

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



Wendy McCaw Co-Publisher
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GUEST OPINION

This incident is especially egregious in view of Mr. Morua's past history of DUIs and Mrs. Capps' implausible denial that she knew anything of his troubled past, including his time in jail while he was associated with her office.

Capps right behind Morua in fleeing the scene?

Congresswoman Lois Capps should either explain fully and truthfully, or resign. That is my opinion of the situation involving her culpability in the death of Mallory Dies, who was tragically run down by an inebriated driver who had several previous DUIs, including a hit-and-run. This young man, a decorated veteran who had so much going for him, was Raymond Morua, Mrs. Capps' field representative.



Andy Caldwell

during the course of the Lance investigation. Second, Mr. Lance has discovered that Mrs. Capps' district director, Mollie Culver, allegedly went so far as to forge Veterans Administration documents in an attempt to get Mr. Morua out of jail, out of town, and into a treatment facility. Was this simply damage control? If not, why go so far as to forge the documents as if time was

of the essence? Why was Ms. Culver so desperate to get Mr. Morua into a treatment facility? He wasn't going anywhere at the time.

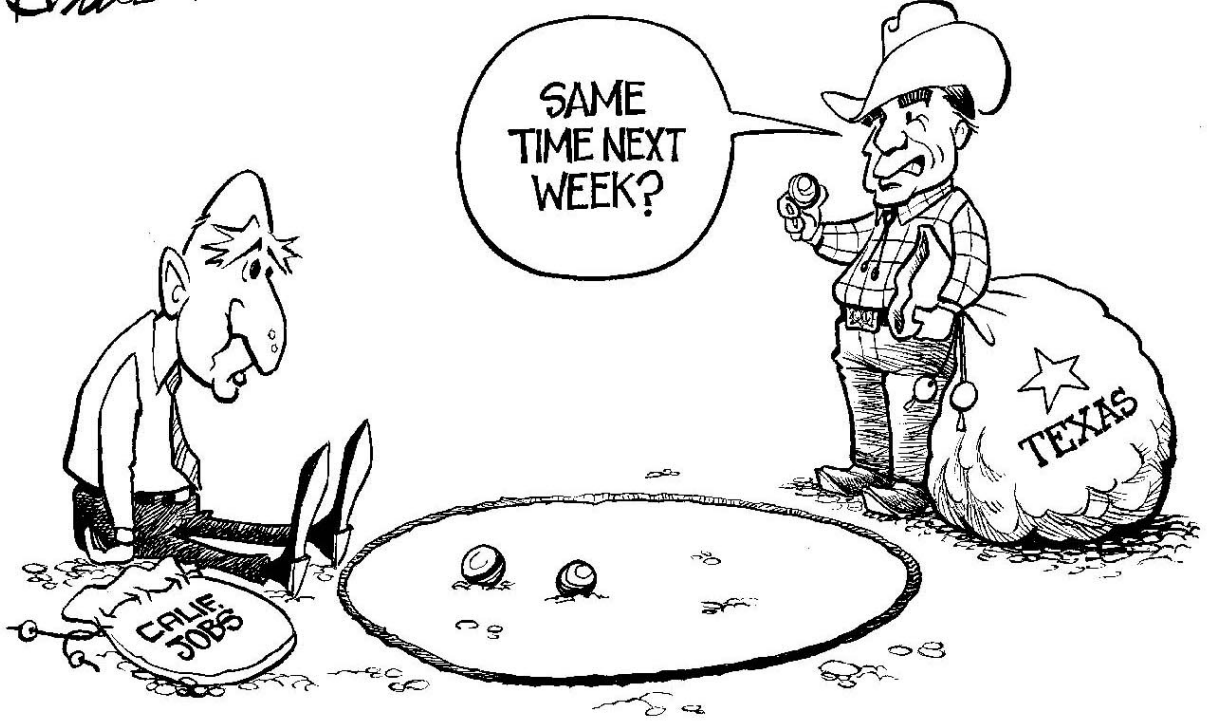
Third, the attorney representing Mrs. Capps and the federal government in this case sent a request to District Attorney Joyce Dudley to identify and segregate what she called sensitive information on Mr. Morua's phones which were confiscated in the course of the investigation. The Lance investigative report indicates that a review by Mr. Morua's attorney of the phone/text records shows some data is now missing, including a text that was included in the initial police report. The text, discovered during the course of the on-scene accident investigation, was sent just moments before Mr. Morua was arrested. It read: "Baby I'm done".

There is nothing but tragedy in this affair. Many lives have been ruined. To expedite healing, only Mrs. Capps can help the Dies family avoid the further pain, grief and vexation of a court hearing by telling the truth about what she knew and when she knew it.

Mrs. Capps needs to come clean and quit hiding behind her attorney and staff. She owes that much to Mallory Dies' family and the public. Mrs. Capps needs to categorically prove that she and her staff have not been continually lying to the public throughout this ordeal. Either that, or I believe it is time for her to tell her constituents that she too is done — as our representative, that is.

Andy Caldwell is the executive director of COLAB and host of the Andy Caldwell Show, weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on News-Press Radio AM 1290.

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LETTERS TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Where are the yellow flowers?

Ever since my grandmother resettled the family ranch in Santa Barbara County 16 years ago, I can remember every spring there has been thousands of little yellow flowers littering the rocky hills to the barren landscape above Ojai and in the Cuyama Valley. It would seem that this year, due to the lack of precipitation, we are not getting to experience this yellow field phenomenon. Usually the flowers are so prevalent that they can be seen in images from outer space showing up as a yellow band across the area that they inhabit.

That is not to say that there hasn't been any moisture to occupy the area at all this winter season. Even without the yellow flowers, the bit of green that does take over the valley is a pleasant sight amongst the juniper trees, when compared to the drab brownness that our eyes can get used to seeing out in the high coastal ranges.

These bits of green and pocket sized amounts of yellow are enough to alert the senses that spring is in the air. The greenery and springtime wildlife of this area are a refresher to the senses. State Route 33 leading from Ojai up to the Cuyama Valley is one of the most inspiring springtime drives I could recommend to anyone looking for a great Sunday drive — despite this lack of normalcy this year.

Justen Christensen
New Cuyama

Earth Day: Fun and educational

When I saw the subheading on page A1 of last Sunday's News-Press, describing the Earth Day festival as "half fun, half education," my first thought was "What was the rest of it?"

Surely the fun and educational parts aren't disjointed, so together they would comprise the whole thing. Although I didn't attend this year, I'd guess it was almost all fun and almost all educational. In fact, I believe that educational activities are far more effective when they're also fun. That's my philosophy for the math camps I run too!

Skona Brittain
Goleta

A cure for unemployment

Is chronic unemployment unsolvable? Absolutely not. There are no jobs, companies claim, yet on the front lines help is desperately needed. You anxiously turn to customer support, but you know the routine: "All of our service representatives are helping other callers. Please stay on the line and someone will assist you shortly."

Like maybe next week? What about hiring more people? That is why I am proposing federal legislation requiring corporations to hire 10 million telephone service representatives. My plan will end unemployment and bring wait time to zero.

But how will companies pay for it? By significantly reducing exorbitant CEO pay and diverting that money to raise current service representative wages, plus hiring 10 million more. After all, when did you ever reach a corporate CEO when you needed assistance? Isn't it the person who answers the phone who is the face of the organization and can make or break the company? Furthermore, I don't mean outsourcing new telephone ser-

CHOICE WORDS

Who says the Republicans have no "replacement" plan? Try the plan that's been replaced — free enterprise. The plan that built America.

Rik Peirson,
Santa Barbara

vice representative jobs overseas. Rather, bring existing overseas jobs back to the United States, and when hiring new telephone services representatives, hire Americans only.

The benefits are obvious: pay corporate CEOs what they are really worth, bring jobs home, eliminate unemployment totally, and experience more immediate customer service. Take action now. Telephone your local legislators. Request they support The Telephone Service Representative Unemployment Reduction Act of 2014. If they tell you they never heard of it, advise them to stay on the line; they are busy but someone will assist them shortly.

Bernie Schaeffer
Goleta

Thoughts on our population

In Andy Caldwell's "Guest Opinion" of April 30, he writes: "... by the year 2100 we will be in a negative death spiral. The world's population will shrink by 25 percent to 6 billion. The impacts of the resultant upheaval are almost unimaginable. Japan will have ceased to exist. Europe will be an Islamic state."

He is right that the world economy is going to experience some bad times, because it is built on the assumption of unlimited growth. Unlimited growth in a finite world is an impossibility. I presume that last statement is the "lie" that his expert demographers have exposed.

He may be right on the timing; efforts to perpetuate an economy based on unlimited growth may "hit the fan" by 2100, and it is not going to be stopped by encouraging women to have more babies. Mother Earth cannot support 6 billion humans forever. The overpopulation deniers are as foolish as the climate change deniers.

Eugene W. Peterson
Santa Barbara

Obamacare: The game of shell

A recent letter suggested that misinformation about Obamacare is coming from Republicans. Really? Let's rewind the tape.

In 2009, cameras rolled a little early before an Obama press conference, catching presidential aides handing out white coats to doctors — as props — to convey the support of Obamacare by the medical community. Were Republicans responsible?

Was it misinformation by the Republicans that the Louisiana Purchase and the Cornhusker Kickback were required to seal the deal, that if we wanted to keep our doctor or plan, we could? This came from the big-

gest Democrat of them all, over and over, right through the election, when we were apparently convinced. That 7.1 million had "signed up" by March 31, with no "breakdowns" available of who was young or old, who had been insured before, or who had actually paid?

By 3 p.m. the day after the Oscars, Amazon knew exactly who had bought a certain book, based on the awards (19 million). And what's important: They knew 100 percent had paid.

Did economist Paul Krugman really say that the cost of Obamacare in New York is "less than half" of what it was? What, due to subsidies? So while some New Yorkers are paying less, the actual cost has just been shifted in the ongoing game of shell — to you and me.

Who says the Republicans have no "replacement" plan? Try the plan that's been replaced — free enterprise. The plan that built America.

Rik Peirson
Santa Barbara

Affordable Care Act here to stay

Republican predictions that the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) would be a disaster have turned out to be baseless as the law is helping millions of Americans get health insurance.

The Republicans are beating a dead horse as the ACA is turning out to be a very positive experience, with 8 million people already signed up and millions more waiting in the wings to come on board as they see the low rates and realize they can't be denied coverage because of pre-existing health conditions. The Affordable Care Act is here to stay.

And besides, what is the GOP's alternative for the Affordable Care Act? All we've heard from Tea Party Republicans for years have been lies and unrelenting smear tactics against the ACA. I'm sure most Americans would take health care in the hand over "do-nothing" Republican talk and promises.

The Affordable Care Act is working and working well, and the Obama administration expects millions more to sign up in the next enrollment period starting Nov. 15.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

YOUR TURN

Your opinions are valuable contributions to these pages.

Letters must be fewer than 250 words and exclusive to the News-Press. We edit all submissions for length, clarity and professional standards. We do not print submissions that lack a civil tone, allege illegal wrongdoing or involve consumer complaints.

Limit your letters to one every 30 days. All letters must include the writer's address and telephone number for verification. We cannot acknowledge unpublished letters.

We prefer e-mailed submissions. Do not send attachments. Send letters to voices@newspress.com. Writers also may fax letters to 966-6258. Mail letters to P.O. Box 1359, Santa Barbara 93102.

The News-Press reserves the right to publish or republish submissions in any form or medium.

The News-Press also publishes a select number of longer commentaries daily and Sunday. Please direct questions to 564-5215.

I commend Measure M proponents for their concern to improve the county's infrastructure, but this should not come at the price of crippling critical programs and public safety.



Joyce Dudley

Measure M would be costly for S.B. County

Measure M would adjust spending priorities in the county of Santa Barbara in a way that could cripple law enforcement and other essential services.

It is a well-intentioned but poorly conceived proposal that would cost the county of Santa Barbara millions of dollars per year.

Of great concern is that Measure M mandates the spending of money, without providing the source of the funding.

In recent years the county, and cities within it, have lost too many positions and millions of dollars. Public safety, public services, social services and environmental activities have all been affected.

Measure M could ultimately jeopardize county functions that are already on the margin.

Public safety, mental health, jails, probation, truancy prevention, libraries, parks, beaches, public health, animal welfare and control, as well as services for children, seniors, and veterans, could all be cut dramatically — or in some cases entirely eliminated.

The county has an annual budget of more than \$800 million, but only about \$200 million of this is discretionary. More than 60 percent of county discretionary funds go to public safety. There simply is no way to fund Measure M without significant cuts to public safety or an increase in taxes.

Measure M would, in all likelihood, result in fewer sheriff's deputies and firefighters. As a result of the cuts that Measure M would cause, pressure would grow for tax increases along with new fees and charges. Further, if funding were required for a county emergency, such as new water supplies to deal with the drought, it would not be available.

Measure M is opposed by many county leaders, including four of the five current supervisors — Salud Carbajal (1st District), Janet Wolf (2nd District), Doreen Farr (3rd District), and Steve Lavagnino (5th District) — and by recent past supervisors Joni Gray and Joe Centeno. County Sheriff Bill Brown strongly opposes Measure M, as do Carpinteria Mayor Brad Stein and Goleta Mayor Michael Bennett.

I commend Measure M proponents for their concern to improve the county's infrastructure, but this should not come at the price of crippling critical programs and public safety.

Please join us in voting against Measure M.

Joyce Dudley is district attorney of Santa Barbara County.