

CASE SPOTLIGHT

DA, Undersheriff and Criminal in Bed - Bullock & Hasser Manufacture Criminal Case



From Left, DA James Bullock, Undersheriff Tandy Hasser and David Elmo Henry Jr.

By Lorne Dey Investigative Reporter

Lower Arkansas Valley, Colorado - Would you believe the accusations of a convicted felon with a lengthy criminal record who has been in and out of prison and in trouble with the law since 1982 without corroborating his

story? Bent County, Colorado Undersheriff Tandy Hasser would and did when she arrested 68-year-old Fritz Sturges, based solely on accusations from an officially identified "Habitual Felony Offender" by the name of David Elmo Henry Jr.

Henry's rap sheet is so long, it appears he seeks to get arrested for something every time

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CORRUPTION SPOTLIGHT

Nye County, NV Bombshell! Deflated Property Values for Public Officials?



Joni Eastley and her Tonopah Castle (Citadel)

By Andrew Alberti and Edward Snook Investigative Reporters

Nye County, Nevada - In our last edition US-Observer Chief of Investigations Edward Snook stated, "...DA Brian Kunzi is almost frantic in his efforts to destroy Shirley Matson. Kunzi appears to be hiding some things that are extremely important (damning) and rest assured, we will find out exactly what they are."

One of the most expensive residential properties in Tonopah, Nevada is owned by former Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastley and her husband Dennis. Let's cut right to the chase readership.

Citizens: Compare your Property Tax Payment for 2013, with the \$583.72 tax that Eastley's paid last year for their Castle!

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"Serial Rapist" Headline Brings Silence

By Edward Snook Investigative Reporter

Washington State - The US-Observer published an article in our last edition titled, "Wrestling Champ O'Neil - Serial Rapist? Innocent Referee in Prison". Our readership can read this article at usobserver.com or by simply doing a Google search on the title.

I expected to see fireworks once this sensational, alarming blockbuster was published, but the only response was dead silence. I did receive numerous complaints on Brian Garvie's Attorney John Crowley of Seattle, WA. The accusations related to his failure to adequately represent his clients. The complaints received

were nearly identical to the complaints that Garvie and his father have related to me.

I also received numerous complaints regarding false prosecutions conducted by Snohomish County, WA District Attorney Mark Roe, but not one word from this alleged corrupt prosecutor himself. This is very telling, given the huge amount of evidence we published about WA State Wrestling Champion Patrick O'Neil raping his teammates and others. Roe's silence was totally expected, because he was the prosecutor who conducted the manufactured criminal case



against Brian Garvie, placing the innocent wrestling referee in prison on a possible life sentence.

In my prior article on this case I told my readership, "In our next edition I am going to publish much more on this story. If people don't come forward and if Snohomish County District Attorney Mark Roe fails to act, I

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Nye County Corruption - The Gift That Keeps on Giving

By Andrew Alberti Investigative Reporter

Nye County, Nevada - I previously wrote about Nye County Assessor Shirley Matson and the attacks against her by Nye County officials. I exposed the unusual circumstances surrounding a vicious attempt to steal money through fraudulent checks written against the assessor's checking account. Yes, it's true that the District Attorney for Nye County Brian Kunzi showed little or no interest in investigating this crime. He did show extreme interest in Assessor Matson, delivering what should have been top security documents, kept secure until received by the FBI in Clark County for their Grand Jury, but sent as 'ho hum' regular mail. Sending it as unsecured mail was a violation of secure transit of



District Attorney Brian Kunzi

confidential information known as chain of evidence. It was sent by Danelle Shamrell of Nye County

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COLORADO CORRUPTION

Conservation Easements The Rape & Pillage of Land Owners



Barbara Brohl and State Attorney General John Suthers - Guilty

By Lorne Dey Investigative Reporter

Colorado - The US-Observer has recently started an investigation into what is obviously a scheme to fraudulently obtain ranchers and

farmers property for nothing or next to nothing by utilizing controversial conservation easements. From what we know so far, the major players in this scheme are the State of Colorado, brokers and land trusts made up of or directed primarily by

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VINDICATED SPOTLIGHT

Felony Sex-Abuse Charges Dismissed!

By Joseph Snook Investigative Reporter

Jackson County, Oregon - On January 17, 2014, Michael Young of Medford, Oregon breathed a grateful sigh of relief as he received word that multiple, stacked, felony sex abuse charges against him had been dismissed.

Young was charged with Rape 1, Sodomy 1, Sex Abuse 2, 3, and Assault 4 on March 21, 2013. Michael Young wasted no time - on March 29, 2013 he contacted the US-Observer and we began our investigation regarding the charges against him.

HISTORY

Michael Young married his wife Jennifer in the summer of 2011. At



Michael Young and his wife Jen

that time, he had no idea that her daughter had severe mental problems. Unbeknownst to Young, his new step-daughter had previously accused her biological father of sex abuse, resulting in his suicide. Evidence suggests that the sex-abuse at the hands of her biological father never occurred.

Soon after Michael and Jennifer were married, the couple moved to

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WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Seeking Conviction, Not Justice - DUI Manslaughter Appealed

"I would have never of made that turn..." --Marci Bloch, eyewitness to fatal crash.

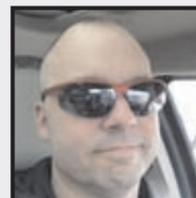
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he needs a free meal from a government-sponsored jail cell.

Contrasting David Henry is Fritz Sturges, the true victim in this case. Mr. Sturges is an exemplary citizen with a spotless criminal record and is the type of individual who gives freely of his time and resources to worthwhile causes with no strings attached.

For example, this reporter discovered that in 2011, Mr. Sturges made sure, out of his own resources, that a 4-H program designed to train children in horsemanship, became a reality. The program ultimately came to fruition because Mr. Sturges personally fronted the approximately \$5,500.00 needed for the youth program. In addition, he donated his time and use of his horses and tack valued at over \$50,000.00 for use in the program. Not only did he donate the use of the horses, but he trailered them back and forth from his ranch to the training grounds every day so the children could show the horses at the Baca County Fair and ride in the parade in Springfield. Mr. Sturges stated, "I wanted to share my love of horses with children who could not afford to own their own horse." This program was so well thought of the Colorado Horse Council, Baca County 4H, Frontier Bank, and Springfield Baptist Chapel cooperatively sponsored the program with Mr. Sturges. This is the kind of man Fritz Sturges is.



Fritz Sturges

the many crimes Henry has committed involved dishonesty, including but not limited to horse theft, cattle theft, tack theft, burglary and con games.

Sturges has been accused by Henry of digging a hole on his property for the sole purpose of burying his alleged victims, then planning to use lime to quickly decompose their bodies. Henry has to be "in bed" with Hasser in some manner because this reporter easily learned from other ranchers in Bent County that it is common practice for nearly every rancher in the area to dig holes on their property for the disposal of dead livestock to keep down the stench of decay and discourage predators such as coyotes. In fact, it is the recommended, cost-effective practice by myriad farm and ranch-related websites for the disposal of livestock carcasses.



Austin White Lime, the kind that Sturges keeps on hand around the ranch and has been photographed for use as evidence against him, is actually used to control odor and absorb liquid and is a common item readily available at local feed and building supply stores for a variety of agricultural uses. A majority of Colorado ranchers use this product for the same exact reason.

Henry or Hasser or both also have to be "in bed" with Bent County District Attorney (DA) James R. Bullock due to the fact that Bullock is not ignorant enough to prosecute a rancher for a crime that hasn't been committed and that makes no sense whatsoever. DA Bullock had first-hand knowledge of the trespassing issues, horse death and injuries, and had received a request for assistance in catching the perpetrator(s) in a meeting on March 7, 2013, with Fritz Sturges, Lonye Buck, and Belinda Groner.

SO WHY WAS MR. STURGES ARRESTED AND CHARGED?

According to what this reporter has uncovered, the prime instigator behind Sturges' arrest appears to be Undersheriff Tandy Parrish-Hasser. There is compelling evidence to show that Hasser has been at odds with Mr. Sturges for some time over calls Sturges made to ask Bent County law enforcement to investigate vandalism and horses being killed and injured on his ranch.

Also according to evidence, Hasser appears to not be averse to abusing her power and falsifying official documents to get what she wants or go after someone she has decided she doesn't like.

For example, on December 6, 2012, law enforcement officers from Bent and Prowers counties reportedly executed a search warrant at the Prowers County residence of Kim and Alden Piner. The Piners were reportedly accused by Hasser of selling stolen "horse tack," after she allegedly searched their private Facebook page. After a thorough search of their premises, it turned out that the Piners were completely innocent. Sheriff Jim Faull of Prowers County was later quoted as stating, "...follow up investigations showed that the people in question were totally innocent and the information to obtain the warrant proved to be inaccurate." The affidavit used to obtain the search warrant was reportedly submitted by Undersheriff Tandy Hasser.

According to the City of Lamar's website, lamarco.us, in a related article titled, "Falsely Accused", when the writer asked Kim Piner if deputy Hasser who, according to the writer's information, "had bullishly pushed the warrant through various levels of the judicial system prior to arrival at the Piner home" was on hand from the beginning, Piner stated, "Oh yea, in a big, hateful-smug kind of way. If you were here I would show you the warrant, she lied about the vehicles that we own to make them match the description of the vehicles seen on the property". Piner went on to state, "Prowers County Deputies said that they were washing their hands of this whole case, because of all the miss-information."

Belinda Groner, Fritz Sturges' partner, told reporters at the US~Observer of other instances where Hasser lied about facts in Mr. Sturges' case, such as the hole in question was originally estimated to be approximately 7 ft. x 7.5 ft. and was later changed on the return search warrant, allegedly by Hasser, to be approximately 12ft. x 15 ft., reportedly in order to accommodate Sturges' victims after he killed them. It's obvious why Hasser would change the size of the hole and it's also very clear to this writer why she would fail to mention that Mr. Sturges has many other holes in the area where he has buried dead livestock and deceased pets in the past.

Groner told the US~Observer of DNA evidence found on one of her injured horses that died on November 8, 2012, that could have incriminated one of Hasser's friends and how that evidence was reported lost by Bent County Deputy Sam Fief in a report amended in February 2013, after Hasser repeatedly claimed it was at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Groner stated she contacted CBI and they advised no evidence was ever received.

How does law enforcement just "lose" evidence? Apparently, it happens in Bent County, Colorado.

So how does a sheriff's deputy do these kinds of things and still keep her job? The answer may lie with Bent County Sheriff David R. Encinias. The following is taken directly from another lamarco.us article titled: Bent County Sheriff Gone Rogue? – "Law Abiding Citizens in the county feel like they've been targeted by specific officers in the department, for no reason. As well they should! From all appearances, the officers have chosen to focus on harassing law abiding citizens instead of doing the work necessary to put a criminal behind bars. WHY are they protecting a man who shows every indication of having emotional issues, if not dangerous insanity issues, by tormenting and harassing law abiding citizens?" The favored man in question here is another felon named, Albert Kirk Hornung.

In a companion article, the City of Lamar writer recounts the story of Ray and Penny Gonzales who were allegedly harassed by Hornung. In the Gonzales' story, Hornung is allowed to possess a gun and fire it regularly, sometimes toward the

NO EVIDENCE? NO PROBLEM – IN BENT COUNTY ANYWAY!

On April 19, 2013 Mr. Sturges was arrested on seven counts of Criminal Solicitation to commit 1st Degree Kidnapping and one count of Criminal Solicitation to commit Assault in the 1st Degree. On May 20, 2013, District Attorney James R. Bullock filed an information document and changed the charges from the arrest warrant to charging Fritz Sturges with seven counts of attempted murder, seven counts to commit kidnapping, and one count of solicitation to commit assault on a total of eight individuals – all without a shred of evidence, apart from the words of proven felon and serial liar David Henry, who had been working as an employee of Clay Creek Ranch.

Mr. Sturges had taken David Henry's keys from him on February 16, 2013, after Mr. Henry had lied about an appointment with his parole office, causing Mr. Henry to become disgruntled. On February 24, 2013, an attempted theft of Mr. Sturges' favorite horse Homer failed and the horse was severely injured. Bent County failed to respond to the 911 call and to this day have not investigated the attempted theft and injury of the horse. Mr. Henry was the key suspect in the attempted theft.

According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Henry has a long list of aliases such as: Bronc, Nick Heel, Cowboy Henry, Mic Henry, Nick Henry, Dave Hill, and Nic Nealy, to name just a few. To show how ridiculous the charges against Mr. Sturges actually are, his supposed victims didn't even know Fritz was allegedly after them until they were notified by Bent County Undersheriff Tandy Parrish-Hasser. Also, the eight people Sturges allegedly planned to victimize hadn't been murdered, kidnapped, or assaulted. In fact, Houston Gourley, one of the reported victims, was staying at Mr. Sturges's house on weekends when the accusations were made and he has never been contacted by Bent County.

In an interview with local investigator Dan Corsentino, one alleged victim Jami Childers stated, "I think Fritz is a good person. If he gets away from Belinda (Sturges' girlfriend), I don't want him to go to jail. He was always good to us."

Apparently, in Bent County, Colorado you don't need to have committed a crime to have your animals injured and your life ruined by false criminal charges; all you need is an accusation from anyone, even a habitual felony offender like David Elmo Henry. It is important to note at this juncture that a majority of

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Man Appeals DUI Manslaughter Conviction

Evidence Heavily Favors Misconduct by Prosecutor

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

United States, Florida - Do you believe a person is guilty simply because they were in an accident after they consumed alcohol?

Do you think the level of impairment should be determined in order to make an informed decision?

Do you think the actions of the other driver involved in the accident should be considered, along with eyewitness accounts, before placing blame?

THE ACCIDENT

Jamie Clark was in his mid-30's, outgoing, fun, and a loving kind of guy. He had a good job, owned a home, was engaged to be married, and was active in his community... Then in one horrific instant on Friday the 13th, in October of 2006, everything changed.

Lucy Miller was an 85-year-old lady, active in her church, and presumably loved by her family. I'm sure there were many more good things to say about Lucy Miller, but she is not here to tell her story. She is no longer able to visit with her family. She won't be seen at church. Lucy Miller died as a result of an accident with Jamie Clark on that fateful night in October of 2006.

Sadly, as a result of Lucy Miller's death, prosecutors used her death as a tool to indict. Despite overwhelming evidence that has been described as, "highly favorable to Jamie Clark's innocence," Florida's 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's have ignored, hidden, or simply refuted such evidence.

Jamie Clark was convicted of DUI Manslaughter five years after the accident had occurred, and almost one year after his original criminal charges were dismissed. Jamie has spent nearly eight years weighing on the events of a night that forever changed his life. Today, Jamie sits in an 8 x 8 cell placing his faith in what little hope is left for his freedom.

WHY SHOULD JAMIE CLARK RECEIVE A NEW TRIAL?

The speed at which Jamie was traveling has been highly disputed and is attributed to why the state sought his conviction. The posted speed limit was 45 mph. Michael Daly, the responding police officer who reconstructed the accident, which was only his second accident reconstruction - found that Jamie was traveling approximately "74 mph at impact."

Defense Expert Andy Fore, who had reconstructed over 1,000 accidents at the time he reconstructed Jamie's, found that he was traveling "49 mph hour at impact." Fore is also board certified in forensic engineering, accident reconstruction, and bio-mechanics by the National Academy of Forensic Engineers. He is also certified by the Accreditation Commission on Traffic Accident Reconstructionist (ACTAR).

HOW COULD THERE BE SUCH A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EACH EXPERTS CALCULATIONS?

First we analyzed how Officer Daly concluded Clark's speed. In order to calculate speed, Officer Daly had to know where the final resting point of Jamie's vehicle (Infiniti SUV) was - in other words he measured from the spot where the Infiniti was found at the scene. Next, we questioned whether or not the "final resting spot" of Jamie's Infiniti was accurate. A post-crash interview provides a statement that Jamie physically drove his car up onto the curb after the crash to avoid oncoming traffic which supports the Infiniti's final stop (as determined by officer Daly) could not accurately be used to determine Clark's speed. During a recorded statement, just minutes after the accident, Daly asked Jamie, "So you can't tell me if you drove it (Infiniti) to that point over there from any point prior to there?" Jamie responded, "No, No... I drove that car (his infinity) ... so, the car was under my power up onto that curb...for sure. I definitely drove that car on top of that curb."

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OPPOSING OFFICER DALY'S FINDINGS:

1. Expert witness for the defense, Andy Fore - Despite his abundance of credentials, his experience alone speaks for itself. He is an expert - he has reconstructed accidents for the state and defense attorney's many times and testified many times. If his calculations were wrong in Clark's case, then each of the 1,000+ previous accidents he reconstructed must be called into question.

2. Jamie Clark's own statement to Daly between minutes 22 - 25 on dash cam video; admitting that he physically drove his vehicle to its final resting point.

3. Post crash eyewitness Robert Cheslow stated that Jamie's car was traveling "very slow" after the accident, not "50 mph" as stated by Officer Daly.

4. State prosecutors were accused of withholding Miller's Toyota Camry black box data. This is important because black box data is used to determine vehicle speeds pre, during and post crash. Lucy Miller's post crash speed, contained in her vehicle black box could have been used to determine how fast Jamie was driving. This important information "was not



Clark's vehicle, night of accident - not seen by the jury.

Clark's vehicle, after "tests" - as shown to the jury.

provided" to the defense before trial, but accidentally discovered by Jamie's Appellate Council while reviewing the State Attorney's files almost a year after his conviction.

5. Thomas Lacek, a third party accident reconstruction expert not associated with this case, with over 30 years of experience in accident reconstruction stated, "I'm not picking on or trying to uh, lower the integrity of the work by the police. You'll hear about all these courses they've done. Well basically they're trying to learn the technical stuff. They are non-technical people trying to learn technical stuff. To engineers, it's second nature. It's just applied science..." This statement was made during a conversation about Jamie Clark's case.

6. Former Prosecutor Ellen Roberts stated during testimony at Clark's Post Conviction Relief (PCR) hearing, "Initially we knew there was nothing to be gained from the data," referring to Miller's Toyota black box. This not only shows her bias towards conviction, it clearly shows she offered an opinion that she is an expert on accident reconstruction, which she is not.

7. The only eyewitness to the accident, Marcy Bloch stated, "I saw cars coming...I don't remember if that person (Jamie Clark) was speeding or not ... I wanted to scream out and say please don't go, but it was too late."

8. Photos of the vehicles post crash. The state and defense experts disagree on the angles of impact, which was also used to make significant calculations. State Prosecutors filed a motion to show the jury both vehicles during Jamie's trial. When examining the condition of both vehicles at trial vs. the condition they were in at the scene of the accident, "more damage was visibly clear." Why would the State alter the condition of the vehicles before showing them to the jury?

9. Most important - Officer Daly's own words. When asked if he had any experience with EDR's (black box) during his testimony at Jamie's PCR hearing he replied, "Not any formal training, No." In fact, Officer Daly stated that he had never testified as an expert on accident reconstruction prior to Jamie's accident.

Could Officer Daly's inexperience have influenced the state to seek another expert opinion? Ultimately, the state got what they wanted, another "expert" from the police department - basically one of Daly's superiors and co-workers to validate his report despite a lack of evidence to support their claims. The

defense also hired another expert - who concluded almost identical information as Defense Expert & Reconstructionist Andy Fore. This new expert for the defense was the Chairman of the Board of EDR Committee for the Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE). Still, the evidence is what it is despite the experts disagreement. When taking everything into account, you can only presume that the evidence favored Jamie Clark.

MORE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE - EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY WITHHELD

Prosecutors filed a Motion in Limine to disallow certain testimony from Marcy Bloch, the only accident eyewitness. This motion was not opposed by Jamie's first attorney. Marcy Bloch's full statement provided to police was not presented to jurors, instead the court relied



Jamie Clark

a judge. He was also the original judge who presided during Jamie's conviction. Kastrenakes denied Jamie's PCR motion.

SELECTIVE PROSECUTION?

Did Ellen Roberts prosecute Jamie for almost identical reasons she declined to prosecute others? Four cases were found during our research that cause concern for wrongful practices of West Palm Beach County Prosecutor's. These separate cases can be viewed at usobserver.com - type "jamie clark dui manslaughter conviction appealed" in our

yahoo search.

DUI DETECTION EXPERTS

Three police officers who responded to the scene, trained in DUI detection stated that, "Jamie showed no signs of intoxication" other than the presence of alcohol on his breath. Jamie was not cited for DUI on the night of the accident, he was not arrested, and was allowed to go home. Dash camera footage from Officer Daly's patrol vehicle clearly supports all three officers' claims that Jamie was not impaired. Before releasing Jamie the police took two blood draws. The State's Toxicologist reported a BAC of .12, one hour after the accident which was refuted by Board Certified Toxicologist, Lawrence W. Masten, PhD, DABT.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

The accident occurred after dusk - around 9:30 pm on Friday the 13th, 2006. 85-year-old Lucy Miller was not wearing corrective glasses, which was a legal requirement according to her Driver's License. She also had sustained a leg injury prior to driving that night, which supports why she was allegedly not wearing shoes when the accident occurred. This also supports the only eyewitness, Marcy Bloch's statement that there was not enough judgment in the u-turn Miller was attempting to make.

HIGHLY CONNECTED ATTORNEY

Lucy Miller's son, Steven Schumer obtained the help of Diego Asencio, a prominent Florida attorney. Asencio was also touted as the lead attorney for M.A.D.D. - Mother's Against Drunk Driving. Asencio filed a civil suit on behalf of Miller's family against Jamie's employer - claiming that the dinner Jamie was at prior to the accident was "work-related." Lucy Miller's family reportedly settled out of court for a large sum of money. According to information obtained during our investigation, Asencio is very well connected politically in West Palm Beach.

SUMMARY

Jamie has maintained his innocence for almost 8 years. This is the first time all of his evidence has been made public "on-line". He is hoping that by making his case public, the system that failed him, will provide him with the chance to receive a fair trial. Blaming him for the unfortunate mistake made by another motorist does not serve justice, especially considering that three highly trained DUI detection experts for the Boca Raton Police Department did not arrest him.

There are extenuating circumstances behind everything and sometimes things are just out of your control - that's why such things are called an accident.

Anyone with comments or questions, contact joe@usobserver.com. A film about this case, titled "Deserving Justice" will be available this summer.

Editor's Note: The evidence, including a video supporting the claims within this article, is available online at usobserver.com. Use the yahoo search tool and enter, "Jamie Clark DUI manslaughter conviction appealed." ★★★



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In The News

Bike Path Trumps Property Rights in Eminent Domain Case



(Inquisitr) - Dakota County, Minnesota wants to build a bike trail on a Mississippi River property and is willing to rebuke property rights and seize the land by eminent domain. Two Minnesota sisters lost their father, and then they had to stand by and watch as the land he loved was yanked away as well. Apparently, property rights are far less important than a bike path to the Hastings elected officials. The 10-acre Mississippi River property has been in Bill Sorg's family since 1896 and was willed to the sisters upon their father's death.

The county refused to accept a property easement offer by the sisters which would have permitted the completion of the bike path. Exactly why the Minnesota lawmakers would have created a bike path plan involving land not already owned by the county remains to be seen. Local residents are fighting back against the county's quest to acquire a total of 120-acres of land inside the Spring Lake Park Reserve. Most of the land and homes have been owned by a single family for generations.

Sisters Joni Sargent and Nancy Drews offered to sell just over one acre of land to the county for the bike path, even though they did not want to part with any of their father's property. According to statements by the sisters, the county opted against the offer and voted during a closed door session to take the entire 10-acres via eminent domain statutes.

Sargent and Drews are appealing the decision for the yet unfunded bike path. "Our father meant to leave this property to us and our children," Sargent said. Drews noted during multiple media interviews that the sisters had spent their entire lives on the Mississippi River property, which also includes

a marina. Drews also said she is feeling "Totally overwhelmed. I have heart issues and I have been fighting this since November 5. It's horrible. It just means way too much to us. We can't lose it."

Dakota County Park Director Steve Sullivan had this to say about the Mississippi River eminent domain controversy:

"That riverfront is important to protecting the shoreline, protecting the Mississippi River water quality, and also providing opportunity for public access."

Dakota County officials offered the sisters \$370,000 for the property, considering the real estate appraisal their father had completed several years ago, it is easy to understand why they were insulted. It is not logical to think the \$1.3 million price tag the appraiser placed on the Mississippi Riverfront property would have decreased so significantly in such a short period of time. The county reportedly has until March 31 to garner a \$3 million federal grant to build the bike path, camper cabins, and picnic area.

Eminent domain was once rarely used and reserved only for major public works projects. Although when you buy a piece of land it should be yours forever, perhaps the projects which brought electricity to very remote areas at least offered a true benefit to the region and negatively impacted homeowners. Fighting to keep your land despite what worthy goal would be accomplished by its governmental seizure would be an uphill battle, but one worth waging.

If a bike path and public access to an enjoyable outdoor area is all the government needs to claim your property, millions of homeowners across the United States are at risk.

Man With Zero BAC Arrested for DWI



(Libertarian Republic) Austin, TX - Lary Davis (above) was arrested for driving while intoxicated after he ran through a stop sign in January of 2013. Law enforcement determined that he was intoxicated after giving him a sobriety test for which they decided he had failed. Davis was tested and blew a 0.00 on the Breathalyzer, but apparently Austin police have wide leeway in deciding who gets arrested for DWI's. His lawyer calls it an "opinion crime."

Police took Davis to jail where he submitted to a blood test which proved he was not intoxicated, but authorities are standing by their arrest of the man. They contend it was still possible he was

intoxicated with some other drug such as marijuana which may not have shown up in the blood test.

Cmdr. David Mahoney said he supports the decision to have Davis arrested

"If there is someone who is possibly impaired, we don't want them driving," Mahoney said. "We need to get them off the road, so that was probably (the officer's) mindset."

Davis' case was dismissed last week after the results of the test were given to the court. "I was arrested for nothing, really," he said. "It was suspicion of drunk driving, which I wasn't so I was surprised and hurt at the same time." ***

U.S. fighting increase in tax crimes under Obama: Watchdog

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. government has been bringing more criminal tax prosecutions against Americans under President Barack Obama than under President George W. Bush, with a surge in tax refund fraud partly to blame, a non-partisan watchdog said on Tuesday.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) said in a report that it found that under Obama the average annual number of tax crime prosecutions sought by the Justice Department has been 1,568, versus 1,303 under Bush.

Most criminal tax cases involve alleged fraud and tax-dodging. The Justice Department is fighting an upswing in tax crimes, and tax refund fraud, stemming from fake identity documents, the report said.

In the Obama years, case recommendations brought

by the Internal Revenue Service to the Justice Department have soared by 23.4 percent compared to the Bush years, TRAC said.

TRAC is a Syracuse University research group in New York state. It said it obtained the information from Freedom of Information Act requests.

"This is certainly reflecting a get-tough attitude" at the IRS, despite budget cuts, said Susan Long, TRAC co-director.

In 2013, Justice sought 2,010 new criminal tax prosecutions, the largest number since 1997, TRAC data show. The number of prosecutions sought in 2012 was

1,539.

(Reporting by Patrick Temple-West; Editing by Kevin Drawbaugh and Tom Brown)



Study Puts Exonerations at Record Level in U.S.

By Timothy Williams

(SAVE) - The number of exonerations in the United States of those wrongly convicted of a crime increased to a record 87 during 2013, and of that number, nearly one in five had initially pleaded guilty to charges filed against them, according to a report to be released on Tuesday as part of a project led by two university law schools.

Nearly half of the exonerations — 40 — were based on murder convictions, including that of a man wrongly convicted and subsequently sentenced to death in the fatal stabbing of a fellow inmate in a Missouri prison in 1983, according to the report by the National Registry of Exonerations. The registry is a joint program of the University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law.

The previous record of known exonerations in the country came in 2009, when the group reported 83. The organization said it has documented 1,300 exonerations since 1989, most of them after convictions for murder, rape or other sexual assaults.

Fewer exonerations than in the past involved DNA evidence, a circumstance the registry attributed to the police and prosecutors exhibiting greater concern about the problem of false convictions.

But the report also found that 17 percent of those exonerated in 2013 had originally pleaded guilty to a crime they did not commit — usually because the defendant had been offered a plea bargain that guaranteed a lesser sentence on the condition of a guilty plea.

A case highlighted in the report was that of Nicole Harris, a 23-year-old with two young children and a

degree in psychology. She was convicted by an Illinois jury in 2005 of murdering her 4-year-old son, Jaquari, after the boy was asphyxiated by an elastic band that had come loose from a fitted bedsheet.

The Chicago police, according to the National Registry of Exonerations, had coerced Ms. Harris into confessing by pushing her, threatening her, withholding food and water, and refusing to let her use the bathroom.

After 27 hours of questioning, Ms. Harris gave a videotaped confession in which she said she had strangled her son because he would not stop crying. She was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years.

The organization however found that the case had been deeply flawed, citing a ruling by the trial judge that barred testimony from Ms. Harris's surviving 6-year-old son.

The child had said that Jaquari had liked to play a game in which he would pretend to be Spider-Man and would wrap the elastic band from a sheet around his neck and leap off his bed.

Ms. Harris's appeals and a request for a new trial based on her lawyer's failure to provide effective representation were denied.

But in 2012, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit vacated her conviction and ordered a new trial — over the objections of the state, which appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

In June 2013, days after the Supreme Court rejected the state's appeal, prosecutors dismissed the murder charge.

Ms. Harris, now 32, is currently applying to graduate schools, according to the organization.

Source: nytimes.com

87
EXONERATIONS
in U.S. in
2013

21 years in jail for a crime he didn't commit

(CNN)—Deon Patrick was 20 when his life was stolen from him. In 1992, he was one of eight men arrested in the deaths of a drug dealer and a prostitute on the north side of Chicago.

Patrick immediately said he was innocent. No physical evidence linked him to the murders. But 30 hours in police custody without a lawyer present can have a way of changing a young man's mind.

At one point his friend, co-defendant Daniel Taylor, was brought into the interview room. He told Patrick to just tell the police "what they wanted to hear, and they could go home."

So he broke down, signed a confession, and was later sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Twenty-one years ticked by.

"There are days when you actually start to give up," Patrick told CNN.

Patrick was exonerated last month. And he is not alone.

According to a new study by the National Registry of Exonerations, there were a record number of wrongful convictions overturned last year in the United States. Nearly half of them were based on murder trials.

"The psychological techniques that are actually taught at the police academy lead to many false confessions," Rob Warden, executive director at the Center on Wrongful Convictions, stated.



Deon Patrick

"After hours and hours of interrogation, people lose their resistance," said Ward.

Interrogations that last "20, 30 hours with minimal sleep, and minimal food, and minimal ability to use the bathroom — at some point you'll say absolutely anything to stop it," he said.

Patrick said he would like to see "a sense of accountability" someday for people "who do this and cut corners to get cases closed."

The father of two is looking forward to the years ahead as a free man. He plans to go back to school, and find a job.

"I just want to enjoy the rest of my life, and enjoy the rest of my life with my kids and grandkids," said Patrick.

Patrick says he and his co-defendant, Daniel Taylor, would not be free today, if it were not for the work of the Center on Wrongful Convictions and the media attention they received.

He advises others who are innocent prisoners to reach out, and write to organizations to get help.

"If you don't get that, sometimes you will find yourself stuck, even though you know you didn't do it, but the courts will continue to shoot you down," said Patrick.

And he had one more message for other innocent men and women serving time.

"Keep the hope alive. And just know that one day the truth is going to finally come out."

Military plans steep cutbacks, roils ranks

Reuters / Erik De Castro

(RT.com) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's reported plan to scale back the US Army to its smallest numbers since World War II, as well as slashing pay and perks for service personnel, promises to be an uphill battle in Congress.

After more than a decade of fighting two protracted wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US military is showing some wear and tear, at least on the budgetary front. In an effort to adhere to President Obama's pledge of scaling back military operations abroad, compounded by the grim reality of austerity measures following years of prodigious spending, the epoch of expensive US overseas military occupations appears to have waned, according to the New York Times.

The Pentagon envisions a leaner fighting machine that will still be able to win wars, but without the massive military footprint now stamped across much of the planet. Indeed, the traditional foot soldiers of the Army and Marines appear to be taking a backseat to a military more streamlined for naval operations.

While the US Navy will be allowed to keep its 11 aircraft carrier fleets, the other forces will take it on the chin in terms of overall troop strength. The US Army, which went from a post-September 11 high of 570,000 troops to 490,000 today, will continue to drop to between 440,000 and 450,000 under Hagel's proposal, which was leaked to the Times by a n o n y m o u s Pentagon official.

This would reduce the troop strength of the US Army to its lowest level since 1940.

Meanwhile, a number of weapon systems deemed impractical by today's military realities are expected to be axed from the budget.

Among the military hardware set for retirement is the Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft, designed for destroying tanks in Western Europe at the height of the Cold War, as well as the U-2 spy plane, which is being replaced by the aerial drone Global Hawk.

At the same time, expenditures set aside for Special Operations and cyber warfare will not be affected by the cuts.

"You have to always keep your institution prepared, but you can't carry a large land-war Defense Department when there is no large land war," one senior



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

Pentagon official told the US daily.

"We're still going to have a very significant-sized Army," the official added. "But it's going to be agile. It will be capable. It will be modern. It will be trained."

In its effort to balance its books while still fielding a battle-worthy fighting force, unpopular personnel cuts also will be an inevitable part of the trimming process.

The proposed spending overhaul is intended to conform with the Bipartisan Budget Act - agreed upon by President

Hagel is expected to recommend imposing limits on military pay raises, a higher deductible for medical benefits and reductions in tax-free housing allowances to free up billions of dollars from the defense budget.

The cutbacks will also include a one-year freeze on pay raises for top military brass, as well as reducing the \$1.4 billion direct subsidies set aside for military families when purchasing groceries from commissaries.

"This is a real uphill battle with Congress," Mieke Eoyang, director of the National Security Program at Third Way, a Washington think-tank, told Fox News.

"God bless [Hagel] for trying to get a handle on these costs," she said. "But in this political environment, in an election year, it's going to be hard for members of Congress to accept anything that's viewed as taking benefits away from troops."

Military brass say they are not oblivious to the unpopularity of the cuts but see no choice given the decline in military spending.

"Personnel costs reflect some 50 percent of the Pentagon budget and cannot be exempted in the context of the significant cuts the department is facing," Department spokesman John Kirby told the Times. "Secretary Hagel has been clear that, while we do not want to, we ultimately must slow the growth of military pay and compensation."

US-Observer Note: We believe that no cuts should take place to our military that affect the benefits, pay and/or the safety of those in our armed services.



An A-10C Thunderbolt II (Reuters / Joely Santiago)

Obama and Congress in December - that places a cap on military spending at around \$496 billion for fiscal year 2015.



U-2 spy plane (AFP Photo / US Air Force)

Man cleared of rape charges speaks out

By Derek Quizon

(The Daily Progress) - Seven years after being falsely convicted of rape, Edgar Coker Jr., 22, of Mineral, said he's ready to move on.

"To hear that you're finally free, it's like a reality check," Coker said Monday afternoon in an interview at the University of Virginia School of Law. "I got so used to not going to certain places, and now I'm able to just live my life."

A Fairfax County circuit judge vacated his sentence last week, and his name was taken off the sex offender list. It was the end of an ordeal that began in 2007 when Coker, then 15, pleaded guilty to raping a 14-year-old girl. He took a plea deal on the advice of his attorney because he faced a potentially long prison sentence in an adult facility.

The girl recanted her accusation just two months later, admitting she had lied. Coker's legal team — attorneys with the Child Advocacy Clinic and the Innocence Project Clinic at UVa's School of Law, as well as Legal Aid Justice Center and the McGuire Woods law firm — secured Coker's early release from juvenile prison, which took 15 additional months. Despite Coker's release, his name remained on the sex offender registry.

Coker said most of his classmates understood the situation and treated him well. But the long list of restrictions on sex offenders often kept him from socializing outside of school. He usually stayed at home, he said, while friends went out.

"I was just cautious, watching my every move," he said, "not trying to do nothing."

There were some missteps. Attending a high school football game in 2011 at his alma mater led to his arrest due to his lingering status. His family moved several times when neighbors found him on the registry and harassment began.



Edgar Coker Jr.

A note left at their house said a rapist lived inside. There was at least one death threat online.

Dierdre Enright, director of the Innocence Project Clinic, believed clearing Coker's name — overturning the conviction and getting his name removed from the sex offender list — would be fairly easy. But a procedural obstacle forced a legal battle that went all the way up to the state Supreme Court.

"Getting him released was the easy part," Enright said. "The tough thing was getting him vindicated."

Coker's lawyers filed for a writ of habeas corpus — a petition for release from mandatory detention — while he was on parole, but the suit was dismissed by a Stafford County judge on the grounds that Coker was not being detained.

Coker's attorneys appealed to the state Supreme Court, where they argued that parole is a form of detention, which makes the habeas petition valid. In 2012, the court ruled in Coker's favor, opening the door for a lawsuit against the state Department of Juvenile Justice that could clear his name.

"We had hope that something would happen, at some point," she said. "We just didn't know when and if it was going to happen."

Enright said Coker's case shows why

threatening juveniles with adult prison can be problematic. Fear of the danger he faced in the adult system was enough to make him plead guilty in a weak case — Coker's accuser, she said, has a history of false accusations.

Then there was the long battle over a procedural roadblock.

"There's people who will say about this — 'the system worked,'" Enright said. "That is the most empty response you can have to this situation."

Coker said he wished police and prosecutors had been more thorough with their investigation.

"I just think on serious cases, they should really look into it ... before they throw someone's life away," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

First State in US requiring videotaped questioning of suspects



(The Daily Journal) Providence, Rhode Island — A national advocacy group says a new accreditation program makes Rhode Island the first state in the nation requiring police to videotape the questioning of suspects.

The Providence Journal reports that Rhode Island's accreditation standards direct all police departments to put policies in place requiring officers to videotape the entire interrogation of suspects accused of capital crimes and facing life in prison.

A task force recommended that police departments require officers to videotape interviews with suspects in crimes that include murder, robbery, burglary, rape and first-degree arson.

The only exceptions would be if recording compromises an officer's safety, evidence might be destroyed or the suspect could escape.

The task force's stated mission is to reduce the likelihood of wrongful convictions caused by false confessions and provide solid evidence from recorded interrogations.

Man Facing 5 Years Freed, Cops Charged After 2nd Dash-Cam Tape Surfaces

By Rick Wells

The Conservative Infidel

An innocent man is off the hook and two police officers have been charged as a result of surprising evidence which had originally not been made available to the defendant. Dash cam footage from a second police vehicle which responded to the scene exonerated the defendant, who was looking at a potential five year sentence.

Marcus Jeter, 30, of Bloomfield, NJ had been at the home of his girlfriend when police responded to a disturbance call. The cops suggested that Mr. Jeter leave, which he did a short time later. It was then that the police followed him and pulled him over.



Marcus Jeter

Bloomfield police were immediately aggressively attacking Mr. Jeter, as the video shows. The one cop is heard telling Jeter to quit trying to take his gun as if he's setting the stage for a justified shooting. The cops charged Jeter with eluding police, resisting arrest and assault. The video clearly shows the only assault which took place was by the officers against Mr. Jeter.

The video was not provided to Mr. Jeter's attorney initially. Once it became available and was introduced in court, the charges against Mr. Jeter were dropped. Charges of conspiracy, official misconduct and falsifying reports were leveled against two of the now former police officers, with another charge of aggravated assault.

A third officer was allowed to retire.

This is not likely the first instance where these two have abused their authority and one has to wonder if there aren't others wrongfully in jail right now who weren't fortunate enough to have had a second tape available to expose police misconduct and exonerate them.

US-OBSERVER NOTE ON FALSE CHARGES:

False prosecutions are getting some well needed main-stream attention these days. Over the past 25 years, the US-Observer has been the lone voice exposing this rampant issue. Our cases, over 4,200 of them, have led to vindication through the use of our services; an achievement no other group, lawyer or agency can claim.

In many cases, our clients haven't needed the use of expensive attorneys, as our investigations and publication are used to expose the truth to the world. It is this exposure that this otherwise beyond reproach system fears, and it works well.

We hope that every innocent victim of a false prosecution finds justice, and if you are facing false charges, please contact us.

541-474-7885
editor@usobserver.com

Ron Paul Straight Talk: Let's Leave Ukraine Alone!



By Ron Paul

Ukraine recently saw its worst violence since the break-up of the Soviet Union over 20 years ago. Protesters occupying the main square in the capitol city, Kiev, clashed with police leaving many protesters and police dead and many more wounded. It is an ongoing tragedy and it looks like there is no end in sight.

The current conflict stems from a divide between western Ukraine, which seeks a closer association with the European Union; and the eastern part of the country, which has closer historic ties to Russia.

Senator John McCain, who has made several trips to Ukraine recently to meet with the opposition, wrote last week that the U.S. must stand up to support the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including Crimea.

Why are U.S. government officials so eager to tell the Ukrainians what they should do? Has anyone bothered to ask the Ukrainians? What if it might help alleviate the ongoing violence and bloodshed if the Ukrainians decide to re-make the country as a looser confederation of regions rather than one tightly controlled by a central government? Perhaps Ukraine engaged in peaceful trade with countries both to the west and east would benefit all sides. But outside powers seem to be fighting a proxy war, with Ukraine suffering the most because of it.

If you asked most Americans how they feel, my bet is that you would discover they are sick and tired of the U.S. government getting involved in every crisis that arises. Certainly the American people want none of of this intervention in Ukraine. They understand, as recent polls have shown, that our interventionist foreign policy is only creating more enemies overseas. And they also understand that we are out of money. We could not afford to be the

Doctor Warns: Gov't Taking Over Psychiatry



By Lee Hieb, M.D.

(WND.com) - In the administration's latest push to limit the Second Amendment rights of its citizens, the term "mental health" is being bantered about and used as common ground between anti-gun activists and staunch defenders of gun rights.

Sen. Roy Blunt, Missouri Republican and NRA backer, objected to President Obama's proposals but agreed the "focus should be on mental health." Others, while proclaiming support for the Second Amendment, propose "a meaningful conversation about mental health," or that we should "identify people who are mentally ill." After all, how could anyone support guns in the hands of the mentally ill?

Wait ... not so fast. The problem is one of definition: Who is mentally ill?

The use of psychiatry against dissidents in the Soviet Union was one of the major human rights scandals of the 1970s and 1980s. Overt tyrants don't need to employ psychiatry as a weapon, but establishing a dictatorship that pretends to be a republic requires a stealthy way of silencing opponents. As the Soviets discovered, not everyone is afraid to speak out, and when dissidents are perceived by the public as speaking truth, they must somehow be discredited.

What better way than to be labeled mentally ill? That accomplishes two things: First, the mentally ill person can be silenced and secreted away into a mental institution. And secondly - this is especially important for prominent people who may have left behind their written statement - it discredits the person's beliefs. If the dissident is determined by "great medical men of learning" to be "mentally ill," then people will be less likely to take his words seriously.

Nuclear Physicist Andrei Sakharov was sent into interior exile in Gorky for his "peace of mind" after being diagnosed by psychiatrists at the Leningrad Institute as a "talented but sick man." His sickness came to light when he published a tract in the U.S., recommending build-up of the nuclear arsenal.

Soviet psychiatry in the Brezhnev era and beyond was predicated on the concept of "heterodoxy." If you didn't believe the official dogma, you must have been ill. Under the politburo, this meant not believing in Marxism, or having some form of God-centered religious belief.

In 1974, neurophysiologist and political activist, Vladimir Bukovsky and the incarcerated psychiatrist Semyon Gluzman wrote "A Manual on Psychiatry for Dissenters," in which they provided potential future victims of political psychiatry with instructions on how to behave during inquest in order to avoid being diagnosed as mentally sick.

Even after the fall of the Soviet Union, political opponents, human rights activists and psychiatrists who did not believe in punitive psychiatry were incarcerated in mental institutions. Gluzman himself spent seven years in the Gulag, and 3 years in Siberian exile for refusing to diagnose a mental illness in a human rights activist.

One of the factors that allowed psychiatry to become so entwined with the totalitarian authority, according to Yuri Savenko, the

president of the Independent Psychiatric Association of Russia, was the total nationalization of the psychiatric profession. In other words, the psychiatrists all worked for and were paid by the government. They no longer were employed by their patients.

Thomas Szasz in his 1984 book "The Therapeutic State," says the collaboration between government and psychiatry results in a system in which disapproved thoughts, emotions and actions are repressed ("cured") through pseudomedical interventions. Thus illegal drug use, smoking, overeating, gambling, shoplifting, sexual promiscuity, pederasty, rambunctiousness, shyness, anxiety, unhappiness, racial bigotry, unconventional religious beliefs and suicide are all considered diseases or symptoms of diseases - things that happen to people against their will. This attitude, Szasz concludes, can lead to unwanted treatment being forced on someone - just for his beliefs.

So back to the NRA. I see this one coming. This is a one-two sucker punch let loose in the name of civil society and treatment of poor mentally ill people. The government lets us Second Amendment people keep guns, but only if we are not mentally ill - and it is the government which will define "mentally ill."

Recently, the issue of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, in returning Vets has been mentioned in the context of gun permits. Of course the government makes a great show of concern for our returning injured vets, making sure that mental health facilities are expanded to insure timely care. And of course, unless the vet has a solid diagnosis of PTSD or some other mental diagnosis, he or she will not be eligible for care. But once given the diagnosis, the veteran is at risk of losing constitutionally guaranteed rights under the rubric of making gun ownership conditional on "mental health."

Brandon Raub, USMC veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, made quite colorful anti-war and anti-administration remarks in a Facebook page. He was subsequently drug away in handcuffs by local authorities purportedly at the request of mental health workers.

Col. Thierry Dupuis, county police chief, acted under the state's emergency custody statute which allows a magistrate to order civil detention and psych evaluation of anyone considered potentially dangerous - i.e., he was hauled off and jailed for a "pre-crime." He hadn't hurt anyone. He hadn't done anything overt except express his beliefs on paper. And anyone with a three-inch kitchen knife is "potentially dangerous."

You out there worried about Agenda 21? Crazy!

Have fervent Christian beliefs that leads you to wear long dresses? Crazy!

Homeschooler? Obvious agoraphobic.

Dr. Charles Sell, DDS, was confined in federal prison for five years and nearly subjected to forced anti-psychotic drugging. He was deemed "paranoid" and thus incompetent to stand trial. After serving many years, he was sprung finally after an arduous legal battle was waged in his defense. Initially charged with defrauding Medicaid, at the end he was found to have "defrauded" the Medicaid system only about \$35. His paranoid delusion? That the government was "out to get him."

Psychiatry is a dangerous weapon in the hands of the state. We cannot cede to the government authority to define mental health, nor allow mental health "experts" to decide our fitness to exercise our constitutional rights. And we must be vigilant as more people disappear into the mental health system.



The usual interventionists in the U.S. have long meddled in the internal affairs of Ukraine. In 2003 it was U.S. government money that helped finance the Orange Revolution, as U.S.-funded NGOs favoring one political group over the other were able to change the regime. These same people have not given up on Ukraine. They keep pushing their own agenda for Ukraine behind the scenes, even as they ridicule anyone who claims U.S. involvement.

A recent leaked telephone conversation between two senior government officials made it clear that not only was the U.S. involved in the Ukrainian unrest, the U.S. was actually seeking to determine who should make up the next Ukrainian government!

policemen of world even if we wanted to be.

And I bet if we asked the Ukrainians, a vast majority of them would prefer that the U.S. - and Russia and the European Union - stay out their affairs and respect their sovereignty. Is it so difficult to understand why people resent being lectured and bribed by foreign governments? All we need to do is put ourselves in the place of the Ukrainians and ask ourselves how we would feel if we were in the middle of a tug-of-war between a very strong Canada on one side and a very strong Mexico on the other. We would resent it as well. So let's keep our hands off of Ukraine and let them solve their own problems!

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LIBERTARIAN • li-b?r-'ter-ē-?n

1 : an advocate of the doctrine of free will
2 a : a person who upholds the principles of individual liberty especially of thought and action

-Merriam-Webster

YOUR PERSONAL LIBERTY

Articles of Interest that first appeared on Personal Liberty Digest™ at Personalliberty.com

What's Behind the Growing Pile of Dead Banker Bodies?

By Bob Livingston
PersonalLiberty.com

It's become a health hazard to be a banker. What evil lurks beneath the pile of bodies?

In growing numbers, the bodies of bankers are piling up in the streets — at least eight global financial types in recent weeks (and five others in the past year). And a financial reporter for The Wall Street Journal walked out of his house and mysteriously hasn't been seen or heard from in weeks.

So what gives? Three of the bankers worked for JPMorgan. One worked for Deutsche Bank AG. Others for companies not so prominent, i.e., not "too big to fail," but possibly implicated in one or more of the number of investigations being undertaken in FOREX fraud and the LIBOR scandal. Maybe they uncovered something they shouldn't have. Maybe they knew too much to begin with. Some of the "suicides" have been deemed "suspicious."

Did they suddenly feel remorse for screwing over their depositors so badly? Or, possibly, they realized that the global financial crash that is coming will be bigger than anything ever experienced and don't want to have to experience it.

Li Junjie, 33, worked in JPMorgan's Hong Kong headquarters. He jumped from the building's roof last week as police tried to talk him down. His friends told police he had been

experiencing work-related stress. "The pressure of front-line sales and trading jobs has spread through to formerly calm back offices, where trades are checked to ensure compliance with regulations. Adding to those pressures, banks see their back offices as a cost, rather than as revenue generating. The pressure intensified after New York state's top financial regulator, Benjamin Lawsky, demanded documents from over a dozen banks in a probe of trading practices in the US\$5.3 trillion a day foreign exchange market. Manipulation of the benchmark Libor interbank lending rate has led to dozens of traders being fired and penalties topping US\$6 billion," reports South China Morning Post. But Junjee had recently bought a HK\$5.5 million apartment and planned a trip to Toronto where he had once held a job at Royal Bank of Canada.

Gabriel Magee, 39, a vice president for JPMorgan's corporate and investment bank technology department, worked in the bank's European Headquarters in London. He fell from that 33-story building's roof on Jan. 27. His parents say he had recently been given permission to work four days a week, was in a happy relationship with his girlfriend and talking about planning a family. They say there is no reason for him to have been on the roof.

Ryan Henry Crane, 37, was an executive director of JPMorgan's unit that trades blocks of stocks for clients. He was found dead in his

Stamford, Conn., home on Feb. 3, but no details have been released. A spokeswoman for the State's chief medical examiner's office said a cause of death will be determined when a toxicology report is completed sometime in March. There are reports that Crane oversaw all the trade platforms and worked closely with Magee and would have had access to the same information.

William Broeksmit, 58, was a retired Deutsche Bank senior manager and was found in his house hanged. He had worked in investment banking — specifically risk and securities — and lived in an exclusive neighborhood in South Kensington. Broeksmit was said to be close to co-chief executive Anshu Jain and had worked to rescue the bank in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. A plan to promote him to the bank's management board was scuttled by German financial regulators in 2012.

Mike Dueker, 50, was a chief economist at Russell Investments. He was found off the side of a highway leading to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington. Police believe he climbed a fence and jumped down a 40- to 50-foot embankment. They are calling his death a suicide. He formerly worked for the Federal Reserve where he developed a business cycle index that forecast economic performance.

Richard Talley, 57, a former investment banker with Drexel Burnham Lambert and the founder of American Title Services in Centennial, Colo., was found dead Feb. 3 with eight nail gun wounds to his torso and head. Police ruled his death a suicide. His company was under investigation at the time of his death. But what would possess a man to shoot himself eight times with a nail gun? There are a lot of less painful ways for someone to off himself.

Karl Slym, the 51-year-old director managing director of Tata Motors, was found dead after a fall from a Bangkok hotel. Police found a 3-page "suicide note" but later determined it was written by his wife, Sally. Tata Motors is said to be dealing with a slowdown and Slym was responsible for charting the company's strategy in the Indian market.

Tim Dickenson, a U.K.-based communications director at Swiss Re AG, died in January. There has been little published about Dickenson, his death or its circumstances.

Others who have died by suicide or other suspicious means include ABC Verlag CEO Daniel Eicher (June 2013), Swisscom CEO Carsten Schloter (August 2013), Bank of America Intern Moritz Erhardt (August 2013), Zurich Insurance Group AG CFO Pierre Wauthier (August 2013) and Wall Street hedge fund executive Robert Wilson (December

2013).

Finally, reporter David Bird of the WSJ, who covers the commodities market (which is under investigation by the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations), left his New Jersey home on Jan. 11 and never returned. The 55-year-old told his wife he was going for a walk, but left without medicine he's required to take daily as a result of a liver transplant.

On Feb. 17, three former Barclays employees suspected in the manipulation of the LIBOR global benchmark interest rate were charged in Britain. The conspiracy allegedly took place between 2005 and 2007. Three people had already been charged and British prosecutors are said to have identified as many 22 co-conspirators.

On Jan. 30, former Harvard economics professor Terry Burnham announced on PBS that he had withdrawn all but \$10,000 of the \$1 million he had in a checking account at Bank of America because he feared bank runs because of the Fed policies of Ben Bernanke and Janet Yellen. Burnham writes:

"Why do I risk starting a run on Bank of America by withdrawing my money and presuming that many fellow depositors will read this and rush to withdraw too? Because they pay me zero interest. Thus, even an infinitesimal chance Bank of America will not repay me in full, whenever I ask, switches the cost-benefit conclusion from stay to flee."

He rightfully points out that when the Fed intervenes in markets, it has two effects. First, it decreases wealth by distorting markets and causing bad investment decisions. And second, the members of the Fed become reverse Robin Hoods as they take from the poor (and unsophisticated) investors and give to the rich (and politically connected).

That this idea and that hints of a coming bank run are making mainstream news should be a clarion call warning signal to anyone with money in the bank.

Think there aren't any troubles on the economic horizon? Think again. Banks are instituting greater exchange controls. In recent days, bank runs have occurred in Thailand, Kazakhstan and Argentina. China is quietly selling off its U.S. Treasuries. The level of bad loans in Spain has risen to an all-time high. Last week, the EU announced via Reuters that it was looking at confiscating the savings of 500 million citizens to fund long-term investments and boost the economy.

"But my bank account is protected by the FDIC," you protest. To which I say, "Ha!" The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has only \$40.8 billion on account while insuring trillions of dollars. And you may not know this, but banks don't hold all the money they supposedly have as assets. Study fractional reserve banking. Banks lend out \$10 for \$1 in

Continued on page 10

FCC Backs Away From Plan to 'Study' Newsrooms

By Ben Bullard
PersonalLiberty.com

Facing massive backlash from the public over its announced plan to place government contractors in the newsrooms of TV stations and print media to "study critical information needs," the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced it would abandon the idea only one day after the plan was made public.

The FCC billed its "Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs" as a hands-off way to gauge "perceived station bias" and "perceived responsiveness to underserved populations" by placing monitors at news outlets to observe the degree to which news organizations rely on input from the communities they serve.

But the FCC has absolutely zero authority to regulate print media, and it would introduce unconstitutional infringements by extending the scope of its regulatory practices over broadcast services to include government scrutiny of content and content creation.

"No one's that stupid — we know exactly what they're trying to do," said Fox News' Greta Van Susteren Thursday in an interview with Ajit Pai.

Pai, himself an FCC commissioner, was among the earliest and most vocal critics of the plan. He described its methodology this way:

"First, the agency selected eight categories of "critical information" such as the "environment" and "economic opportunities," that it believes local newscasters should cover. It plans to ask station managers, news directors, journalists, television anchors and on-air reporters to tell the government about their "news philosophy" and how the station ensures that the community gets critical information.

The FCC also wants to wade into office politics. One question for reporters is: "Have you ever suggested coverage of what you consider a story with critical information for your customers that was rejected by management?" Follow-up questions ask for specifics about how editorial discretion is exercised, as well as the reasoning behind the decisions."

The FCC caved today, releasing a statement that tried to control the damage by minimizing the eventual scope of the project and admitting that the study, in its present form at least, reaches too far:

"By law, the FCC must report to Congress every three years on the barriers that may prevent entrepreneurs and small business from competing in the media marketplace, and pursue policies to eliminate those barriers. To fulfill that obligation in a meaningful way, the FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities consulted with academic researchers in 2012 and selected a contractor to design a study which would inform the FCC's report to Congress. Last summer, the proposed study was put out for public comment and one pilot to test the study design in a single marketplace — Columbia, S.C. — was planned.

However, in the course of FCC review and public comment, concerns were raised that some of the questions may not have been appropriate. Chairman Wheeler agreed that survey questions in the study directed toward media outlet managers, news directors, and reporters overstepped the bounds of what is required. Last week, Chairman Wheeler informed lawmakers that that Commission has no intention of regulating political or other speech of journalists or broadcasters and would be modifying the draft study. Yesterday, the Chairman directed that those questions be removed entirely.

To be clear, media owners and journalists will no longer be asked to participate in the Columbia, S.C. pilot study. The pilot will not be undertaken until a new study design is final. Any subsequent market studies conducted by the FCC, if determined necessary, will not seek participation from or include questions for media owners, news directors or reporters.

Any suggestion that the FCC intends to regulate the speech of news media or plans to put monitors in America's newsrooms is false. The FCC looks forward to fulfilling its obligation to Congress to report on barriers to entry into the communications marketplace, and is currently revising its proposed study to achieve that goal."

Toss A Snowball, Get Hit With A Felony Charge

By Sam Rolley
PersonalLiberty.com

A 13-year-old Chicago boy was arrested and charged with a felony last week for throwing a snowball that hit a police officer in the arm.

Via The Chicago Tribune: "The incident occurred around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the 4900 block of West Congress Parkway, about two blocks from where the student attends school, according to a police report.

The officer reported that the boy threw a snowball at him while he was in a marked squad car.

The boy was taken into custody and charged as a juvenile with aggravated battery to a peace officer, a felony."

The unnamed minor, who now faces a lifetime of headaches resulting from a felony

mark on his record, told a Tribune reporter that the snowball didn't even make contact with the cop.

"It made me mad," said the eighth-grader. "He said the snowball hit him but it hit the car, not him."

The boy also said that a crowd of students were roughhousing in the snow when the incident happened and that his snowball may not have even been the one that struck the police officer.

Some local residents believe that the cop, not the youngster, took things a little too far.

"I think that's ridiculous — it's such a big charge," said Latanya Powell, a construction worker, told DNAinfo. "It's just going overboard. I can see if it were a weapon and harm was done, but it was just a snowball.

"This is a case of kids being kids."

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COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out



By Judge Andrew Napolitano

(FOX News) - The political philosopher Edmund Burke once remarked that all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good folks to do nothing. A glaring example of the impending triumph of a constitutional evil that could be stopped by folks who have been largely silent is the tyranny coming from the White House. And the folks who can stop this and are doing nothing about it are our elected representatives in Congress.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It established the three branches of government, and it delegated "all legislative powers" to Congress. American law rarely uses the word "all." Yet the Framers chose that word precisely to confine law writing to Congress and to prevent a president from altering federal law by the selective manner of his enforcement of it and thereby effectively rewriting it. The same Framers sought to guard against the same evils by compelling the president to swear at the commencement of his terms in office that he will "faithfully" enforce the laws.

The use of the word "faithfully," like the use of the word "all," is intended to assure voters that they can count on a president who will do the job they hired him to do by enforcing federal laws, not evading them, and by enforcing them as Congress has written them, not as the president might wish them to be.

To be fair, many presidents, from the sainted Thomas Jefferson to the tyrannical FDR, put their own spin on federal law. Jefferson pardoned all those convicted under the Alien and Sedition Acts because he hated a statute

that punished free speech and he boasted that he would not enforce that part of the acts (they expired under his watch). And FDR when barely two weeks in office issued an executive order criminalizing the possession of gold because he foolishly thought it would stabilize the banks, until an adviser reminded him that only Congress can write criminal laws (which he then persuaded Congress to do). Yet in President Obama we have a president whose personal interferences in the enforcement of federal laws reveal his view that he can rewrite them and even nullify them.

Presidential law writing violates the presidential oath of office, steals power from Congress, disrespects an equal branch of the government and, when unchecked, accumulates such power in the executive branch that it effectively transforms the president into a menacing tyrant who rejects his constitutional obligations and limitations.

Obama bombed Libya without a declaration of war from Congress. This arguably brought down the Gadhafi government, which led to the current state of lawlessness there, which produced the environment in which our ambassador was murdered in Benghazi in 2012 and established a dangerous precedent because Congress remained officially silent.

He has told the 11 million illegal immigrants who are here and subject to deportation that if they comply with a new set of rules they will not be deported. The constitutional problem is that the president wrote those rules. Only Congress can craft such rules, and by the president's doing so, he has schooled immigrants in how to avoid compliance with federal law.

The president has used drones to kill Americans, but claims he has done so lawfully because he complied with secret rules that he crafted. Under the Constitution, if the president wants someone dead, he must afford the person due process or ask Congress to

declare war on the country housing the person. No worries, he says -- he has followed the secret rules that he wrote to govern himself when deciding whom to kill.

The president's agents now acknowledge that they spy on all of us all the time, including members of the judiciary and Congress. This, too, was done pursuant to a secret presidential directive, secretly approved by judges acting as clerks and not under the Constitution, and by a dozen members of Congress sworn to secrecy. No law authorized this, and the president won't discuss it meaningfully, except to condemn its revelation.

And in a series of salvos that hit home, the president has modified the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) 29 times, by changing its various dates of effectiveness for some but not for others, and even by diluting the signature obligation we all have to obtain the platinum insurance policies it commands for some and not for others. He has done all of this on his own, with no input from Congress. He has even threatened to veto any congressional effort to enact into law the very changes he alone has made.

His latest assault on the Constitution consists of a plan by the Department of Homeland Security, revealed earlier this week, effectively to follow us as we drive on public roads by photographing the license plate of all motor vehicles. This, too, was formulated without congressional approval or constitutional authority.

And while all of this is going on, Congress largely sits as a potted plant. In the Senate, Sens. Rand Paul, Ted Cruz and Mike Lee have complained long and loud, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will not permit legislation to address presidential lawlessness to reach the Senate floor. A few dozen Republicans in the House have complained, but Speaker John Boehner will not permit the House to address corrective legislation. Institutionally and officially, Congress is sleeping.

Can you imagine how a Democratic Congress would have reacted if Ronald Reagan had instructed the IRS to cease collecting capital gains taxes so as to spur economic activity; or how a Republican Congress would have reacted if Bill Clinton had instructed the IRS to add a 1-percent rate increase to the tax bills of billionaires so as to close a budget gap?

These are dangerous times because this is a lawless presidency and a pliant Congress. The president's willingness to violate the Constitution publicly calls into question his fitness for office. And that deafening silence from Capitol Hill manifests a spineless refusal to preserve constitutional government.

The whole purpose of dividing and separating governmental powers is the preservation of personal liberty by preventing the accumulation of too much power in one branch or, heaven forbid, in one person. Whoever permits this to take place lacks fidelity to the Constitution, is unworthy of holding governmental power in a free society and should be removed from office.

Andrew P. Napolitano, a former judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, is the senior judicial analyst at Fox News Channel.

★★★



Paradigm shift in how citizens view a sitting president



By Lorne Dey
US-Observer

When was the last time you remember rooting for a leader of one of America's traditional enemies instead of her own leader? I can't—in the forty years I have been following politics.

According to a recent poll, Americans favored, by an almost two to one margin, Russia's Vladimir Putin over our president in the handling of the Syrian chemical weapons crisis.

The view of the office of the presidency of the United States has undergone a fundamental change since Barack Obama, formerly known as Barry Soetoro was elected in 2008.

Although presidents come and go, good ones and bad, most have at least tried to give the impression of trying to do what is best for America even if they're not — until Obama. Unlike former occupants of the office, Obama clearly does not consider himself to be accountable to anyone — not to the law, Congress, or the American people. He does not even appear to attempt to cover up his lawlessness against the United States

Constitution nor his alignment with America's enemies like Al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood. His arrogance knows no bounds. For possibly the first time in American history, a sitting president is seen by a growing number of U.S. citizens as an enemy of the people and America itself.

It is common place anymore to read blogs and hear callers on radio programs calling the president of the United States a traitor and even have them side with our traditional antagonists like Russia. Obama is also often viewed as an enemy of our longtime ally, Israel, for his aiding and abetting terrorist organizations like the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and refusing to do anything about Iran's nuclear buildup.

Even when reading posts from people on news sites like Yahoo, hardly an advocate for conservatism, Obama news is typically overwhelmingly critical of him and often in the strongest terms. To hear Obama referred to as a Manchurian candidate is also not an uncommon occurrence.

In short, Obama is viewed by a growing number of people as being an enemy of America and against anything that could be good or beneficial for the country and represents a paradigm shift of how the office of president is now perceived.

If you care about liberty and the law, call the White House and demand accountability from Barack Obama.

★★★



Seven devastating, inescapable economic facts for America



By J. D. Heyes
NaturalNews.com

perspective:

The stock market appears to be doing better and some companies are hiring again. Meanwhile, home prices have risen somewhat, banks are beginning to lend again and the jobless rate is the lowest it has been in about five years.

Things are finally looking up - right? Um, not so much.

On the outside, the U.S. economy appears to be recovering from dramatic lows just a few years ago, when the country was navigating through one of its worst financial crises in history. But before you pop the cork on the champagne bottle and celebrate, there are seven things you need to understand about the real state of the economy that don't bode well for our future, if they remain unchanged:

– Nearly 92 million Americans have dropped completely out of the workforce, and no, it's not because an unusually large number of us are retiring. According to the Labor Department, the latest figures show that a record 91.8 million Americans are no longer in the labor force, which helps explain last month's .3-percent drop in the unemployment rate (it wasn't because hundreds of thousands of Americans found jobs). As reported by Breitbart News, "to be included in the Labor Department's calculations for this statistic, a person must be 16 years or older, a civilian, not in an institution (such as prison), and someone who has not looked for a job in the last four weeks."

Hit especially hard? Minorities. Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research noted in an interview with PBS that last month's seemingly rosy jobs report also saw "the lowest rate of labor force participation among African-American men since we have kept that count. So that was really striking."

– Since 2009, the year the "recovery" officially began, some 9.6 million people have entered the workforce. Michael Snyder of The Economic Collapse Blog puts it in

The number of working age Americans that do not have a job has increased by nearly 10 million since Barack Obama first entered the White House. In January 2009, the number of "officially unemployed" workers plus the number of Americans "not in the labor force" was sitting at a grand total of 92.6 million. Today, that number has risen to 102.2 million. That means that the number of working age Americans that are not working has grown by close to 10 million since Barack Obama first took office.



– A record number of Americans - 47.4 million - now must rely on food stamps, in full or in part, in order to feed themselves. That's about one in every six Americans, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which manages the food stamp program. As you might imagine, as the number of food stamp recipients has risen, so has the cost of the program to taxpayers.

– A record number of Americans are also receiving disability now. That figure has swollen to 10.98 million; what's more,

a number of congressional studies have also revealed that disability programs are rife with waste, fraud and abuse [www.breitbart.com]. In fact, taxpayers are spending more on Disability than food stamps and welfare combined.

– Between 2009-2011, nearly one in three Americans lapsed into poverty. One in three. Does that sound like an economic recovery to you? That is a 4.5 percent increase over the 2005-2007 timeframe, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

– More Americans don't think they are making economic headway. In fact, in a recent survey, 42 percent said they viewed themselves as worse off financially now than they were a year ago.

– And finally, the level of U.S. debt continues to spiral upward, leaving our children and grandchildren saddled with the bill. As of this writing, the national debt stood at more than \$17.3 trillion - and that doesn't even count all of the unfunded liabilities like Medicare, Social Security and now Obamacare. These are unsustainable programs, according to the Government Accountability Office.

★★★

"Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare but only those specifically enumerated.
... A wise and frugal government... shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."
--Thomas Jefferson

COMMENTARY



By Ryan McMaken
Mises Daily

(Ludwig von Mises Institute) - What would have happened if one or two States had somehow managed to legalize alcohol during Prohibition?

Most likely, those States would have become centers of entrepreneurship with retail outlets, medicines and innovation in equipment, machinery and other forms of capital related to alcohol-related industries.

With the recent legalization of recreational cannabis use in both Washington State and Colorado, we're able to see a similar experiment in action.

While the 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol production and sales precluded State-level legalization, Federal drug laws enjoy no such Constitutional backing. On Nov. 6, 2012, Amendment 64 to the Colorado State Constitution was approved by Colorado voters in the form of a popular ballot initiative. The amendment mandated that "the use of marijuana should be legal for persons twenty-one years of age or older and taxed in a manner similar to alcohol."

Moreover, the amendment mandated that industrial hemp be legal and that "all parts of the plant" plus seeds, oils, extracts and other forms of cannabis be legal as well.

Also legalized were "marijuana accessories," including "any equipment, products or materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, composting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, vaporizing, or containing marijuana, or for the ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body."

The amendment was certified by the Governor of Colorado on Dec. 10, 2012, and the recreational use of cannabis has been legal under Colorado law ever since.

Amendment 64, with all its language covering "equipment, products, [and] materials," hints at the economic complexity that has always existed behind recreational drugs, but which now, in a limited case in a limited jurisdiction, has emerged from the black market and underground operations into the light of the larger marketplace. The cannabis market is not simply a matter of putting some leaves in small bags. The new legal market, instead, is a market with far better quality control and accountability on the part of merchants. And it means economic growth for many industries that have never traditionally been connected with recreational drugs.

Supporting the cannabis merchants are a wide variety of enterprises from distribution warehouses to financial institutions, attorneys, short-haul truckers and more. The new

demand for commercial real estate to serve the needs of both producers and retail outlets has created a need for real estate brokers who can specialize in the cannabis industry, while attorneys assist with the drafting of legal documents and accountants must be hired to keep track of the money. Unfortunately, many of these industries must continue to be wary of Federal law, even when State law is clear on the matter. Banks, specifically, which are regulated at the Federal level, only recently were given the green light by Federal regulators to open accounts for cannabis-related businesses. The legality of this sort of banking remains on shaky ground, however, and many banks remain loath to participate, thus crippling the financial and banking opportunities for the cannabis industry in Colorado and Washington.

All of those private-sector actors, from retail clerks to insurance brokers, are making money from the cannabis economy; yet many business leaders and politicians still mock and disregard this new entrepreneurial activity with a dismissive wave. This includes the

activist were to compile information on all the jobs, tax revenue and capital that has been created in Colorado and presented such information to other States as an argument for legalization. We can probably guess what would happen. In many cases, the information would be dismissed and ridiculed, with politicians and chamber of commerce executives claiming that they don't want such unhealthy and "dangerous" products in their State and that people who consume such goods are lazy or criminal.

Yet such people never apply similar analysis to other products that are arguably far more dangerous, costly and counterproductive than anything turned out by the cannabis industry.

There can be little doubt that officials in Texas and Georgia, for example, are extremely happy about having Frito Lay and Coca-Cola in their States, respectively. In each case, State officials and their cronies in the business sector no doubt sing the praises of all the jobs and economic activity brought to the State by the snack-food and soda industries.

Yet one could easily argue that these

their health while receiving virtually no nutrition in return whatsoever? How many hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted each year through Medicare and Medicaid to finance the diabetes drugs for the soda and snack-food consumers (including children) who are sent to their graves far more quickly by the good people at Frito Lay and Coca-Cola? Indeed, Coca-Cola Corporation once explicitly sought to convince consumers to drink fewer healthy beverages such as milk and water, and drink soda instead.

Likewise, Missouri officials don't seem keen on disparaging Budweiser beer in spite of that product's many connections to domestic violence, alcoholism and fatal car accidents.

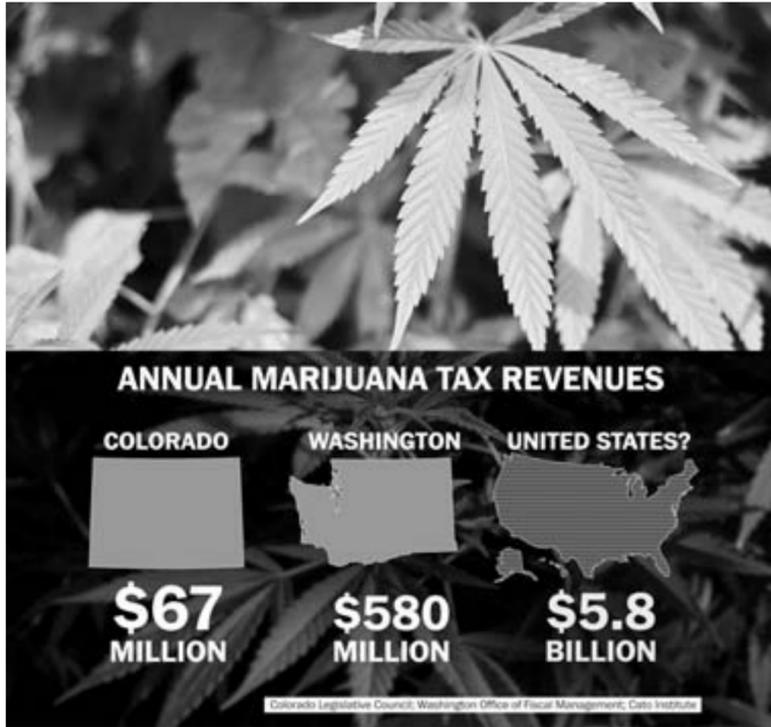
We can be fairly certain that the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce would fall all over itself to welcome any of those industries to Colorado.

Meanwhile, however, the cannabis refugees who move to Colorado to buy real estate, invest in local enterprises or seek better healthcare for their children are simply regarded as borderline criminals and not as serious economic actors. The industry that attracted that capital, both human and otherwise, is to be regarded with suspicion.

I don't mention drunk driving and obesity because I think government can or should solve those problems, of course. I simply point out that the standard by which the cannabis-haters measure the cannabis industry is rarely applied to other industries that can be shown to have economic benefits, but which can also be shown to impose heavy costs on society in other forms.

And naturally, none of this analysis even touches on the many other benefits not directly connected to the cannabis economy. For example, those of us who have no interest in consuming cannabis no longer have to worry that some imprudent house guest might leave cannabis on our property or in our cars, thus exposing us to criminal charges (at the State level). The industrial hemp economy, which we don't even have room to discuss here, offers myriad other economic benefits totally unrelated to recreational drug use.

In a free society, it's not up to business "leaders," politicians, or the arbiters of public decency as to which industries shall be lauded and welcomed, and which shall be ignored and shunted aside. It is the market, which far more reliably reflects the true preferences and desires of the population than any political process, that is the one objective and honest measure of what it is that the consumers and taxpayers want. If consumers don't want the cannabis industry in Colorado, it will surely shrink to insignificance. If, on the other hand, consumers do in fact want it, lawmakers possess no economic or moral grounds to declare otherwise. ★★★



Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, which unconvincingly claims to work for the expansion of business opportunities in the region. The Chamber chose to support the ongoing heavy-handed prohibition of cannabis businesses because legalization in Colorado, according to the Chamber, is an effort "to profit from the legalization of marijuana at the expense of... children."

On what grounds is this attitude by politicians and anti-cannabis activists justified? Their activism against cannabis is, the overwhelming majority of the time, purely arbitrary.

Suppose for example, that a pro-cannabis

industries are far more detrimental to American consumers than cannabis is or has ever been. Obesity-related conditions kill nearly one in five Americans, and cannabis kills almost none. Using the logic of the opponents of freedom in this matter, could not one argue that such industries provide nothing more than an opportunity for people to ruin

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Continued from page 1 • "Serial Rapist" Headline ...

intend to expose more facts. I will also name everyone involved..." People didn't come forward and DA Mark Roe has failed to act on the valid evidence contained in that article, so I'll get with the program.

On October 14, 2013 I called and spoke with Kelly Lonsdale, who is Michael Lonsdale's father. I informed him that I had received credible evidence that Patrick O'Neil raped or molested his son Michael when they were wrestling teammates, spending nights together during wrestling tournaments. Mr. Lonsdale was shocked at this information and maybe a bit offended, but he stated he would speak with his son about the accusations. I naively expected him to call me back and help me hold Patrick O'Neil accountable after he spoke with Michael. I obviously expected Michael to tell him the truth, but to date I haven't heard one word from the Lonsdales.

On October 14, 2013 I also called Dave Gilbertson who is the father of Johnny Gilbertson. He was shocked as well, but just like Lonsdale, he stated he would question his son. I have credible witnesses who have stated that Patrick O'Neil raped and attempted to rape Johnny Gilbertson on more than one occasion when they were wrestling teammates, spending nights together during wrestling tournaments.

Further, and as I reported in my original article on this case, I have other teammates of O'Neil who claim that he raped them or attempted to rape them. I agreed to withhold their names because of their honesty and because the issue of a young male raping another young male is a filthy subject to anyone with

morals. Other teammates of Patrick O'Neil who were allegedly raped or molested include JD Goodrich, Nathan Decker, Tyson Metz, Josh Monson, Alex Pellegrini, Chace Smith Trent Magnuson and Shane Hunt.

I have very believable accusations that O'Neil allegedly claimed he raped 150-250 male individuals and I intend to name more of them in my next article on the perverse allegations against WA Wrestling Champion Patrick O'Neil.

I can understand that this article and the accusations are degrading, however, an innocent, former wrestling referee has been in prison going on 9 long years now and I would expect he is actually in for the rest of his life. The people that have been allegedly victimized by Patrick O'Neil need to step forward and start demanding justice for Brian Garvie, instead of attempting to hide from the alleged criminal acts that they had no control over.

No good and decent person could ever allow an innocent man to sit in prison for life, while an alleged criminal rapist maintains his freedom and his ability to possibly rape others. For all those who think these issues will just go away, I have news for you; I am going to continue turning up the heat until those involved are forced to come forward.

Anyone with information on the alleged rapes and molestation by Washington State Wrestling Champion Patrick O'Neil, the alleged claims of ineffective assistance of counsel by Attorney John Crowley or corruption involving Snohomish County, WA District Attorney Mark Roe are urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email to ed@usobserver.com. ★★★



A young Patrick O'Neil



DA Mark Roe

Continued from page 1 • Felony Sex-Abuse Charges Dismissed!

Medford, Oregon with his family, so they could care for his elderly parents. Young's step-daughter's mental illness immediately began to surface and quickly escalated into false accusations of sex-abuse; accusations that were easily dis-proven, as some things could not have even taken place.

The very sick step-daughter's false accusations soon reached the ears of Medford Police Detective Diane Sandler and Department of Human Services caseworker Angie Albiar. Like two vicious pit-bulls, these so called "professionals" started their attack. As written in our previous article on Young, these two women "overlooked lie after lie coming from Michael's stepdaughter, as they coached her, groomed her, and then tailored her castle of lies." Albiar and Sandler failed to conduct any valid investigation whatsoever before sending their lies to the Jackson County District Attorney's Office for formal charges.

Through the hard work of US-Observer investigative reporters, and his legal representation, Michael Young's innocence was proven in the "Court of Public Opinion" and accepted by Jackson County District Attorney Beth Heckert and Terry Smith-Norton, the Assigned Deputy District Attorney. They showed their integrity by dismissing the case for lack of evidence. However, this was not a case of it being dismissed because it couldn't be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. This was a case where Mr. Young's actual innocence could be established by the evidence and they knew they couldn't win—especially against a strong defense.

Mr. Young's support system, defense investigators and legal team were poised to establish that the allegations were false, should this case have gone to trial. Renowned sex-abuse Attorney Richard Cohen conducted flawless defense strategies for Young and communicated these with Ms. Smith-Norton in a highly professional and tactful manner.

To the credit of the Deputy District Attorney, she



Michael Young and his very happy family

reportedly, painstakingly investigated the case. This was critical because DHS, and the other investigating agencies involved, failed to engage in an objective investigation. Ms. Smith-Norton interviewed numerous witnesses, including the child herself, and came to the correct conclusion that the state could not prove Mr. Young committed the charged acts. The US-Observer, along with Mr. Young, his family, supporters and his legal team were thrilled to learn that justice prevailed in this case and that Mr. Young was vindicated from these heinous allegations.

The real moral to this story is very simple; when police and DHS rush to judgment and falsely arrest an innocent person for crimes they did not commit, that person had better make sure he/she obtains the professionals that are capable of vindicating them. Above all, public exposure is imperative, especially when false sex-abuse allegations are made.

Again, the US-Observer commends Richard Cohen for his excellent legal representation of Michael Young. And again, this writer personally commends Jackson County District Attorney Beth Heckert and her Assistant Prosecutor Terry Smith-Norton for serving justice. ★★★

"Without the US-Observer's help, the outcome [of my case] would not have been what it is today."

--Michael Young

Continued from page 1 • Conservation Easements...

attorneys. At the time of this writing the US-Observer believes that the ultimate goal of the perpetrators is to get control of the ranchers and farmers land, which includes water, mining, and development rights.

This process in the State of Colorado concerning conservation easements began in 1999, when the land developers asked certain attorneys to design a state bill that would allow tax deductions and tax credits to be generated in exchange for landowners to donate all or portions of their property to go to conservation easements, reportedly to preserve the land for "ranching, farming, and open space"; thereby preserving natural resources. This bill was introduced at a time when the state enjoyed a surplus of tax revenue.

However, in the mid-2000s and later when the economy began to take a downturn, the state began seeking additional or new tax revenues even if it meant double-crossing people who had legally and honestly availed themselves of tax incentives offered earlier by the state.

A DECADE later, the State of Colorado is now on a relentless mission, with the "behind the scenes" help of other entities, to recoup tax credits, plus multi-years of penalty & interest, from landowners who legitimately took advantage of the scheme established by the state legislature. The ruse the state is using is – that the lands that were appraised by "state-licensed" appraisers at the land owner's expense are actually of zero value. How's that for pure insanity!

In one case, involving one family and three separate, contiguous conservation easements, the IRS calculated their 2003 conservation easements to have at least 87% of their appraised value, but officials within the State of Colorado, particularly the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) Barbara Brohl and State Attorney General John Suthers, are virtually ignoring the IRS. Brohl & Suthers are promoting this insidious injustice even in light of the fact that the Colorado Statutes (2003-2007) identified that

the IRS regulations were the only standards that applied to Colorado Conservation Easements, and they simultaneously argue that statutes enacted 2008-2013, apply retroactively to the "open space" donations made between 2003-2007.

Amazingly, Governor John Hickenlooper settled his own personal conservation easements with the IRS in the midst of his gubernatorial campaign and the CDOR accepted "his" IRS settlement. In other words, they didn't attempt to monetarily rape & pillage Hickenlooper, like they have approximately 600 ranchers and farmers throughout the state. Go figure – Hickenlooper is Brohl's boss and he obviously has great influence over Suthers...

Governor Hickenlooper could have ended the abuse and financial destruction of ranchers and farmers at any time during his tenure of office, but has remained mute, seeming to enjoy Colorado's stolen benefits as well as his enhanced connections to high-dollar interests.

Property owners, financially devastated by their participation in the conservation easement program have done everything strictly by-the-book and at great expense 1) costs and professional fees to establish the conservation easements, and 2) expending exorbitant attorney fees to defend their "open space" donations.

What the state is doing to them is absolutely unconscionable and the arguments being used by the state and certain attorneys can only be described as an egregious abuse of power ... an outrageous story of "David & Goliath".

The US-Observer is preparing an in-depth article on this issue for our April edition wherein we will be naming the main culprits and their true motives.

Anyone with information on Colorado's Conservation Easements or any of the players involved is urged to contact Lorne Dey at 720-231-2038 or by email to lorne@usobserver.com. ★★★



Governor John Hickenlooper

Continued from page 7 • What's Behind the Growing Pile ...



asset they hold, and most of what they do hold are not even worthless strips of fiat. They are simply electronic blips. So when depositors line up to demand their money, only the first few get any before the bank run out of cash.

President Barack Obama's MyRA scheme is a scam to try and prop up U.S. Treasuries. The regime already has its eye on \$19 trillion in personal retirement accounts in order to cover its almost \$18 trillion in "debt."

Anyone who still has money in the bank beyond what is needed to pay the bills is a fool. The banking system under the Federal Reserve is nothing more than a Ponzi scheme and a racket.

To protect yourself, you should have silver (pre-1965 U.S. coins) and gold in your possession. Buy guns and ammo, heirloom, non-GMO seeds, and land in the country. The financial calamity that I and others have predicted is drawing ever nigh.

Bob Livingston is an ultra-conservative American who has been writing a newsletter since 1969. Bob has devoted much of his life to research and the quest for truth on a variety of subjects. He is editor of Personal Liberty Digest™, Personalliberty.com - voted the number one Libertarian website, according to compete.com. ★★★



Why Some States Still Fight the Exoneration of the Innocent

(Atlantic) - The National Registry of Exonerations announced Tuesday that 2013 was a "record year" for exonerations in the United States. The group's investigators and researchers found that at least 87 men and women had the charges against them cleared, their convictions overturned, in 25 states around the country. Black or white, male or female, Northern or Southern, many of these people were freed from prison in 2013 after serving decades in prison for crimes we now know beyond a reasonable doubt that they did not commit.

Each of these exonerations represents a tiny point of light in the darkness of the nation's criminal justice systems, which remain racially biased and, in countless other ways, arbitrary and capricious. The miracle here isn't just that 87 people last year were able to enjoy a new level of truth and justice. The miracle is that despite our grand pronouncements about equal justice under a rule of law there are so many more innocent people behind bars today who are yet to be exonerated.

There are a number of interesting revelations in the new report. For example, DNA exonerations declined last year and represent only about a fifth of the total. Fifteen of the 87 exonerations occurred after false guilty pleas, another sign of how prevalent coerced confessions can be. There were 40 murder exonerations in 2013 and 18 involving convictions for rape or other sexual assault. Perhaps the biggest surprise, however, is how optimistic the authors seem to be about growing cooperation from prosecutors and judges. From the report:

The pattern of exonerations in 2013 suggests that we are increasingly willing to consider and act on the types of innocence claims that are often ignored: those without biological evidence or with no actual perpetrator; cases with comparatively light sentences; judgments based on guilty pleas by defendants who accepted plea bargains to avoid the risk of extreme punishment after trial. The recent increase in the number of exonerations initiated by law enforcement directly shows that police and prosecutors have become more attentive and concerned about the danger of false conviction.

Maybe yes and maybe no. I write about plenty of cases where actual innocence is an issue but where the intransigence of the courts, or of prosecutors, is remarkable. For example, I'm now into my third year covering the case of Tyrone Noling in Ohio. He deserves to have critical DNA evidence tested to determine whether another man committed the murder for which he now sits on death row. Had Ohio officials agreed to this two years ago, we'd all know the truth by now. The case would be closed. Instead, at great cost to taxpayers, those officials have balked. This year I'll be covering another hearing, at least.

You can say the same thing about Alabama, which won't permit DNA testing in the death



penalty case of Thomas Arthur even though his attorneys say they will pay for it and even though another man confessed under oath to the murder for which Arthur was convicted and sentenced to death. You can say that same thing about Mississippi, which won't permit DNA testing in the death penalty case of Willie Manning even though the FBI—the FBI!—has offered to do the testing amid questions about the reliability of the scientific evidence introduced at his long ago trial.

And you sure can say the same thing about Texas. In some ways, state officials have done a laudable job recently of trying to rectify past injustices. Texas leads the 2013 list with 13 exonerations. On the other hand, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, on Wednesday, inexplicably refused to permit DNA testing in the case of a death row inmate named Larry Swearingen. The rationale the court applied was almost cruel: There could be no testing because Swearingen had not proven there was "biological evidence" to test. Of course, such testing would have put that question to rest, one way or the other.

There are thus two relevant facts worth noting that are not synthesized into the exoneration report's analysis. The first is that not all states are equal when it comes to prioritizing exonerations. Some simply care less about justice for the wrongfully convicted than others. Some are spending money on programs designed to ferret out inaccurate trial results while others are not. The registry that has given us this report may be national, in other words, but the remedies in place surely are not. Congress could help rectify that. So could the Supreme Court. So could the executive branch. Maybe this year.

The second point that needs to be made in the shadow of the report is that some states today are moving against the flow. Lawmakers in at least two states, Alabama and Tennessee, are seriously considering measures that would tighten appellate deadlines in capital cases, making exonerations harder to achieve. In Alabama, five men were given new trials in

circumstances that might be precluded under the new proposal. In Tennessee, the bill now being considered, in addition to moving up those deadlines, would require public defenders to pay fines if they later are found to have provided "ineffective assistance" at trial.

What these two legislature proposals tell me,

★★★

California College Learns \$50,000 Lesson in Fight With Student Over First Amendment

By Jason Howerton

(The Blaze) - Last year, Modesto Junior College in Modesto, Calif., ordered a student not to pass out copies of the Constitution. On Monday, the school agreed to a \$50,000 settlement and vowed to revise its policies to encourage free speech on campus, a decision officials reached as a result of the student's First Amendment lawsuit.

Robert Van Tuinen, 26, applauded the decision, telling FoxNews.com that the college was enforcing an "unconstitutional speech code." He said he is happy that his fellow students can all now "go out and exercise their right to free speech."

As reported by TheBlaze in September, Van Tuinen video recorded his encounter with an unidentified campus officer who confronted him minutes after he started handing out copies of the U.S. Constitution on National Constitution Day.

"There are rules," the officer says in the video.

"But do you know what this is?" Van Tuinen replies. "What are the rules? Why are the rules tied to my free speech?"

After some back and forth, Van Tuinen



Robert Van Tuinen

was escorted into an administrative office and informed that his free speech is regulated by campus rules. He was told he would have to go to a free speech zone in front of the student center if he wanted to continue handing out the pamphlets.

That's when the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) joined forces with a Washington law firm and filed a lawsuit in federal court. Roughly five months after the incident, the school essentially admitted full defeat by agreeing to the \$50,000 settlement and promising to revise its speech code.

Though most of his \$50,000 settlement will go towards paying legal fees, it's likely that the lawsuit wasn't about the money for Van Tuinen. He did say, however, he will be glad to use what's leftover to pay some other bills. ★★★

Continued from page 1 • Nye County Nevada Bombshell!...

When allegations of corruption come to the attention of the US-Observer, Edward Snook always instructs that you need to follow the money. He has stated, "corruption always involves the monetary in one way or another."

Eastley's paid \$583.72 in property taxes for their Castle and the property it is built on in 2013.

According to Nye County records, Eastley's bought their Castle in 1998 for \$145,000.00. One would assume that it was worth \$145,000.00 or they wouldn't have paid that amount. One would also assume that since Bank of America gave the Eastley's a loan against the property that they required an appraisal equaling the amount of the loan.

Reports uncovered by the US-Observer show that Joni Eastley reportedly stated that she and her husband put an amount equal to the purchase price (\$145,000.00) into the outside of their Castle. This would mean that the value of the Eastley Castle was at least \$290,000.00 in the tax year 2000. However, Nye County only had a \$21,943.00 taxable value on the Eastley Castle for tax-year 2000-2001. While taxable values and market values are different, the fact remains that the Eastley's are obviously paying far less in property taxes for their Castle than most Nye County homeowners, if you compare true value. Why?

JoVon Sotak, a writer with Old House Web wrote an article on the Eastley Castle wherein he stated, "Joni discreetly told me that she and Dennis have put money equal to the purchase price into the exterior of the home." He went on to disclose that Eastley's spent an additional \$10,000 into re-wiring the home and that they were planning to restore the basement. Given these figures, the Eastley Castle would be worth at least \$300,000.00, not including the basement restoration or other work done to the interior of the home. Our experts estimate the current value of the Eastley Castle at \$400,000.00.

It certainly would appear to any prudent person that former Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastley has received favoritism from present and past employees of the Nye County Tax Assessor's Office and or past elected Tax Assessors themselves. And, there is no question why assessor Shirley Matson was stripped of having a chief deputy appraiser. Certain people wanted Matson to become



Joni Eastley in her castle featured in *Ghost Adventures: The Beginning*

overwhelmed with duties other than making sure property values were correct. I'm sure Ms. Matson will be doing a lot of checking once she reads this article.

In any event, the ridiculously low, current tax value of \$44,274.00 assessed on the Eastley Castle has all appearance of possible criminal or highly unethical activity. Is this part of the reason that Nye County public officials and others attacked Nye County Assessor Shirley Matson so viciously when she was "mistakenly" elected Assessor in the last election? It must be, because no one had any valid reason whatsoever for going after her.

Cheating the hard working, tax paying citizens of Nye County, Nevada is certainly going to make some insiders very nervous, as well it should. Those who are paying double and triple the amount of property taxes compared to Joni and Dennis Eastley are going to be mighty upset when they read this

alarming article!

The US-Observer is digging into other tax issues related to past and present Nye County public officials. We are also investigating numerous other tax and money related accusations that allege corruption in Nye County, Nevada.

Again we ask all home owners in Nye County to compare their property to the Eastley Castle and then compare what they paid last year in property taxes with the \$583.72.00 amount that the Eastley's paid on their Castle. Keep in mind when you compare your home and property with the Eastley Castle that if the Eastley's made such extravagant renovations to the outside of their Castle, you can rest assured that they made significant renovations to the inside as well.

ICING ON TOP OF THE CORRUPTION CAKE

Joni Eastley is alleged to have been fired from Round Mountain Gold a dozen or so years ago. She went into politics becoming a Nye County Commissioner, reportedly earning a measly stipend of \$24,000 dollars a year and after 12 years is now currently termed out. From a commissioner, she was moved laterally (via alleged unlawful tactics) by the Board of Commissioners (with Commissioner Wichman's alleged influence) in 2013, to the position of Assistant County Manager. I'll just bet that she has her sights set on the Nye County Manager position and if my bet is right, Nye County Tax-payers had better watch out.

Nye County tax-payers need to pay attention and get involved or just keep on getting screwed.

Anyone with information regarding corruption in Nye County, Nevada is urged to contact Investigative Reporter Andrew Alberti at 775-513-6056 or email to andrew@usobserver.com.

Edward Snook's Public Message to Nye

County District Attorney Brian Kunzi:

As you can see Kunzi, we have been very busy investigating Nye County alleged corruption and we have barely scratched the surface. We have plenty more issues to bring to the citizens of Nye County once we have confirmed validity and most of them are far more serious than the Eastley Castle one.

I am fully aware of the many statements you have made about my "rag" US-Observer, about your ability to file a lawsuit, etc. I am also completely aware of valid complaints that have been presented to you that you have done absolutely nothing about. Rest assured Mr. Kunzi, I would welcome a frivolous lawsuit, and in fact I would gladly pay your filing fees. It would be extremely interesting to see you attempt to answer the many questions I have for you.

At this time I would again urge you to start seeking justice and simply do what is right. You still have the ability to call me and make things right in Nye County. When and if you call I suggest you start our conversation by assuring me that you will personally see that Nye County Tax Assessor Shirley Matson is reimbursed the \$45,000.00 plus she has coming. You absolutely know what this amount is all about.

Further, given your track record, I don't expect you to do anything about the damning information in this article, other than to attempt to cover it up.

If you continue on the road you have taken, the time will soon come when my phone line will no longer be available to you. When that occurs, I would make the educated guess that your career and reputation will go exactly the same direction as your predecessor Robert Beckett (crooked former Nye County District Attorney).

My direct number is 541-291-6052 Brian, call me.

Every tax-paying citizen in Nye County should be enraged after reading about this corruption. If they are responsible, they will pick up their phone, call District Attorney Brian Kunzi at 775-751-7080 and give him a piece of their mind.

Front page photo elements used by permission, Pahrump Valley Times. ★★★

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.



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Supreme Court refuses to challenge gun laws

(RT.com) - The United States Supreme Court has decided not to hear challenges to recent rulings that upheld firearms restrictions, dealing a blow to gun rights advocates hoping the justices would declare them unconstitutional.

The decision swept aside two challenges backed by the National Rifle Association, one of which argued against limiting gun sales to those under 21 years of age, while another attempted to secure the right to carry firearms in public.

Ever since the Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that the Constitution guaranteed an individual's right to bear arms, gun rights advocates have challenged laws that limit that ability in public. The Supreme Court clarified that its original ruling applied to all states in 2010, but since then it has refused to wade into the battle regarding public spaces.

According to Reuters, one law challenged by the NRA in Texas barred anyone between the ages of 18 and 20 from obtaining a permit to carry a handgun in public. The lawsuit also

wanted courts to consider whether or not the Second Amendment covered the public bearing of arms in general.

The other NRA-backed lawsuit challenged a 1968 federal law that prohibits gun dealers from selling handguns and ammunition to individuals under 21 years of age.

Both of these laws were upheld by US Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and remain intact after Monday's decision.

The Supreme Court also declined to hear challenges to another federal law, which forbids the transport of firearms between states.

Despite these decisions, the Supreme Court is still expected to rule on the wider issue of public gun rights sooner rather than later. As noted by USA Today, although lower courts have generally upheld restrictions on carrying concealed weapons, a three-judge panel on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recently struck down a California law in a way that makes Supreme Court action more likely in the future.

According to the Washington Times, the San

Diego, California, law mandated that anyone applying for concealed-carry permit was required to prove they needed a gun for their personal safety by demonstrating "good cause."

"The Second Amendment does require that the states permit some form of carry for self-defense outside the home," the court panel ruled. "States may not destroy the right to bear arms in public under the guise of regulating it."

In light of this decision, some experts believe a ruling from the high court on the issue has become necessary.

"These cases present vital questions for gun policy: where you can carry a gun and who can have one," Adam Winkler, a specialist in constitutional law at the UCLA School of Law, told the Washington Times. "It's only a matter of time before the Supreme Court has to answer these questions."

US~Observer Note: Educate those around you. We don't have this right for personal defense, but to defend against tyrannical government. ★★★

Texas man turned away from voting booth over pro-gun Second Amendment T-shirt

(FoxNews.com) - A Texas man says he got shot down when he tried to cast his ballot on the first day of early voting in the Republican primary because he was wearing a T-shirt in support of gun rights.

Chris Driskill says he went to his polling place last week but was prohibited from voting because he was wearing a black T-shirt with a logo on the front and back reading, "2nd Amendment -- America's Original Homeland Security," KHOU 11 News reported.

The words encircle a skull and crossbones where the "bones" are short-barrel pistol grip shotguns.

"I was thinking they just didn't like something about the Second Amendment." - Chris Driskill

"I heard a gentleman's voice over my

shoulder say 'he can't vote with that shirt on. You'll have to either turn it inside out or you'll have to leave,'" Driskill said of his polling place encounter at the Walker County Courthouse in Hempstead, a Houston suburb.

"I didn't quite understand it at first," he told the station. "I was thinking they just didn't like something about the Second Amendment."

Driskill, who works as a security guard in Houston, apparently ran afoul of Texas election law that bars campaigning for any "candidate, measure or political party" within 100 feet of polling place. His T-shirt could be construed as campaigning in support of gun rights under the law. Violators can be charged with a misdemeanor.

This year's primary ballot happens to include a proposition asking for a yes or no vote on



expanded support for the Second Amendment and the places where a concealed weapon can be legally carried. Primary early voting started Feb. 18 and runs to Feb. 28. The primary is March 4.

According to KHOU, Driskill was finally able to vote after he borrowed a suit jacket from a local Republican candidate outside the courthouse. He wore the jacket over his T-shirt while he filled out his ballot.

After he voted, he wasn't too upset about what happened.

"If you have to turn around and go change shirts, you know, so be it," he said. "But get out and vote." ★★★

FBI Report Confirms Violent Crime Down as Gun Sales Up

(CCRKBA) BELLEVUE, WA - The FBI's semi-annual uniform crime data for the first half of 2013 confirms once again what the firearms community already knew, that violent crime has continued to decline while gun sales have continued to climb, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said today.

The report, issued last week, says murders declined 6.9 percent from the first half of 2012, while aggravated assaults and robberies were down 1.8 percent. Forcible rapes declined 10.6 percent from the same period in 2012 and overall, violent crime fell by 10.6 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 3.6 percent in metropolitan counties.

"This new information reinforces the notion that not only do guns save lives, their presence in the hands and homes of law-abiding citizens just might be a deterrent to crime," observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

★★★

2012 The Strongest Gun Manufacturing Year In U.S. History

(PersonalLiberty.com) - The most recent report on firearms manufacturing from U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reveals that American gun makers churned out more weapons in 2012 — the last full year for which the ATF has complete data — than any other in the Nation's history.

Thanks, Obama. The ATF's Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Export Report, released in January, shows U.S. manufacturers produced 8,578,610 weapons in 2012, and exported only 287,554 of them — about 3.4 percent. The rest were sold domestically, both to government and to private consumers.

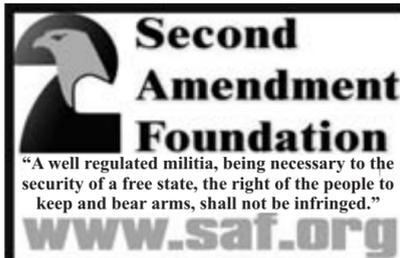
To no one's surprise, industry professionals thank President Barack Obama's gun control agenda for the surge in public interest in firearms.

"Barack Obama is the stimulus package for the firearms industry," Gun Mag editor Dave Workman told Bloomberg Businessweek. "The greatest irony of the Obama administration is that the one industry that he may not have really liked to see healthy has become the healthiest industry in the United States."

Topping manufacturing volume in 2012 were

Sturm Ruger & Co. and Smith & Wesson. Both companies have also seen dramatic jumps in revenue, particularly during the first year of Obama's second term. Sturm Ruger's sales through the first three quarters of 2013 rose 45 percent above the company's nine-month figures for 2012, while Smith & Wesson enjoyed a 25 percent increase over its fiscal year 2012 sales.

The ATF has tracked manufacturing statistics since 1986. ★★★



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The goal of *US-Observer* is to ensure “due process” and “equal protection under the law.”

Citizens who have founded and support it believe in the Bill of Rights and Article 1, Section 1, of the Oregon Constitution which states:

“We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such a manner they think proper. This enumeration of rights and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”

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Democracy is NOT Political Morality



By Victor Sayre

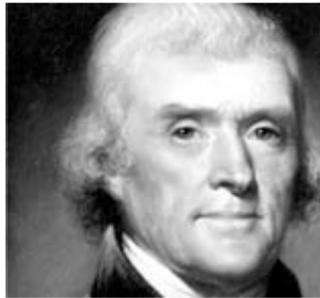
A question was posed to me recently that deserves a clear answer. “What is Political Morality?”

It was posed in the context that morality is different from one culture or ideology to the next. I strongly disagree with this notion. Instead, what changes is the culture's peer pressure or coercion of its members to accept what they know to be immorality. There is a universal morality understood by all humans except a few sociopaths.

A government that upholds that morality is a politically moral government. Nearly all of human history is characterized by governments that instead chose amoral rule by a ruling class over a general population of serfs. The Founders of the USA took an honest look at morality, spelled it out then worked to build a political system that would limit the power of government to stray

from it.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles...” - US Declaration of Independence



“Is it the less dishonest to do what is wrong, because not expressly prohibited by written law? Let us hope our moral principles are not yet in that stage of degeneracy.”

—Thomas Jefferson to John Wayles Eppes, 1813. ME 13:300

We all know when we have been personally wronged. If someone commits the amoral act of trying to harm us, to kill us, to rob us, to steal our earnings, to bully us into silence when they don't like what we are saying... we know they are

doing us wrong. Every healthy creature will defend itself against someone trying to do such harms.

But what happens when an individual is set upon by superior numbers trying to do him wrong? That is Democracy, in which superior numbers have an assumed authority to wrong someone just because there are more of them.

A politically moral government, as the Founders put it, will defend one single person against 99% of the population trying to do him wrong. It will defend that person's property against wrongful taking, it will defend his liberty to say what he believes to be true even if others find it “offensive”, it will defend him personally against physical harm, it will PUNISH anyone who tries to wrong him.

It's why our Founders wrote our Constitution to defend us against the evils of Democracy. It was to ensure the Federal Government had no permission to act on the will of The People and could only perform the specific duties spelled out in Article I, Section 8. Its overarching duty is to defend The People against the wrongs we all know to be wrongs. That is Political Morality.

★★★

IRS Warns: Obamacare Tax Must Be Paid with Tax Return as “Shared Responsibility Payment”

By John Kartch

(Americans for Tax Reform) - President Obama's Internal Revenue Service today quietly released a series of Obamacare “Health Care Tax Tips” warning Americans that they must obtain “qualifying” health insurance – as defined by the federal government – or face a “shared responsibility payment” when filing their tax returns in 2015. The term “shared responsibility payment” refers to the Obamacare individual mandate tax, one of at least seven tax hikes in the healthcare law that directly hit families making less than \$250,000 per year.

In “Four Tax Facts about the Health Care Law for Individuals” the agency writes:

Your 2014 tax return will ask if you had insurance coverage or qualified for an exemption. If not, you may owe a shared responsibility payment when you file in 2015.

In “The Individual Shared Responsibility Payment - An Overview” the agency warns Americans they

must prove they were covered each and every month of the year:

For any month in 2014 that you or any of your dependents don't maintain coverage and don't qualify for an exemption, you will need to make an individual shared responsibility payment with your 2014 tax return filed in 2015.

amount is either a percentage of your household income or a flat dollar amount, whichever is greater. You will owe 1/12th of the annual payment



for each month you (or your dependents) do not have coverage and are not exempt. The annual payment amount for 2014 is the greater of:

- 1 percent of your household income that is above the tax return filing threshold for your filing status, such as Married Filing Jointly or

single, or

- Your family's flat dollar amount, which is \$95 per adult and \$47.50 per child, limited to a maximum of \$285.

In “IRS Reminds Individuals of Health Care Choices for 2014” the agency details the calculations Americans can look forward to if they are liable for the tax:



If you (or any of your dependents) do not maintain coverage and do not qualify for an exemption, you will need to make an individual shared responsibility payment with your return. In general, the payment

As confirmed by previous IRS testimony to the tax-writing House Committee on Ways and Means, “taxpayers will file their tax returns reporting their health insurance coverage, and/or making a payment”.

Once fully phased in, the Obamacare individual mandate tax will rise steeply, to a maximum of 2.5 percent of Adjusted Gross Income or \$2,085 – whichever is higher.

★★★



By Damon Root

(Reason.com) - It's been a banner week for law enforcement at the

U.S. Supreme Court. On Tuesday, in the case of *Fernandez v. California*, the Court broadened the power of the police to conduct warrantless home searches. But it was a decision handed down on Monday that's likely to have the greatest impact on our criminal justice system.

At issue in Monday's ruling in *Kaley v. United States* is an area of the law known as asset forfeiture. In essence, asset forfeiture is designed to help law enforcement officials seize the ill-gotten fruits of criminal activity, such as cash, cars, or homes. To that end, prosecutors are permitted to freeze the assets of criminal suspects during trial if there is probable cause to believe those assets constitute “proceeds” of the alleged criminal activity. Notice that this freezing occurs before the suspect has been duly convicted.

That timing matters a great deal to the plaintiffs in this case, a married couple by the name of *Kaley* who have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of selling stolen medical supplies. That may sound like a finding of guilt, but in fact grand jury proceedings are a non-

adversarial process where the prosecution alone is permitted to call witnesses and present evidence. The suspects have no opportunity at that point to rebut anything the government alleges against them.

In the wake of the grand jury indictments, the federal government moved to freeze the *Kaleys'* assets, including their home and a \$500,000 certificate of deposit the couple had recently purchased in order to cover the anticipated legal expenses arising from their trial. Put differently, the government has eliminated their ability to pay their lawyer.

ruling. “The hearing the *Kaleys* seek would not be mere relitigation of the grand jury proceedings,” Roberts countered, it would be a hearing before a federal judge aimed at determining if the prosecution had indeed proved probable cause for the asset forfeitures. “And of course, the *Kaleys* would have the opportunity to tell their side of the story—something the grand jury never hears,” he added.

Furthermore, “the Court's opinion pays insufficient respect to the importance of an independent [criminal defense] bar as a check on

prosecutorial abuse and government overreaching,” Roberts declared. “Granting the Government the power to take away a defendant's chosen advocate strikes at the heart of that significant role.”

The chief justice got it right. Our criminal justice system only works when both sides get the opportunity to put their best case forward. Something has gone very wrong when the deck is stacked so heavily against those who still remain innocent until proven guilty.

US-Observer Editor's Note: Expect to see more people charged, their possessions taken then dumped on over-worked public defenders. It all translates to more convictions for prosecutors and higher prison populations.

★★★

Supreme Court
of the United States
“Prosecutorial Abuse and Gov't Overreaching”
—Chief Justice John Roberts

Writing for a 6-3 majority, Justice Elena Kagan sided with the government. “The question here presented,” Kagan wrote, is whether the *Kaleys* have a constitutional right “to contest a grand jury's prior determination of probable cause to believe they committed the crimes charged. We hold that they have no right to relitigate that finding.”

Writing in dissent, Chief Justice John Roberts zeroed in on the dangers lurking in Kagan's

Continued from page 2 • DA, Undersheriff and Criminal in Bed...

Gonzales' residence without any negative consequences from Bent County law enforcement. However, when the Gonzales' complained about what their neighbor Hornung was doing, the Bent County Deputies ultimately turned the tables on them and made Hornung the victim and Ray Gonzales the perpetrator – very much like in this Fritz Sturges story.

Why would sheriff's deputies protect felons at the expense of law-abiding citizens and why was a felon allowed to possess a firearm and discharge it continually in order to harass anyone? Perhaps Bent County Sheriff Encinias can answer these questions.

Getting back to the false charges against Fritz Sturges – Pushing this travesty of justice forward against all reason is James R. Bullock, District Attorney for Bent County.

Giving Mr. Bullock the benefit of doubt, on January 20, 2014, the US-Observer contacted DA Bullock telling him that after a thorough investigation, we found Mr. Sturges to be completely innocent of the charges against him and that the accusations came solely from a "factually dishonest, conniving, career criminal" with no corroborating evidence. At a hearing on January 31, 2014, DA Bullock had an opportunity to drop these ludicrous charges against Mr. Sturges but he did not and has not as of the writing of this article. Bullock also reportedly did not, as required by law, forward our letter to Mr. Sturges' attorney.

The false charges against Sturges are so insane that a



The infamous hole David Elmo Henry Jr. claims Sturges was going to bury his victims

conspiracy of some nature is nearly a given. Apart from the false accusations of a career criminal, Bullock and company are relying on irrelevant circumstantial evidence in the form of immaterial statements of previous employees, Sturges' ex-wife and neighbors who have been at odds with Sturges over horses of theirs that they reportedly owed room and board on and that

has never been resolved. Again, they knew nothing of any alleged threat until Undersheriff Hasser informed them of one (that factually didn't exist).

This reporter interviewed a prominent law enforcement official from a county adjoining Bent County and he stated in regards to the Sturges case as it being "the most botched up nonsense that I have seen in my career... incredibly sloppy work" and if he were DA Bullock he would "want to end this thing as fast as I could possibly end it."

So why doesn't Bullock end it by dropping the ludicrous false charges leveled against Mr. Sturges? Perhaps he is bucking for a state investigation like his counterpart Frank Ruybalid, in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties for ethics violations in the mishandling of criminal cases by him, his prosecutors and other staff. Whatever the case may be and rest assured we will find out, one fact we have determined without question, is that Henry, Bullock and Tandy Parrish-Hasser are tied at the hip...

Mr. Sturges' trial is currently scheduled for March 24, 2014, at the Bent County Courthouse and he is represented by Attorney Karl S. Tamer.

Anyone who has information regarding corruption or unethical actions committed by DA James Bullock, David Henry, Undersheriff Tandy Hasser, Sheriff David Encinias, Marion Summers, formerly Marion Sturges (the ex-wife of Fritz Sturges), is asked to contact Lorne Dey at lorne@usobserver.com. Witnesses can also call 541-474-7885. Your name and contact info will be completely confidential. ★



Vaccines, What Your Doctor Won't Tell You, Part 2

By Rob Pell

Most doctors are happy to administer whatever vaccine producers claim is safe, but are reluctant to discuss the fact that these for-profit vaccine manufacturers are legally protected from lawsuit should their products prove to be harmful or deadly. They can pump out

anything they want with no financial risk at all. I can think of no other for-profit business that is absolved of all legal liability for the safety or effectiveness of their products.

Mainstream medical professionals offer no proven explanations of why autism rates have risen to 1 in 50 except to say those outrageously high numbers can easily be explained away solely by differences in reporting methodology. Additionally, serious ADD issues, acute allergies and asthma rates have all substantially increased in kids in the past 30 years, according to the Center for Disease Control and The American Lung Association, with no reasonable explanations from medical professionals. Maybe, we need unbiased scientific studies?

In 2011, a study was published in the peer reviewed - journal, Human & Experimental Toxicology, exposing the alarming relationship between vaccinating and infant mortality. Of the 34 countries studied, the United States ranked 34th (worst) in infant mortality and topped the list for the most vaccines administered under one year of age. The countries of the world that vaccinated least had the lowest infant-mortality and the countries that vaccinated the most had higher rates.

Many Adverse Events Not Reported Or Tracked: One of the great dangers of the current pro-vaccine mentality is the fact that negative vaccine reactions are very rarely reported to the adverse event reporting system, a system rife with problems. When a vaccine is released onto the market, post-marketing surveillance is supposed to track any negative reactions from the millions of people taking the newly released vaccine. However, not only is the adverse reporting system entirely voluntary, 90 to 99 percent of all adverse reactions are never reported, according to David Kessler, head of the FDA for most of the 1990s. And no oversight of any kind ensures that reports made directly to the pharmaceutical companies are then forwarded to the FDA -- the process is run entirely by the "honor system."

To aid vaccine makers, Congress removed legal liability from them for damage done by vaccine side-effects. This occurred after the manufacturers testified the financial impact from injury awards stemming primarily from the DPT triple vaccine (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) had threatened their existence. However, because the possibility of severe harm or death resulting from vaccines was so obvious, in 1988 Congress set up an alternate system for vaccine victims to receive compensation. It is commonly known as the Vaccine Court. To date the Vaccine Court has awarded over 2.5 billion dollars to victims of serious vaccine side effects. However, it's a no-fault system. So, even when evidence proves someone was damaged from a tainted vaccine, the vaccine makers pay nothing. It's ironic to note that the vast majority of vaccine injury awards in the Vaccine Court have, so far, been for children suffering DPT vaccine brain injuries and deaths.

There is a huge volume of evidence proving that side effects from vaccines are far more serious and common than the vaccine manufacturers admit. Since the manufacturers downplay the truth, there is almost no way for most doctors to find accurate data. It's well documented that Big-Pharma provides high dollar grants, typically in the tens of millions per-year, per-school, for most major medical schools in the US. Doctors are indoctrinated during their years in school with no way of knowing who is controlling the facts they are coerced into memorizing. Only 4 out of 158 US medical schools ban drug company reps from their campuses.

To more thoroughly understand vaccine consequences and effectiveness I would strongly recommend the three resources offered at the end of this article.

NATURAL WAYS TO SAFELY ENHANCE IMMUNITY

Western medicine operates under the assumption that synthetic, genetically engineered drugs and vaccines heal the sick and protect the young from disease, an assumption that parents are expected to accept without question. But when it comes to your child, you are the expert most qualified to decide what is best for your child, using your intelligence and common sense in the same way we fight for our right for real food.

The Importance Of Breast Milk In Protecting The Newborn From Infection Is Now Recognized Worldwide. Breast feeding is the single best thing any mother can do to enhance her baby's immune system. Specific and nonspecific factors are transferred to the newborn through breast milk and colostrum. The most important role for breast milk in host defense against infection appears to be the supply of local protective factors to the infant's gastrointestinal tract.

In the US, back in the 1950s, many misguided doctors regularly recommended feeding infants laboratory prepared, store bought formulas because it was thought to be more "hygienic and scientific" than breast feeding. However, lab-created, imitation formulas do nothing to enhance immune system strength. Fortunately, the American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends breastfeeding for the first 12 months of life.

Avoiding Injections: In 1995, the New England Journal of Medicine published a study showing that children who received a single injection (from another vaccine for instance) within one month after receiving a polio vaccine were 8 times more likely to contract polio than children who received no injections. The risk jumped 27-fold when children received up to nine injections within one month after receiving the polio vaccine. And with ten or more injections, the likelihood of developing polio was 182 times greater than expected. Why injections increase the risk of polio is unclear. Nevertheless, studies



indicate that "injections must be avoided in countries with endemic poliomyelitis."

Nutritional Deficiencies: A poor diet has also been shown to increase susceptibility to many diseases, including polio. In 1948, during the height of the polio epidemics, Dr. Benjamin Sandler, a nutritional expert at the Oteen Veterans' Hospital in Ashville, North Carolina, documented a relationship between polio and an excessive use of sugars and starches. He compiled records showing that countries with the highest per-capita consumption of sugar, such as the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada, and Sweden (with over 100 pounds per-person per-year) had the greatest incidence of polio. In contrast, polio was practically unheard of in China (with sugar use of only 3 pounds per-person per-year).

Dr. Sandler observed that children consume greater amounts of ice cream, soft drinks, and artificially sweetened products in hot weather. In 1949, before the polio season began, he warned the residents of North Carolina, through the newspapers and radio, to decrease their consumption of these products. That summer, North Carolinians reduced their intake of sugar by 90 percent and polio decreased by the same amount. The North Carolina State Health Department reported 2,498 cases of polio in 1948, and 229 cases in 1949 (data taken from North Carolina State Health Department figures).

One manufacturer shipped one million less gallons of ice cream during the first week alone following the publication of Dr. Sandler's anti-polio diet. Soft drink sales were down as well. But the powerful Rockefeller Milk Trust, which sold frozen products to North Carolinians, combined forces with soft drink business leaders and ran a PR campaign to convince the people that Sandler's findings were a myth and the polio figures a fluke. By the summer of 1950 sales of high sugar products were back to previous levels and polio cases returned

to "normal".

Cause and Effect or a Casual Correlation? I cannot say for sure. But certainly Dr. Sandler's observations combined with the North Carolina health data from 1949 and 1950 create a powerful theory that should absolutely be investigated further.

If You Feel You Must Vaccinate, the Weston A. Price Foundation Recommends You Take The Following

Precautions:

- Wait until the child is at least 2 years old.
- Do not give more than one vaccination at a time.
- Never vaccinate when the child is sick.
- Be sure that the vaccines are thimerosal-free.
- Supplement the child with extra cod liver oil, vitamin C and B12 before each shot.
- Obtain a medical exemption if the child has had a bad reaction to a vaccination before or if there is a personal or family history of vaccine reactions, convulsions or neurological disorders, severe allergies and/or immune system disorders.

I would also suggest supplementing with the amino acid glutathione several days before and after vaccines are administered. Glutathione is a powerful antioxidant that can help the liver clear toxins.

Opting Out: The Choice Is Yours - For Now. As of 2011, all 50 states have enacted vaccine laws that require proof children have received certain vaccines in order to attend daycare, middle school, high school and college.

However, in most states citizens currently have the legal right to opt out of using vaccines.

All 50 states allow a medical exemption to vaccination (medical exemptions must be approved by an M.D. or D.O.); 48 states allow a religious exemption to vaccination; and 18 states allow a personal, philosophical or conscientious belief exemption to vaccination.

However, also be aware that vaccine exemptions are currently under attack in every state because the wealthy and powerful Big-Pharma/Medical Industry lobby is trying to take them away, especially the religious and philosophical or conscientious belief exemptions.

All Americans need to know options for legally opting-out of vaccinations, but they also need to know why it's so important to protect this legal option, whether or not you choose to use every government recommended vaccine for yourself and your children.

CONCLUSION

In the US, whenever reports come out about a few cases of whooping cough, measles or other diseases, why is it seldom definitively reported whether or not the affected kids had been vaccinated? That information could be very helpful but it doesn't seem that public health officials want us to have it.

A New Term to Hide the Truth: Rather than share straight talk about whether or not a sick kid has been vaccinated, health officials now often use the term, unknown status. I don't accept that as a good-faith effort to find the truth. My family was once the target of a health department vaccination investigation and I can tell you with certainty, that when health officials really want to know vaccination status, they find out, quickly and definitely.

Vaccine makers already have 95% of the market sewn up. If they did scientific safety and effectiveness studies with the hopes of capturing the last 5%, and those studies ended up proving that vaccines were ineffective or unsafe, it would be devastating to their bottom line. Unfortunately, that's why we'll never see truly scientific studies. Vaccine makers don't want them. U.S Government oversight agencies have made it their policy to blindly accept everything Big-Pharma claims to be true about vaccine safety and effectiveness.

Before you choose whether or not to vaccinate yourself or your child, a mature, thinking person should do a logical, benefit to risk assessment. What are the proven, likely or possible benefits? Then, compare that list to the proven, likely or possible side effects.

Most medical doctors are not equipped to help you much here. You will need to educate yourself.

Editor's Note: In the last edition of the US-Observer, which you can still find on-line in our archives, we published part 1 of this 2 part article.

★★★

Continued from page 1 • Nye County Corruption - The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Human Resources fame, yet no one even questioned why she sent it via regular mail and left it exposed in the Assessor's office. Who appears guilty here? Can you smell any corruption here?

THE POSTAGE MACHINE BECOMES A TOOL

It is important to know it had previously been established that as the elected official, Matson was responsible for everything in her office. She is the manager/supervisor. Nye County, for some as yet unexplained reason, used her office as the shared location for the Pitney Bowes stamp machine. All departments used the postage machine for their mail. The office location is in a small stand-alone building away from the busier parts of Nye County departments. This meant that other employees were required to bring their mail, process it through the machine for postage and then leave it for delivery to the local Post office. There was no apparent individual assigned to deliver the mail to the U S Post office two miles away.

Since the FBI took an interest in this event, I researched the issue with the local Post Office. I was informed they had no interest in mail that had a stamp placed on it until it was actually in the postal system. That is defined as in a mail box, in the hands of the mail carrier or delivered to the Post Office. I was informed that a more definitive answer could be received from the fraud division of the USPS in Washington DC. They have not responded to my written request. I cannot tell you why, unless they were busy having champagne, while sitting in a hot tub somewhere. Hey, don't laugh now!

MORE DIRT ON THE ASSAULT

There is also no explanation as to why there is no interest on District Attorney Brian Kunzi's part, regarding the attempted run on the Assessor bank account with those fraudulent checks. It occurred a short time after Matson took office - \$28,000 worth of checks to be exact.

There were employees in the County Assessor's office who were coordinating with Nevada State officials, looking for dirt on Matson before she was elected. That is government collusion against a legitimate candidate for office. It is a violation of county policy and an ethical violation for those employees to do political research on county time. Yes, while all tax-paying citizens were paying their salary. It is also proof-positive of a conspiracy against Assessor Shirley Matson.

LEGAL OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

There is another incident where Matson asked Sheriff Tony DeMeo to verify if all the workers building the new county jail were legal immigrants or citizens. DeMeo refused and they got into an email confrontation, which the Sheriff made public, calling Matson a racist. This led to a band of citizens, including the previous Nye County Assessor

Sandra Musselman, Public Works retiree Sam Musselman, defeated previous county recorder Byron Foster and one Stephanie Lopez, a progressive Democrat agitator to allegedly harass Matson and reportedly file an ethics complaint against her.

NO HELP ANYWHERE

Matson received no help from Brian Kunzi, who is the supposed attorney for county officials and employees or from Human Resources Manager Danelle Shamrell. Instead Matson paid the full amount required to mount her ethics defense, totaling approximately \$45,000. Nye County should have stepped in to provide coverage for Matson's defense just as they would any other county employee. That was never forthcoming and looking back; it has the appearance of a conspiracy to damage the Assessor financially. You see, the Nye County insurance policy has a \$50,000 deductible, which the county is responsible to pay before the Pool Pact insurance policy kicks in. Who is responsible to advise the employee/manager or elected official that this is the procedure? Would it be Danelle Shamrell in Human Resources, County Manager Pam Webster or District Attorney Brian Kunzi or all three of them? The more important question would be; why didn't they advise her?

I repeat, who should have advised Shirley Matson? Those who advised Joni Eastley, Lorinda Wichman and Danelle Shamrell of the available coverage at the time of their response to ethics charges certainly should have advised Mrs. Matson of her coverage under the same insurance provision. You may recall the decision to hire Eastley was made between County Manager Pam Webster and Human Resources Manager Danelle Shamrell, just by reading the applications and resumes'. Eastley, Commissioner Lorinda Wichman and Danelle Shamrell were required to respond to the ethics complaint. They were covered up to the \$50,000 mark with county funds. Pahrump Valley Times Editor Matt Ward editorialized that I owed him as a taxpayer \$50,000 for their defense because I was the one who filed that ethics complaint. Could Matt Ward make his "hidden" agenda any more obvious?

Here's reality. Nye County owes Shirley Matson \$45,000 for her defense under the county policy and perhaps damages for the county administration not advising her of the protocol. Nye County needs to pay up or show their true colors. Patience is growing short. The county needs to treat everyone equally and that is not so in Matson's case. There is a transparent effort to do financial harm to this proud, honest public servant. In April 2012, Commissioners Eastley, Schinhofen, Hollis and Wichman voted to approve giving Pam

Webster full authority to settle disputes up to the \$50,000 deductible per the county insurance policy. Isn't that convenient?

CONNECTIONS AND CORRUPTION

There must be a connection between corrupt government officials and others in Nye County over these shenanigans. Nye County is one big conglomeration of families taking care of each other. I have a list, three pages long, of family members and friends working for Nye County. Yes, it's just one big group of socially engineered, closed loop families. What a can of worms.

They don't want an outsider holding an office. They have been making their own rules about how they want the county run. There are some actually taking measures in opposition to Matson's efforts to manage a properly functioning department. Matson reportedly found employees doing notary services on county time and pocketing the money, while we, the taxpayers were paying their salary. Another employee reportedly used county time to conduct her outside business and took advantage of county facilities to ship goods. Others allegedly wanted to set their own hours for their convenience, deciding this among themselves. Another person actually asked Danelle Shamrell to instruct Matson not to

contact her - period. That is a direct violation of the Union contract and Nye County policy. Assessor Shirley Matson has every right to expect that while her employee was on sick leave that she should be able to contact her personally about any issue

affecting employment. Now Shamrell claims it was Matson who made that request, but not according to written documents. Is it any wonder they want one of their own, Sheree Stringer, to challenge Matson for the assessor position in the 2014 election?

THE PETITION TO RECALL AND ETHICS

The following partial list of names belong to current and past employees in Nye County government who reportedly signed the petition to recall Matson and allegedly participated in harassing her. Some signers were Deputy District Attorney Tim Sutton, Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastley, Human Resource Manager Danelle Shamrell, District Attorney Brian Kunzi, Sam Musselman - Public Works, Sandra Musselman - Retired Assessor, Deputy Sheriff Richard Marshall, Sheree Stringer - Assessor employee and now candidate for Assessor, Assessor's Deputy Appraiser Julieanne Dudenski, James Eason - Tonopah Town

manager, Shirley Trummel - Human Services, Gregory Hafen, and un-elected Treasurer Gary Budhal. There are plenty more signers, however this short list will suffice for now.

Matson who sees her job as looking out for the accuracy and dependability of property valuations was suddenly bombarded with opposition from almost every sector of Nye County Government. It begs the question, what are these people hiding? We have given Nye County citizens a hint in the article titled, "Nye County Bombshell", located on the top front page of this edition. By the way, THAT RECALL PETITION FAILED.

A second issue now surfaces around Matson and the Ethics Commission. Not just Matson, but also, Eastley, Wichman and Shamrell. It even extends into Clark County. There is a serious indication of favoritism, corruption and alleged criminal activity at the State Ethics Commission. Several recent decisions and opinions from the State of Nevada Ethics Commission show a total disregard for their obligation to deliver opinions that reflect their published rules and mission of promoting ethical behavior regarding government officials and employees.

The most recent case involved two Clark County School District officials. The complaint related facts that they used school district facilities and funds to promote a financial benefit to the district. The alleged activity is a clear violation of ethics and an even clearer violation of Nevada law. It was even stated in the Commission's written opinion that the law was violated. What is wrong is that they were given a free pass, because, according to the Commission's report, they gave the money back. Friends with benefits or just flat out corruption? The trend from Matson's experience to Eastley's absolution and to Clark County's free pass, it sure looks like it pays to have friends in high places. Except that Matson's friends are the citizens who voted her into office against the efforts of Nye County's alleged "close-knit" families.

Again, Nye County officials and employees engineered all these events. They are obliged to reimburse Matson \$45,000 for her defense against those trumped up charges in the recall petition. Elections are coming and so is our ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION!

Remember readership, these allegedly corrupt officials are in your county as well as ours. They think they are masters in the art of fooling citizens. In reality they are fools because the US-Observer has dealt with issues like this for years and knows how to expose them for what they are. We're aware we can't fix this alone. We need each of your votes and involvement to fight corruption in the political and justice system. It's your county.

Anyone who has information pointing to possible corruption on the part of those listed in this article are urged to contact Andrew Alberti at 775-513-6056 or email to andrew@usobserver.com.

Photos used by permission of Horace Langford Jr. and the Pahrump Valley Times.

★★★

'I Spent 15 Years In Solitary Confinement For A Crime I Didn't Commit'

By Saki Knafo
Huffington Post

Damon Thibodeaux, a former Mississippi deckhand, was sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl in 1997, when he was 22. He was released from Louisiana's Angola prison in 2012, after his lawyers convinced the local district attorney that he'd been wrongly convicted. At a hearing on solitary confinement held by the Senate Judiciary Committee this week and in a subsequent interview with HuffPost, he spoke about the experience of living alone for 15 years in an 8 by 10 cell. Here is his story, in his words:

I didn't pass the days. The days passed me. I would wake up, I would make my coffee, read the Bible, wait for the mail, read my newspaper. I would start exercising. I would watch a little CNN. I would clean my floor almost every day. I would spend a lot of time reading. I've read everything from science fiction to Team of Rivals. I've even read Harry Potter. [laughs]

In Angola, it's not a solid cell, it's bars, so you can talk to the guy in the cell next to you. Or you could holler down the tier at each other -- I've seen that done before. You come out of the cell one hour a day. You can use that hour to exercise, shower, sit down in front of someone's cell and play chess or checkers. It's a small silver lining, I guess.

When you get a death sentence in Louisiana, it's automatic cell confinement. You're considered the worst of the worst, so that's how they treat you. In the wintertime, when the heater doesn't break, it's not too bad, but during the summer it's brutal. Temperatures get upwards of 120, maybe 125. You're standing around in your boxers all day long.

At night, you sleep on the floor. They have fans in front of the cells, but that does nothing. They're not interested in cooling you off, they're interested in making you miserable, and that's just the way it is.

When I first got there, the food wasn't all that bad. Now? I've had vegetables that were rotting. I've had raw meat. They've served stuff that animals wouldn't eat. I guess it's lack of money, lack of care or just the people wanting to make life harder. Well, it doesn't get no harder than losing your freedom.

After a while it gets to be one long day. Every day, you wake up and hope you have the mental strength to survive another day with all of your wits about you. I didn't want to be that case that had to have four or five different psychiatric drugs pushed down my throat or shot up my arm.

There was a guy who saved up his medication and tried to kill himself. There was a guy who died because he stopped taking



Exoneree Damon Thibodeaux

his medication -- he knew it would happen, and that's why he did it. There's a guy who is so medicated he's comatose -- he probably weighs all of 90 pounds. He stares at the wall all day, or he sleeps. I'm told he was just as sane as anyone else when he came. He was out playing chess with everybody, he was talking to people, and one day he just lost it.

I had people on the outside who were able to prevent me from giving up, and I almost did give up, you know? I had a letter wrote out to my lawyer, saying I didn't want to live like this. I was going to mail it to my lawyer and have them drop the paperwork for my appeal, and that's when I got a visit from Denise ["Denny" LeBoeuf, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Capital Punishment Project and the Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana]. She said she read my case and it was complete garbage, and that if she had the chance to argue my case again, she could prove that I did not do it. That kind of became the fuel for the fire that kept me going.

Denise introduced me to Steve [Kaplan, a lawyer with Fredrikson & Byron in

Minneapolis who led the firm's pro bono work on the exoneration case]. Steve would send me books, Steve would send me music; he would take my calls once a week every Thursday for like 10 years. We would talk about everything, not just my case. We would talk about politics, music, what was happening down the street from him. He became my friend.

For a while, I lived next to someone who was eventually executed. They move you to another cell a few days before and they put you under 24-hour watch and you get time to visit with your family and your lawyers, but when the time comes, the time comes.

After someone is taken away, it's on everyone's mind -- you start to wonder who's next. Some guys might make a joke or two, and that's just because they may not want to think of their own situation, which is perfectly understandable as far as I'm concerned.

It's one of those things where you think about your own mortality or you don't. I thought about it. I didn't want to run away from it. I walked into the courtroom with my head held high and I left the courtroom with my head held high, and if I had to walk to the death chamber I'd walk there with my head held high.

Am I angry? Sure. You can't not be angry after going through something like that. I was 23 when I went to death row, was there until I was 38. They stole almost half my life. ★★★

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Are You Facing False Criminal Charges? Have You Been a Victim of False Prosecution?



Welcome to the largest racket in history: The American Justice System

If you are facing false charges and a prosecution then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (the innocent person) have been falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a "plea bargain" from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a huge retainer to cover the usual \$175.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your case and you should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the almighty district attorney has offered you. "Do you want to take the chance on spending 30-40 years in prison when you can plea bargain for 18 months," your attorney tells you. What happened to: "I think we can win this case, it's a good case." Remember? Isn't that pretty close to what your attorney told you as he/she was relieving you of your money?

You then accept a plea bargain and go to jail or you have a jury trial, you're found guilty (because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence-if any and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty) and then you go to jail. When you finally wake up you realize that on top of now being a criminal, you are flat broke and incarcerated. You find that the very person (your attorney) you

frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: Obtain conclusive evidence, investigate the accusers, the prosecutors, the detectives and then watch the judge very carefully. In other words, complete an in-depth investigation before you are prosecuted and then take the facts into the public arena.

The US-Observer newspaper will not waste your time or your money. This is not a game, it's your life and your freedom. We do not make deals. If you are innocent, then nobody has the right to steal what belongs to you, most of all, your liberty. Nobody! That includes your attorney - as well as your supposed public servants.

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The US-Observer investigates cases for news and therefore we don't print that which can't be resolved. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

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**"One false prosecution is one too many
and any act of immunity is simply a government
condoned crime." - Edward Snook, US-Observer**

The US-Observer's services have

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over 4,200 cases to-date. Here are a few:

James Faire

Victim: Land Use Violation

Status: Dismissed

"They saved my property and accomplished what our attorney couldn't at much less expense."



The Parkers

**Charges: Felony Tax Evasion,
Wire Fraud, Money Laundering**

Status: Dismissed

"You did the opposite of the mainstream media and actually investigated."



Dean Muchow

Charge: Government Abuse

Status: Cleared

"Your investigative reporting was instrumental in stopping the District Attorney's abusive attacks."



Manuel Mairs

Charges: Felony Perjury

Status: Dismissed & Compensated

"I was a victim of a malicious prosecution for turning in a child abuse claim. The US-Observer investigated and exposed everyone."



Pamela Fanning

**Charges: Felony Grand
Theft/RICO**

Status: Dismissed

"Thank you for everything...
You are the bomb."



Al Perelstein

Victim: Investment Scam

Status: Compensated

"I can't thank you enough for getting
our investment money back."



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