



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XIV No. 11

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

November 2016

www.basslakeaction.org



Supervisor-elect John Hidahl

HIDAHL TOPS GAINES FOR EL DORADO COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 1 SEAT

John Hidahl beat Beth Gaines in a race to succeed Supervisor Ron Mikulaco in District 1, which represents El Dorado Hills.

In the biggest race of the night, El Dorado Hills Fire Department director John Hidahl defeated Assemblywoman Beth Gaines for El Dorado County supervisor.

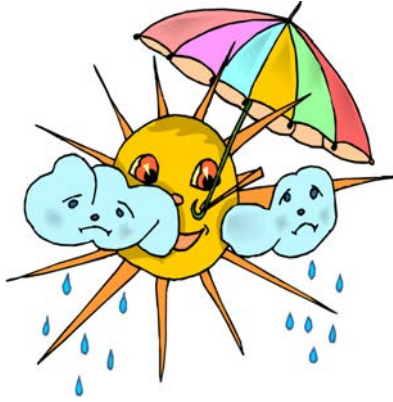
With all precincts reporting, Hidahl won 57.5 percent of the roughly 14,039 votes cast, while Gaines garnered just over 42 percent.

The District 1 contest, representing El Dorado Hills, featured some testy attacks. Gaines portrayed Hidahl as a fiscally irresponsible Democrat in a largely conservative county.

Hidahl said Gaines had only recently moved from Placer County to El Dorado County and that the Republican lawmaker has her eye on a state Senate seat down the road.

That seat is currently held by her husband, Ted Gaines, who won handily Tuesday but eventually will be termed out. ~

Credit: Kevin Yamamura and Hudson Sangree, Sacramento Bee



LA NIÑA PHENOMENON ARRIVES IN CALIFORNIA

What that means for the drought

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released its winter outlook, showing a potentially wetter-than-usual winter in Washington state and expected normal conditions, with the five-year drought likely to continue, for California.

La Niña has arrived, bringing California the possibility of a relatively dry winter.

La Niña is part of a larger weather phenomenon known as El Niño Southern Oscillation, a fluctuation in the surface sea temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. While El Niño events feature unusually warm sea temperatures near the Equator, a La Niña is characterized by unusually cold water temperatures in the same region. La Niñas generally occur rather erratically, about once every three to five years, and typically last between 9 and 12 months. They often, but not always, follow on the tails of an El Niño.

In Spanish, “la niña” means “the little girl.” It got its name as a direct response to the phrase “El Niño,” which means “the little boy,” the Spanish diminutive often used to denote the Christ Child. El Niño was originally named in the 19th century, when Peruvian sailors noticed that every few years, around Christmas time, coastal waters warmed, and the Pacific Ocean current shifted southward. The term La Niña was eventually adopted to describe the op-

(continued on page 2)



EDH RESIDENTS GET LESSON ABOUT CRIME

El Dorado Hills residents filled Fire Station 85 last month to learn more about crime deterrence, how to keep your home secure from break-ins, Assembly Bill 109 (prison realignment), Proposition 47 (safe neighborhoods and schools act) and Proposition 57.

Sacramento County Sheriff Department’s Dan Donelli shared with the audience his tips on how to stay safe.

“Lock all vehicles and home entry doors, including your garage to home door at night, trim any bushes, flowers or trees in front of your home that a potential burglar could hide behind, keep porch and driveway lights on, at least on motion, and walk around your property and think of what you would do if you were a criminal who will wonder if the target house has surveillance and a security screen door,” Donelli advised.

“Typically people who break into your home try to keep it under a minute. With the knowledge I have about the burglaries that have happened up here, it’s about the same time frame,” he continued. “Have a plan and visualize it, and if you see something, say something.”

Donelli also suggested replacing the hardware around doors with longer screws v. shorter ones, making the doors harder to get into. Donelli brought a handful for participants to take home; the screws can also be picked up at hardware stores.

A handout was also provided explaining how AB 109 and Prop. 47 are contributing to crime.

(continued on page 2)

LA NIÑA *(continued)*

posite effect.

With the state entering its fifth year of drought, the National Weather Service made it official recently, following weeks of speculation, declaring that the country will see a winter of La Niña.

Jim Mathews, a weather service forecaster in Sacramento, said the phenomenon is expected to bring somewhere between a normal or somewhat drier winter.

“The odds favor normal to below-normal (precipitation) for us, for Northern California,” he said.

But he said a lot of uncertainty persists. Northern California just finished one of its wettest Octobers on record, and more rain is expected next Tuesday and Wednesday. But the effects of La Niña won’t really begin to be felt until December.

“We’re just getting into the winter season,” he said.

The La Niña phenomenon often follows an El Niño season. Last winter was one of the strongest El Niño seasons on record, although it only brought normal levels of precipitation in Northern California and below-normal rains in Southern California.

This year’s La Niña effect is weak, leading other California forecasters to express doubt that it will bring more dry weather to California.

State Climatologist Michael Anderson said La Niña tends to create a looping jet stream centered around high pressure in the Pacific Ocean. If the high pressure anchors around the international dateline, La Niña tends to bring wetter weather to North America. If it centers in the eastern Pacific, it tends to bring drier weather. If it moves around, the results are periods of wet and dry weather.

“Right now, it’s looking like choice three,” he said, referring to a looping jet stream with a shifting high pressure center – and mixed periods of wet and dry weather.

Bill Patzert, an oceanographer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, said the effects of the La Niña in California are likely to be “pretty marginal” though it seems to be contributing to drought conditions in the American Southeast.

“It’s feeble,” Patzert said of this year’s La Niña. “In some ways that is good news. A weak to non-existent La Niña opens the door to north Pacific storms and atmospheric rivers like we had last month.”

The last La Niña winter was in 2011-2012, which was a dry winter. ~

Credit: Dale Kasler and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

CRIME *(continued)*

“Lower level offenders are now on the streets instead of jail. The repercussions for committing certain crimes are less severe. The threshold of what is considered a felony is now higher for certain crimes. Criminals are receiving citations now for crimes that they would have gone to jail for in the past,” the handout reads.

Lynn Brown — vice president of the Sacramento chapter of Crime Stoppers, volunteer and supporter of Parents of Murdered Children Coalition, founder of the Advocates for Public Safety and the Electric Blue Foundation and wife of a police officer — shared how residents can arm themselves with knowledge and know-how about crime in the neighborhood and policies that affect residents.

Proposition 57 on the November ballot was one of which the public should be wary, according to Brown.

“Is it really as they say, or is it a shell game? If we continue to diminish the severity of crimes, what are we telling criminals?” Brown said.

The measure deems the following crimes “non-violent” and allows perpetrators to be eligible for early parole: rape by intoxication, hostage taking, arson, discharging a firearm on school grounds, human trafficking involving sex with a minor, drive-by shooting, lewd acts against a child, etc. [Editor’s note: Prop. 57 passed easily.]

“Although crime numbers are lower than last year, not considered an epidemic, the sheriff has forecasted that crime will go up and I believe it is due to legislation,” Brown said. “I don’t want you to end up scared to live in your own home. You do live in a great area. You’ve got a very active law enforcement community. We need to work together to combat crime.” ~

Credit: Amanda Williams, Village Life



PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

Some of you may remember that the first issue of the Bass Lake Bulletin came out in October of 2003. That’s over thirteen years ago. A lot has happened since then. The neighborhood has matured, the trees have grown tall, kids have grown up, and we look like we have been here forever. Or does it just seem that way?

Fran and I moved to El Dorado Hills in 2002, when we bought our brand-new home, which means we have been here fifteen years or so.

Soon after we moved in, Kathy Prevost knocked on our door with a petition protesting against the field lights in the sports park that the county was proposing to build across Bass Lake Road from us.

A few weeks later a group of us met informally with Rusty Dupray, our then-supervisor, to discuss the lights at the park. At the end of the meeting Rusty told us, “You folks ought to get organized.” One thing led to another, and following Rusty’s suggestion, we ended up forming a community organization called the Bass Lake Action Committee.

Eventually we spearheaded a successful citizen’s movement to oppose the planned ball field lighting at the park. Other grass-roots campaigns resulted in a lowering of the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District fees for Woodridge, and obtaining lower propane prices for residents of the Bass Lake neighborhoods of Bridlewood Canyon, Sierra Crossing, and Woodridge.

So all in all, it has been a wonderful thirteen years, working with our neighbors to improve life along Bass Lake Road.

Our BLAC board elections come up in December. Three current board members, myself, Fran, and Hal Erpenbeck, are finally hanging up our spurs, and handing the reins to three new board members. Veteran board members Kathy Prevost and Jan Buxton have chosen to remain on the board. We are sure that they all will do their best to help maintain the quality of life we enjoy along Bass Lake Road.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



SOME RETAILERS TO CLOSE ON THANKSGIVING

In the last few years, the Mall of America and many other retailers have stayed open on Thanksgiving for shoppers who want to get an early start on Black Friday deals and steals.

The Mall of America is one of the largest malls in the United States, located in Bloomington, Minnesota, a suburb of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Mall of America's decision has been described as bold, but there are plenty other retailers doing the same this year!

The folks at BestBlackFriday.com put together a list of stores that will be taking Thanksgiving Day off, which includes these major retailers:

- Bed Bath & Beyond (select locations)
- Burlington
- Costco
- GameStop
- Hobby Lobby
- Home Depot
- IKEA
- Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft Stores
- Lowe's
- Marshalls
- Neiman Marcus
- Nordstrom
- Petco
- PetSmart
- Pier 1 Imports
- REI
- Sam's Club
- Staples
- T.J. Maxx

See the full list, which will be updated frequently, at BestBlackFriday.com. ~



TINY SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASE IS COMING

After a couple years of almost no inflation, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced a three-tenths of one percent or 0.3% (0.003) increase in monthly payments going forward, according to an October press release from the SSA.

It's the smallest hike—in years when there is a hike at all—since the mid-1970s. Recipients have a slight firming up of the nation's inflation to thank for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2017.

Hikes generally come in relation to inflation; in years when there is no inflation, there is no increase in benefits.

The average monthly Social Security check in December 2015 was \$1,342, according to the SSA. So the 0.3% increase next year will be roughly an extra \$5 in your check each month. That's not a lot of money. But for the 47% of single elderly people who depend on that monthly check for 90% or more of their income, at least it's something. ~



THE NRA IS AIMING AT CALIFORNIA'S BIG NEW GUN PROPOSITION

Gun rights advocates lost a battle, but they're preparing for a much longer war.

California's gun ballot initiative, Proposition 63, passed on election day with 63 percent of the vote. Although this fact was largely lost in the election noise, the most noteworthy and controversial aspects of the sweeping gun prop are already etched into law. In July, Governor Jerry Brown signed off on legislation that, like Proposition 63, outlawed the possession of magazines that

carry more than 10 bullets, required background checks for buying ammunition, and banned the sale of certain types of semiautomatic assault rifles.

While Proposition 63 irks Second Amendment activists, its passage isn't exactly surprising. That may explain why, in the lead up to Election Day, the gun lobby's opposition to the ballot measure was somewhat muted. "It's been this way since Brown signed the bills. If there was anything groundbreaking, anything revolutionary here, that's when it happened. Proposition 63, with the exception of a few things, is redundant," says Chuck Michel, the President of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, the National Rifle Association's official California affiliate.

There are some differences between the proposition and the existing law. Prop 63 requires owners to report lost or stolen guns. It also creates a system for confiscating guns from felons who are prohibited from owning them. It also elevates all gun thefts to felonies.

"None of that was worth spending \$5 million to oppose, because that stuff is minor compared to the ammo background check and the ban on the possession of high capacity magazines, conceptually," says Michel. "There were a number of different players who were ready to put money into this fight, but when those laws passed, nobody was going to spend that much money on this fight when we have a presidential race that's going to influence the Supreme Court."

Instead, the NRA and its affiliates focused on trying to elect Donald Trump, who they believed would appoint Supreme Court justices friendly to their interpretation of gun rights. But that doesn't mean the fight over Proposition 63 and the laws passed in July is over. The California Rifle & Pistol Association, for its part, intends to take legal action. "There are different parts of it that are vulnerable on different theories. [Proposition 63] is a collection of separate laws, and each one would be challenged separately, and on different grounds," says Michel. Asked when that might happen, he replies, "Soon. We're not going to wait until they can go into effect."

The passage of Proposition 63 marks the end of a fight between Democrats Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Senate leader Kevin De León that began in late 2015. Newsom, who backed Proposition 63, has his eye on the governor's seat in 2018, and wants to be seen as an effective opponent of the gun lobby. And De León, who was behind the gun legislation passed earlier this

(continued on page 4)



John Knight with wife Georgianne

KNIGHT REELECTED TO LOS RIOS BOARD

El Dorado resident and long-time community leader John Knight has won his second four-year term on the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees.

The District's 2,400 square-mile service area includes all of Sacramento County, most of El Dorado County and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties.

John and his wife Georgianne of 45 years live in El Dorado Hills. ~



Leaves

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.

—Elsie N. Brady



BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SET

The next meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be the Annual Christmas Party and Membership Meeting, which will be held on Monday, December 5, 2017, at 6:00 PM.

The party will be held at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

A highlight of the celebration will be a short business meeting, during which the election of board members and officers for 2017 will be held.

The nominations for the 2017 Board seats were closed at the October Board Meeting, and the candidates are as follows:

Dale Chambers, President
Kathy Prevost, Vice President
Jeanette D'Amico, Treasurer
Jan Buxton, Secretary
John Davey, Director-at-large

Members and invited guests have been sent their party invitations, and all invitees are encouraged to RSVP to the Thomsons.

February BLAC Meeting

The February BLAC Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017. The meeting time and place will be announced in the December *Bulletin*.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

Bass Lake Action Committee
501 Kirkwood Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

PROP. 65 *(continued)*

year, is said to be close to others aiming for the Governor's Mansion and doesn't want to see the ballot initiative help Newsom.

Passing Proposition 63 appears to be a slam dunk for supporters of tougher gun laws, but Michel believes that Newsom and De León's competing accomplishments may backfire. "I want to thank Gavin Newsom and Kevin De León, because what they have done is really stuck their finger in the eye of gun owners to the point where gun owners have now woken up and will engage to a degree that they haven't before," he says. "The PAC that we created to deal with Prop 63 will survive Proposition 63. The coalition of civil rights and civil liberties groups and gun owner groups that have come together to fight [Proposition] 63 will stay together to fight the next battle. Gavin Newsom, I think, has created a monster."~

Credit: Bryan Schatz, Mother Jones



The *Bass Lake Bulletin* is published monthly by the Bass Lake Action Committee. Copyright © 2016. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any storage and retrieval system, without prior written permission from the Bass Lake Action Committee.

John E. Thomson, Ph.D., Editor
doctorjet@aol.com - 530-677-3039

For additional information contact:
Vice President Kathy Prevost
blacinfo@aol.com - 530-672-6836