

# Mountain Bears Democratic Club Newsletter

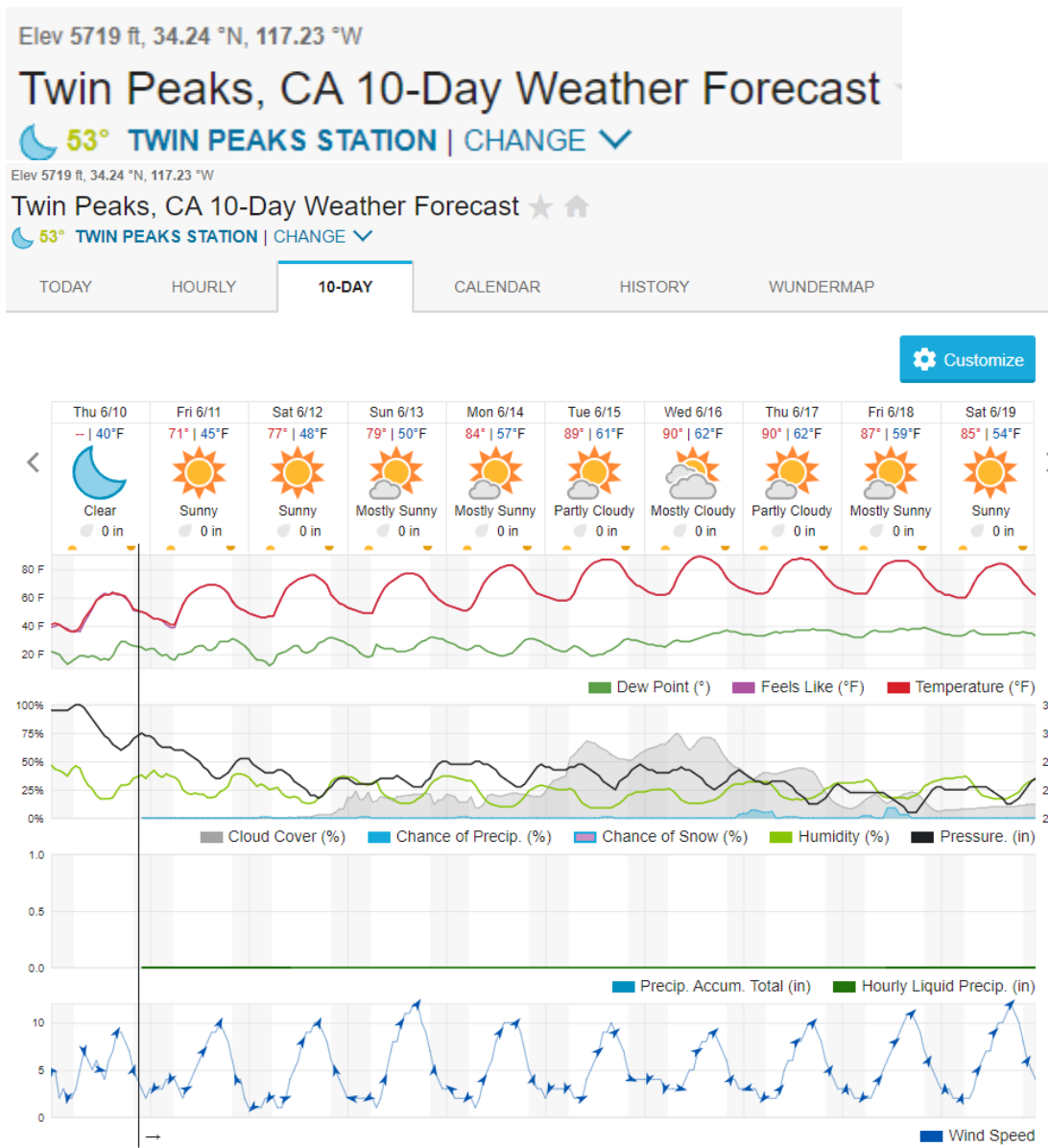
## June 9, 2021 Edition

### CLUB STUFF:

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 22nd at 7 PM, either in person at the Alpine Escrow Meeting Room in Blue Jay or via Zoom.

If you wish to join us at our monthly meeting, via Zoom, contact our secretary at: [mountainbeardemsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mountainbeardemsecretary@gmail.com) and request an invitation.

Visit our website at: <https://mountainbearsdemocrats.org>



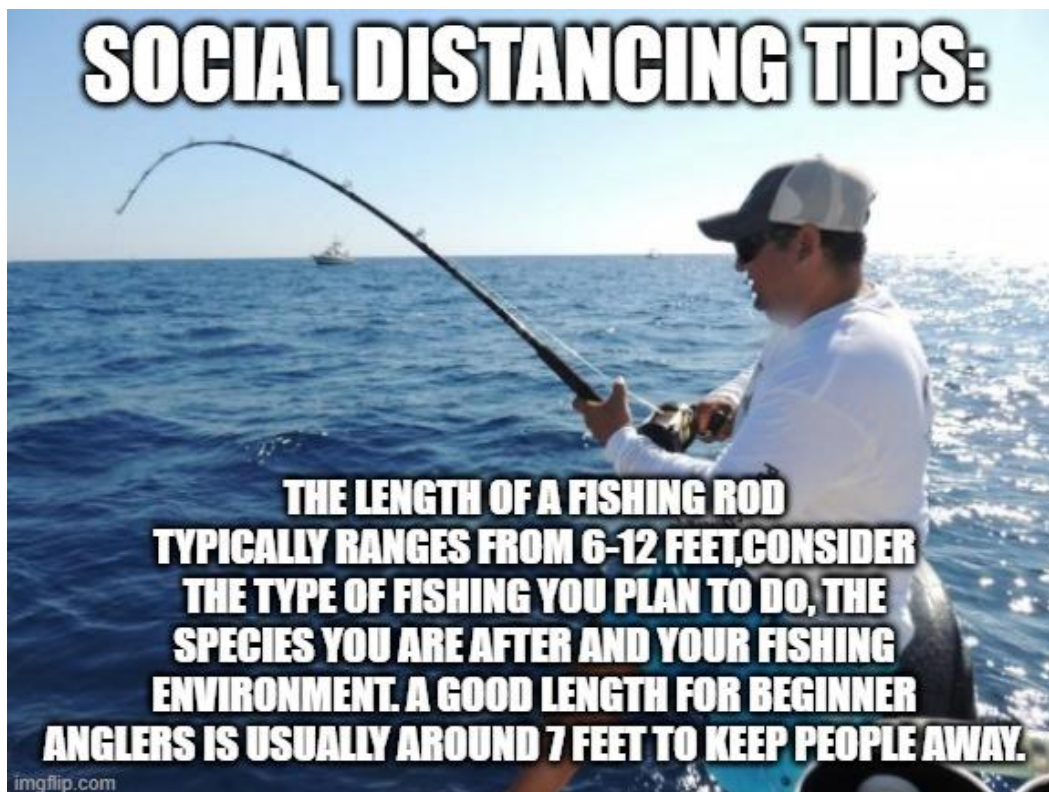
## INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Russia threatens to leave International Space Station program over US sanctions



The International Space Station. (Image credit: NASA)

Russia's space chief is threatening to leave the [International Space Station](https://www.space.com/russia-threatens-leave-international-space-station-program?utm_source=notification) (ISS) program in 2025 unless the United States lifts sanctions against the Russian space sector. [https://www.space.com/russia-threatens-leave-international-space-station-program?utm\\_source=notification](https://www.space.com/russia-threatens-leave-international-space-station-program?utm_source=notification) 6.8.21



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Facebook Suspends Trump for 2 Years, Keeping Him Off for Next Election



The decision to suspend Trump's accounts for two years comes after Facebook's Oversight Board required the company to come up with new guidelines for account suspension

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/politics/facebook-suspends-trump-for-2-years-keeping-him-off-for-nextelection/3090856/?fbclid=IwAR2SvGG5PSTNBDzxWZs31Y1kaH-rpQq5HEEVk6Y7Bj6J9UxYfTIL-c5IDBE> 6.8.21

#### Should Congress lower certain nonviolent mandatory drug sentences?

##### S. 1013: Smarter Sentencing Act of 2021

**Sponsored by:** Senator Dick Durbin (Democrat, Illinois)

**Summary:** This bill modernizes federal drug sentencing policies by lowering certain nonviolent mandatory drug sentences. Federal judges would have the discretion to conduct individual resentencing reviews on nonviolent drug offenses. Those incarcerated who are defined as couriers - had a role transporting or storing drugs or money - would have reduced mandatory sentences. The US Sentencing Commission must review and update its guidelines to reflect this bill and produce guidelines that minimize the Federal prison population exceeding the capacity of Federal prisons. This bill is meant to remove Federal resources from nonviolent offenses so that Federal resources are focused on the most serious offenses.

### **Proponents Say:**

"This bill modernizes federal drug sentencing policies by lowering certain nonviolent mandatory drug sentences. Federal judges would have the discretion to conduct individual resentencing reviews on nonviolent drug offenses. Those incarcerated who are defined as couriers - had a role transporting or storing drugs or money - would have reduced mandatory sentences. The US Sentencing Commission must review and update its guidelines to reflect this bill and produce guidelines that minimize the Federal prison population exceeding the capacity of Federal prisons. This bill is meant to remove Federal resources from nonviolent offenses so that Federal resources are focused on the most serious offenses."

**Source:** *Senator Dick Durbin (Democrat, Illinois)*

### **Opponents Say:**

"...Low-level offenders seem to me to be an undefined phrase. You don't know exactly what low level means. Often it's used to mean a courier in a drug business. What people don't realize as much as they should is that a courier in the drug business is just as essential as a car is in a pizza delivery business. The business - unless you can deliver your inventory, the business is going to fall apart. And just saying that they're low level is too general and too undefined to make for good criminal justice policy."

**Source:** *Former Federal Prosecutor and Georgetown Law Professor Bill Otis*

## **Should Congress abolish the death penalty?**

### **H.R. 97: Federal Death Penalty Abolition Act**

**Sponsored by:** *Rep. Adriano Espaillat (Democrat, New York, District 13)*

**Summary:** This bill would abolish the death penalty under federal law. No individual could be sentenced to death for a federal crime, and those currently sentenced to death would be resentenced.

### **Proponents Say:**

"Even the most heinous of crimes can be punished without killing. Yet poor people, especially from communities of color, have been disproportionately charged with capital crimes and sentenced to death compared to wealthier defendants. The stream of people awaiting execution who have been



exonerated with DNA evidence is another chilling sign of the death penalty's brokenness and barbarism. And in addition to being cruel, error-ridden and unjust, the high cost of maintaining the death penalty also diverts needed resources from initiatives to serve victims and to rehabilitate other offenders.

**Source:** *Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Democrat, California, District 12)*

### **Opponents Say:**

"Congress has expressly authorized the death penalty through legislation adopted by the people's representatives in both houses of Congress and signed by the President. Under Administrations of both parties, the Department of Justice has sought the death penalty against the worst criminals, including these five murderers, each of whom was convicted by a jury of his peers after a full and fair proceeding. The Justice Department upholds the rule of law—and we owe it to the victims and their families to carry forward the sentence imposed by our justice system."

**Source:** *Former Attorney General William Barr (Republican)*

## **Should bicycle commuters be eligible for pre-tax benefits?**

### **H.R.384: The Bicycle Commuter Act**

**Sponsored by:** *Rep. Earl Blumenauer (Democrat, Oregon, District 3)*

**Summary:** This bill revokes the original 2017 suspension of bicycle commuting benefits, and reinstates that commuters who choose the greener option of biking to work should be provided with pre-tax benefits. Low-speed electric bicycles and bicycle rides from the rental service, Bikeshare, will also qualify for employer-provided fringe benefits. With this bill, bicycle commuters can receive up to 30% of parking fringe benefits and can also increase their tax-free savings.

### **Proponents Say:**

"COVID-19 has only increased the popularity of bicycle commuting and bike-share systems as people seek safe transportation options... The federal government needs to catch up and finally provide the funding, flexibility, and incentives needed to strengthen bike culture and infrastructure."

**Source:** *Rep. Earl Blumenauer (Democrat, Oregon, District 3)*

**Opponents Say:**

"I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it. That's what I do not – and I do not believe that the laws that they propose we pass will do anything about it."

**Source:** *Sen. Marco Rubio (Republican, Florida)*



## STATE NEWS:

### Can state keep the lights on this summer?

Electric grid operator is guardedly optimistic that 2020's rolling blackouts won't recur



[http://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=1c0cdcab-4bf9-4d4a-9577-b7180e90b1aD](http://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=1c0cdcab-4bf9-4d4a-9577-b7180e90b1aD) 6.7.21



Check out the state party website at: <https://cadem.org>

**Skip the  
DMV visit  
and renew  
your  
license  
online!**



[https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/driver-license-id-card-online-renewal/?utm\\_source=RSEDigital&utm\\_medium=Facebook&utm\\_campaign=Statewide English OnlineServices&utm\\_content=OnlineServices ALL Seniors V1.1&fbclid=IwAR1Efv5FcqZTuzOk\\_QaC2D81L\\_kgYmVLk\\_IrIMS8fZSZNGodj1P5ATqC3Sg](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/driver-license-id-card-online-renewal/?utm_source=RSEDigital&utm_medium=Facebook&utm_campaign=Statewide%20English%20OnlineServices&utm_content=OnlineServices%20ALL%20Seniors%20V1.1&fbclid=IwAR1Efv5FcqZTuzOk_QaC2D81L_kgYmVLk_IrIMS8fZSZNGodj1P5ATqC3Sg) 6.9.21

A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.

- *Winston Churchill*



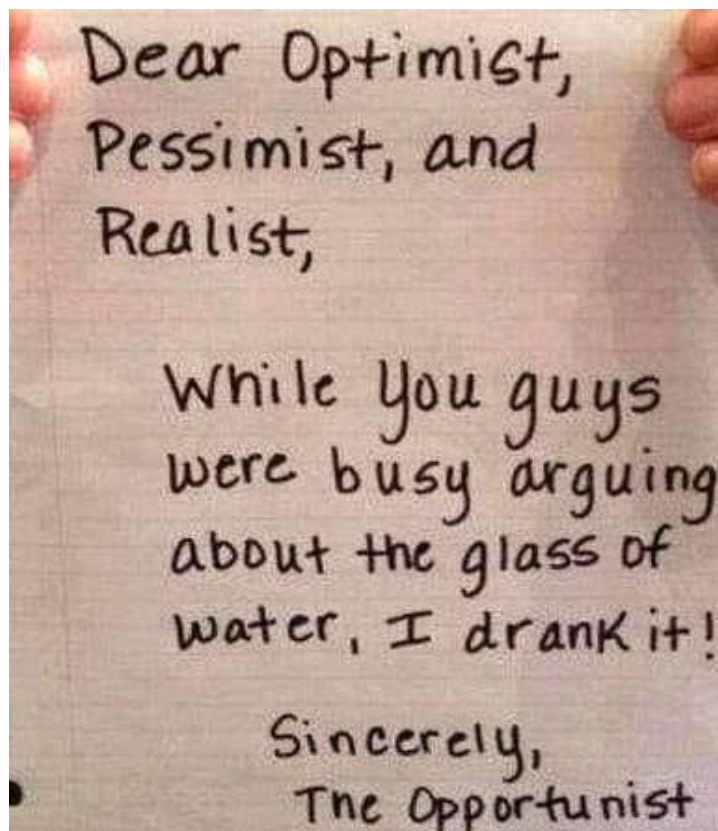
## HEALTH NEWS

**Keeping track of COVID19:** Track confirmed cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. and the spread around the world:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-us-cases-deaths/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_to\\_your\\_health&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpsrc=nl\\_tyh&wpmk=1&pwapi\\_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVudW1lIjoia3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJkYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiaWVjNDliMwVhZGU0ZTI3NmIzNDk2MGM5IiwidGFuIjoiaWVjZmQ0MDA5ZDZmZGFIMzAyNzUyOTQ4IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbnBvc3QuY29tL2dyYXBoaWNzLzlwMjAvbmF0aW9uYWwvY29yb25hdmlydXMtdXMtY2FzZXMtZGVhdGhzLz91dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249d3BfdG9feW91cl9oZWVsdGgmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNIPW5ld3NsZXR0ZXlmd3Bpc3JjPW5sX3R5aCZ3cG1rPTEifQ.mbNQjAEjcReCsrGJL2LIM-wCFj3OGDo9oF3gBpMNZ\\_A](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-us-cases-deaths/?utm_campaign=wp_to_your_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpsrc=nl_tyh&wpmk=1&pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVudW1lIjoia3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJkYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiaWVjNDliMwVhZGU0ZTI3NmIzNDk2MGM5IiwidGFuIjoiaWVjZmQ0MDA5ZDZmZGFIMzAyNzUyOTQ4IiwidXJsIjoiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbnBvc3QuY29tL2dyYXBoaWNzLzlwMjAvbmF0aW9uYWwvY29yb25hdmlydXMtdXMtY2FzZXMtZGVhdGhzLz91dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249d3BfdG9feW91cl9oZWVsdGgmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNIPW5ld3NsZXR0ZXlmd3Bpc3JjPW5sX3R5aCZ3cG1rPTEifQ.mbNQjAEjcReCsrGJL2LIM-wCFj3OGDo9oF3gBpMNZ_A) 6.8.21

**How long do you  
keep a pair of jeans  
hoping you'll be  
able to fit into them  
again one day?**

**It's thirty years,  
right?**



All politicians should have three hats - one to throw into the ring, one to talk through, and one to pull rabbits out of if elected.

- Carl Sandburg

the quokka and the viscacha look like they're on opposite ends of the happiness spectrum



Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.

- *Groucho Marx*

Politics is not the art of the possible. It's the art of choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable.

- *John Kenneth Galbraith*

In their own words:



I will always be proud of what we accomplished for the American people over the last four years. And I will not allow Democrats or their allies in the media to use one tragic day to discredit the aspirations of millions of Americans.

Didn't they want to hang him?



She compares being forced to wear a facemask to being forced to wear a star (in the Holocaust) and then later denies saying it.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1400203068239646720> 6.7.21