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Obamacare a Potential Boon for Estate Looters



By Lou Ann Anderson

While the public voices serious concerns about proposed socialized health care plans, a group likely to

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City Council Recall Facts

Councilors Need to Stay

Recall About Access To Huge Fees - Financial Control Without Public Vote

By Edward Snook
Chief of Investigations -
US~Observer

Grants Pass, Oregon - Progressive social power brokers, movers and shakers in the City of Grants Pass are faced with a current city council that has spoiled their plans to rake in millions of dollars in fees without a vote of the people. These "social progressive big-time controllers" plan to recall this "peoples" council and replace them with another rubber-stamp council to

insure that costly plans to "re-develop" Grants Pass proceeds unhindered, without a vote of the people. They attempted to do this in the last election, but fortunately they lost to the very entity they are now trying to side-step - the vote of the citizens of Grants Pass, Oregon...

The US~Observer was asked to conduct an un-biased, third-party investigation into the truth regarding the recall. We have been associated with good people on both sides of this issue - therefore we didn't have any ax to



Corrupt Former City Manager
David Frasher

grind when we began our investigation.

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Daily Courier Deceives Promotes Recall Using False Information

By Edward Snook
Chief of Investigations

Grants Pass, Oregon - The Grants Pass Daily Courier has been on an obvious mission this past year. Their mission has been to support fired city manager

David Frasher. This was done for the sole purpose of furthering the efforts of the individuals and entities attempting to promote their social engineering of Grants Pass on the financial backs of its residents. These people and their close-ally the Daily Courier must recall outstanding city councilors who stand in their way or their self-centered plans will fail. The Courier has been very cunning and deceptive in supporting these power brokers, but not cunning and deceptive enough.

Volumes could be written on this issue because similar issues of deception have been occurring for many years with the Courier, however for the purpose of the current recall let's cut right to the chase and give you (our readership) clear examples of lies that have been published within the pages of the Grants Pass Daily Courier, in their obvious attempt to make sure their role in the recall of the "people's city



Daily Courier Editor Dennis Roler council" is successful.

Deception: In a Daily Courier Editorial by Dennis Roler, dated Tuesday June 9, 2009, Roler said, "The Council would be wise to disclose the reasons for dismissal (of manager David Frasher) even if it could be embarrassing". **Fact:** Roler knows full well that city manager Frasher threatened to sue the city and the councilors

Continued on page 7

Power, Money, Influence and Corruption



By US~Observer Staff

Grants Pass, Oregon - What in the world is going on in Grants Pass and Josephine County, Oregon?

Not much? Really? Don't kid yourself. There are times in history when major forces are at work, changing much, if not everything, that you thought you knew to be true. This is one of those times. Hanging in the balance is your future financial health.

The November, 2008 election changed how our national government is

Continued on page 11

Upcoming Investigation:

Grants Pass, OR - Monica Henrich is allowed to spend one day a week with her children, thanks to one local judge's ruling in favor of social worker Kim Brouhard, granting her exclusive say in determining Monica's custody and visitation rights.

Monica has been forced into supervised visits even though she has no criminal record - whatsoever.

All this because Monica walked into court without a lawyer when she went to a custody hearing she initiated and her ex-husband's lawyer was and is, allegedly, a personal friend of the judge.

We will be vehemently pursuing a just and rightful outcome for Monica - uniting her with her children.

Stay Tuned ...

Inside this edition

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National Grange

Resolutions for a Stronger America

U.S. Congressional H.R. 450 "The Enumerated Act"



The National Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 3,600 local communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable Rural America. It was formed in the years following the American

Civil War to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. Over the past 137 years, it has evolved to include non-farm rural families and communities.

The Grange is also a fraternal order known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, hence the "P of H" on the organization's logo. Founding members determined that a fraternal organization would be best able to combine loyalty and democratic ideals to provide service to others. The National Grange was one of the first formal groups to admit women to membership on the basis of equality with men. It remains so today.

The 11-story landmark National Grange headquarters building in Washington, D.C. was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and is the only private edifice in a federal block across from the White House. It serves as a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families.

Each year, a listing of more than 1,400

This resolution was adopted by the Oregon State Grange at its 136th Annual State Session held at Pendleton, Oregon, week of June 29 thru July 3, 2009.

issues of concern is published and distributed by the National Grange.

Each edition we feature another Grange resolution so you can see the issues that the Grange has taken up in order to defend America's liberties.

Resolution:

Subject: U.S. Congressional H.R. 450 "The Enumerated Act"

Whereas: Each act of Congress shall contain a concise and definite statement of the constitutional authority relied upon for the enactment of each portion of that act. The failure to comply with this section shall give rise to a point of order in either House of Congress.

Whereas: This Act would force law makers to include statements explaining by what authority they are acting.

Whereas: This would give the U.S. Supreme Court the ability to scrutinize constitutional justification for every piece of legislation. It the justification deos not hold up, the courts and the people can hold Congress accountable, thereby eliminating acts that reach beyond the scope of the Constitution.

Whereas: According to the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8-1 thru 18 list these 18 enumerated limited powers Congress has. In order that the U.S. Congress would not overstep their limited authority, our founding fathers added Bill of Rights Amendment #9 to our U.S. Constitution which states, "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people". Bill of Rights Amendment #10 also was added that states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people".

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange, in order to protect our Bill of Rights, asks Congress to support the passage of H.R. 450 entitled "The Enumerated Act".

This resolution was adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at it's regular meeting held on May 11, 2009.

William D. Waggoner

William D. Waggoner, Master
1920 Thompson Creek Rd.
Selma, OR 97538

Delaine Sherman

Delaine Sherman, Secretary
P.O. Box 871
Selma, OR 97538

REAL ID Revamped

Dear Friend of Liberty,

Unbelievably, Congress and the Obama administration are currently trying to resurrect the failed REAL ID Act, more accurately named "Dangerous ID."

Dangerous ID, which passed in 2005, establishes a de facto National Identification System, and opens the doors for Federal biometric tracking of every American citizen.

Fortunately, no state currently complies with the burdensome mandates of the 2005 bill, and twenty-three have passed legislation refusing compliance.

So what does the Obama Administration want to do?

You guessed it: "Fix it," and ram it down states' throats.

Well, I say "Repeal it." What do you say?

You see, as Obama Administration Surveillance Czar Janet Napolitano pushes for a revamp of the system to get the invasive federal program up and running, there has never been a better time for us to push back, and fight for an outright repeal of the original legislation.

And although Dangerous ID is a clear attempt to establish a National ID System, the reality might be much worse -- an INTERNATIONAL Identification System. That's why it is so critical we get that law off the books.

You see, Dangerous ID actually requires that driver's license photographs meet United Nation's biometric format standards. At this level of sophistication, government software can analyze facial characteristics and generate a unique identification number.

Think about that for a moment -- your identity will be reduced to a single number in an international database that can be tracked globally by one-world government surveillance cameras and facial recognition software.

Last month, Senator Daniel Akaka introduced The PASS ID Act to tweak the 2005 Dangerous ID legislation and ram this program into action over state opposition.

Supporters claim this REAL ID Redux bill softens requirements on states, supposedly making the breach of

federalism a little more palatable. But it is merely a transparent attempt to get the Dangerous ID system implemented in any form, only to be augmented later to meet government's needs.

In fact, there is evidence that this reincarnated Dangerous ID bill could wind up being worse than the original.

Chief among the bill's supporters is Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, who stands to wield expansive and virtually unchecked power to set standards.

Under Dangerous ID, Napolitano can unilaterally expand required information on driver's licenses, potentially to include biometric information such as retinal scans, fingerprints, DNA information, and even Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) radio tracking technology.

If international databases, RFID and biometric identification cards, and constant government surveillance are as alarming to you as they are to me, I hope you'll sign Campaign for Liberty's petition to stop REAL ID Redux and repeal Dangerous ID.

This is an important battle, and one we CAN win.

Just look at all the success stories in states that opted out of the Dangerous ID system. In many cases, local C4L groups were instrumental in passing that legislation.

If REAL ID Redux passes, the new federal "concessions" may sucker many states into compliance.

That's why it is so important that we defeat this reincarnation of Dangerous ID at the federal level, and take advantage of this national conversation to repeal the original bill.

So please, sign the Campaign for Liberty petition urging your Senators and Representatives to stop this so-called "PASS ID" and finally repeal the original Dangerous ID legislation.

And please, ... help Campaign for Liberty spread the word about this important fight.

In Liberty,



John F. Tate
President

www.campaignforliberty.com

■ ■ ■

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ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

If you are then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (**the innocent person**) are 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 retainer to cover the usual \$150.00 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.

WELCOME TO THE LARGEST RACKET IN HISTORY, THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: 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.

Why have a bad day when it's still possible to force justice...right down their throats?

If you are innocent and there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, *the US~Observer* provides a 100% money-back guarantee on criminal cases should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication. *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.

Do not contact us if you are in any way guilty and for justice sake, don't wait until they slam the door behind you before contacting us if you are innocent.

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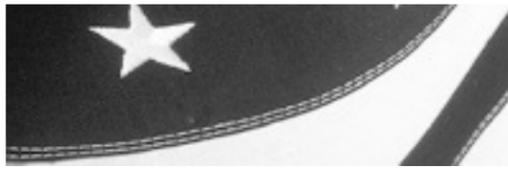
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In The Nation



Obama's McCarthyism?

White House: People opposed to health reform should be reported *Asks public to turn-in e-mails, and those in 'casual conversation' to the government*

By Ron Lee
Investigative Journalist

USA - People all around the country, who have actually read the proposed healthcare legislation and are educating others, are facing unknown repercussions from the federal government after it announced and posted that it wants the public to report anything 'fishy' directly to the White House. Examples include chain e-mails, web sites and even casual conversation.

The specific statement that is posted on the whitehouse.gov web site in a blog by Macon Phillips titled "Facts Are Stubborn Things" states in part, "There is a lot of disinformation about health insurance reform out there, spanning from control of personal finances to end of life care. These rumors often travel just below the surface via chain emails or through casual conversation. Since we can't keep track of all of them here at the White House, we're asking for your help. If you get an email or see something on the web about health insurance reform that seems fishy, send it to flag@whitehouse.gov."

Some citizens are outraged by the move and they are likening it to the McCarthy-era communist witch-hunts of the late 40's and 50's; when citizens were asked to turn-in others for being pro-communist or participating in 'un-American' activities.

One Southern Oregon resident who wished to remain anonymous stated, "It's kind of like reverse McCarthyism. You see, back then they were clumsily going after communists, now the communists are going after the patriots ... I'm just waiting for the establishment of a House Committee on Un-Obama Activities. Oh, wait, don't we already have that?" ■

Letters regarding the above article:

US~Observer,

Your email alert on the White House asking for snitches is superb! You actually scooped Fox News by a few hours. Thanks for all you do US~Observer and Ron Lee. You are making a big difference in the fight for all Americans to regain control of our completely unaccountable government. I sincerely hope that it isn't too late.

Meg Anderson
Toledo, Ohio

Editor;

In other words the White House is creating spy's of everyone on everyone else. Neighbor spying on neighbor type thing to get those who are spreading the truth 'caught' and 'put out of commission' by

"authorities". The White House only wants their own lying propaganda out there. So they are getting the public to "turn in" truthers on the net. Typical dictatorship ploy. And by the way, McCarthyism was a good thing and not what certain people today have turned it into. WE need another McCarthy today!

C

Editor,

It's almost even hard for me to believe this but not quite!

gu11

Hi Ron,

In case you are not aware of this site, "Newswatch Magazine" is an excellent source of news relating to what is happening in our world. It is published by The Church of God Evangelistic Assoc., 908 Sycamore Street, Waxahachie, TX 75165. I began reading it about two years ago and it has been a real eye-opener, especially concerning the movement toward one world government, etc. I wish that all Americans would read it and react to it in a positive way. Our country is quietly being taken away from us and most do not even realize it.

There is a lot of disinformation about health insurance reform out there, spanning from control of personal finances to end of life care. These rumors often travel just below the surface via chain emails or through casual conversation. Since we can't keep track of all of them here at the White House, we're asking for your help. If you get an email or see something on the web about health insurance reform that seems fishy, send it to flag@whitehouse.gov.

Here are the complete videos that Linda refers to. First from the AARP:



Image taken from the whitehouse.gov web site.

Thank you for the US Observer. I appreciate having it to add to my usual reading and trust that it is telling us the truth.

Mary Shew

**Is America headed in the wrong direction?
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US~Observer;

WHEN WILL IMPEACHMENT OF THIS TRAITOR START?

Zorina

Ron,

You are an idiot and undoubtedly, a Neo-Con. Your era is over and worse eight years of our history. I think most Americans have common sense to know that (evident by 2008 elections). You play right into hands of corporations just like a puppet.

David Chelakis
dche285@yahoo.com

Ron,

Maybe EVERYONE should start reporting what's fishy every time Obama speaks (lies) about healthcare or any other administration congressional or Govt press member says anything about it. That's what's fishy and needs to be reported. So give him what he thinks he wants. Report them all

Michael Phillips

To the Editor;

I guess you have not read that when some Russian files were opened a few years ago - they showed that McCarthy was right!!!!

Judi VanDuyn

...



In The Nation

Wall Street Bonuses Set Off Alarms



By Patrice Hill
Washington Times

Wall Street firms that figured their lavish pay practices might escape public outrage and scrutiny once they paid back their bailout funds have come in for a rude awakening.

In the wake of revelations that Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and other big banks plan to distribute a record-breaking \$74 billion in bonuses after a prosperous half-year of trading in the financial markets, members of Congress and their constituents are refocusing on what they consider to be overpaid Wall Street employees. The House moved last week on legislation to severely restrict future financial pay.

Wall Street firms sought to head off public opposition by meticulously repaying bailout funds from the Treasury before announcing the bonuses.

Goldman and JP Morgan bought back stock warrants given to the Treasury. By the letter of the law, that freed them from restrictions on executive compensation imposed by Treasury under the federal bailout program.

Still, it didn't stop a renewed outpouring of criticism from Congress and the American public.

Labor unions and other Democratic groups decried the overcompensation and short memories on Wall Street, and the House approved a bill to prohibit risky financial pay practices through broader regulation and require executives at all corporations to give shareholders a "say on pay" packages.

"As millions of families struggle just to hang on to their homes and get through the next month's bills, the architects of the economic crisis are using our tax-dollar bailouts on the kind of bonus money that finances glitzy Upper East Side penthouses and glamorous Riviera getaways," said Andy Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union.

Congress also is honing plans to levy heavy taxes on the rich to pay for an expansion of health care and other government programs, and Wall Street for decades has hosted the world's wealthiest enclave of millionaires and billionaires.

Robert Shapiro, who was an economic adviser to President Clinton and now heads NDN's Globalization Initiative, a center-left economic think tank, said giant bonuses on Wall Street were widely thought to have helped cause the financial crisis last year.

"The old practices that got us into this mess still go on," he said, noting that Goldman Sachs and other Wall Street firms that made big profits trading in stocks, commodities, currencies and other markets this year plan to distribute

the bonuses as they have in the past to employees who helped generate such large, short-term profits. The problem is, he said, some of their trading strategies -- such as placing big, leveraged bets on rising oil prices or a fall in the dollar -- might involve substantial long-term risks and losses as well.

The incentives for taking inordinate risks to reap short-term gains have only increased on Wall Street since last year, Mr. Shapiro said, because the top banks and Wall Street firms know the federal government is ready to bail them out if their trading and investment strategies fail. Should their risky activities result in bailouts, the traders who created the problems likely will have long departed and taken their generous bonuses with them.

"These compensation practices have to go," Mr. Shapiro said.

Goldman and other Wall Street firms apparently took pains to avoid a backlash after the rage over bonuses at American International Group Inc. earlier this year.

In its rush to be free from federal pay restrictions, Goldman was among the first to repay its bailout funds and may have overpaid Treasury to buy back its stock warrants. Meanwhile, it quietly urged employees to avoid any conspicuous consumption that might attract attention, according to reports circulating on Wall Street.

Goldman trumpeted last week that the taxpayers had made a 23 percent return on their investment in the company -- the same as Goldman's own returns on equity during the second quarter. But that did not prevent a new round of finger-wagging by members of Congress or an investigation into the company's pay practices by federal regulators, which was disclosed in a Goldman regulatory filing this week.

A raft of news reports has blamed the high-flying Wall Street firm for playing a major role in creating various financial crises in the past decade -- from the housing and credit bubbles to last year's oil and commodity price bubbles.

The criticism of Goldman is the "price of success," said Richard Beales, an analyst at Breakingviews.com.

He noted that Goldman ranks among the most successful investment houses in Wall Street history and has spawned an array of influential policymakers, including former Treasury Secretaries Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Robert Rubin as well as one-time senator and New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine.

Goldman remains in the "politically charged spotlight," he said, because of the roles some of its alumni played in deregulating the financial industry and -- in the case of Mr. Paulson -- authoring the banking bailout.

Members of Congress have suggested that Goldman has received preferential treatment from federal regulators because of its well-placed Washington connections. The firm received a large share of the bailout funds the Federal Reserve provided to AIG to cover credit derivative insurance contracts last year.

Knowing that it is "first in line for any backlash, justified or not," Mr. Beales said the firm was trying to "soothe

political and popular indignation" -- apparently with little success -- by paying Treasury its asking price for the stock warrants, which he said was unjustifiably low at nearly \$40 below Goldman's current stock price.

Workers who enjoyed lavish bonuses from Merrill Lynch last year just before the firm's acquisition by Bank of America will not receive such largesse this year. Bank of America, based in Charlotte, N.C., has a reputation for stingy compensation packages, said Breakingviews' Jeffrey Goldfarb.

Many of Merrill's senior staffers have left, some to work for foreign rivals such as London's Barclays Bank and Japan's Nomura Securities, which are not under the same scrutiny and pay restrictions as

Wall Street firms.

"The anti-greed frenzy doesn't seem to have reached all the trading floors and plush offices where pay is determined," said Mr. Goldfarb. "New entrants such as Barclays and Nomura are helping to keep the bonus culture alive."

Several of the biggest banks -- notably, Citigroup, Bank of America and Wells Fargo -- remain under the close control and scrutiny of the Treasury and its "pay czar," Kenneth Feinberg, because they have not repaid their bailout funds. To avert an outcry over bonuses and pass muster with Mr. Feinberg, Citigroup and Wells Fargo have moved to pare back annual bonuses for employees and replace them with higher salaries.

■ ■ ■

Heroin Use, Drug Busts Up, According to Police

By Michael B. Farrell
ABC News

Heroin Use Replacing Prescription Drug Abuse for Many Young Users ...

From California to

New York, law enforcement agents are reporting a troubling rise in the use of heroin as availability of the drug rises and prices drop.

In Sacramento on July 30, federal prosecutors indicted 21 people on charges of trafficking 440 pounds of heroin into California.

On July 25 in New York's Suffolk County, police arrested two men with 17 pounds of uncut heroin in the biggest such bust in that county's history.

On July 21, authorities nabbed an East Palo Alto, Calif., gang member with 70 pounds of heroin stashed inside a Lincoln Town Car.

The growing number of arrests -- and deaths -- reported around the country point to a resurgence of the drug not seen since the 1970s. But unlike three decades ago, authorities say that today's heroin is much more potent. It is also finding its way to younger users, who are moving from prescription pills to harder drugs.

"One thing with higher purity is that ... kids can get hooked much faster," says Special Agent Michelle Gregory, spokeswoman for the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

What's more, she says, the purer heroin that is being sold on the streets today can be snorted -- making it a more "user-friendly" for needle-averse addicts.

Heroin trafficked into California is largely coming across -- or under -- the Mexican border.

While heroin is produced in Afghanistan and Myanmar, most of the heroin sold in the US is cultivated in Mexico and South America and is typically known as "black tar" because of its stickiness, according to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). But, the agency says, a more potent form of powdered heroin is becoming more prevalent.



But regardless of where the drug is originating, the rise in its availability here is pushing prices down dramatically. Special Agent Bob Cooke of the San Jose, Calif., office of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, says that

cost of an ounce of heroin hovers around \$250 compared with \$800 a decade ago.

This could be because Mexican drug trafficking organizations have a backlog of dope because of the deadly government-led crackdown on the drug trade there, say California drug enforcement officers. This means traffickers may be pressuring stateside dealers to buy heroin along with other drugs, resulting in the heroin market being flooded.

The growth of the heroin trade in Afghanistan could also be having an effect. In a 2006 DEA report obtained by the Los Angeles Times, the agency said Afghanistan's poppy cultivation is becoming the fastest growing source of heroin in the United States.

Others say that the price drop may be a simple matter of the economics -- as the recession is affecting the illegal drug trade, too.

Heroin is appealing to many younger drug users who have become hooked on prescription pills -- such as Oxycontin -- because the two drugs produce a very similar high, says Agent Cooke.

With the increase in heroin trafficking comes a rise in overdose deaths, as well, say law enforcement agencies around the country. In the first six months of 2009, officials in New York's Nassau County have reported 25 heroin deaths, compared with 46 in all of 2008 and 27 in 2007. Suburban Chicago has recorded some 31 heroin-related deaths this year.

Earlier this year in Roanoke, Va., after a heroin-dealing ring that dealt to young people was broken up by police, local prosecutors told The Roanoke Times that the arrests signaled a disturbing trend in southwestern Virginia.

A US attorney said, "It's like this wave has washed over the Roanoke area. It's different than we've seen before."

■ ■ ■

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Oregon News With Surcharges, Oregon Cities Can “Soak the Poor”

By Sarah Foster

Two years ago the Oregon Supreme Court gave municipalities a way to raise revenues without going to the voters for approval: they can now simply add a “surcharge” (fee) to monthly water bills.

In a Jan. 19, 2007, decision the court upheld an earlier one by the Oregon Tax Court, thereby ending a five-year legal battle between the city of Jacksonville and 12 residents who considered the fee an unconstitutional tax.

The Supreme Court ruled that the surcharge – intended for police and fire services -- isn’t a property tax, so Jacksonville did not circumvent the restrictions set forth in state constitution.

The Jacksonville Decision, as it’s called, sets a “legal precedent for other financially strapped jurisdictions that are looking for ways to raise money,” Paul Wyntergreen, Jacksonville city administrator, told the Medford Mail Tribune.

“This has, I’m sure, far-reaching implications throughout the state,” Wyntergreen said. “Medford has already followed suit with their own surcharge which is basically patterned after Jacksonville. I’m sure other cities will be in line to do something similar in these times of severe fiscal restraint.”

But cities aren’t the only entities that are hard pressed these days for money. So are the residents.

And the Jacksonville decision is severely impacting low- and middle-income people in the small former gold-mining community, which has a population of between 2,500 and 2,700.

That’s because the surcharge is not necessarily paid by the property owner, but by occupants and business owners. This means a condominium owner, a senior on Social Security in a mobile home park, or the owner-occupant of a small, modest home pays the same fee per month as the owner of a \$300,000 home – and there are a number of new, expensive houses in the area.

And those fees add up. The surcharge in Jacksonville was originally \$15 a month per unit, then went to \$20, and is expected to go as high as \$40 or \$45.

“I would say that 80 percent of the people in here live month-to-month, and have only a minimum savings account,” said the assistant manager of a local mobile home park.

“There are a number of newcomers in town who are relatively wealthy and for whom \$20 or \$40 more a month is nothing,” she added. “To them it’s a small price to pay for services. But for someone in here, \$40 is a make it or break it, eat-or-don’t-eat type of



Jacksonville, Oregon - Home of the ‘Jacksonville Decision’

payment.

“There are people here who run out of money before their check arrives each month – they barely get by as it is,” she said.

Theoretically, a person can apply for a reduction, but that involves a lot of paper work, and the assistant manager – who handles the exemption forms for the residents at the park -- said she hasn’t heard of a case where the fee was completely cancelled. At best it might be lowered a few dollars.

“I don’t see any residents in here where the total amount has been waived,” she said. “None of them. People send in their forms to see if they

qualify for a reduction, but even if they qualify it knocks only three or four dollars off. Big Deal!”

Businesses Hit

Paul Hayes, owner of Cottage Antiques and one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, pays \$20 a month on that property because he owns it and his is the only business in the building.

Like Hayes, Georgeanne Crum was also a plaintiff and owns a commercial building – but hers has five small businesses in it, which means the surcharge is \$100 a month.

“I pass this on to my tenants,” says Georgeanne. “I tell them, ‘I want you to pay the \$15 (it’s \$20 now) because I

Continued on page 17

Open Letter to Josephine County Commissioners From Sheriff Gil Gilbertson



I appreciate, and respect, the responsibilities each Commissioner has undertaken. You knew the job would be a challenge but also a test of your creativity, drive, and tenacity. The public expects individuals filling such positions to be of sound judgment, well educated and with extensive background in administration and budgeting.

The Commissioners have full authority over the County budget. Along with that authority is an expectation the Commissioners strive to ensure a healthy and vibrant community by seeking new industry, jobs, and subsequent revenue. Other elected officials, and department heads, are not afforded this option; but rather act as stewards of earmarked money.

It is in that spirit I provide you with periodic “State of the Office” reports. These “reports provide timely information consistent with your responsibilities for the level of law enforcement service. The decisions you make, based on these reports, have a direct and proportional impact upon this community.

On July 22, during the comments from

citizens’ portion of the weekly business session, Commissioner Cassanelli, in response to Jeff Wolf’s comments, said that she felt the citizens wanted a top-notch Sheriff’s office but they could not afford it. I take issue; we believe we are providing the best we can, given the funding we receive. To insinuate we are substandard for any reason other than funding, would be incorrect.

Commissioner Cassanelli went on to say, “The Sheriff can ask for money all he wants but offers no solution.” If all Commissioner Cassanelli heard was “putting out a levy in 2011” – I say to you...you only heard only what you wanted, you did not listen to what was said!

To suggest I have offered no solutions is grossly misleading. The following is a partial list of the solutions I have put forth:

- Purchased used instead of new vehicles, and acquired both civilian and military surplus at no cost to the citizens.
- Proposed a more cost efficient funding mechanism for county law enforcement – attached to a long-term plan focused on additional savings.
- Established our own dispatch center saving \$130,000. per year.
- Changed to a less expensive uniform,
- Implemented a cold breakfast at the Jail saving \$1 K per week,
- Consolidated services into a smaller working area in the Jail, mitigating workload.
- Withdrew from the County bldg in CJ for better functionality and cost savings to the S.O.
- Obtained an additional \$2.1 M in grants, and have pursued private monies to support law enforcement functions.
- Deferred filling two vacant

administrative Lieutenant positions until the economy returns.

- I have personally turned down a raise and personally donated the last COLA back to the community. Sheriff’s Office employees have not asked for a raise in the last four years.

- Implemented a volunteer security watch over foreclosed properties, at no cost to the public.

- Expanded the volunteer program to augment certain demands and requirements placed upon FTEs in the jail, in the Sub-stations, and on the road. Keep in mind these volunteers cannot enforce laws! To think we can replace Deputies with volunteers would be a very costly mistake.

- Recruiting additional Reserve Deputies.

- Expanded the capabilities of the Sheriff’s Posse.

- Continue to research other opportunities, including:

- A paperless system to cut costs.

- Supporting a beta test site for the development of an alarm system that would benefit children in our schools – that would also generate permanent jobs within this community.

- Increasing the fees at the jail.

- *revisiting the “pay to stay” concept.

Commissioner Cassanelli, in all fairness, I realize the demands and pressure placed upon your time. The only task I have asked of you, since your taking office, was to help in the development of a Justice of the Peace project. A project you volunteered to participate in but have yet to follow through with. This could be a more meaningful approach to generating County revenue worth pursuing.

It is disappointing to hear you believe

it is not your responsibility to provide a plan, or seek out new business, new jobs, or new revenue streams. Where is the plan you promoted during your campaign – the Crestwood, Illinois model?

Commissioner Cassanelli, up to this point you have only pointed fingers and blamed others for shortcomings, categorically voted no to most suggestions, and continue to impede growth or jobs in this County. And now, you infer none of this is your responsibility?

You suggested using Community Service Officers (like California) at half the cost of a Deputy – we do, they are called Volunteers and Reserves, and here they work free! You suggest we decrease our current service in favor of stretching out one additional year of service. We just lost a Lieutenant and potentially another Deputy to the City of Grants Pass – dare you ask why? To employ your idea, we would see a reduction of personnel at an accelerated pace over the next few years with absolutely no hope of replacements. Consequently, the jail would close. Patrol and other services would be would be decimated.

You were voted into your post with an expectation of leading us through these tough times; not to retreat, disclaiming responsibility with statements like “What can the Commissioners do?” I will hold you to your responsibilities of your office, and the citizens of this community; find a solution.

I agree that we all need to be a part of the solution. I strongly believe the Sheriff Office has hitched our horses to that team.

Gil

■ ■ ■

Continued from page 1 • Daily Courier Deceives

if they said anything about their reasons for asking him to resign. Four attorneys said "No, don't say anything." The city (comprised of the citizens) as well as the individual councilors would be at risk of Frasher suing them. The Courier was already fully apprised of this fact but failed to disclose it. – Why? – Read paragraph 2 of this article again.

Laurel Sampson's Current Contract: **Lie** - The Daily Courier reported in its August 6, 2009 edition that City Attorney Doug McGeary, along with Mayor Mike Murphy and Laurel Sampson negotiated this contract. **Fact:** City Attorney Doug McGeary admitted publicly at the August 5, 2009 Grants Pass City Council public meeting that he had never seen the contract even though it had been signed by Mayor Mike Murphy. The contract is bloated, excessive and it certainly isn't in the best interest of Grants Pass residents. The misguided people who are promoting the recall state, "the city council had the opportunity to pull the appointment of Laurel Sampson from the consent calendar because they pulled three other items from it." **The truth is:** The Sampson contract consent item was slipped into the consent calendar at the last moment. It was **factually not** in the packet they received days earlier.

Deception: Daily Courier News Editor Dennis Roler, in an editorial on July 31, 2009, claimed the councilors "...have gone through three attorneys." In this Editorial, Roler is factually, once again, attempting to make city councilors who are facing a recall look bad when they are not.

Fact #1: City Attorney Kris Woodburn told Frasher, on January 5, two days before the councilors took office that he had decided over Christmas to accept a position at Evergreen Bank (Courier, Jan 13, 2009, page 1). The street talk is that Woodburn wouldn't do Frasher's dirty work to stretch the law and jeopardize his Bar license to practice law.

Fact #2: City Attorney Carl Sniffen: Part-time attorney. Two days after he was also "named" in a Federal Racketeering law suit, against Frasher and Finance Director David Reeves, he announced his resignation.

Fact #3: City Attorney Paul Nolte, who was part-time, said his wife had health issues, and the city needed a full-time city attorney.

Fact #4: City Attorney Doug McGeary (part-time) was reportedly fired because he gave his legal opinion the city needed that Frasher didn't want to hear, which



New City Manager Laurel Sampson

was: "As a result of your (Frasher's) insisting on 'seizing office' you are putting city and staff at great financial risk" (Courier - July 14, 09, page 1). Frasher reportedly told McGeary ahead of time that if he gave that particular opinion, he was fired. After McGeary went ahead and gave the legal and lawful opinion to the council, Frasher whispered, during the council meeting, "You're fired." Later, Laurel Sampson reportedly carried out the dirty deed. McGeary gave the opinion during the time Frasher was fired but refused to leave. McGeary paid a high price for being courageous and honest. So much for the false statement

that the city councilors facing recall are responsible for the dismissal of three city attorneys (by the way, there were four city attorney).

Courier Falsely Accuses Council of Violating Oregon's Meetings Law From City Attorney Doug McGeary - Sent to (attorney) Pat Kelly, the Courier and channel 10:

Finally, with the information the city has so far supplied in this matter, a recent article in the Courier implied, if not charged, that the city council members had violated Oregon's public meetings law. Although I have not analyzed the records in the nature of whether or not public meetings laws were conducted, I reviewed the materials enough to seriously challenge the newspaper's conclusions. I would ask as a courtesy that before any further like-kind charges are made that you or your attorney call me with specifics so that the city may at least consider any deficiencies in its policies and practices or even counter the charges instead of unfairly accusing or suggesting Council Members of violating the law regarding this volatile issue and time (From Doug Mcgeary 7-29-09).

The US~Observer has researched the public meeting law issue carefully with our legal experts and we conclude that there isn't one shred of evidence that the councilors facing recall have violated any aspect of any of Oregon's public meetings laws. Daily Courier Editor Dennis Roler has attempted to make a big issue

out of this just as those promoting the recall are. **Fact:** City councilors haven't violated any laws whatsoever – if they had, we can all be assured that the State of Oregon would have charged them. Another fact is that each and every reason for recall listed on the Recall Petition against Grants Pass City Councilors Warren, Pell, Kangas, Townes and Berger are vague and ambiguous, just as they are completely groundless accusations.

Emails From Daily Courier Editor Dennis Roler Very Telling

This writer could go on and on with factual examples of The Grants Pass Daily Courier's twisted deceptions and lies, but we have provided enough for any prudent person to conclude that they have an agenda to see to it that the recall is successful. We can all rest assured that their agenda is all about money and control and not in the best interests of the residents of Grants Pass, Oregon.

A couple examples of emails written and sent by Daily Courier Editor Dennis Roler seem fitting to close this article with. Keep in mind as you read his 1st email that there is no question that former city manager David Frasher uses extremely foul language according to numerous witnesses. Also keep in mind that the US~Observer is factually accusing the Courier of deceiving the public with regards to the recall and in some instances we are accusing them publicly of outright lying to the citizens of Josephine County and the City of Grants Pass. In Roler's second email below he gives a very lame excuse to the US~Observer's charges...



Mayor Mike Murphy

Email #1 From Dennis Roler –
From: news14@thedailycourier.com
Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2009 - *As far as Frasher's outburst goes, no employee who said "F--- you" to me or Dennis Mack would likely be employed anymore after that.*

Email #2 From Dennis Roler –
From: news14@thedailycourier.com
Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2009 07:21:27 - *Unfortunately, charges that prove false sometimes run in the paper, because the "news" is charges have been filed. We don't have time as a paper to wait until everything is sorted out and a decision rendered. If that was the way it was done, we couldn't even report on what happened on the streets of GP, say, Sunday night, because we would be waiting months to see if the charges made on the scene were upheld in court. All we can try to do is report the conclusion when it occurs, which I'm sure Jim plans to do in this case. Dennis*

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After reading Roler's emails and all of the facts presented by the US~Observer, every person in Grants Pass should realize that the Grants Pass Daily Courier is withholding crucial information from them, as they present many deceptions and lies.

Everyone who is registered to vote on the up-coming "Recall" had better get off their butts and vote No on the Recall if they are at all concerned with their pocketbooks. It would also be wise for them to educate their friends and relatives about the truth regarding the current Recall and the very real threat to their finances in the near future should those promoting this Recall succeed...

What is taking place in this Recall is no different than what is happening in Washington DC with our tax dollars – they are simply different issues.

COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out

Debt, The Federal Reserve, The Gold Standard, and Free Markets



By Eric Coltrane

Thomas E. Woods Jr. co-authored the book "Who Killed the Constitution". I haven't read the book yet, but it is a very interesting question. It's remarkable to me that congresspersons (I think I'm politically correct), with the exception of at least one - Ron Paul - don't sit and consider if the bill they are looking at passing has any provisions in it that are contrary to the Constitution for the United States. There is also very little debate on whether the nation can even afford to fund the bills. The United States is running, at the time of this writing, a \$2,000,000,000,000 (2 trillion) deficit. The unfunded liabilities are \$63,000,000,000,000 and growing by \$5,000,000,000,000 a year. The tax revenues of the United States are approximately \$2,000,000,000,000. There are also other debts the United States has that amount to close to \$10,000,000,000,000. All together there is \$75,000,000,000,000 of debt. My reasoning is that if the United States completely stopped passing bills that can't be funded, it would take 35 years to pay off the insane debt the nation already has. Why is this important? Who is going to pay this debt and how? In reality this debt will never be paid. The empire of the United States would collapse if it tried. Not to say the nation itself would collapse, but the empire it has created would not be sustainable. It's not sustainable now.

But, would that be a bad thing? Not in my opinion.

I'm not a congressman or a senator though. The current goal of the legislative branch is, not to uphold liberty and freedom, but to sustain the empire. You might get a dog park and some bicycle paths out of the deal. Big deal! I want my paycheck to be enough to maintain a comfortable lifestyle and save for retirement. I make a decent living, but it seems every year inflation of the money supply makes every dollar I earn go down in value. I make close to \$21,000 a year after taxes. I bring home around \$1800 a month. I pay 33% in taxes. I don't do anything excessive. I went to the coast for a day trip this summer. Otherwise I stay home and do nothing except stare at four walls (actually I read a lot). My mortgage is only \$678 a month. I pay electric, car insurance, food, fuel, and for vices such as cigarettes. I might rent a movie every now and again because I don't watch TV or have cable, and I don't have the Internet at home. I don't have a credit card. If I don't have the money for it I don't buy it. I struggle every month to just survive. Is that Freedom? Is that Liberty? It's definitely not my employer's problem. My employer goes above and beyond any other employer I have ever had. I have excellent health insurance and perks that most people would be envious of. I have a great job!

The point is, why can't I do with what I have, what I want to? It's not my wages or my employer that is dragging me down. It is Government fiscal policy. I am very frugal. I have a garden. I watch my finances like a hawk. I don't spend excessively. Inflation of the money supply by the Federal Reserve is the real culprit. The value of the dollar has been degraded by 95% since its inception. The dollar is devalued every year. Is the Federal Reserve constitutional? Not according to the

Constitution for the United States. In Article 1 section 8 of the Constitution for the United States it states: To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures; to provide punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States. All these powers are the responsibilities of Congress. Not a Central bank such as the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve and the elimination of the Gold Standard made it possible for the Federal Government to usurp power through monetary policy to make slaves of us all. There is only so much gold in the world and being on the Gold Standard regulated how much money the Federal Government could spend. In our current fiat money system that we have now, which is not backed by any tangible asset, (they print money out of thin air) the Federal government can spend like there is no tomorrow, and it does.

Is there a way out of this insanity? Yes, but it will be very painful, and unpleasant. President Warren Harding did it. He was facing a worse economic situation than we are. He allowed the Free Market to correct itself (No stimulus and no monetization. No Government interference). The Reagan Administration did it by lowering taxes and cutting spending. Will the citizens or the Government of the United States take that path of true recovery? I doubt it very much. The citizens of this great country have been educated and programmed to live in this system. The Federal Government is addicted to this system. Very few have taken the time to "un-educate" themselves. When the fiat economy that we have now finally collapses - which it will, as all fiat economies have - will the Constitution for the United States be resurrected? For all of our sakes I truly hope so.

■■■

Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
It doesn't say give them to me illegally!



Financial Rape: PERS of Oregon

By Fred M. Starkey
NewsWithViews.com

"The very word secrecy is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths, and secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the dangers, which are cited to justify it." --JFK, April 27, 1961

It has been almost 15 years since I spoke at a Springfield School Board Meeting, which my attendance was met with a vile hatred. Reason: I wanted facts on the Retirement System called PERS. After a small amount of research, I called Fred McDaniel, a School Board member at that time and told him they needed to discuss the costs of PERS. His response: "PERS: we're going to keep that a secret."

I immediately challenged him to the public debate or the entire school board: the answer from all was NO. Today, we still have this group of people who have conspired against it's own citizens for their own PERSONAL GAIN. They have operated in complete secrecy for



over 15 years: the same today. And for over 15 years I have challenged the School District, the City of Springfield, and Lane County to a public debate or a public discussion on PERS and have repeatedly been turned down. In fact, within the last 3 months I was turned down again by the School District. Moreover, I have been basically barred from speaking at supposedly open Public Meetings because I am going to tell the truth, which is something they do not want the taxpaying citizens to know.

Frankly, in 15 years speaking with over 1,000 people, I have never met anyone who understands Oregon PERS. That is why I believe it is necessary to have an Open Public Debate or Public Discussion on a subject that controls the financial destiny of Oregon. This is so every citizen, especially our young people, can truly understand what is going on in this town and across the state, especially when we are talking about their future for the next 30 years and the debt that is being placed on them.

In short, State Pensions are much different than Private Pensions. Private Pensions, by law, must use the AAA Corporate Bond discount rate of 4.9%; whereas, State Pensions use an 8% or higher discount rate. A discount rate is the assumed rate of return on their investments over an extended period of time. This assumption is based on the Statistical "Bell Curve". As a consequence of this assumption, states only fund their pensions at approx. 60% as compared to the private sector.

For example, a \$53,000 a year annuity requires a capital investment of \$900,000 in the private sector. PERS states they can fund that with \$552,000, which is 61.33% of private sector requirement. This makes PERS a leveraged account, open to violent fluctuations on the upside and the downside. Moreover, according to Dr. John Shoven from the Hoover Institute, PERS is paying a 10% plus annuity.

The latest PERS report states that the average retirement is at age 59 with 21 years of service. The average retirement for this time period is a \$24,774 Annuity with a 2% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), which for most retirees, includes full medical insurance valued at \$1,075 per month. The Capital

Requirement in the Private Sector for this Pension, excluding the Health Insurance is \$661,000.

The average retirement at age 59 with 30 years of service receives a \$40,200 Annuity with a 2% COLA, which for most retirees, includes full medical insurance valued at \$1,075 per month. The Capital Requirement in the Private Sector, excluding the Medical Insurance is: \$1,200,000.00/One Million, Two Hundred Thousand. Only 2.8% of all citizens in the USA have Net Worth over a One Million, and that usually after 40 years.

The Private Sector: In 2007 it was reported that citizens between the ages of 55 - 65 have a median retirement account of \$100,000. This will buy an annuity (life time monthly payout) of \$5,000 - \$7000 a year without a COLA. The top 20% of all Americans, after home equity, have a savings of \$60,000.00. PERS is, at a minimum, is 600% more with only 21 years of service than the private sector and 1200% more with only 30 years of service than the private sector.

How is PERS Funded? They say 30% is from contributions and 70% from investments. This is difficult to believe because Net Tax Supported Debt went

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"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

Progressives Think the Protests are Manufactured

By Jon Christian Ryter
NewsWithViews.com

Wall Street Journal writer John Fund wrote an www.opinionjournal.com piece the other day noting that the "...White House is clearly worried about the opponents of its health care plan who are showing up at town-hall meetings with members of Congress. It took an extraordinary step of issuing a three-minute video rebuttal to a Drudge Report item that featured a 2007 clip of Barack Obama supporting the 'elimination' of private health insurance over time after a government plan is introduced. Later in the day, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs called the health care protesters a form of 'manufactured' anger. Democratic National Committee spokesman Brad Woodhouse went further and called them 'angry mobs of rabid rightwing extremists.'"

Let's face it. This is one time the media spinmeisters can't win the public relations debate. Why? Because those agitated rightwing extremists in "...limes and pinks and Brooks Brothers suits" who showed up at the health care town halls wearing Dockers and short sleeve sport shirts; or dresses, shorts and tank tops and flip-flops represent about 80% of the People of the United States. The protesters, in this instance, were not the minority voices of the voting public, they were the voting public. (And, the White House can't steal enough ACORN votes next year to overrule the will of the People who clearly intend to fire a bunch of Congressmen and Senators.) Let's hope they remember they are voting out the idiots who voted for the stimulus bills, and the idiots who nationalized the auto industry, and the

idiots who voted for a socialist healthcare bill. Sadly, the arrogant fools on Capitol Hill who see themselves as demigods haven't yet disambiguated the message from the Tea Partites or the message from the healthcare town halls. Maybe it will translate better when the voters say, "You're fired!" Isn't that nice...everyone gets to play Donald Trump next November.

When the political issues are not so clearly defined, the politicians and their partners in the mainstream media can play the smoke and mirrors shell game and fool the weak-minded people that fiction is truth and truth is whatever they say it is. But, with the whole country vehemently opposed to the theft of the healthcare industry by greedy, corrupt politicians in bed with America's Marxists and healthcare lobbyists who come to dinner with pockets full of money, the American people are fed up.

Far left Californian Sen. Barbara Boxer, whose re-election campaign war chest will be filled by lobbyists who want to make sure their clients are sitting at the feast-laden universal healthcare table when the gratuities are doled out, told MSNBC Hardball host Chris Matthews that the media needed to "...take a look at what's going on here." Boxer apparently believes that the American people won't mind if their health care is doled out in dribbles while their children wait weeks or months to visit to the pediatrician when they get sick; or that the elderly won't object to being denied healthcare because old age is eventually terminal anyway.

Even though the Tea Party protests earlier this year were spontaneous, Boxer insisted that the healthcare protests were "...all planned. It's to hurt our president," she said, "and it's to

change the Congress." For once a liberal may have actually got something right. The American people are boiling mad. They fully intend to change Congress in 2010. Boxer was right. For a liberal Senator, being right once in 18 years is better than average for the left. The American people intend to change Congress in 2010, and even more in 2012. The people of the United States do not intend to become the Soviet Union of the West. And, they do not intend to let Barack Obama become the Marxist dictator he sees when he looks in the mirror every morning.

The White House joined the fray once they saw that, universally, the American people were opposed to the government's single payer healthcare plan (that is now referred to simply as the "public option.") The White House and the far left House and Senate leadership—and the mainstream media—are using Obama's talking points "manufactured protest" to characterize the reaction of the American people from Florida to Washington State, and from Bangor, Maine to San Diego, California as being fabricated by the Republican Party and/or lobbyists for the healthcare industry who want to continue gouging policyholders with escalating insurance premiums and partially paid claims.

Gibbs, like Chris Matthews, referred to the healthcare protesters as the "Brooks Brother brigade," making it obvious where the talking points originated. When Sen. Arlen Specter [D-PA] together with Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, held a health care town hall in Philadelphia on August 3, they were booed by a bipartisan audience. One woman in the audience told Specter and Sebelius: "I look at this

healthcare plan and I see nothing that is about health or care..." (the audience starts applauding.) "...What I see is a bureaucratic nightmare, Senator. Medicaid is broke. Medicare is broke. Social Security is broke. And you want us to believe that a government that can't even run a cash for clunkers program is going to run one-seventh of our US economy? No, sir! No.!" So, let me ask—now, does this sound like a woman who was paid by the healthcare industry as their shill? Or, that's she's a "rented" protester? No, sir! No! She's nobody's shill. She's an angry American. And, by God, before November, 2010, every liberal politician in America is going to know what an angry American looks like and sounds like...and just how much damage they can do to a worthless, graft-sucking politician!

Congressman Lloyd Doggett [D-TX] encountered the same reaction to the "public option" when he tried to sell government healthcare to his constituents. Congressman Frank Kratovil [D-MD] was hung in effigy by his constituents. Fourth term Congressman Tim Bishop [D-NY] was harassed so badly that he had to be escorted from the town hall site by the police.

The liberal website, Think Progress wrote a blog-post accusing the conservative advocacy groups, Americans For Prosperity and Freedom Works of organizing the "right wing harassment strategy, which they added was "...often marked by violence and absurdity." White House press secretary Gibbs suggested that protesters may have come via AFP's 13-state bus tour. Think Progress said that the DNC had a

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Security Before Politics

By Porter J. Goss
Washington Post

Since leaving my post as CIA director almost three years ago, I have remained largely silent on the public stage. I am speaking out now because I feel our government has crossed the red line between properly protecting our national security and trying to gain partisan political advantage. We can't have a secret intelligence service if we keep giving away all the secrets. Americans have to decide now.

A disturbing epidemic of amnesia seems to be plaguing my former colleagues on Capitol Hill. After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, members of the committees charged with overseeing our nation's intelligence services had no higher priority than stopping al-Qaeda. In the fall of 2002, while I was chairman of the House intelligence committee, senior members of Congress were briefed on the CIA's "High Value Terrorist Program," including the development of "enhanced interrogation techniques" and what those techniques were. This was not a one-time briefing but an ongoing subject with lots of back and forth between those members and the briefers.

Today, I am slack-jawed to read that members claim to have not understood that the techniques on which they were briefed were to actually be employed; or that specific techniques such as "waterboarding" were never mentioned. It must be hard for most Americans of common sense to imagine how a member of Congress can forget being told about the interrogations of Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed. In that case, though, perhaps it is not amnesia but political expedience.

Let me be clear. It is my recollection that:

-- The chairs and the ranking minority members of the House and Senate intelligence committees, known as the Gang of Four, were briefed that the CIA was holding and interrogating high-value terrorists.

-- We understood what the CIA was doing.

-- We gave the CIA our bipartisan support.

-- We gave the CIA funding to carry out its activities.

-- On a bipartisan basis, we asked if the CIA needed more support from Congress to carry out its mission against al-Qaeda.

I do not recall a single objection from my colleagues. They did not vote to stop authorizing CIA funding. And for those who now reveal filed "memorandums for the record" suggesting concern, real concern should have been expressed immediately -- to the committee chairs, the briefers, the House speaker or minority leader, the CIA director or the president's national security adviser -- and not quietly filed away in case the day came when the political winds shifted. And shifted they have.

Circuses are not new in Washington, and I can see preparations being made for tents from the Capitol straight down Pennsylvania Avenue. The CIA has been pulled into the center ring before. The result this time will be the same: a hollowed-out service of diminished capabilities. After Sept. 11, the general outcry was, "Why don't we have better overseas capabilities?" I fear that in the years to come this refrain will be heard again: once a threat -- or God forbid, another successful attack -- captures our attention and sends the pendulum swinging back.

There is only one person who can shut down this dangerous show: President Obama.

Unfortunately, much of the damage to our capabilities has already been done. It is certainly not

trust that is fostered when intelligence officers are told one day "I have your back" only to learn a day later that a knife is being held to it. After the events of this week, morale at the CIA has been shaken to its foundation.

We must not forget: Our intelligence allies overseas view our inability to maintain secrecy as a reason to question our worthiness as a partner. These allies have been vital in almost every capture of a terrorist.

The suggestion that we are safer now because information about interrogation techniques is in the public domain conjures up images of unicorns and fairy dust. We have given our enemy invaluable information about the rules by which we operate.

The terrorists captured by the CIA perfected the act of beheading innocents using dull knives. Khalid Sheik Mohammed boasted of the tactic of placing explosives high enough in a building to ensure that innocents trapped above would die if they tried to escape through windows. There is simply no comparison between our professionalism and their brutality.

Our enemies do not subscribe to the rules of the Marquis of Queensbury. "Name, rank and serial number" does not apply to non-state actors but is, regrettably, the only question this administration wants us to ask. Instead of taking risks, our intelligence officers will soon resort to wordsmithing cables to headquarters while opportunities to neutralize brutal radicals are lost.

The days of fortress America are gone. We are the world's superpower. We can sit on our hands or we can become engaged to improve global human conditions. The bottom line is that we cannot succeed unless we have good intelligence. Trading security for partisan political popularity will ensure that our secrets are not secret and that our intelligence is destined to fail us. ■■

The US~Observer*An informed electorate is the foundation of a Free Society!***Head of Operations****Ron Lee****Head of Investigations****Edward Snook****Investigative Reporters****Kelly Stone****John Taft****Curt Chanler****Jeanne Wollman****Paul Kraxberger****Tedd Peck****Joe Snook****Editor/Investigator****Ron Lee****Subscription Rate:****\$29.50 / 12 monthly issues****\$50.00 / 24 monthly issues***See Page 24 of this Issue*

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541•474•7885**Continued from page 1 • Obamacare a Potential Boon for Estate Looters**

quietly be applauding this move are grave robbers, property poachers, walker stalkers and other opportunists seeking to loot estates via probate instruments like wills, trusts, guardianships and powers of attorney. Disgruntled family members, wannabe heirs or unscrupulous members of the legal industry will likely find treatment of the elderly under this new health care approach helpful with Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) actions in which probate venues or instruments are used to divert assets from intended heirs or beneficiaries.

The explanations of government-run health care being put forth defy logic and reasonable thinking. A plan that purports to allow people to keep their current health care providers while it covers more people at a reduced cost and involves no rationing or delaying/withholding of care makes no sense without a serious increase to our country's debt, to productive Americans' tax bills and probably both.

People are rightfully questioning details of the proposed versions of legislation as revealed to date. White House and Congressional leaders claim public outrage is contrived. Diversion tactics aside, as the public learns more about potential "reforms," legitimate questions are surfacing over its cost implications, effectiveness in truly covering "all" Americans and the elder-hostile nature of its language. Despite assurances against rationing or withholding care – especially for seniors, the terminally ill or those with life-threatening injuries – language in at least one of the versions appears to say otherwise.

After reviewing H.R. 3200 in preparation to address the recent GOP Congressional Dinner, Dr. Dave Janda, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and world-recognized expert on sports injury prevention, wrote "it should be clear that the same warning notice must be placed on The ObamaCare Plan as on a pack of cigarettes: Consuming this product will be hazardous to your health." Dr. Janda's analysis of the bill finds rationing and denying care as the plan's underlying cost-cutting methods with rationing implemented by The National Health Care Board that "will approve or reject treatment for patients based on the cost per treatment divided by the number of years the patient will benefit from the treatment." So what happens to older Americans and how could this lead to an increase in IRA actions?

Implications for probate abuse or estate theft come as the bill discusses "Advance Care Planning Consultation" (p. 424) apparently available every five years upon becoming eligible for Medicare, but which "may be conducted more frequently than provided under paragraph (1) if there is a significant change in the health condition of the individual, including diagnosis of a chronic, progressive, life-limiting disease, a life-threatening or terminal diagnosis or life-threatening injury, or upon admission to a skilled nursing facility, a long-term care facility (as defined by the Secretary), or a hospice program." (p. 428)

In this counseling, patients will learn about "the continuum of end-of-life services and supports available, including palliative care and benefits for such services and supports that are available under this title." (p. 425) Wikipedia defines palliative care (from Latin palliare, to cloak) as any form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms, rather than striving to halt, delay, or reverse progression of the disease itself or provide a cure. The goal is to prevent and relieve suffering and to improve quality of life for people facing serious, complex illness. In other words, patients are medicated or provided other pain relief means instead of receiving proactive medical treatment.

Elder financial abuse is frequently termed the crime of the 21st century. Though sometimes occurring posthumously, estate looting and other probate abuse fall into this category. Estate disputes frequently include allegations of undue influence with the role of medication being a common point of contention. If palliative care becomes a major tool in the government's arsenal of health care cost-cutting measures, predators will seize upon this opportunity.

"Isolate, medicate, steal the estate" is a phrase commonly associated with the perpetration of IRA acts. The medicate phase offers greatest opportunity for the use of undue influence that can lead to late-in-life and uncharacteristic changes in an estate plan. Abandoning proactive medical treatments and instead artificially incapacitating our seniors in the name of "palliative care" will aid unscrupulous individuals in estate hijacking pursuits. Similar concerns can be raised for the disabled or younger people with terminal illness or life-threatening injuries – especially when

those individuals are attached to a significant estate as legal settlements can certainly provide.

The administration and Congressional leaders say absolutely their reform will work and be better for all Americans. Of course, no final version is available for review and that currently released plans are merely proposals helps to deflect criticism and provides cover that "problems" will be fixed with subsequent revisions.

The federal government wants us to trust them. This plan expects large groups of Americans to forfeit a flawed, but functioning health care system so as to provide coverage to 45.7 million previously uninsured "Americans" whose true numbers have been credibly questioned. The degree of pressure to quickly approve this legislation despite its illogical economic premise and specific language clearly questionable to the longevity and welfare of many Americans – especially the elderly – is rightfully a major cause for concern.

Estate abuse and probate corruption are already threatening the property rights of many Americans and their heirs' or beneficiaries' rights of inheritance. Provisions of this legislation – specifically doping rather than treating certain population segments – will only add to this problem. This is not disinformation, it is not misinformation – it is merely a reasoned prediction based upon knowledge of the IRA issue including the opportunistic nature of the financial predators who perpetrate these acts. Statements made here are not meant to scare or intimidate people, but merely to educate an unsuspecting public of an additional consequence likely to flow from the current health care proposals.

Estate thefts often being treated as civil rather than criminal matters have already encouraged a growth element to a sector of the legal industry and have provided financial incentive to others desiring to divert assets from intended beneficiaries. It is a reasoned observation to state that increased numbers of heavily-medicated, especially elderly, people will likely further fuel this expansion in activity.

Lou Ann Anderson is an advocate working to create awareness regarding the Texas probate system and its surrounding culture. She is the Online Producer at www.EstateofDenial.com and a Policy Advisor with Americans for Prosperity – Texas. Lou Ann may be reached at: info@EstateofDenial.com.

Continued from page 8 • Financial Rape: PERS of Oregon

up over 300% beginning in 2002 (#2 in the USA) and the PERS balance almost doubled. PERS participants (Employers) are billed for contributions.

The biggest part of the PERS participants budget is Payroll cost: approx. 80%. Today, PERS cost is 40% of that payroll cost and is due to increase another 13% in the next 3 years: to 53%. An easier way to understand this is when you send \$1,000 in taxes for payroll cost, \$400.00 of that money is deposited in their PERS account and soon \$530.00.

In addition to PERS, Lane County, has a deferred compensation account (another retirement account) which, to date, has been funded with over 30 million of taxpayer money. And, they state they do not have money to open the jail. The money gathered from high school events is not set aside for an annuity to make these things self sustaining for the students, but goes into PERS: approx. one million per year.

Today, PERS (Mercer Actuary) states that they are spending 2 Billion more a year than they are taking in, and are now short 24 Billion at the 8% discount rate. In addition, 15 – 20% of the asset base is in risky investments, which are on the books at full value, but

are marked to market at 10 – 20%: their true value. PERS is more under-funded than stated.

Can PERS be paid? NO. Why not? In a Monte Carlo Statistical Study using a starting balance of One Million, excluding a 2% COLA and Medical Cost, which draws out 10% a year will be out of money in 15 years or sooner. (PERS is paying a 10% + annuity) If a person retires at age 60 that annuity will be gone at age 75. Problem: the life expectancy of a male is now 80 and a female 85. They will be short 5 years and 10 years. But, many are retiring between the ages of 50 – 55. The account will be out of money for 15 – 30 years. Where the will the money come from? How much debt will be needed to fund PERS? Think for yourself.

This is only a brief outline. There are more facts and evidence. However, it now time for the truth and time to expose those who have conspired against us to steal our property, savings, and burden our posterity with never ending debt. A Public Debate or Discussion at Silke Field is needed, where the entire town of Springfield can attend. Please contact the Springfield Times and express your opinion. I will endeavor to answer all questions. ■



Continued from page 1 • Power, Money, Influence and Corruption

managed. It changed how the government of the City of Grants Pass is managed as well.

That local change has brought a long standing problem in local government to everyone's attention and those who opposed those changes have blamed the current turmoil surrounding the departure of the fired city manager on the newly elected City Council.

This situation is shaping-up as a show-down between the Will of the People and the will of the special interests who think they control this town. At stake is whether you will continue to have any say in how your city is run or how your wealth will be transferred from your bank account.

For the first time in this writers memory, the majority of the Grants Pass City Council is made up of people representing a true cross-section of our actual community. They were elected to their positions because they promised to cut government spending, which also means reducing the size of the city government bureaucracy.

That last part however, is a real problem for the shadowy, special interests mentioned earlier. Why do I say that? Once you understand who these shadowy, special interests are, it will become clear.

First and foremost, if you work for government and it becomes smaller, you could lose your job, or worse, you might not get your automatic raise. Those two things alone are enough to mobilize this faction of the "shadow" special interests.

Second, there are those people in our community who benefit financially when the local government votes to increase government spending. From construction and real estate speculation to the various contracts government grants to pay for the everyday cost of government, the more government there is, the more contracts there are to spread around... to a few lucky recipients.

Lastly, there are those who love to influence local leaders, to promote their own political agendas.

When government power gets together with select business interests and also works hand-in-hand with specific political activists, you have a ripe environment for corruption.

The story is the same across the nation. Government is running out of money. Taxpayers are tapped-out financially and cannot afford any new taxes or higher fees. The low-level corruption we all know exists as a daily part of modern politics becomes uglier and takes on a more malignant nature when money is tight. Having no money brings out the worst in people, causing extreme behavior from those who are negatively impacted. In the case of what is happening in Grants Pass, that means the shadowy interests identified above who depend on government for income or power.

We have been witnessing these people act out their extreme behavior ever since the new City Council took office in January.

This new City Council majority, made up of average people, actually tried to cut the cost of government and demanded that the hired help answer their questions about spending, to make government decisions more accountable to the people. When their questions were rebuffed by city

employees, they acted well within their discretion to make changes in the top management personnel.

That raised the ire of the shadow power-brokers of this city and county, who don't like having their goals for your tax money questioned. This has mobilized a small number of dedicated political activists who have decided to attempt a recall of the five Councilors who dared to believe they actually had any "real" authority to do their jobs.

The resulting personal attacks against individual Councilors and all the negative news stories so eagerly printed in their friendly, cooperative, daily newspaper are all calculated to drive public opinion against the Council majority. After an exhaustive investigation, US~Observer staff investigators have concluded without question that the current recall is without warrant and that those The Grants Pass City Council are 100% volunteers and the Councilors facing recall have gone above and beyond their official responsibilities to properly represent the citizens of Grants Pass, Oregon.

The biggest lie these angry special interests have tried to convince you all to believe is that these five new Councilors can not get along with the hired help. Think about that. Put it into context. They want you to accept a false premise that there is any need for the Council to "get along" with an out-of-control bureaucracy. The bureaucracy's leader, the fired city manager, refused to answer the questions of the Council and actively worked to undermine the Council's ability to do the job all of you elected them to do! When that happens, the only thing any rational employer could do is fire that person.

So much for the background review. Let's get on with why this is happening.

When the money runs out, government has only two choices, cut costs and shrink in size or raise new revenue. That is a simple enough concept for any business person and every household to understand since they have to live within their financial realities.

But today's version of "government" refuses to accept the concept of containing, let alone reducing, costs. No, today, no matter where you look, government understands only one thing, it's own growth. That refusal to accept fiscal reality has caused government bureaucracy to become the single most menacing special interest group in this country.

This local, shadowy group of co-conspirators has now succeeded in collecting enough signatures to force a recall election against the five Councilors they hate so much. If the five Councilors are actually recalled, what happens then?

As bad as everything already mentioned above may be, the real motivating factor for these shadowy, special interests is lurking, appropriately enough, "in the shadows".

It seems that in Oregon, everyone knows that government must ask voters to pass tax levies before they can raise taxes, right?

Wrong! Since January 19, 2007, that is no longer the case. In a little known decision (outside of government anyway) the Oregon Supreme Court upheld an Oregon Tax Court decision

that turned the concept of voter approval on its head.

Known in government circles as "the Jacksonville Decision", the case of Knapp vs. the City of Jacksonville, Tax Court Case Number 4641; SC S52624, dated September 24, 2004, the Oregon Tax Court "found" a new right of local government jurisdictions to apportion their general costs of government through new surcharges (fees) among everyone who already receive a monthly bill for some other government service. This ruling is clearly unconstitutional, however it is current law.

The key for any governing body that wants to use this new Tax Court created revenue mechanism, is having a pre-existing capability to bill people on a monthly basis. In the Jacksonville Decision, that "other billing mechanism" was the city sewer and water bill.

Instead of putting tax measures on the ballot and risking a majority no vote, local governments can now add a new government service fee to existing monthly bills. They can do this without your consent. If you can't or won't pay this new "fee/tax" they can turn your water off. If you still can't or won't pay, they can lien your property and eventually take it.

Who has the authority to impose these new fees on you? The Grants Pass City Council.

The fired city manager and the prior City Council were considering doing this very thing last year instead of putting the Public Safety levy on the ballot.

Is this the real reason the shadowy, special interests in this city hate this new Council majority? They know this Council would never go along with such a contemptible plan to impose new fees in lieu of asking you to approve new taxes.

Is the picture starting to become a little

clearer?

The only way these shadowy, special interests can make this new fee-based revenue scheme happen is to discredit these good people and replace them with more "compliant" councilors.

Now, as Paul Harvey was famous for saying, you know the rest of the story.

For those of you who live outside of the city limits of Grants Pass, who think you don't have a dog in this fight, ask Commissioner Dave Toler why he has been talking so much about how much your County property taxes cost per month? The only thing keeping Josephine County from direct billing you for the costs of County government (and that includes those of you who live in the City of Grants Pass as well) is the lack of any monthly billing apparatus. Is Toler trying to change State law, to allow counties to bill property taxes monthly instead of yearly, as the law now requires? Why don't you ask him.

One more thing - State government wants to begin billing motorists by the miles they drive, in addition to existing gas taxes, in an attempt to create new State revenues. Watch out if this effort moves forward with a monthly billing mechanism, because you could then be directly billed for the cost of State government, once again, without your consent. Would your car be seized if you couldn't or wouldn't pay that bill?

It seems that the Oregon Supreme Court, with the help of the Oregon Tax Court has indeed come to the rescue of big government in Oregon, giving it the ability to overcome those pesky voters who still seem to think they matter.

The only defense any of us have, is to elect local Councilors and Commissioners who will represent you, not the bureaucracy and special interests.

Don't fall for their lies.

Vote NO! on this malicious attempt to recall your Councilors.

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Bush-Joker Kinda Made Sense, Obama-Joker Racist: Washington Post



By John Nolte
Big Hollywood

Washington Post: This is merely “play[ing] into a view of Bush popular among his detractors...”

This required a few passes to be sure my eyes weren't playing tricks. You keep telling yourself to stop being amazed by hypocrisy and bias, but again and again someone like Philip Kennicott, a staff writer for the Washington Post, comes up with nonsense like this:

“And didn't we see George W. Bush depicted as the Joker not so long ago?”

Yes, in an image by Drew Friedman published online by Vanity Fair on July 29, 2008. That drawing at least played into a view of Bush popular among his detractors, that the former president was unpredictable and fast on the draw when it came to geopolitics. But the danger many of Obama's detractors detect is more of calculating, long-standing deception, that he is quietly and secretly marshaling a socialist agenda, a view that would be better served by imagery that recalled 'The Manchurian Candidate.'”

A few paragraphs later the R-word is

finally (and predictably) let loose and the anonymity of the artist(s) becomes an issue:

“So why the anonymity? Perhaps because the poster is ultimately a racially charged image. By using the “urban” makeup of the Heath Ledger Joker, instead of the urbane makeup of the Jack Nicholson character, the poster connects Obama to something many of his detractors fear but can't openly discuss. He is black and he is identified with the inner city, a source of political instability in the 1960s and '70s, and a lingering bogeyman in political consciousness despite falling crime rates.”

Anonymity troubles HuffPoster Earl Ofari Hutchinson, as well:

“As silly and loose screwed as the depiction of Obama is as a socialist Joker, this writer did not scream for the posters to be summarily yanked down and tossed in a Hitlerian banned-book bonfire. Instead, the call was simply for the individual or groups slapping the posters up to publicly ID themselves and take credit for their work. Come forth and take public pride in branding the president a jokester and a socialist. Don't slink around at midnight, taking

the guerilla graffiti artist's route, and smear walls with the posters when cars disappear around the bend. That's not the joker's MO. It's certainly not befitting someone who's bold enough to call the president the Joker and a socialist.”

And so Phase II begins: Put the pressure on, to out the culprit.

Quashing a handbill that says so much with so little has proved impossible. The outrage increased “jOker's” iconic stature and the attempt to stop its spread with a cry of “racism” not only didn't work, it kinda backfired. But....

An individual or group can be destroyed, and all the Usual Suspects stand ready to Joe The Plumber/Carrie Prejean/Sarah Palin's Family the artist(s) responsible for effectively turning the art-as-ideological-weapon tables. Oh, yes, they want a name...

And so, in these last remaining days of summer, as you head out to state fairs, family gatherings and townhall meetings, be sure to remind those who tsk-tsk your Obama-Joker shirt that putting “whiteface” on a black man is a-okay with the 'New York Times'.

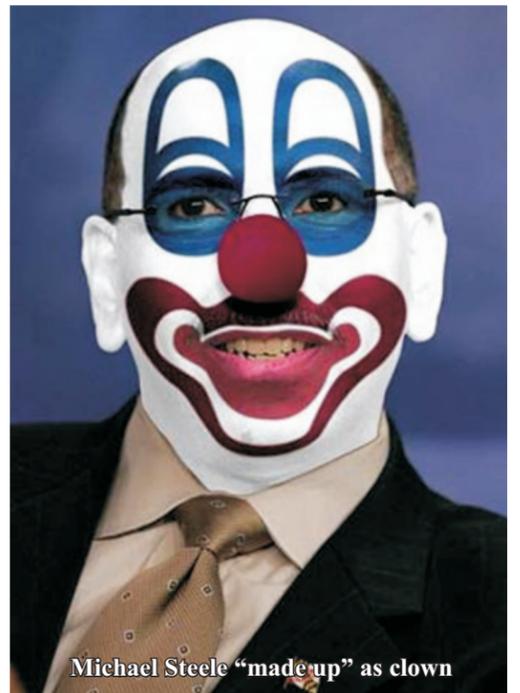
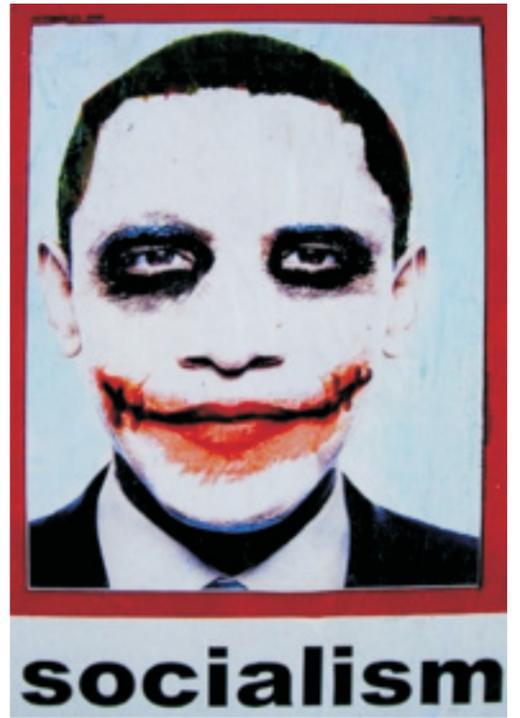
When is 'Whiteface' Okay? When the 'New York Times' Says So

By Big Hollywood

Daniel Kurtzman's written for the San Francisco Chronicle and ridiculed Sarah Palin over at The Huffington Post. His political humor blog can be found at About.com.

Under the heading, “Michael Steele: Republican Clown,” Kurtzman posted a picture at About.com which, by the way, is owned by the New York Times:

Hang a few posters of Obama as Joker



under a freeway overpass and the Left completely loses it. Do the exact same with a Republican and off in the distance all you hear is the gentle chirp of country crickets on a warm summer night.

Maybe that's unfair. Maybe Those-Who-Cry-Racist didn't know about this. Well, now they do and we should all look forward to the equal-opportunity outrage about to hit the Old Gray Lady. Or not. ■■■

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Continued from page 1 • City Council Recall Facts

Councilors Refuse to Provide Reasons for Firing Frasher

One of the main deceptions used by those who are attempting to recall city councilors is that the councilors wouldn't answer questions about their decision to get rid of David Frasher. The fact is (this is clearly pointed out above), for months, they have been under the threat of themselves and the city being sued by David Frasher if they speak out publicly against him. Frasher has not only threatened a lawsuit verbally. He has stated this in writing.

Frasher - Foul-Mouthed and Unaccountable

What should an employer do if one of his employees said 'F--- You' to him? What would any decent and prudent employer do if his employee ignored him when that employee was asked to provide financial information to him repeatedly for months on end? This is exactly what Grants Pass City Manager David Frasher has done with his employer's representatives, the majority members of the Grants Pass City Council.

Instead of receiving a medal for doing the job citizens elected them to do, councilors Bill Kangas, Mark

current recall of 5 Grants Pass City Councilors. The US~Observer's investigation reveals that this claim is based on fact.

Facts

The River District Plan was studied by a citizen's committee that recommended the people vote on it. Ward Warren is one councilor who is facing recall and he was on this committee. Warren made the motion saying that the people must be allowed to vote on this huge expenditure since they would be the ones paying a great portion of it. Frasher, the former city council and a majority of city staff were totally against a voter-based decision because they knew the voters would never approve this "Plan" and they corruptly said "no" to a vote of the people.

Citizens were then forced to gather signatures and a referendum was presented to the pre-Frasher city council that directed them to allow a public vote on this issue. Rather than allow a vote, Frasher's rubber-stamp-council dropped the "Plan," temporarily, with plans to bring it back in the future at a more opportune time.

A new "people's" city council was elected and this council provided public protection from this enormous windfall for the bankers, wealthy riverfront businesses, developers, Hellgate Jetboats and the city coffers.

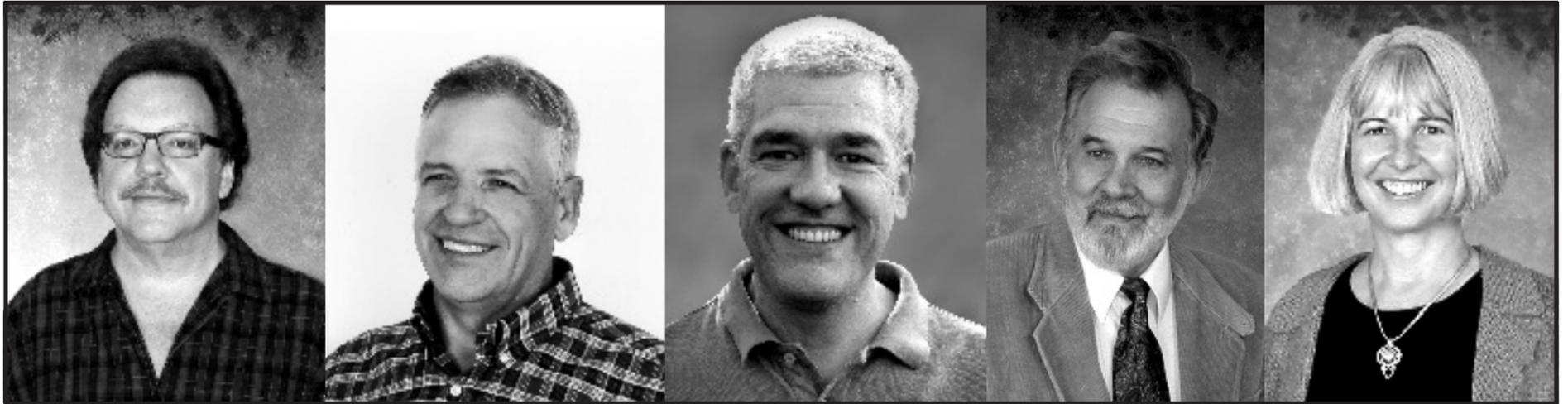
slammed into 68-year-old Council President Bill Kangas, nearly knocking him to the ground. Ward Warren grabbed Frasher's arm with 2 hands, slowed him down & said, "David don't leave this way - Let's stay and work this out." Frasher was so enraged and out-of-control he never apologized to Kangas or even acknowledged crashing into him.

After Frasher calmed down, he told the councilors he had sent out job resumes all over the country. That was confirmed a couple of weeks later by a Daily Courier story about Frasher being a candidate for a Florida job that paid \$250,000 per year. According to credible statements, Frasher then tried to "bribe" the councilors by saying that if a different job didn't work out for him, he could still leave Grants Pass and would be willing to trade some of his severance money if they would give him a good recommendation before terminating his contract.

A week later (1-14-09) Frasher reportedly called Councilor Rob Pell a few minutes after 6 pm to discuss an email request Pell had made for information. In about a minute Frasher started ramping up, getting agitated again and yelled - "I will never respond to another email from you ever again, you got that... Go ahead; put a gun to my head..... I don't care what happens... Go ahead and fire me!" Then slamming the phone down, Frasher yelled, "F---ING ASS--HOLE!"

A little while later Frasher called Council President Kangas on the phone still raging and yelled he would never talk to, email, or answer any emails from

Councilors Targeted by Recall



Ward Warren, Mark Townes, Rob Pell, Bill Kangas and Lisa Berger

Townes, Rob Pell, Ward Warren and Lisa Berger are facing a recall, not by average tax-payers, but by a Political Action Committee called "Positive Community Action," and a number of developers and special interest groups. A Chief Petitioner for the recall is ex-Grants Pass City Police Officer Dan Runyon. Interestingly, Runyon is the person that the city sent to "investigate" David Frasher prior to his being hired.

Mayors from the two cities where Frasher was previously employed as city manager have stated that they never spoke to Runyon - other public officials in those locations stated the same. One former attorney for the city of Oak Grove, Missouri stated, "it has taken us ten years to recover from David Frasher's destructive actions." Should we presume that Runyon and those who directed his investigation, or lack thereof, had made their decision to hire Frasher in order to promote their socially-engineered agenda without any proper investigation whatsoever? Absolutely...

It should be noted that a few good people in the Grants Pass community have been deceived and duped by these control-driven people and they actually believe in what they are doing in support of the recall. These "few" desperately need to read this article very carefully and then do some serious soul-searching and they will undoubtedly support those councilors who have stood up for them, the taxpayers, at a very heavy cost.

River District Plan

Apart from Frasher's filthy-mouth (language) and dictatorial attitude towards those who oppose his more than clear "power grab," many concerned citizens claim that the city-driven "River District Plan" - a \$58 million dollar redevelopment scheme, designed to line the pockets of the riverfront business owners at the expense of the people, is the real reason behind the

History Apart From The River District Plan

Before newly-elected Grants Pass City Councilors Mark Townes, Ward Warren, Rob Pell and Richard Michelin were even sworn in, it was clear the new councilors wanted to be fully prepared to address a budget and represent the public, so they started asking a lot of detailed questions. They knew that if the people voted down the up-coming Public Safety Levy again in May of 2009 that the council was going to have critical and very difficult decisions. According to councilors, "It was obvious from the start that City Manager David Frasher didn't like having to come up with too many answers, especially about the budget and employee benefits. Worse, Frasher reportedly insisted on micro-managing the flow of information and filtering phone call's and email to staff." The US~Observer investigation shows that Frasher and other city staff completely ignored and/or refused to provide the critical information requested by these councilors.

At the 1st regular council meeting on 1-07-09, the new council cancelled an unnecessary and overpriced \$570,000 telephone system that Frasher & his staff wanted. Even though the existing phone system worked just fine and a new one would have been negligence on the part of the council (especially in light of our current recession), a problem became evident at the conclusion of the meeting as the council chambers were almost empty.

According to eye witnesses, Grants Pass City Councilors Bill Kangas, Rob Pell, Ward Warren, Mark Townes and City Manager Frasher were leaving when one asked him for the form used to evaluate Frasher's job performance. Frasher reportedly became agitated, hostile, threw his arms up and screamed - F--- YOU GUYS! Frasher lunged forward trying to bolt out. He

Councilor Pell ever again. He said that they had an argument over information Pell had requested. He further screamed that all the councilors were open to a lawsuit. Then he said that he was going to plan "B" and threatened that he would take his whole staff and walk out. He was yelling so loudly the whole time that Kangas's wife who was sitting in the same room heard the entire conversation.

The worst part for Kangas was that none of this surprised him because he'd seen this side of Frasher before. After Councilor Berger and Kangas gave Frasher a bad grade on an evaluation, they met with him and Frasher allegedly went "berserk, screamed, tried to intimidate them and threw things around the office." The new councilors were getting the same "uncontrollable outrage" that Kangas and Berger had seen for 2 years

Two days after the phone incident Pell sent Frasher an email requesting information with copies to the entire council and Mayor. The email began: David, in an abbreviated telephone conversation Wednesday (1-14-09) you said you would never respond to another email from me. Nonetheless, as a city councilor, I feel that one of my responsibilities is to communicate with the city manager so I will continue to try to do my half. Frasher never responded to any part of the email.

At that point the 4 new councilors made repeated requests to meet with Frasher to clear the air. Unfortunately, Frasher came up with every excuse not to meet with them so the meeting never happened. Again, what should an employer do when an out-of-control employee thumbs his nose at them?

The following week on Jan 26, 2009, Frasher presented a letter he wrote to the Council in a closed executive session. It said he was putting the entire governing body on "official notice." He accused 2 councilors of "mistreating him in and out of public

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meetings; a malicious pattern of harassment; and creating a hostile work environment." He stated he would not answer phone calls or emails from councilors Warren or Pell. This letter threatened to sue if councilors said or wrote anything about him in public or private that was negative. His letter stated, "If councilors Warren and Pell do not cease and desist immediately, the next official communication from me on this matter will be through attorneys at the law firm of Stoel-Rives, 900 S.W. Fifth Avenue in Portland, Oregon." According to witnesses in Ashland, Wisconsin and Oak Grove, Missouri, David Frasher pulled these same strong-arm tactics while employed as city manager in those communities, making sure to use the correct verbiage (harassment, hostile work environment) that he has used with the Grants Pass City Council in order to set the stage for a lawsuit.

Frasher, and his threatening letter, created a huge mess. A few days after it was presented, City Attorney Kris Woodburn reportedly called for an executive session to give the council advice on how to deal with Frasher. Frasher was dismissed from the meeting so that Kris could talk to the council in private. About 10 minutes later someone pointed out to Kris that an outside loudspeaker had accidentally been left on and that Frasher was standing right underneath it, eavesdropping and listening to what Kris had been telling the Council. We are informed that Woodburn rushed out to check and came back very angry. The Daily Courier reported the next day that Woodburn was visibly upset and said Frasher had heard the instructions Woodburn had given the council.

Woodburn immediately recommended that the council let him hire an outside labor Attorney to defend the council and the city from Frasher's multiple threats and the likelihood that Frasher was scheming up a lawsuit. Woodburn and new city attorney Carl Sniffen chose lawyer Howard Rubin. Groups of councilors talked on the phone with him and the city brought him down from Portland to meet in executive session with the council to give them legal advice. The Mayor and entire council knew about this, every step of the way. Mayor Murphy and councilors Cummings and Renfro reportedly have acted like they had no idea there was any kind of problem going on while everyone knew that Frasher's threat-letter had created a major crisis that our city attorneys and the council had to deal with it.

At this point most of the councilors had enough of Frasher's alleged abuse, intimidation and bullying. He had "cursed, attempted to bribe, screamed, threatened and been caught eavesdropping." The new council was in office less than a month and already a majority had lost all trust and respect for Frasher. Some Councilors thought he should be immediately fired. One of the lawyers warned the council that Frasher had been very clever. Because of his false claims of a "hostile work environment," if he were fired then, it could be considered a "retaliatory termination" and open the city up to a big lawsuit.

At council goal setting in March of 2009, it was suggested that everyone try to put their differences aside until after the Public Safety Levy vote to give it the best chance to pass.

On May 6, 2009, Council President Kangas took councilor Townes, as a witness, to speak with Frasher and suggested Frasher, discreetly and professionally, resign after the May 19th Levy vote. According to witnesses, Frasher said he'd write a draft resignation letter and the 3 shook hands. On May 13th, 4 councilors and the Mayor met with Frasher in his office at the conference table. Frasher sat at one end and councilor Townes about 7 feet away at the other. A few minutes into the meeting councilor Townes was speaking to councilor Renfro when suddenly, without warning, Frasher reportedly wound up, and threw a pen at Townes. Frasher later rationalized, without apologizing, and said, "you've got to understand Mark, that was a normal human reaction." Before the meeting was over, Frasher reportedly broke down in tears.

Grants Pass had a \$150,000 a year "professional" manager who actually threw an object at one of his bosses like a 3-year-old during a temper tantrum.

What should have been the simple firing or resignation of the city manager has stretched out 3 months - Other citizens have allegedly started sharing stories of their experiences with Frasher. Here are a few:

Even though Frasher always referred to former Mayor Holzinger in public as "your honor", Frasher

once became so incensed with Holzinger in Frasher's office that Frasher used the door to shove 75-year-old Holzinger out of the office and slammed the door in his face.

Frasher reportedly barged into a county elected official's office, started a verbal tirade and refused to leave when asked. He kept up his verbal assault walking towards the official and only stopped when the official threatened to dial 911.

Frasher stands accused of having a consistent and long history of violent, intimidating, unprofessional and totally inappropriate behavior. The city council had the almost impossible task of doing city business, while tolerating an unstable, but well-polished bully who was in position to prevent them from receiving the information the council needed to be effective.

He has victimized citizens as well and recently during a gathering of recall supporters at the Saturday Market, Frasher stood nose-to-nose with a well-known public critic of the recall and reportedly stated, "you are the ugliest mother f---er I've ever seen." This was done in front of a witness and the "powers that be." They really expect the public to recall councilors who fired this perverted individual? Truly amazing!

Some have wondered why Frasher had such an aversion to working with the Grants Pass elected council. Even before they were sworn in he was job hunting. Think - River District Plan, the 58 million dollar plan to improve river area properties and businesses at taxpayer expense. Frasher's 1st public presentation in Grants Pass when interviewing for manager was on the River District. Who brought Frasher to Grants Pass and who made sure he was all too ready to promote this overwhelming project? We can rest assured that it certainly wasn't your average hard-working tax payer.

In his 1st year as Grants Pass City Manager he took an all expense paid trip to stay at the River Walk Marriot Hotel in San Antonio to see how to develop big city style river attractions. The trip reportedly cost the taxpayers of Grants Pass thousands, not to mention the countless hours of staff and consultant time invested.

The bottom line to this whole unbelievable saga is whether or not the voting public of Grants Pass, Oregon, wants an elected council that is responsible to the people for the decisions they make, or a group of uncontrolled, overpaid bureaucrats (city management), who are not accountable to anyone excepting the "Big Money" bunch who have controlled politics in Grants Pass for years.

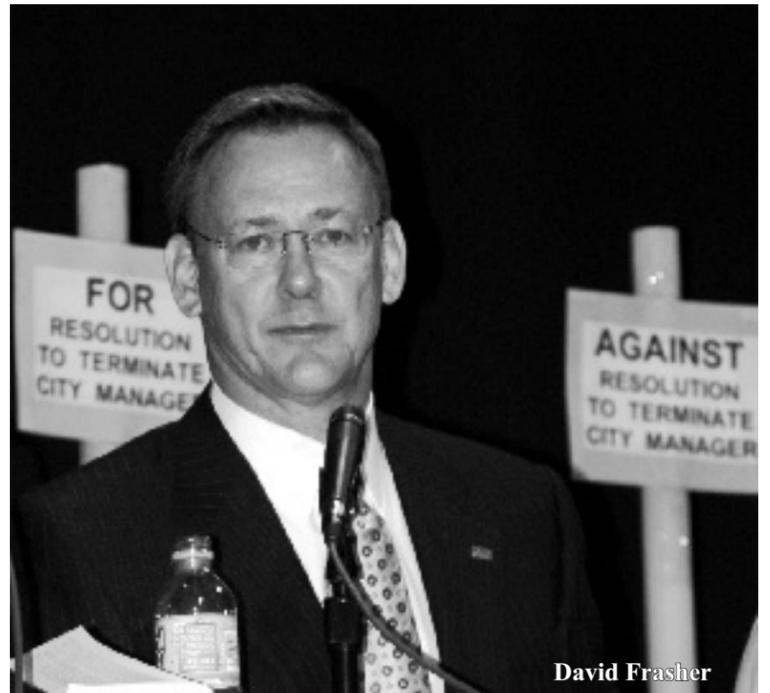
The facts show that the current councilors being recalled have done an exemplary job and anyone who votes to remove them is simply slashing their own financial throat.

As for former Grants Pass City Manager David Frasher, according to highly credible sources (mayors, city councilors and city attorneys) from prior towns where he acted as city manager, he has created the same confusion, animosity and public dissent in Grants Pass as he did in their communities. The towns referenced are again, Oak Grove, Missouri, and Ashland, Wisconsin.

Officials from both cities have stated to this writer, "Frasher must be stopped." I concur with their assessment; however, it is critical for citizens from Grants Pass, Oregon, who are concerned with their own financial security and the welfare of their community, to remember those who have supported this corrupt city manager. Don't forget those who promoted the recall against your outstanding city councilors and watch closely for them to raise their ugly heads in the future.

On the issue of lawsuits - Frasher and others of his ilk usually resort to threats of lawsuits as a means of intimidating anyone who confronts their corruption or lack of accountability. I would suggest publicly that the powerful Mr. Frasher or one of his "team" file one against the US~Observer. By so doing they wouldn't be considered quite the bullies they really are and I would get to thoroughly enjoy some very informative depositions, not to mention the enjoyment of exposing their corrupted backsides in open court...

Editor's Note: The US~Observer has opened an investigation into the actions of city councilor Tim



David Frasher

Cummings, city administrator Laurel Sampson, city finance director David Reeves, former city attorney Ulys Stapleton, Patti Toronto and other close associates of former city manager David Frasher. The public is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 with any information on the individuals listed above and any issues involving possible corruption. ■■■

Frasher Firing Not Surprising in Wisconsin

US~Observer;

I served on the City Council in Ashland, Wisconsin while David Frasher was City Administrator. I later became Council President. The political turmoil in Grants Pass is eerily similar to what our town experienced during and after Frasher's tenure, so I was not surprised to learn Frasher had been fired.

In Wisconsin, Frasher made accusations of "hostile work environment" and threatened to sue just like he did in Grants Pass. In Wisconsin, Frasher refused to take directives from our Mayor just like he refused to acknowledge the will of your Council. In both places Frasher defended his insubordination with petty legal maneuvers.

In Wisconsin, our City has an Administrator not a Manager. The position answers to our Mayor on a day-to-day basis. Nevertheless, Frasher ignored our Mayor. He justified this by creating his own interpretation of city ordinance. The ordinance said he answered to the "Mayor and Council". Frasher claimed that meant he didn't answer to the Mayor, only to the "Mayor and Council". Brilliant right? After Frasher resigned, our Council revised the ordinance so no future Administrator could make the same ridiculous argument.

After Frasher resigned, a group of citizens gathered signatures to get the following referendum on the ballot: "Should the City of Ashland discontinue the position of City Administrator and return to a full-time Mayor to perform the full-time administrative duties for the City of Ashland?" The vote failed, rightly so. The problem was the person, not the position.

Brandon Boys
Ashland, WI

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.



SAF Sues D.C. Over Carrying of Handguns

Bellevue, WA – The Second Amendment Foundation today filed a lawsuit on behalf of three residents of the District of Columbia and a New Hampshire resident, seeking to compel the city to issue carry permits to law-abiding citizens.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court on behalf of Tom Palmer, George Lyon and Amy McVey, all District residents, and Edward Raymond, a New Hampshire resident. SAF and the individual plaintiffs are being represented by attorney Alan Gura, who successfully argued the landmark District of Columbia v. Heller case in 2008 that overturned the District's handgun ban on the grounds that it was unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

“Once again,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, “we’re heading back to court because the anti-gun city administration refuses to abide by the law. It is beginning to appear like residents of the District are up against a rogue city government that simply does not want to ease its stranglehold on the most important civil right of all, the right of self-preservation.”

“In most major American cities,” said attorney Gura, “where the right to bear arms is respected, licensed permit holders have proven themselves safe

and effective. Washington, D.C. already requires handgun registrants to complete the background checks and training classes required of carry permit holders throughout the country. It is pointless to deny these individuals the right to bear arms.”

SAF previously sued the District over its restrictive handgun registration policies, leading the city to amend those policies. This time, SAF is alleging that the District previously had a city code under which the police chief could issue licenses to carry handguns to individuals, including citizens not residing in the District, though the city did not issue such licenses as a matter of policy for several years. That authority was revoked last December by the Mayor and City Council.

Plaintiffs are seeking a permanent injunction against the continued ban on carrying handguns by law-abiding citizens for personal protection.

The Second Amendment Foundation (www.saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group focusing on the Constitutional right and heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Founded in 1974, The Foundation has grown to more than 650,000 members and supporters and conducts many programs designed to better inform the public. ■■

OFF Files Suit in Maxwell Case Battles for Marine Corps Veteran

(OFF Alert) - Those of you who followed the case of Jeff Maxwell, a Marine Corp veteran who was arrested at Western Oregon University for exercising his 2nd Amendment rights, know how long we have been involved in our efforts to get justice for him.

Although we were able to quickly get the criminal charges against him dropped, getting the Oregon University system to comply with the law is another matter.

As those of you who have followed our defense of the Medford teacher know, these processes can take a ridiculously long time. (We are still awaiting the Appeals Court decision on that issue.)

This case was complicated by a number of factors. First, there were several ways we could have approached it. Each had their own strengths and liabilities.

Second, other organizations got involved in the issue. As a result, there was a major possibility that we would be working at cross purposes with people who were trying to reach the same goal we were.

When multiple players are addressing the same legal issue, their cases could be consolidated, or one group might be bumped out of the process altogether. While any legal strategy comes with a chance of losing, we felt very strongly that we had to have a plan that had the greatest chance of success for Maxwell and all gun owners. We also had an obligation to protect Jeffery from any additional liability.

Frankly, this took a lot longer than we expected. For those of you who have so generously contributed, we thank you for your support and your patience.

As you know, early on we considered a Federal Deprivation of Civil Rights lawsuit. At one time, we felt strongly that that was the best way to go.

As this case developed, our attorneys concluded that that path might not be the most beneficial. There were a number of reasons why. One, there was a distinct possibility that the Federal Courts might simply refuse to hear our case. Because another organization had served notice of their plans to challenge Maxwell's suspension in state court, the FEDS might very likely have taken the position that they would not rule until the State had

reached a conclusion.

Had that happened, there would have been little we could do for a long time. But there were other considerations. Our attorneys informed us that should the FEDS hear our case, and our side lost, Maxwell could be personally liable for attorney's fees.

We have always been clear that our Foundation would pay for Jeffery's legal bills, but we were not comfortable allowing him to be in the financial cross hairs. We can budget for known lawyer's bills, and our supporters have been very generous, but to have him be technically responsible instead of us made no sense.

So, after much consideration and discussion, with a lot of input from friends in many quarters, we chose another route that we believe will allow us to reach a conclusion to this matter and isolate Jeffery from any future potential liability. Jeffery has been involved on all stages of this process and is on board with this strategy.

On August 7th, our attorneys filed a Petition for Judicial Determination of Validity of Rule.

Since our Foundation is the plaintiff instead of Jeff Maxwell, he cannot be liable for any negative outcomes in the future. The law also requires that the plaintiff not be a party to any current dispute, so the Foundations becomes the perfect party to address this issue.

There are other reasons why we believe, win or lose, that this will be the best way to go.

As you know, we have been involved in numerous legal actions when we felt there was no legislative remedy. As you also know, courts are really accountable to no one and they reach some bizarre conclusions. If the case was just about Jeff, the courts may have found a creative way to either affirm Jeff's suspension from school, or reverse it while never addressing the rule itself. Then we could face this same battle again.

We have sued the Oregon University System in the past with no resolution. The way this case is crafted, we believe that we have a far better chance of getting an answer that applies to everyone.

This step, unfortunately, is but the first of a long trip. The actual legal battle will go on for some months. But, it's a battle that must be fought.



Jeff Maxwell



Oregon Firearms Federation
Oregon's only no compromise gun lobby



Second Amendment Foundation

SAF.ORG



HUNTER'S ALERT!
www.huntersalert.org



"The Common Sense Gun Lobby"

CCRKBA

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

Continued from page 9 • Progressives Think the Protests ...

10-page memo from a Connecticut activist that was evidence that there was a well-coordinated national campaign by the Republicans to protest healthcare. That, of course, is not true since, at the highest levels of politics, the money Mafia that fund both parties are in bed with each other.

And, finally, former Gore-Lieberman 2000 campaign manager Donna Brazile said that the Dockers' crowd that shows up on all of the videos (instead of the Brooks Brothers crowd that simply does not exist in any of the videos) were "rented" organizers. Brazile told the media that the town hall protests were the result of "...a well-organized group of lobbyists who are paying people to go out. They're renting organizers," she said adding, as if to -self confirm the validity of her statement, "The left has done it. Now, they're doing it. This little band of protesters are trying to stop [Congress] from doing [its] job. They know they can't win the debate, so they want to shut down the conversation." Asked by the media for proof, Brazile admitted she had none, adding, "I've seen this dance before." Of course she has. She's helped choreograph it in every Democratic political photo op for at least two decades where the boys in Washington needed interested spectators that simply didn't exist.

Almost every member of Congress has faced angry crowds in town hall settings when they attempted to convince their constituents that rationed healthcare for all Americans is not as bad as the Canadians make it sound.

In Tampa, Florida Congresswoman Kathy Castor [D-FL] and African American Florida State Representative Betty Reed held a health care town hall at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Eight hundred Tampa residents showed up, but only 200 were admitted. Many of them were members of SEIU who actually sponsored the town hall. The rest were senior citizens or those who were not carrying signs and placards opposing Obama's healthcare "reform." Four union goons sent to help the Congresswoman by frightening the opposition to silence by sheer brawn, attempted to exclude anyone opposed to universal healthcare from their meeting.

Halfway through Castor's unsuccessful attempt to convince her constituents that Obama's socialized medicine would be good for America, a fight broke out. One audience member said to Castor, "you won't let the people speak." Someone in the audience shouted, "Why won't you let the people speak?" Castor ignored those who disagreed with her, talking over them when they spoke. Union members pushed those with opposing views away from the doors, closing them. As the doors closed, someone inside the room said: "Tyranny!" Others shouted: "Read the bill! Read the bill!" Others began shouting, "Hold it outside! Hold it outside!" since 75% of those who came to voice their views were now locked out.

Many of those in the room were senior citizens. Most were typical middle class people, the type of person standing in front or behind you when you go to vote. The air suddenly turned ugly, like a violent, dark thunder storm where ground-strike lightning precedes the rain. A man shouted: "Bulls**t!" Others began chanting "You work for us!" and "Hear our voice!" It was at that point that the union goons began to push the protesters out of the room, closing the door. In the scuffle, one man in a short sleeve green shirt was accosted by three union thugs. His shirt was literally torn

from his body. Tampa police, with orders to do so from Castor, locked the doors so the protesters could not enter. Castor took that opportunity to skip out of the building without fielding the questions of those to come to air their grievances with their Congresswoman.

This is not how a Republic woks. This is how a communist state operates. The voters in the 11th Congressional District of Florida elected Castor in 2006 with 70% of the vote. They re-elected her in 2008 with 72%. With that vote, they surrendered their right to free speech in the 11th Congressional District. Hopefully the voters will correct that oversight in Nov., 2010.

Across the nation Democrats who had scheduled healthcare town halls to give their constituents the "good news" that they were going to get the public option (i.e., anal roto-rootering) that would theoretically allow them to keep what they have if they want to keep their private insurance plan, or switch to the government's universal healthcare plan, either staged "Congressman friendly" town halls by hand-picking the attendees from local labor unions friendly with the White House, or simply canceling them. The protests are genuine. They are not "Republican." They are nonpartisan. And, most of all, they didn't begin with Obama's healthcare reform program. Nor did they start with "cash for clunkers," which has angers millions of Americans. It began with the President George W. Bush's \$700 billion bailout for banks when all that was needed to solve the financial crisis in 2008 was to change the Fed's "mark to market" rule that would free up local banks to loan money. It was that simple to solve. And, it still is. But the longer Obama tinkers with the economy, the harder the problem is going to be to fix. But, as history has proven over and over again, you can't fix the economy by robbing the taxpayers and recycling their money to the welfare crowd—whether those receiving the grand gratuities are poor or rich.

America's politicians should have paid attention when the first spontaneous Tea Parties were held across the country on April 15. And, if not then, on Memorial Day or on Independence Day because on July 4, the dye was cast. On Nov. 2, 2010, the non-partisan People intend to

Continued on page 20



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Continued from page 6 • ... "Soak the Poor"

want you to know what you're paying for. We're not putting it in our pockets.' I'm doing this so that if there's ever a vote where it comes to the people, they'll understand."

Crum added that although her building has spaces for five businesses, only four are occupied at the moment and she has to pay the fee on the empty one.

It's the same for rental residences. Besides mobile homes, small apartment complexes and duplexes are billed per unit, whether occupied or not. That's \$40 a month for a duplex. An eight-unit would be \$160. (\$1,290 a year) Some owners will pay the entire fee, others don't. But it has to be paid or the water will be shut off.

The surcharge is estimated to have generated \$230,000 a year for "public safety," and the pressure is on the city council to increase that to \$40.

Voters Say No

What several Jacksonville residents have described to this reporter as "a complete mess," started in 2002 when voters rejected a \$2.8 million five-year levy on the November ballot, intended to sustain operations of the local fire department and fund a changeover from a volunteer to a full-time force, with paid career firefighters, new equipment, a new truck and a new fire station. This would have been paid for by the property owners, but the voters as a whole felt it was either too expensive or not necessary or both. In any case, they said no.

By all accounts, the volunteer fire department was performing "excellently."

"Jacksonville is a very small community," exclaimed one resident. "How large a fire department do we really need? Do we really need a glass building and eight fire trucks?"

With the levy shot down, the city administration – aided by an ad hoc committee – went back to the drawing board and came up with the idea of a surcharge. The new fee wouldn't be just for a new fire department. It would beef up the police force as well. The entire package was labeled "Public Safety."

The city council unanimously approved (some said rubber-stamped) the surcharge at its April 1 meeting the following year – despite an outpouring of public comment against it.

Former city Mayor Clara Wendt told the council the fee was "unacceptable," and accused them of "taking the coward's way out and soaking its citizens" by supporting the surcharge.

Having lost the fight in the council chamber, a group of a dozen or so citizens banded together, hired an attorney, and in September 2003, filed suit in the Oregon Tax Court, claiming the surcharge was an unconstitutional tax that violated Measure 50, a provision placed in the state constitution in 1997 that consolidated existing levies.

For the plaintiffs it was not a fight about the fire department, but because the surcharge was seen as an end run

around constitutional restrictions on tax levying without voter approval.

"We opposed it for two reasons," Paul Hayes recalled. "One, we felt it was without question a tax. And two, there was no cap on it. It was completely open-ended, and as a result it has gone up."

Hayes continued: "Normally police and fire are considered property tax items and go into the general fund. That's why we fought it. We said these are property tax items and should be voted on."

"Also, from the owner's standpoint, a property tax is deductible – a fee is not. So by not being part of the property tax, it's not deductible from your taxes. It is on my apartment rental, because it's an expense of the rental. But for the owner of a home it's not a deductible item. You can't deduct that \$20 a month (\$240 a year) the way you can deduct property and sales taxes."

Cities Follow Suit

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling, several communities near Jacksonville - Grants Pass, Phoenix, Rogue River, Gold Hill, Shady Cove, and Talent - have passed or attempted to pass similar surcharge ordinances. How many across the state have done so is not clear, but Wyntergreen predicts others will follow.

In Phoenix, Ore., (pop. 4,000) the city council passed a surcharge in May 2007, just a few months after the Supreme Court handed down the Jacksonville Decision. This was a \$20 monthly fee, intended to cover a \$700,000 budget shortfall for police, fire protection and public works. But Steve Brown, an Ashland police officer who lives in Phoenix, circulated a petition and obtained enough signatures that the city was forced to place a measure before the voters to repeal the surcharge. This was overwhelmingly approved in a special election that September.

Brown told the Mail Tribune the referendum had two purposes: to decide the fate of the monthly fee and to make certain voters had a say in how their money is spent. "I was just hoping that everybody got a chance to vote on it," Brown said. "It's a two-fold issue, but the primary issue is that when government tries to take your money they should give the voters a chance to say whether they approve of how the government's going to spend it."

An attorney this reporter spoke with - who requested that he not be named - said he sees no way around the court ruling, except citizen involvement, presumably like the kind shown by folks in Phoenix. He said that from now on the best way to fight a surcharge is to make sure a city council doesn't pass one in the first place - but if it does, to vote the council members out of office with the understanding that the next council will repeal the fee.

"Unfortunately, if [a city council] follows the rules the Supreme Court said they could follow, they can pretty much do what they want," he said. ■■

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“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.”

Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor
editor@usobserver.com

Letters to the Editor



Accurate Reporting

Ron:

Thank you for the reply, you are indeed a fountain of correct information.

Looks like we will be going hmmm for a great period of time.

Take care, you and others are very valuable if we are to keep our country! Just think, you will be on a disc of history on the 21st Century. You should feel good about this.

Regards,

Ron Wheeler

Three Cheers!

Editor;

My name is Eric R. Rhodes, my former attorney is up for disbarment for conversion of client funds for his own use (that's lawyer speak for theft), fraud, breach of contract, violations of a whole bunch the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC's) and of a bunch of Rules of Professional Responsibilities (DR's), and possibly some felonies as well, such as the Honest Services Fraud act of 1988. I suggest you do a web search on that act, it is quite an interesting Federal law and he could face some serious time for multiple counts under that law, 6 years for just one count, he has multiple counts he could face. He might just go to prison. I did all this without an attorney, believe it or not.

This has taken me two and a half years to get this case before the trial panel of the Oregon State Bar, who makes the recommendations to the Supreme Court of Oregon for disbarment.

My evidence was compelling enough to start a two plus year Bar investigation of Michael R. Shinn, OSB member 732709. He is currently suspended indefinitely pending the conclusion of the trial and the courts ruling.

You may contact me via email as I have a LOT to tell you. It's time for a good house keeping clean up of the legal system here in Oregon. Especially the courts, and the Bar, and the cops too come to think of it. The Bar didn't believe me when I started up my complaint, after all they get so many complaints each year that basically turn into nothing, they get a lot of crank complaints, but when Mr. Shinn did not reply or cooperate with the Bars investigation, they started to believe me, and dug deeper, way deeper.

I simply would not leave the Bar alone and when the Bar started to investigate my charges, they found he had done similar things to 19 other people, including a Judge on a probate matter, she held him in contempt for failing to appear in the probate matter 5 times when ordered to appear, and for failing to get a DHHS waiver on an estate, a simple one sentence document. The trial concludes this Friday and it will be in the Oregonian again, it has been in the paper

three times now, written by Aimee Green. When the trial panel makes it's recommendations to the Supreme Court. I fully expect him to be disbarred. It is a serious breach of public trust when an officer of the courts goes this bad, and it shows there is corruption in our legal system. I have personally brought this case to Attorney General Kroger and his aid Ben Unger at a public meeting held in King City on June 27, 2009. This meeting was video taped with multiple camera's so he cannot deny this meeting actually occurred at 4:10 PM and lasted until 6:00, Mr Kroger left at 4:50 PM for a book signing at Powell's books that night. His Aid Mr. Unger stayed to hear our statements and receive our documentation. Mine was straight from the State Bar's own work, and so no one doubt it's the real deal.

You simply need to go to the Bar's office once this case is closed this Friday and ask to on see Mr. Shinn's disciplinary records, they are open to the public now and you won't "F"ing believe what is on the record. It would astound you, it's pile of books that you would need a hand truck to move, 8 volumes of records 3.5" thick. I suggest you call ahead to the Bar and tell them you wish to review the public disciplinary records on Mr. Michael R. Shinn. They'll need some time to pull the records out and you had better get ready to spend some serious time, like several days to review them, it can't be done in one afternoon, believe me. It took years to expose this lawyer. If you want to join me in this fabulous once in a lifetime event this Friday, don't call the BAR, just show up, and don't whip out press credentials when you do, it is a public hearing, but they don't like the press exposure. It's a great sport, destroying corrupt attorneys!!

Sincerely,

Eric R. Rhodes

Editor's Note: Eric, keep up the good fight, but one suggestion for next time ... give us a call! It won't take two and a half years for you to see results. Nonetheless, superb job!

MJ

Editor,

Folks, Okay, I need to rant.

I was just watching the news, and I caught part of a report on Michael Jackson.? As we all know, Jackson died the other day.? He was an entertainer who performed for decades.? He made millions, he spent millions, and he did a lot of things that make him a villain to many people.? I understand that his death would affect a lot of people, and I respect those people who mourn his death, but that isn't the point of my rant.

Why is it that when ONE man dies, the whole of America loses their minds with grief.? When a man dies whose only contribution to the country was to ENTERTAIN people, the American people find the need to flock to a memorial in Hollywood, and even Congress sees the need to hold a "moment of silence" for his passing?

Am I missing something here?? ONE man dies, and all of a sudden he's a freaking martyr because he entertained us for a few decades?? What about all those SOLDIERS who have died to give us freedom?? All those Soldiers who, knowing that they would be asked to fight in a war, still raised their hands and swore to defend the Constitution and the United States of America. Where is their? moment of silence?? Where are the people flocking to their graves or memorials and mourning over them because they made the ultimate sacrifice?? Why is it when a Soldier dies, there are more people saying "good riddance," and "thank God for IEDs??" When did this country become so calloused to the sacrifice of GOOD MEN and WOMEN, that they can arbitrarily blow off their deaths, and instead, throw themselves into mourning for a "Pop Icon?"

I think that if they are going to hold a moment of silence IN CONGRESS for Michael Jackson, they need to hold a moment of silence for every service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.? They need to PUBLICLY recognize every life that has been lost so that the American people can live their callous little lives in the luxury and freedom that WE, those that are living and those that have gone on, have provided for them.? But, wait, that would take too much time, because there have been so many willing to make that sacrifice.? After all, we will never make millions of dollars. We will never star in movies, or write hit songs that the world will listen too.? We only shed our blood, sweat and tears so that people can enjoy what they have.

Sorry if I have offended, but I needed to say it.? Remember these five words the next time you think of someone who is serving in the military;

"So that others may live.."

Isaac

Editor;

Kelly Stone sure hit the nail on the head with the "Only in America" article. Thank you for such a adult view on that freak of (un)natur(al)e.

I have PTSD, caused by a childhood of never knowing when I would be beaten to death (or see my baby brother beaten to death). I get up, muddle through the day without having the urge to sleep with little children.

Cheers to pointing out that MJ didn't take the terminally ill children to Never Land (a blessing in disguise?).

It's about time that the blinders are taken off!!!

Kitty

Don't Tread on Me

US~Observer Editor's Note: Recently, the US~Observer launched an on-line campaign of like-minded web sites flying a "Don't Tread on Me" flag. The animated banner says,

Continued on page 19

Continued from page 18 • Letters to the Editor

“Celebrating the Principles of Our Founding and in Support of the CONSTITUTION - DON'T TREAD ON ME!” We announced this ‘web ring’ via an e-mail alert and these are some of the responses we have received:



www.freewebs.com/galaxyfarmgoats

I moved to rural Missouri after leaving Tampa because I saw what was happening to our country and I wanted to be in a place where I could raise my own food, hence the goat farm.

Grants Pass City Council Recall Letters

Dear US~Observer,

Did you know that ex-King David Frasher and his court, are each making more money than the Governor?

Former City Manager David Frasher made nearly \$200,000.00 per year including \$600.00 car allowance, PERS, maximum health insurance coverage, Club Northwest membership, \$50k “slush fund” and credit cards among his benefits; who knows what else. The same goes for his Court - 8 senior staffer’s salaries average \$140,000.00 per year. Because we live in a poverty pocket, we elected citizen councilors as watchdogs to put an end to the shameful and reckless spending by the City Administration and the former good ol’ boy council. And they did. They saved us nearly 4 million dollars in just 6 months. The big money guys want their power back and are using Frasher as their willing tool. War has been declared on our elected Councilors. This is a war between the rich and the poor. It's all about money. The power brokers have muddied the waters to fool you, have pulled every trick in the book to discredit the Councilors we voted in to watch out for us. Don't be fooled. Protect yourself. Don't support a transient politician/lawyer acting as a City Manager for the big bucks. Keep your voter-elected citizen-councilors, they are dedicated to seeing the city is held accountable for spending your money.

Sincerely,

--Someone watching from within

Letter to Editor

In Grants Pass, the City Manager and Senior staff have the whip to gouge the people and take their money. In the past, the banker, developer, wealthy councilors let it happen. They didn't care. The newly elected Council won't allow it. Your protection is that a People's Council is the only buffer for the citizens against a shark-like feeding machine gobbling up our money faster than we can give it. It's more, more, more - they are insatiable, and now they want to take away the best council we've had for years. The new Council majority will protect us. Don't you get it? When you vote for recall, you've given away your power to the City Sharks. It will backfire on you. Protect your money. Don't buy the lie, and don't sign away the only protection you have against them draining your pocketbook. No Council Recall.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davies

Dear Editor

Our representative form of city government is being hijacked with the help of The Daily Courier's misleading articles/editorials, as well as the senior city staff.

Courier's Tues., Aug. 4, 2009, front page article stated, "Mayor Mike Murphy, following council approval, negotiated a contract with Assistant City Manager Laurel Samson to make her the City Manager Pro Tem for two months, a role she has filled two other times in the past." But the Wed., Aug. 5, 2009 City Council Meeting was a slick flim-flam, done by Asst. City Manager Laurel Samson, Mayor Mike Murphy and Finance Director David Reeves.

City Legal Council Doug McGeary (who was quietly fired by Ms. Samson prior to the meeting, which she has no legal authority to do) wasn't told of Samson's 12 month contract, nor were the City Councilors. The 'bombshell' was dropped on everyone at the Wed., Aug. 5th City Council Meeting!

The Daily Courier's front page Aug. 6th article buried the most important part of the story on Page 5A. Why? Because it states "Samson's contract was negotiated by herself, McGeary and Murphy." That's an outrageous lie! When questioned by councilors, I heard Samson say the contract was written up by her, with input by Murphy (who suggested and added a costly 12-month 'golden parachute' severance package), and was signed

Keep up the good work!

Debra Prince

Hi guys.

I put your Navy Flag animated gif on the AFRA front page in the left-hand menu just below the Constitution Party and Campaign for Liberty logos. You are in good company.

Leonard Henderson, co-founder
American Family Rights Association
<http://familyrights.us>
"Until Every Child Comes Home" ©
"The Voice of America's Families" ©

To the editor,

I'm outraged that the US Government continues to portray illegal immigration as a major cause in the downfall of our society. I once thought like many deceived Americans, until I looked into this issue.

Our own government is simply the one to blame. They make it nearly impossible for a corporation to stay in America with taxes, laws etc. It is much too convenient for companies to move out of America for profit, thus exploiting the citizens of other countries (primarily Mexico) with slave labor.

Slave labor is also here in the states, even though the numbers might be less, it seems to go unannounced, making living conditions for all much worse in one way or another.

Our own economy should be built by and controlled by Americans. Money truly is the "root of all evil". Greed has led to political corruption that is beyond repair in our current form of government, which also ties into corporations and media. It has become evident that our own government has a strong hand in what the media portrays as the "cause".

Our Government makes it so convenient for foreigners to come into our country (while painting a picture quite the opposite). If someone wants to become a citizen, no matter what the struggle, they will. Our government opens their arms to them with government programs (paid by citizens) for those who can't provide and for those who have sacrificed to get here. Once they get here, they work, and eventually get ahead, which is something that our own have simply forgotten the true meaning of because of government handouts (my money). It will, one day, backfire and when those who have paved this path can no longer tend the sheep which have been fed so well.... Look out!

When the people of this once great land can no longer get a handout or feed their family, they will learn to work once again and a revolution is inevitable. The Ones who are sitting nice and fat right now will be the first to go and when that day comes I will be gone, but for my Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, I hope it's soon.

Sincerely

John Rutherford
California

Hi,

I like your banner, but isn't it supposed to say "founding fathers" instead of just "founding" ?

Thanks,

Claire Muzal
Seneca, SC

Editor's Note: Claire, we were founded on certain principles, regardless of who founded us. I do suppose it could be more clear and say, "celebrating the principles by which we were founded." We'll make that change soon!

To the Editor;

Just got my US~Observer email update and wanted to tell you that even before I received it I had put a Don't Tread on Me banner on my website (right after I heard that someone had gotten stopped for having a DTOM bumper sticker).

Here is my website:

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Contact: Coyote Moon, LLC Independent Agent,
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Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19 • Letters to the Editor

by her, Murphy and Finance Director David Reeves! Councilor Pell asked "who had the opportunity to negotiate for the public." So much for openness and above board tactics.

According to the City Charter, the legal way to initiate a contract is for the City Legal Council to write it up and get it approved by the City Council, then the City Manager signs it. Ms. Samson's contract appears to be an illegal piece of garbage!

How's this for a slicker-than-spit hijacking? What else is going on within the city senior staff that we don't know about? Plenty!

Loralee Tillman
A very concerned Grants Pass citizen

To the Editor,

Even though I disagreed with asst. city manager Laurel Samson most of the time I always respected her, but I do not respect her any longer. Samson and Mayor Mike Murphy pulled a trick on the councilors by inserting language and a severance package in her contract that would sink any business in the private sector.

I agreed with the recall of the councilors before, but now I have changed my mind because Samson and Murphy's current actions illustrate the deceptive tricks and backstabbing the councilors have been dealing with all the time, since being elected.

Jan Trask

Dear Editor,

Beginning with the swearing in ceremony of the four new Grants Pass City Counselors in January 2009, I have sat through numerous City Council Meetings and have witnessed continuous harassment of 6 councilors by (now former) City Manager David Frasher, (former Asst. Manager) now City Manager Pro Tem Laurel Sampson, Finance Director David Reeves, Mayor Mike Murphy, City Counselors Tim Cummings and Del Renfro. These six have continuously thrown a monkey wrench into every meeting, creating chaos, mayhem and utter mass confusion.

I couldn't figure out why they were doing this. Were the above six people backing four other people for city council who were to be their "rubber-stampers?" I learned that immediately after the election, a group was set up to

work behind the scenes to unseat the four that had won the election.

I have since learned that Attorney David Frasher makes it a habit of using foul language to people who question him, and uses threats of law suits.

City Councilman Tim Cummings, working with former City Attorney Ulys Stapleton, pushed through the purchase of the highly contaminated hops field property.

\$3.5 million of city taxpayer money was paid, knowing full well it was contaminated. The seller gave the city a paltry \$70,000 towards cleaning up the contamination. It will take untold millions more IF the city wants to spend another cent towards this monstrous job.

Since the city refuses public requests for information (under the Freedom Of Information Act), no one, not even the new counselors, can find out what the senior city staff are hiding. My guess is it would blow the roof off of city hall, exposing all the dirt they've swept under the rug for a long time.

Isn't it time for taxpayers to band together and demand an independent audit?

Lorraine Walter
City Taxpayer

Mess On HWY 199

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I have lived in O'Brien, Oregon for four years now at the Niensens' "Almost Heaven" Resort just 7/10 of a mile from the California border on U.S. Hwy 199 across the street from a former truck stop/weigh station.

The border is the gateway to our beautiful state. People stop at the former weigh station for the numerous reasons: nauseous from the curvy turns; they need to use the bathroom; throw away trash; etc. Either they missed the O'Brien Store going south or they missed the Rest Area going north. They stop because they are not aware there is a store or rest stop coming up. The consequences are enviornmentally devastating and present a public health hazard. The smell of human waste and the sight are enough to make a U.S. Marine VOMIT!! This is absolutely not "putting our best foot forward".

I will clean this mess. But it does not stop there, it is just a band-aid on the real problem. The solution being one of two things: signs going north and south

alerting people to the proximity of the O'Brien Store and the rest area which are located exactly four miles north and south respectively; and/or locating porta-potties and dumpster maintained at continuous tax payers expense. I think we Oregonians would prefer the signs which are a one time fee.

Because HWY 199 is a U.S. Hwy a copy of this letter is also going to be sent to Peter Defazio, U.S. Representative, 4th Congressional District, Oregon.

I love Oregon and I want the gateway to our beautiful state to be just as beautiful. So please print this so Congressman Defazio know we know and expect him to do something about it! Sincerely,

Michell Rene Dindust

Yes On Health Care

To the Editor:

I don't expect you to print my letter but I'm writing it anyway. I have been literally stripped by doctors and hospitals over the past few years. I was forced to sell my home that my deceased husband and I worked for all our lives. I don't have a savings account anymore

and I live on \$980.00 a month. What our health care system did to me is criminal. I had just two years to go to be able to get social security, when our health care system destroyed my life. I now get SS but it's too late. When I get through paying my rent and utilities I have around \$250.00 a month. This is all I have to spend on food, gas, clothing, etc. Where is the accountability?

Carol Ashwood
Jacksonville, Oregon

Top Notch!

To the Editor,

I've been reading News for over 65 years now and wanted to let you know that you are doing a fine job. It is hard to find a publication these days that prints the truth. Your Journalists clearly go to extreme lengths to make sure you publish the truth. The truth is very evident in each article of yours that I've read. That, in my opinion is what a real newspaper should be. If you ever need a reporter in Wisconsin, let me know.

Sincerely

Albert Grutchins

...

Continued from page 17 • Progressives Think the Protests ...

fire every Congressman and Senator who [a] personally failed to read the legislation they voted to enact, [b] voted for any of the stimulus bills, [c] voted to seize control of any car company or bank, or [d], voted to seize the American healthcare industry and convert the United States into a communist nation.

The Obama Administration is so desperate to steal control of your healthcare that the White House website issued this statement: "There is a lot of disinformation about health insurance reform out there...These rumors often travel just below the surface via chain emails or through casual conversation. Since we can't keep track of all of them here at the White House, we're asking for your help. If you get an email or see something on the web about health

insurance reform that seems fishy, send it to flag@whitehouse.gov."

The last leader that took used approach to limit free speech thorough intimidation in the privacy of the homes of the citizens was Adolph Hitler. In a Republic, we have a right to free thought, free speech, and the right to discuss our ideas, our dislikes and our fears in the public square. And, government, according to the 1st Amendment of the Constitution is obligated to listen to our complaints—and properly address them. And, not by using Gestapo tactics designed to intimidate people into silence. The White House's attempt to stifle free speech is not only a violation of the Constitution, it's an impeachable offense. ■■

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Auto inventories tight, U.S. "clunker" interest slips

By John Crawley

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Red hot auto sales under the U.S. government's "cash for clunkers" incentive began to cool as dealer inventories tightened and showroom traffic showed signs of leveling off from its frantic pace of a week ago.

One industry analysis released on Tuesday forecast a steady decline in "clunker" related business even though the Obama administration and Congress added \$2 billion to the program in recent days with hopes of matching the success of its first weeks. Sales during that period topped 250,000 and rebates exceeded \$1 billion at least, according to government and industry figures.

"We see that interest dying down," Edmunds.com Senior Analyst Michelle Krebs said in an interview on the consumer auto industry resource group's analysis of buyer intentions. "It's still high. It's better than pre-clunker levels, but it's off its peak."

Krebs said the original \$1 billion funding for the program was "very low in relation to the size of the auto market." This, she said, created a "Gold Rush" mentality where consumers stormed dealers at the end of July and in the first days of August to cement discounts with rebate funding running low.

The "clunker" initiative offers rebates of up to \$4,500 when consumers trade in older cars for more fuel efficient new ones. Dealers say buyers are trading in

mainly sport utilities, pickups and other U.S.-made vehicles for fuel stingy foreign-made passenger cars.

Automakers credited "clunker" trade-ins for boosting July sales to the best annualized rate for 2009, a year in which carmakers have contended with a devastating decline in business. The horrid, recession-driven sales environment contributed to bankruptcies at General Motors Co and Chrysler this spring.

Both have since emerged from Chapter 11 to an uncertain place in the market with the healthier Ford Motor Co rebounding nicely in July from the brutal sales decline and Japanese powerhouses Toyota Motor Co and Honda Motor Co capitalizing strongly on the "clunker" fueled consumer shift to passenger cars.

Tammy Darvish of Darcars Automotive Group said showroom traffic has eased for domestic models since the first week of the month, with inventory running low.

Chrysler shut down production during its bankruptcy in April, and GM slowed output significantly for over two months during its restructuring.

Foreign makers, especially Toyota, are still attracting buyers for historic discounts but traffic has eased slightly for those dealers, too, Darvish said.

"We don't have as great an inventory as we're used to, but we have enough," Darvish said of hot-selling Toyota Corollas, Camrys and Tacoma pickups.

The Corolla ended July with an average supply of 34 days while the Camry supply

averaged 38 days, Toyota spokeswoman Martha Voss said.

Domestic and foreign auto manufacturers remained cautious about boosting production. Memories remain fresh, especially among U.S. manufacturers, of unsold vehicles rushed to market in recent years in response to soaring gasoline prices.

Toyota is increasing production of key models by 65,000 vehicles, which are being shipped to dealers through September, Voss said. Ford's production is running ahead of last year and has said it will disclose plans in September about third quarter production.

GM already plans to increase third-quarter production across its vehicle lineup by 35 percent over the previous three months, officials said. Senior executives said on Tuesday production would go up even more later in the year, with plans to be announced by the end of the month.

U.S. Representatives Candice Miller and Fred Upton, both of Michigan where domestic manufacturers are based, are so concerned about shrinking inventories that they asked the Obama administration to intervene.

They asked that "clunker" rules be modified to allow consumers to reserve a rebate from the manufacturer for a newly ordered car or truck.

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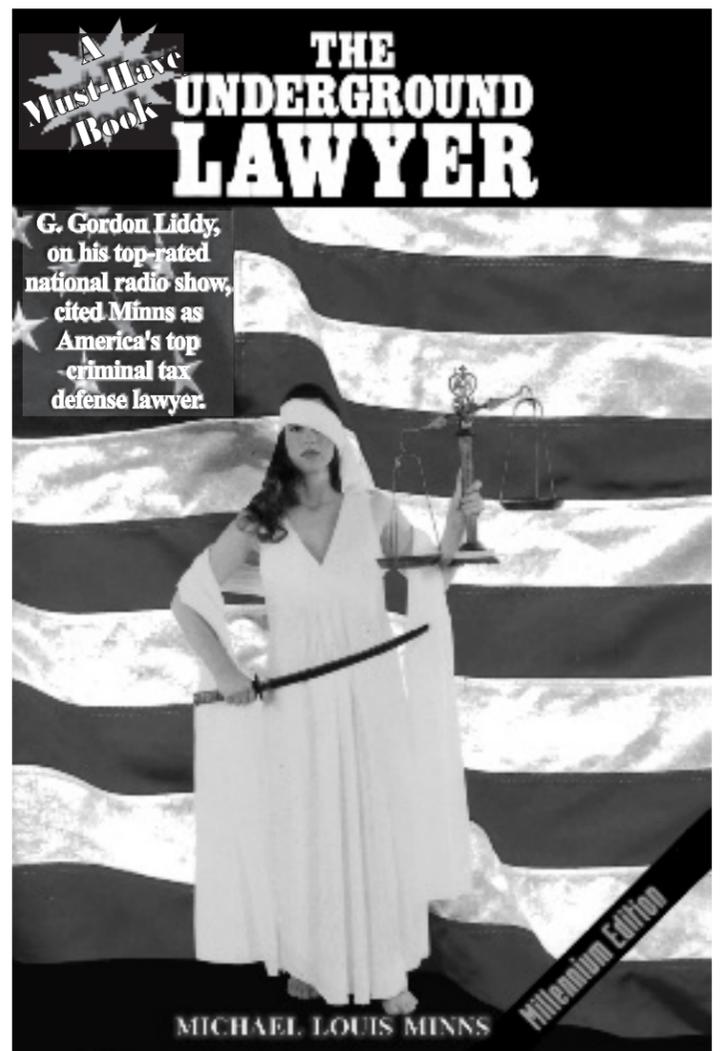
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Health

Mosquitoes deliver malaria 'vaccine'

By Marilyn Marchione
Medical Writer

In a daring experiment in Europe, scientists used mosquitoes as flying needles to deliver a "vaccine" of live malaria parasites through their bites. The results were astounding: Everyone in the vaccine group acquired immunity to malaria; everyone in a non-vaccinated comparison group did not, and developed malaria when exposed to the parasites later.

The study was only a small proof-of-principle test, and its approach is not practical on a large scale. However, it shows that scientists may finally be on the right track to developing an effective vaccine against one of mankind's top killers. A vaccine that uses modified live parasites just entered human testing.

"Malaria vaccines are moving from the laboratory into the real world," Dr. Carlos Campbell wrote in an editorial accompanying the study in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. He works for PATH, the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, a Seattle-based global health foundation.

The new study "reminds us that the whole malaria parasite is the most potent immunizing" agent, even though it is harder to develop a vaccine this way and other leading candidates take a different approach, he wrote.

Malaria kills nearly a million people each year, mostly children under 5 and especially in Africa. Infected mosquitoes inject immature malaria parasites into the skin when they bite; these travel to the liver where they mature and multiply. From there, they enter the bloodstream and attack red blood cells — the phase that makes people sick.

People can develop immunity to malaria if exposed to it many times. The drug chloroquine can kill parasites in the final bloodstream phase, when they are most dangerous.

Scientists tried to take advantage of these two factors, by using chloroquine to protect people while gradually exposing them to malaria parasites and letting immunity develop.

They assigned 10 volunteers to a "vaccine" group and five others to a comparison group. All were given chloroquine for three months, and exposed once a month to about a dozen mosquitoes — malaria-infected ones in the vaccine group and non-infected mosquitoes in the comparison group.

That was to allow the "vaccine" effect

to develop. Next came a test to see if it was working.

All 15 stopped taking chloroquine. Two months later, all were bitten by malaria-infected mosquitoes. None of the 10 in the vaccine group developed parasites in their bloodstreams; all five in the comparison group did.

The study was done in a lab at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and was funded by two foundations and a French government grant.

"This is not a vaccine" as in a commercial product, but a way to show how whole parasites can be used like a vaccine to protect against disease, said one of the Dutch researchers, Dr. Robert Sauerwein.

"It's more of an in-depth study of the immune factors that might be able to generate a very protective type of response," said Dr. John Treanor, a vaccine specialist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y., who had no role in the study.

The concept already is in commercial development. A company in Rockville, Md. — Sanaria Inc. — is testing a vaccine using whole parasites that have been irradiated to weaken them,



hopefully keeping them in an immature stage in the liver to generate immunity but not cause illness.

Two other reports in the New England Journal show that resistance is growing to artemisinin, the main drug used against malaria in the many areas where chloroquine is no longer effective. Studies in Thailand and Cambodia found the malaria parasite is less susceptible to artemisinin, underscoring the urgent need to develop a vaccine.

■ ■ ■

Odd Health

Beetroot juice may boost sports stamina



(HealthDay News) -- Beetroot juice can boost physical stamina and increase exercise endurance by up to 16 percent, a new British study shows.

The researchers found that nitrate in beetroot juice reduces oxygen uptake to a degree that can't be achieved by any other means. The findings could benefit endurance athletes, elderly people and those with cardiovascular, respiratory or metabolic diseases, the study authors suggest.

The study included eight men, aged 19 to 38, who drank 500 milliliters a day of organic beetroot juice for six consecutive days. They then completed a series of tests on an exercise bike. The same tests were repeated after the men drank the same amount of a placebo (blackcurrant cordial) for six days.

After drinking the beetroot juice, the men were able to cycle for an average of 11.25 minutes -- 92 seconds longer than after consuming the placebo drink. The men also had a lower resting blood pressure after they drank the beetroot juice, the researchers found.

The study was published Aug. 6 in

the Journal of Applied Physiology.

"Our study is the first to show that nitrate-rich food can increase exercise endurance," corresponding author Andy Jones, a professor in the University of Exeter's School of Sport and Health Sciences, said in a news release from the university.

"We were amazed by the effects of beetroot juice on oxygen uptake because these effects cannot be achieved by any other known means, including training. I am sure professional and amateur athletes will be interested in the results of this research. I am also keen to explore the relevance of the findings to those people who suffer from poor fitness and may be able to use dietary supplements to help them go about their daily lives," Jones added.

He and his colleagues don't know the exact mechanism that causes nitrate in beetroot juice to increase stamina, but they suspect that nitrate may turn into nitric oxide in the body, leading to a reduction in oxygen uptake and making exercise less tiring.

More information

The U.S. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute offers a guide to physical activity.

■ ■ ■

Certain drugs may increase risk of falling in elderly

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) — In elderly men and women, certain medications can increase the risk of falling, new research shows.

Findings from a 4-year study conducted in France suggest the risk of falling is 1.4 times greater among elderly men and women taking a long-acting benzodiazepine, compared with age-matched men and women not using this type of anti-anxiety medication.

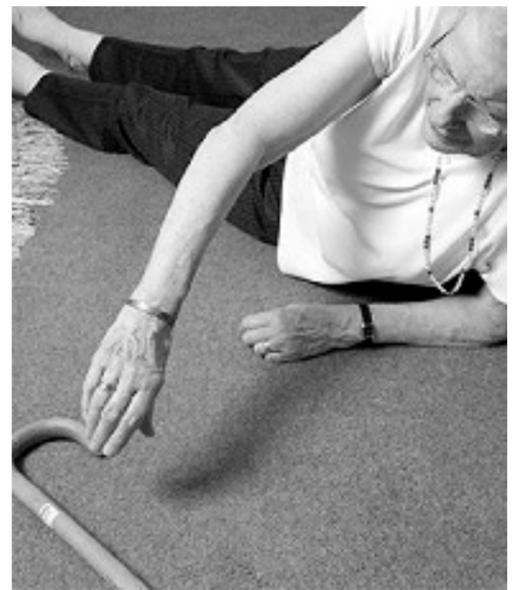
Dr. Annick Alperovitch, at INSERM in Paris, and colleagues also found a moderately increased risk of falling among elderly men and women who regularly used mood- and behavior-altering "psychotropic" medications.

Their findings, reported in the journal BMC Geriatrics, identified similar risk among elderly individuals reporting regular use of tranquilizers, muscle relaxants and anti-spasmodics, and some antihistamines that block nerve responses (so-called "anticholinergics").

The researchers assessed the association between the use of potentially inappropriate medications and the risk of falls in 6343 community-living men and women who were nearly 74 years old on average.

They defined "inappropriate medication" as drugs likely to have a greater effect on elderly individuals than on their younger counterparts, as well as medications (taken singly or with other drugs) with side effects (dizziness and drowsiness) potentially associated with increased risk for falling.

Overall, about 30 percent of study patients reported use of drugs with these qualities and during the course of the study, 22 percent of them had fallen 2 or



more times.

"Use of inappropriate medications increased the risk of falls," they report, and use of long-acting benzodiazepines "was responsible for the main part of this increase."

Unlike regular and occasional users of long-acting benzodiazepines, men and women using short- or intermediate-acting benzodiazepines did not have an increased occurrence of falls.

Therefore, the investigators say the use of short- or intermediate-acting benzodiazepines, over long-acting anti-anxiety medications, are preferable in elderly patients.

SOURCE: BMC Geriatrics, July 23, 2009.

Editor's Note: Some examples of popular benzodiazepines include:

Ambien, Diastat, Librium, Lunesta, Restoril, Valium, Xanax, and Zopitan. ■



Proposed Healthcare Reform: Good Enough for You NOT Good Enough for Congress?

By Mary Starrett
NewsWithViews.com



If the socialized healthcare plan President Obama has been pushing, and Congress seems close to passing, is good enough for all of America, why isn't it good enough for members of Congress?

Why is it the "vastly improved," "cost-effective" healthcare "reform" package the left has been trying to pry open our clenched teeth to deliver for years is something we should all buy into while our elected officials in D.C. get an opt out from the get-go?

It's simple. Congress' Cadillac plan provides them easy access to their choice of doctors, the full array of diagnostic tests, prescription coverage, and all the bells and whistles our system of medical care offers. In short, with the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) they get all the benefits that a fully comprehensive health insurance plan provides. In fact, the FEHB offers "Federal employees, retirees and their survivors ... the widest selection of health plans in the country."

Meanwhile, the liberals are salivating because they're thinking they're this close to passing the "Goodbye Grandpa" health plan they've been trying for years to force in an esophageal cramdown. Now they believe it will finally, finally happen.

But the lack of access, rationed, age-dependant bargain basement health insurance we're being told is for our own good isn't good enough for members of Congress.

That's why Louisiana Congressman John Fleming is sponsoring a bill saying if the public health plan is so wonderful then members of Congress should sign up for the new plan they're touting and forego their Cadillac plan.

H.R.615 says:

"... Members who vote in favor of the establishment of a public, federal government run health insurance option are urged to forgo their right to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and

agree to enroll under that public option."

The Democrats' current healthcare legislation provides for members of Congress to be exempt from the jalopy government-run health insurance plan we'd all be struggling to make work.

They must know something they think we don't know about the reality versus the rhetoric surrounding the quality of care we'd all be forced, forced to utilize.

Maybe Congress has been reticent about opting out of their Cadillac plan because they know that, like any program or area the government gets involved in, (as this well-circulated diagram of how the plan would work shows, the quantity and quality of care could never equal what free market innovations can deliver.

Are your representatives on the list? If not, call or email them and ask "Why isn't the public health plan good enough for you, if you're voting to make it good enough for me?"

House Republican Leader John Boehner's Leader Alert urges Americans to push to:

"Require all Members of Congress to get their health insurance through the proposed government-run plan." pointing out that "Rep. Dean Heller (R-NV) offered an amendment in the Ways & Means Committee that would have required Members of Congress to enroll immediately in the government-run health plan that would be established under the Democratic bill. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) offered an amendment to put his committee on the record in support of enrolling Members of Congress in the government-run plan as well. While the Wilson amendment was approved by voice vote in the Education & Labor Committee, the Heller amendment was killed in the Ways & Means Committee at the behest of Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Rangel."

It's time to push back and push back hard. Call and email Congress today, because unless Congress knows we mean business this healthcare debacle will wind up choking us while our elected officials continue to enjoy health insurance that goes down nice and easy.

■ ■

Confirmed: Tanning Beds Cause Cancer



By Robert Roy Britt
Live Science

The ultraviolet light used in tanning beds (as with the sun's rays) has been shown to raise the risk of skin cancer, which can be deadly. But those who use the beds habitually ignore or accept the risks, which have not been clearly spelled out by the medical community.

Now the International Agency for Research on Cancer has raised their warning of tanning beds from "probably carcinogenic to humans" to "carcinogenic to humans." It's about time.

The group, which advises the World Health Organization, did a review of

studies on the topic and concluded that the risk of melanoma, which is the most deadly form of skin cancer, is 75 percent higher in people who started using tanning beds regularly before age 30.

Tanning beds are a \$5 billion-a-year industry in the United States, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation (that's up from an estimate of \$2 billion in 2006). The tanning salon industry has in the past claimed the UV light is harmless and even healthy. One claim from proponents is that tanning prevents sunburn, thereby reducing the chance of skin cancer. That's total hokey.

Rather, tanorexia, as some call the habit, may be addictive, one small study found. And it is definitely bad for you. ■

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SPECIAL ALERT

US~Observer Cont. Investigation of Idaho Attorney A. Bruce Larson

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

IDAHO – The US~Observer has received complaints leveled at Idaho attorney A. Bruce Larson regarding improper billing practices as well as fairly serious accusations of ethics violations.

We have been informed that Larson will be seeking a judgeship in Idaho in the not too distant future and therefore we are obligated to the public to conduct a thorough investigation of this attorney.

Larson practices out of Soda Springs, Idaho and Pocatello Idaho as well. Larson was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1977 and claims to practice "law" in the fields of Real Estate, Local Land Use, Litigation, Criminal Law, Family Law and Estate Planning.



Attorney Larson lounging in the sun while allegedly "working" for a client

If you have any information about this attorney, please contact Edward Snook at:
541-474-7885

We would like to thank all of those who have come forward thus far.

■ ■ ■

Devy Kidd

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—Thomas Jefferson



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