. The definition of oppression sounds eerily familiar: “A system that benefits some groups (often called ‘privileged’ white groups) and disadvantages other groups (often called target groups people of color)”. The kids who are going to be indoctrinated, er, educated about all the racist white people out there should follow the money. For instance, Just Communities was given over $30,000 by the Fund for Santa Barbara. Where did the Fund get its money? The original money source is the McCune Foundation which gave the Fund For Santa Barbara and the Just Communities organization upwards of $200,000 over the past couple of years.

Ironically, the McCune Foundation board is predominately lily white, with one notable exception. That would be Marcos Vargas who sits on the board and is the executive director of the Fund for Santa Barbara! So, are the McCune board members simply repentant liberals trying to assuage a guilty conscience? Or, most likely, are they a bunch of political activists who want to play the Latino kids in Santa Barbara like a pinata? That is, striking their minds and their collective conscience with propaganda, insults and innuendos until they have become soldiers in the resistance against the American ideal?

It is no coincidence that the logo of this “Ethnic Studies Now” program is a raised fist which has always symbolized resistance and defiance against the established order. The goal of this effort is to create militancy by leading young people to believe they are victims in our society rather than positioning them for success by virtue of everything this country has to offer. How appalling that some of the kids targeted by this program are immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants. The immigrant parents of these kids so believed in America that they risked everything so that their kids could have a bright future here. Instead of building on that reasonable hope, activists, including education establishment bureaucrats, would rather indoctrinate these kids to believe they can’t get ahead because our country exists to protect white privilege. Do explain then, how an immigrant, Salud Carbajal, became our congressman? Or, how another local son of an immigrant, Abel Maldonado, became our Lt. Governor?

Perhaps the curriculum should look at the future racists-in-training in organizations these kids will certainly be familiar with, Mecha and La Raza. While it is hard to distinguish the two, if in fact they are not one and the same organization, they are certainly part of the same movement. Both exist to foment a revolution among Latino youth in an effort to declare Chicano power and to declare independence and liberation from the American ideal, if not America itself! Mecha wants to liberate Aztlan from the United States. It is therefore an organization founded in separatism, Raza, for its part, exists to promote the race, that is one race, Latino. It is therefore a racist organization by its own declaration. So, how is it that young Latino’s can condemn white people for being racists while not condemning organizations who have obvious aspirations of their own towards those same ends?

Any bet that the Santa Barbara public school district curriculum spends precious little time explaining the uniquely American wonder of the melting pot and our historic national motto E Pluribus Unum?

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California’s Boondoggles Threaten Property Owners And Taxpayers

By Jon Coupal

One would hope that with the profound foolishness associated with California’s infamous High Speed Rail (HSR) project that our elected leadership would have learned a thing or two.

But this is California. Because we do things bigger and better than anyone else, it’s apparent that one massive boondoggle isn’t enough — we need two.

Let’s recap what we’ll call Boondoggle, Senior.

The complete dysfunction of HSR is no longer in dispute. Missed deadlines for the business plans, lack of transparency, massive cost overruns, engineering hurdles that make the project virtually impossible to complete and a lack of funding are tops on the list. Not only is HSR no longer viable, but the biggest irony is the project was justified on grounds that it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Even there it fails, as the independent Legislative Analyst has concluded that the project will be a net GHG producer for the foreseeable future.

HSR is now an international joke. Many who originally supported the High Speed Rail project have changed their opinions, including a former Chairman of the HSR Authority.

Boondoggle, Junior, is the planned construction of the Twin Tunnels project through the Sacramento River Delta, also known as WaterFix. While there is no doubt that California needs additional water infrastructure — and the dams and canals we have now are in need of serious maintenance — Governor Brown’s Twin Tunnel project suffers from the same major flaw as High Speed Rail — an abject lack of planning and no vision for how the project will be funded.

Like the High Speed Rail project, the financing for the Twin Tunnels is illusory. Many of the potential major wholesale customers of water from the Twin Tunnels are highly skeptical of its viability and balk at paying for it. The one exception is the Metropolitan Water District in the greater L.A. area, which has now said it will pay for the full project. Of course, that means its customers will pay.

Lack of transparency is another quality the Twin Tunnels project shares with HSR. Earlier this week, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee held a hearing that opened the way for an extension of the long-term contracts for the State Water Project for another 50 years. (The hearing was supposed to be conducted in the waning days of the Legislative session, but because the topic is so controversial, it was delayed until after everyone left town.)

Amendments to the water contracts that have raised eyebrows are the elimination of a restriction that says bonds cannot be used for any project built after 1987 and a provision that removes the requirement for consensus among the water contractors. This could allow a majority of agencies to run roughshod over those who object.

Finally, the real threat from the manner in which water issues are being jammed through a backroom process is the potential for unvoted property tax increases to pay for the Twin Tunnels project.

Taxpayer advocates will continue to monitor this unfolding controversy and do what is necessary to ensure the much needed transparency that is currently lacking. And, of course, if the ultimate outcome envisions property tax hikes that are not approved by the voters who will have to pay them, the next step will be a trip to the courthouse that will be much faster than any High Speed Rail project.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.
Nike Fallout Shows We’re A Nation Of Snowflakes

By Steven Greenhut

Perhaps it’s the fault of social media or a president who acts like the star in a reality TV show, but Americans increasingly are fixated on the “big kerfuffle of the day.” We go from one tempest in a teapot to the next, with culture warriors expressing anger, shock and outrage. If you’re genuinely offended by an advertisement designed to sell athletic gear, then you need a reality check. Calm down. Take a deep breath. Stay off of Facebook for an hour. Hug your children.

There’s a danger in writing about a California Democratic Party official’s now-abandoned call for a boycott of our state’s beloved In-N-Out burger because the company gave a piddling donation to the GOP. Or in mentioning Nike’s ad celebrating a former quarterback who is known for kneeling rather than throwing. That danger: By the time you read this, everyone will be typing Twitter diatribes about some new affront to their sensibilities.

Hence, I’m trying to take a step back. Americans have a problem. We’ve become a nation of snowflakes. We get offended by everything. Apparently, many of us have such little meaning in our lives that we want to signal our virtues by boycotting companies that make donations or place ads we don’t like. We make everything about politics, as if that’s the highest value in life.

Enough already. But first everyone has to recognize their culpability. Typically, the term “snowflake” has applied to liberal social-justice warrior college students who spend their time shouting down conservative speakers and ranting about male white privilege. They drive me crazy. But as a libertarian who criticizes liberals and conservatives, I’ve found that adult conservatives are as given to “snowflakery” as anyone else. The Nike ad suggests as much.

When NFL players took a knee to protest police abuse and other perceived injustices, conservatives demanded that the NFL force them to stand up in respect to the American flag. They chided players as coddled millionaires. I agree that the NFL, as a private organization, can set whatever employment terms that it chooses, but the NFL shouldn’t take taxpayer subsidies, either. Nor should it have taken millions of dollars from the Pentagon to turn football games into military pageants.

But we know the people upset at the kneeling aren’t making a nuanced point about subsidies and private employment contracts. They see it as disrespect for the flag and they want it to stop. Now. They’re often unsympathetic to the concerns the athletes are raising, some of which seem legitimate and others that

(Continued on page 17)
Nike Fallout Shows We’re A Nation Of Snowflakes  Cont.

seem overwrought or misguided. These critics aren’t defending Nike because it’s a private company after it featured an advertisement with Kaepernick’s face and the words: “Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything.”

I found the ad pretentious. Kaepernick believes in something, which is good. But he hardly sacrificed everything. But who cares? It’s an advertisement for clothing. I doubt the angry people who are cutting their Nike logos off of their clothing or burning their own sneakers are Nike’s target audience. The company, whose stock dipped after the publicity, is sophisticated enough to have anticipated the blowback and figured that the publicity it received from this culture battle would help with its customer base.

Like the NFL, Nike is a private company and it can do what it chooses in its ads. I have zero concern about Nike stock one way or the other, and generally don’t pay attention to advertisements except during the Super Bowl (where they often are more entertaining than the game). When it comes to football, I share George Will’s sentiments: The game combines the two worst things in American society, “violence punctuated by committee meetings.”

The Facebook memes in response to the Nike ad have been brutal, though. Conservatives put former NFL player Pat Tillman’s face on the ad. Unlike Kaepernick, Tillman indeed sacrificed everything by serving in the military after 9/11. However, Tillman died tragically by friendly fire in Afghanistan. The Pentagon was accused of covering up the cause of death, which is a much more troubling thought than kneeling players. Another meme suggested that if people don’t like players who kneel, they should ignore it – like they ignore war, police abuse and the national debt. Ouch.

My favorite meme placed Jonestown cult leader Jim Jones on the ad. My takeaway: It’s important not just to believe in something, but to believe in the right things. One of those is the right of Americans to protest. I recently participated in debates in lefty Santa Monica and Berkeley. These were not friendly arenas for my anti-rent-control opinions, but everyone was polite. I left feeling hopeful that if we spent less time

on social media reacting to the outrages of the day and more time engaging our neighbors, we might have a happier and more civil society. And there might be fewer snowflakes.

Steven Greenhut is senior fellow and Western region director of the R Street Institute.
If all Snowy Plovers are protected to the same extent by the law, how come no citations are issued and no beach closures occur at Coal Oil Point? And, who gave government officials the authority to decide which animals live and who dies in purely natural settings? Whereas, some people could argue that pigs and sheep didn’t belong on the Channel Islands in the first place, who can blame one coyote from saying to another, “Hi, Let’s Eat” (that was the name of Lompoc’s favorite eatery) when they happen upon snowy plovers at the beach?

Is it morally and ethically right to kill coyotes to save birds? What unintended consequences are occurring as a result, considering that coyotes and other predators have a vital role to play in the balance of nature and the food chain? I thought these people believed in Darwin?

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Brown never addresses that energy costs in California are among the highest in the nation, and only continue to increase due to the California’s mandates of renewables in electricity production.

(Continued from page 3)

who need welfare to make ends meet.

There is one exception: Oil industry jobs. California boasts 360,000 jobs in the oil industry. Yet to hear Gov. Brown talk, he despises the oil industry.

Following the latest bill signing, Brown said in a statement: “California’s message to the Trump administration is simple: Not here, not now. We will not let the federal government…destroy our treasured coast.”

The climate change hysteria is so vast, CBS reports, “UN says number of hungry people worldwide is growing, with climate change partly to blame.” The UN claims climate change is “wreaking havoc on crop production” in much of the developing world, the United Nations said Tuesday, CBS News reported.

California politicians have gloated over being the first state to enact such aggressive green energy and greenhouse gas busting policy, but have yet to produce any proof that these oppressive and business-killing laws have had any “green” results.

How To Power The Future

I spoke with Daniel Turner, founder of Power The Future, and organization dedicated to the men and women who “power the future” through energy jobs. Turner and Power The Future are an all-of-the-above supporter of energy production. Hear! Hear! This is exactly what California needs, not Gov. Brown’s recent approval of Senate Bill 100, setting a 100 percent clean electricity goal for the state, and issued an executive order establishing a new target to achieve carbon neutrality – both by 2045.

Ironically perhaps, Brown kicked off his 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, Wednesday, and welcomed China’s 120-plus attendees – the largest country delegation at the event –

As Daniel Turner points out, China is the world’s number one polluter, exempt from the sacred Paris Climate Accord, and the land of forced child labor in coal mines. It’s odd Brown would welcome this, yet he rolled out the red carpet for the Chi-Coms.

Turner and I discussed several issues:
Cuisinarts in the sky.

Isn't it ironic that oil companies get prosecuted or fined for accidental and incidental impacts to wildlife, but Mother Nature, by way of natural oil seeps, presents harm to sea life 24/7? What’s worse? While oil leaks are rare and accidental, the wholesale slaughter of bats and birds by wind turbines is considered routine and unavoidable! This slaughter, sanctified on an altar of political correctness, is simply considered the cost of doing business. How could so many people blithely ignore the teeming ocean life supported by offshore oil platforms, while justifying the vicious slaughter of birds and bats by wind turbines?

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In 2017, A Los Angeles Times Report Found That Despite California Using 2.6% Less Electricity Than In 2008, Residential And Business Customers Pay $6.8 Billion More For Power Than In 2008. “Although California uses $2.6% less electricity annually from the power grid now than in 2008, residential and business customers together pay $6.8 billion more for power than they did then.” (Ivan Penn and Ryan Menezes, “Californians Are Paying Billions For Power They Don’t Need,” Los Angeles Times, 2/5/17)

Since 2008, Electric Rates In California, Adjusted For Inflation, Have Increased 12% While Declining Almost 3% Elsewhere In The United States. Los Angeles Times

The other important issue we discussed is the vast untapped energy resources in the Monterey Shale Oil Reserve. Since Jerry Brown was reelected Governor in 2011, I’ve been writing about California’s Monterey Shale formation:

“California sits on two-thirds of America’s shale oil reserves. The Monterey Shale Formation is four times the size of the Bakken Shale Reserve in North Dakota, which is now the largest oil producer in the country behind Texas.

Along the Western side of the San Joaquin Valley in the middle of the state, the Monterey Shale Formation encompasses several hundred miles, where water has dried up and unemployment is the highest in the state.”

A study found that exploiting Monterey shale could generate up to 2.8 million new jobs and add 14 percent to the state’s GDP by 2020, near the peak of production. Instead, California’s Governor wants to ban the sale of internal combustion passenger vehicles in the state, and has signed legislation to mandate 100% renewable energy by 2045.

Most countries around the world think that it’s a good thing to have cheap energy. But in California, we have plenty of cheap energy available, just not the political will to access it. The state is awash in ultra cheap natural gas, yet in California, our corrupt government finds a way to create an energy shortage, and charge rate payers the highest rates in the country.

It’s as if Gov. Jerry Brown is trying to destroy California.

Katy Grimes, Investigative Reporter and Senior Correspondent at FLASHREPORT