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A Rigged Game of "Go-Fish" Sierra Pacific Industries vs. Paul Perrone

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Northern California - When one thinks of privately owned lumber companies, they tend to have mixed opinions. Some would say they clear-cut mother earth, thus creating pollution and other health hazards, while others would say they help provide food for many American families and plant just as many trees as they cut. Nevertheless, in Paul Perrone's case, a much different fact is voiced - "my experience with a private lumber company has cost me everything."

I'm sure most have played the card game referred to as "Go-Fish," which is reportedly what Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)

tells their employees when they need help.

I'm not here to tell about the 13 million dollars that SPI was ordered to pay the state of



Paul Perrone with his sister.

California last year for polluting the air and trying to cover it up by falsifying emissions reports, nor am I here to tell how SPI's upper

management reportedly discriminates against people of Middle Eastern decent. I am here to tell how one of the most hard working, proud Americans that I have interviewed to date, isn't asking for his wife back, he doesn't want money, he just wants his pain to go away.

Paul Perrone is not just your average guy, he is a man who raised 4 children as a sole provider and worked hard day and night, through pain and suffering and even with one arm at times. Paul Perrone stated, "I worked for over three weeks where I could not use my left arm because the pain was so bad from being hit by broken boards and logs from the head rig where I was the 'off bearer' at the



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N.C. Deputy Falsely Charged "Rush to Accuse - Failure to Verify"

By Tedd Peck
Investigative Reporter

Witch Hunt North Carolina Style

Franklin, North Carolina - Over eighteen months ago justice was allowed to prevail in the state of North Carolina when the Attorney General brought an end to the rape case that was dragging on for almost two years involving three members of the Duke University Lacrosse Team. Roy Cooper stood before the cameras and stated, "We believe that these cases were the result of a tragic rush to accuse and a failure to verify serious allegations." He went on to say that, "Based on the significant inconsistencies between the evidence and the various accounts given by the accusing witness, we believe these three individuals are innocent of these charges." This reporter considers Cooper's actions that day to be a stand-up

position that restored confidence in the minds of the public regarding the justice system. However, this confidence must be bolstered by a consistent application of justice to all citizens of the state and not just to the accused who are wealthy and well-connected, or those who are in the national spotlight.

It is becoming more apparent that this type of criminal prosecution is more of a norm, than it is the exception, in North Carolina. In talking to citizens of Macon County, it was reported that there are many cases of a "rush to accuse and a failure to verify serious allegations," that plague the justice system in the state. One case that reflects the essence of a rush to accuse is taking place at this very minute in the town of Franklin.



Sheriff Deputy Chris Hoover

Sheriff Deputy Falsely Charged

In June of this year, Macon County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) deputy, Chris Hoover dropped his step daughter off at her pre-school and was later called by his wife,

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SECURITY GUARD'S DEATH RAISES QUESTIONS



Manuel (Manny) Jones

Editor's Note: In our November edition we published an article by Investigative Journalist Joseph Snook titled, "Wrongful Death at the Chumash Casino?" Response from this hard-hitting expose has been phenomenal to say the least.

Leah Etling, a reporter with Santa Ynez Valley Journal newspaper read the article and responded

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Estate Looting of the Rich and Famous And How it can Happen to You



By Lou Ann Anderson
US~Observer

The legal profession is not generally well regarded. A particularly heinous sub-culture surrounds the probate industry in which lawyers and select clients (wannabe heirs,

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The Grange

Resolutions for a Stronger America

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

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.

Each year, a listing of more than 1,400 issues of concern is published and distributed by the National Grange.

Resolution

The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Whereas: 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 (U.S. Constitution - 2nd Amendment).

Whereas: The National Guard of each state isn't the militia. The National Guard is bought and paid for by the U.S. Government and is on loan to the different states during times of peace. The militia is under the control of the State Governor and consists of the people of the state. The reason for the use of the militia in each state was to prevent the establishment of a standing army.

Whereas: The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Who would dare infringe upon the rights of the people to keep and bear arms? None other than the law-making powers of government and some of our judges who serve in our court systems throughout the U.S.A.

Whereas: On December 5th, 2002, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, by a three-judge panel's unanimous vote, ruled that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee individuals the right to bear arms.

Whereas: The historical records pertaining to the forming of our U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights prove that Amendments 1 through 8 are sovereign rights that belong to the American people.

Whereas: The following listed states had arms-rights provisions in their state constitution for their people prior to adoption of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights: Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island.

Whereas: Per Thomas Jefferson: "The constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property and of the press."

Whereas: Per Thomas Jefferson, "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny government."

Whereas: Per Abraham Lincoln: "Our safety, our liberty depends upon preserving the Constitution of the United States as our fathers made it inviolate. The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

Whereas: Per Article II, Section 2, Paragraph 2, the President with advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, appoints Judges of the Supreme Court and etc. Article III, Section 1, The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior. This brings up the question, "If a judge does not resign or die in office, how do you get rid of a judge who is guilty of bad behavior?"

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports the right of the people to keep and bear arms per the 2nd Amendment. Since the President of the United States appoints Supreme and Circuit Court judges, that you have the right to, we are requesting that you fire the three 9th Circuit Court judges for bad behavior for their ruling against the people's right to keep and bear arms. This ruling is a usurpation of the sovereignty of the people and if not stopped, will bring about judicial dictatorship.

This resolution was adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at its regular meeting held on February 12, 2003.

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

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



Jurors' True Duties

Take back control before it's too late

By US-Observer Staff

Editor's Note: The information in this article can and will make a difference. It is imperative that this knowledge finds its way into the hands of all potential jurors. We will be reprinting this article in upcoming editions.

America - During the early years of the United States, up to the mid 1800s, you could get tossed in prison for failing to pay back your debts. Not only were you expected to come up with the money to pay back what you owed, but you also had to pay for your imprisonment!

Today, it is still possible to be thrown or remain in jail for debt. Debts of fraud, child-support, alimony, or release fines can land you in jail or prevent you from being set free. This is the government's goal when prosecuting income tax cases. Apparently we have become desensitized to incarcerating men and women in what should rightfully be called "debtor's prison."

Anybody who is called to be on jury duty for any court should know their responsibilities, rights and power. The jury has the absolute moral and legal power to judge all cases on the basis of the fairness and reasonableness of the law. Corrupt judges have suppressed this information so most of us are not aware of the jury's power. At the time of our nation's founding, when many judges were honest, this power was not hidden as it is today. The jury has the undisputed power to acquit, even if its verdict is contrary to the law as given by the judge and contrary to the evidence. The judges want to keep this power secret so they can continue to force all of us to obey unfair and unreasonable laws. The judge will instruct the jury that they must make their decision based on the facts as presented during the trial and in strict accord with the law as stated by the judge. The jury does not legally have to adhere to the judge's instructions. This is because in a jury trial, the real "judge" is the jury itself, and the judge in the black robe only has the power to oversee the orderly presentation of the case to the jury, while it is the jury that is the proper "judge" of both the facts and the law involved in the particular case at hand.

Every prospective juror has not only the right but the obligation to himself and his fellow Americans to see that justice is done and to remember that ignoring an unjust law or considering if the law is being applied for political reasons is sometimes the juror's only recourse to achieve a just verdict, which would be NOT GUILTY. Is the defendant being singled out as "an example" in order to demonstrate government muscle?

Much of today's "crime wave" consists of victimless crimes--crimes against the state, United States or political crimes. So, if you think that a guilty verdict would give the government too much power, or help keep a bad law alive, just do the right thing - vote NOT GUILTY and stick to your guns. Remember that you can refuse to apply any law that violates your conscience.

Example: The year was 1670, and William Penn was on trial for violation of the "Conventicle Act." This Act made the Church of England the only legal church. The Act was struck down by a not guilty vote. Freedom of Religion was established and became part of the English Bill of Rights and

later it became the First Amendment to the Constitution. William Penn most likely would have been executed if the jurors would have yielded to the guilty verdict sought by the judge and prosecutor.

It is an irrefutable fact that our system of justice has been stolen or better yet swindled from us by attorneys over past decades. Judges are part of this swindle in that they are also attorneys. The legal profession in America has denigrated itself from one of ethics to one of "legalized" theft.

Prosecutors often charge people with "multiple charges" so the jury will assume that the defendant must be guilty of something - watch multiple charges very carefully and if you smell a rat - do what - vote Not Guilty. One of the great mistakes a jury can make is to betray both truth and conscience by compromising. If you are of the persuasion that the defendant is not guilty of anything, then vote NOT GUILTY on all counts.

The vast majorities of people in this country are petrified of attorneys, judges, prosecutors, the IRS and in many cases corrupt "law enforcement officers." In a free and just nation this would not be the case.

The answer to the problems with our "legal system" appears to be complex, when they actually aren't. Americans must bridle our out of control "legal system" or we are all in for a world of hurt.

We live in a land where hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens can march in our streets, right in front of law enforcement and where border patrol agents are imprisoned for doing their job in attempting to stop an illegal alien drug smuggler from bringing drugs across our border. U.S. District Court Judge Kathleen Cardone in El Paso, Texas, sentenced Jose Alonso Compean to 12 years in prison and Ignacio Ramos to 11 years and one day despite a plea by their attorney for a new trial after three jurors said they were coerced into voting guilty in the case, the Washington Times reported. Judge Cardone is corrupt and the jurors in this case were anything but "fully informed" regarding their true duties. As happens in court rooms across this nation every day, the judge actually instructed the jury to find these agents guilty.

Realizing that our justice system closely resembles a slaughter house where cattle are herded through chutes to their execution, something has to be done and the obvious place to start is with our juries. If a person is called to jury duty they need to realize that they are the real "judge" of the case. When the court excuses the jury to make private decisions that the court doesn't want the jury to hear (exclude evidence from them) then all responsible jurors should simply come back with a Not Guilty verdict. If the judge in any given case even hints at instructing the jury to find a defendant guilty, responsible jurors must deliver a Not Guilty verdict. And above all else, if the law purportedly broken by a defendant is presented to the jury and that law is vague, ambiguous, or appears to be a bad law, the jury must deliver a Not Guilty verdict. This won't be hard for jurors in income tax cases because they won't be shown any law since it doesn't exist. And above all, do not let any judge

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.

Don't go broke trusting someone who is only concerned with your pocket book!

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In The Nation

Beef Packers Stealing Industry?

At the Meat Counter, Consumers Get 'Porked'

By Stayton Weldon
R-CALF USA Region V (Texas) Director

Billings, Mont. / Cuero, Texas – Media reports indicate that U.S. cattle feeders have lost \$3 billion from the sales of fed cattle in just the past 11 months, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that feeders lost an astounding \$23.82 per hundredweight (cwt) for fed cattle sold in October 2008 and \$22.70 per hundredweight for fed cattle sold in November 2008. This represents losses on each animal sold at \$298 and \$284, respectively.

Someone needs to stand up and holler, "Foul!"

In a report issued by the CME Group on Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, the multinational meatpackers' gross margins for 2008 far exceed their average gross margins earned during the years 2002 through 2006. USDA also reports that the spread between what U.S. cattle feeders received for their cattle and what U.S. consumers paid for beef was wider from August through October 2008 than at any time in our industry's history. A widening spread between what the cattle feeder receives for cattle and what consumers pay for beef indicates that the marketplace has become inefficient, non-competitive and unjust for both cattle producers and consumers, and that's exactly what is happening.

In October, the share of the consumers' beef dollar received by the U.S. cattle feeder fell to just 43 cents, which is lower than the share they were receiving in 2002 when fed cattle were selling for less than \$67 per cwt, well below the cost of production.

What this means is that the U.S. fed cattle market has become so manipulated by the corporate packers that they are able to all but steal cattle from hard-working U.S. cattle feeders and then sell

the beef produced from those cattle at record prices to wholesalers, which it turn sell the beef at record prices to unsuspecting consumers. Retail beef prices from August through October 2008 were higher than at any time in history – while cattle producers were losing their shirts.

The tremendous losses in our fed cattle market has impacted, and will continue to impact, the prices for lighter-weight cattle sold by cow/calf producers and others. Additionally, these losses will accelerate the



continuing exodus of independent feeders from our industry. During the 10-year period from 1997 to 2007, our industry suffered a loss of 19,000 feedlots. That means there already are 19,000 fewer buyers for lighter-weight cattle than there was just a decade ago. The current fiasco will certainly worsen this negative trend.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), which receives millions from the mandatory beef checkoff program paid for by hard-working U.S. cattle producers, blocked every effort by independent cattle producers who tried to correct this problem in Congress last year, before it could reach the disastrous proportions we're now experiencing. NCBA made

certain that corporate packers were able to keep the tools they use to manipulate the live cattle market. These anticompetitive tools are known as captive supplies and they include packer ownership of cattle and formula contracts that do not contain a negotiated price.

R-CALF USA has warned the industry for years that if we do not reform captive supplies,

our industry will continue to shrink until independent cattle producers can no longer afford to stay in business without obtaining a production contract from a beef packer. This already has happened to the once independent hog producers, by way of vertical integration, and this would be the end of economic independence for U.S. cattle producers.

I urge my fellow cattle producers to vote with your pocketbooks and vote now, before it's too late. Quit supporting the packer-aligned trade associations with



Is America headed in the wrong direction? Build a Dream and help our nation!

A core group of individuals, America's Founding Fathers, birthed this magnificent constitutional republic with the understanding that bringing change had to come at the grassroots level. They reached out with the message of freedom using newspapers. They changed the hearts and minds of men and women and the course of history.

Edward Snook, owner and publisher of the US-Observer says that the only way to effect change at the grass-roots level is through exposure – **Start Your own US-Observer newspaper and be a part of real change.** Become part of taking the truth into America's homes - into their hands.

Our dedicated professionals will guide you to success and get you publishing practically overnight, while we save you from the costly mistakes that can be made in the publishing business.

Many have tried to start a newspaper and many have failed. We have a 16-year track record of great success. And, while the Mainstream Media suffers, the US-Observer is flourishing!

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Call 541-474-7885

your membership and contributions, and immediately join and support the trade association – R-CALF USA – that exclusively represents your interests: the interests of independent live cattle producers.

R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the continued profitability and viability of the U.S. cattle industry. R-CALF USA represents thousands of U.S. cattle producers on trade and marketing issues. Members are located across 47 states and are primarily cow/calf operators, cattle backgrounders, and/or feedlot owners. R-CALF USA directors and committee chairs are extremely active unpaid volunteers. R-CALF USA has dozens of affiliate organizations and various main-street businesses are associate members. For more information, visit www.r-calfusa.com or, call 406-252-2516.

Stayton Weldon, who runs a herd of Hereford cows, breeds them to Brahman bulls and raises the F-1 Braford heifer, which is very adaptable to the climate where he ranches. For additional bio information or a mug shot of Weldon, contact R-CALF USA Communications Coordinator Shae Dodson.

•••

Illinois governor arrested for trying to sell Obama senate seat

By Mira Oberman

CHICAGO (AFP) – The governor of Illinois was arrested Tuesday for what a prosecutor described as "a political corruption crime spree," and was charged with conspiring to sell an appointment to president-elect Barack Obama's recently vacated US Senate seat.

Accusations of a staggering web of corruption included charges that Governor Rod Blagojevich and his chief of staff, John Harris, embarked on an extortionate attempt to fire certain editors of the Chicago Tribune newspaper critical of the governor, US attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said.

"It's a very sad day for Illinois

government," Fitzgerald told a press conference as he laid out the explosive developments just hours after the Democrat governor was taken into custody at his home.

"Governor Blagojevich has taken us to a truly new low," Fitzgerald said, adding that the state's top leader "has been arrested in the middle of what we can only describe as a political corruption crime spree."

"The most appalling conduct Governor Blagojevich engaged in, according to the complaint... unsealed today, is that he attempted to sell a Senate seat, the Senate seat he had the sole right to under Illinois (law) to appoint to replace president-elect Obama."



Governor Blagojevich

Fitzgerald made no allegations that Obama was aware of any scheming by the governor.

But the US attorney's office described a "staggering" breadth of alleged corruption by Blagojevich, especially given that the governor had known he was under investigation for years.

"You might have thought in that environment that pay-to-play would slow down. The opposite happened," Fitzgerald said.

In an FBI affidavit, Fitzgerald said the charges "allege that Blagojevich put a 'for sale' sign on the naming of a United States Senator; involved himself personally in pay-to-play schemes with the urgency of a salesman meeting his

Continued on page 5



In The Nation

US media giant Tribune Co. files for bankruptcy



(AFP/Getty Images/Tasos Katopodis)

By Mira Oberman

CHICAGO, Dec 8, 2008 (AFP) – The Tribune Co., owner of the Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune and other dailies, filed for bankruptcy, in the latest blow to a newspaper industry reeling from a drop in advertising and the rise of online media.

The Chicago-based company said it was forced to seek bankruptcy protection Monday because of a sharp drop in revenue and a 13-billion-dollar debt load but has enough cash to sustain operations while it restructures.

It said the Chicago Cubs baseball franchise and its iconic stadium, Wrigley Field, were not included in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, which protects the company from its creditors while it restructures, and the Tribune would continue to try to find a buyer for the team.

The Tribune's eight newspapers, 23 television stations and interactive properties will continue to operate during the reorganization, the company stressed, adding that it "has sufficient cash to do so."

"This restructuring focuses on our debt, not on our

operations," said Tribune chairman and chief executive Sam Zell, the Chicago real-estate titan who led the 2007 private equity buyout of the Tribune Co.

"This restructuring will bring the level of our debt in line with current economic realities and will take pressure off our operations, so we can continue to work toward our vision of creating a sustainable, cutting-edge media company," he added.

Tribune is the second-largest US newspaper publisher in terms of revenue and the third in terms of circulation.

Besides the Los Angeles Times, which has slashed its editorial staff from 1,200 in 2001 to 660 today, it owns the Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel, Hartford Courant and several other papers.

According to US media reports, its cash flow is not enough to cover one billion dollars in interest payments due this year and a 512-million-dollar debt payment due in June.

The Tribune said that in the year since it went private it has repaid approximately one billion dollars of its senior credit facility and has been "rewriting the business model for its media assets."

"Factors beyond our control have created a perfect storm -- a precipitous decline in revenue and a tough economy coupled with a credit crisis that makes it extremely difficult to support our debt," Zell said.

Like many US newspapers, the Tribune has been grappling with declining circulation, a loss of readership to online media, and a steep drop in print advertising revenue.

Many advertisers have been shifting their dollars to the Web but gains in online advertising revenue have failed to keep pace with losses on the print side.

According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, circulation for 507 daily US newspapers fell 4.64 percent in the six months to September.

US media company EW Scripps Co., which owns

newspapers in 15 US markets and 10 television stations, announced 400 job cuts last month and has put one of its flagship papers, the Rocky Mountain News, up for sale.

Another debt-ridden major newspaper chain, McClatchy Co., has carried out a series of layoffs this year and, according to the New York Times, is seeking to sell one of its flagship newspapers, The Miami Herald.

Gannett Co., the largest US newspaper chain, publishing USA Today and 84 other newspapers, announced 1,000 job cuts in August and is currently laying off another 10 percent of its workforce.

The prestigious New York Times itself has not been immune to the crisis gripping the newspaper industry.

The paper reported Monday that the New York Times Co. plans to borrow up to 225 million dollars against its mid-Manhattan headquarters building to ease a potential cash flow squeeze.

Tribune Co. reported a loss of 124 million dollars in the third quarter, compared with a net profit of 84 million dollars a year earlier.

The company has undertaken a series of moves in a bid to ease its debt burden in addition to seeking a buyer for the Chicago Cubs.

In May, it sold its stake in the New York newspaper Newsday for 650 million dollars and in October it said it had informed the Associated Press it plans to terminate its contract with the US news agency in two years.

The Chicago firm traces its history to 1847 with the birth of the Chicago Tribune. It became a publicly traded company only in 1983.

In 2000, the Tribune bought the Times-Mirror group, including the flagship Los Angeles Times, for 8.3 billion dollars in what was then the largest acquisition ever in the US newspaper industry.

■ ■ ■

Continued from page 4 • Illinois governor arrested for trying to sell Obama senate seat



"I've got this thing and it's (expletive) golden, and, uh, uh, I'm just not giving it up for (expletive) nothing. I'm not gonna do it. And, and I can always use it. I can parachute me there," the affidavit states.

Blagojevich allegedly discussed getting paid a large salary working for

years in prison for corruption.

Blagojevich was soon involved in corruption scandals of his own as federal prosecutors investigated a host of allegations of pay-to-play politics including insider-dealing, influence-peddling and kickbacks.

Fundraiser Tony Rezko, who is a former friend of Obama and had close ties to Blagojevich, was convicted earlier this year on corruption and bribery charges.

The charges

against Blagojevich also include allegations that he schemed with Rezko and others to obtain financial benefits for himself, his family and others in exchange for state contracts, jobs, appointments to state boards and access to state funds.

A spokesman for Blagojevich contacted by AFP declined to comment.

Blagojevich, 51, and Harris, 46, were each charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and solicitation of bribery.

■ ■ ■

annual sales target; and corruptly used his office in an effort to trample editorial voices of criticism."

Blagojevich was allegedly intercepted on court-authorized wiretaps discussing how he could profit from the fact that it is the governor's role to appoint a US senator when a seat becomes vacant, according to the 76-page affidavit.

Blagojevich compared himself to a sports agent selling the seat to the highest bidder in one recorded conversation, the affidavit alleges, and also spent a significant amount of time weighing the option of appointing himself to the seat.

Authorities allege he considered taking the seat to avoid impeachment by the Illinois legislature and to remake his image for a potential run for president in 2016.

In a conversation recorded the day after Obama's historic November 4 win, Blagojevich told an unnamed advisor:

a foundation or labor union, placing his wife on corporate boards where he speculated she might get paid as much as 150,000 dollars a year, and a cabinet post or ambassadorship for himself in exchange for the appointment.

"Clearly, the charges announced today reveal that the office of the governor has become nothing more than a vehicle for self-enrichment, unrestricted by party affiliation," said Robert Grant, special agent-in-charge of the FBI's Chicago office.

Democrat Blagojevich was elected in 2003 after vowing to reform the culture of corruption surrounding his predecessor, Republican George Ryan, who is currently serving more than six

Devy Kidd

"That liberty [is pure] which is to go to all, and not to the few or the rich alone."

—Thomas Jefferson



Investigative journalist Devvy Kidd is well known for her comprehensive columns on today's most pressing issues.

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Oregon News “Public disclosure of your information” Concealed handgun license holders of Josephine County



By Gil Gilbertson
Josephine County Sheriff

This Sheriff strongly believes in the Constitution and specifically the Second Amendment – the right to bear arms. I must also stress the importance to those who choose to use weapons – they do so in a responsible and safe manner.

Many of you may, or may not, have heard of a state-wide effort to disclose the names, addresses and other identifying information of licensed concealed handgun holders, which includes you.

This issue first arose in Jackson County when a Medford newspaper requested a list of all concealed handgun license holders, in 2007. Jackson County Sheriff Michael Winters refused the request, citing a statute about the compromise of personal “security measures”.

The Court ordered Jackson County Sheriff to provide the list of information about Jackson County CHL holders to the local newspaper. The Court stated there was no evidence that people get a CHL as a security measure.

The case is currently on appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

In short, the media (and other groups) are demanding that Sheriffs disclose your identity. The question becomes who really needs to know, and why? Is this just the media flexing their muscles? Once this information is exposed, what nefarious consequences can you anticipate? Identity theft is yet another succeeding concern to this needless exposure.

I do not know this to be true in every case, but I believe people seeking out and acquiring concealed handgun licenses do so for their

security whether for business, personal, or family safety. In any case, I also assume they do not wish that information to become public. This is only an assumption on my part, which brings us to the purpose of this article.

I believe most, if not all, of you that obtained your CHL did so as a security measure,

and that you would not want everyone in the State to have your personal information – I am asking that you contact the Civil Division of the Josephine County



Sheriff Office to advise us on your position in this matter.

Depending on the outcome of the Appellate Court ruling, your personal information could become public.

As your Sheriff, I will do everything within my power to protect your privacy and maintain all rights and privileges secured by the Constitution, and laws. It is therefore

important you inform us of your choice as soon as possible.

License holders who want to request protection of their records can respond by mail or stop by the sheriff’s office (601 NW 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526) and sign our new form indicating your decision.

Recipients of this notice are asked to fill out yes or no responses to the following:

- I want my concealed handgun license information to be kept confidential and to be protected from release to the public.

- I applied for a CHL as a personal safety measure and I want all information about my application or license protected from release to the public. ■■■



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Continued from page 1 • N.C. Deputy Falsely Charged

telling him that the child's school had informed her that her daughter was complaining of a sore bottom. Chris' wife left her job and took the baby to her pediatrician and was joined a few minutes later by Chris. The baby was uncooperative in allowing a physical examination, and the pediatrician suggested they take her to Kids Place, a supposed safe haven for abused children, for further examination. The pediatrician then called the Department of Social Services.

The same afternoon the family is told that there are no signs of injury but the child did say that a "Doctor Jim hurt her bottom and Daddy did it too." Upon this revelation the Sheriff Department launched into emergency mode. Chris admitted to giving the child an open hand spank on the bottom the night before because the child was being obstinate in refusing to prepare for bed. In addition, it was made clear that the child has consistent bouts of constipation that is manifested by a sore bottom.

Following the physical exam, the child is administered a video taped interview with Deputy Judy Bradford and a Department of Social Services employee Kristin Houser-Wood. During this hour-long interview Bradford attempted to get the young girl to connect the dots and identify Doctor Jim as being her daddy. Every attempt failed as the child described Doctor Jim to be a small man and not Chris who is considered to be a large man weighing in excess of 250 pounds. It should be noted that the only time the child was not with her parents during this ordeal was during the video taped session with Bradford. Following the session, Bradford commented that this was the longest interview she had ever had with a child this age. Since the girl was in a safe place playing with dolls and still did not make any accusations against her parents, shouldn't the concern about foul play be terminated? Evidently not!

Rush to Accuse

After the session ended Chris and his family were standing in the parking lot at the Kids Place when Bradford called him aside and told Chris that he could not have contact with the child until all suspicions regarding him being "Doctor Jim" are removed. Hearing this order Chris is overwhelmed with grief knowing he could not live with his wife and child. Bradford tells him he will have to take a lie detector test (witch hunt) to resolve this situation. The grandparents take the child, and Chris and his wife return to their home.

Some of Chris' siblings stop by to console him and they all have a few beers while discussing the day's events. Late in the evening two State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) cars pull up in Chris' driveway. Special Agent (SA) Shannon Ashe identifies himself and tells Chris he has some questions for him. While they go into the house, the other agent, J.M. Schick, took Mrs. Hoover to his automobile to simultaneously question her regarding the case. The questions put forth by the SBI had to do with their marital relations and sexual desires. Chris Hoover, a shy person and pure of heart has a difficult time talking about his private sex life, but cooperates as best he can following instructions from his boss Sheriff Robbie Holland. Following the interrogation, Ashe asks Chris to accompany him to Skyland, N.C. for a polygraph test. They depart Franklin at approximately 9:45 for the hour ride to Skyland. After they leave, Schick and another SBI agent conduct a search of their home. One item of interest was a syringe used by the Hoovers to administer medicine to their daughter. It was photographed as evidence. This is the same type syringe used by most parents and pet owners to measure or administer liquid medicines. Leave no stone unturned.

Chris Hoover and Ashe arrive at the SBI office in Skyland and Chris is introduced to SA Chris Smith, the agent charged with administering the obviously pre-determined test in the middle of the night. After waiting for Smith to set up the test equipment Chris undergoes four separate tests relating to his sex life, as well as his conduct pertaining to his stepdaughter. Following the test, Smith informs Chris that he failed the test miserably and that Smith knew he was guilty when he first walked into the office (Duke Lacrosse all over again). Apparently, the SBI train their agents to be so astute in pre-determining guilt that follow up investigations are considered inconsequential. Chris tells him he is not guilty prior to Smith's head long

plunge into his Gestapo-esque interrogation.

Leading Chris through a maze of accusations, he tells him it is alright to make a parenting mistake. Everybody does that and there is no harm in this behavior. Chris admits that he may have made a parenting mistake while caring for his daughter. He admits to applying ointments on the child's rashes and medicinal creams to her bottom when the situation warranted treatment. This very situation actually occurred recently when his daughter contracted a penicillin resistant infection. Chris' wife works and they share the care of their young daughter – a very simple explanation unless you possess the mind-set of an abusive SBI agent. This parenting mistake evidently had to do with using his bare hand.

Once he admits this behavior, Smith asked him if he was sexually aroused by touching the baby's genitals. Chris denied the allegations but Smith pressed on trying to get a statement from a man who stood by his wife the whole day while the child was interviewed and examined; had driven with Ashe one hour from his home late at night after consuming some beers with his family; was subjected to a polygraph and then informed he failed the test. After admitting he touched his child, he denied all further accusations but did admit he may have made a parenting mistake three or four times when he was threatened with, "I'll ruin your life," by Smith.

Coincidentally, this run up in occurrences resulted in three felony counts against Hoover. This coercive technique also consisted of braggadocio by Smith when he informed Chris that he began his law enforcement career before Chris was born and no one would believe Hoover over his word. He tells Chris that he will "jack him up and destroy his life" if he doesn't admit to touching his child. Smith goes so far as to say that the daughter said that Chris did something bad to her and she was told not to tell Mommy. Again, note that the baby was never out of custody of the parents that whole day with the exception of the video taped interview in which she made no accusations against her Daddy. Amazing, how this allegation appears in an interrogation in the middle of the night that cannot be based in truth but only in a conspiracy by SBI agents to entrap a very fatigued, confused and disoriented young man.

Hoover and his family have requested copies of the video taped interrogation but have been told that it was against the law to tape interrogations and on another occasion (with a witness) was informed that taping interrogations and polygraph tests are not standard procedure. Following this interrogation, Chris is terminated from the Sheriff's Department and all meaningful investigations cease. Makes one wonder, not about the rush to accuse but rather at what speed the process took place.

Failure to Verify

During the subsequent months the SBI agents conducted interviews with Hoover's former coworkers in the MCSO. Most of them were shocked to hear of the allegations and stated they found it hard to believe that Chris could do such an act. They also depicted that Chris was well liked and assisted others in any way possible. In reading Ashe's interviews, this reporter found a few alterations that Ashe stated to be facts. One such interviewed person said that Ashe was only interested in obtaining dirt regarding Chris and his sexual exploits going back to his bachelor days. She added that her statement was altered in meaning and when she told Ashe that Chris was a man of character, Ashe stopped transcribing her statement and became agitated. She also told Ashe and me that she would trust Chris with her own children any time because she new him to be a man of great character and impeccable demeanor. It stands to reason that if this agent made a material alteration to someone's statement then there is a high probability that other statements were altered as well. We at the US~Observer refer to these very actions as corruption of the highest order.

While on the ground in Macon County, this reporter was prevented from verifying the statements of other sheriff deputies on orders from Sheriff Robbie Holland. He explained to me that he didn't have a vendetta against former deputy Hoover but due to the ongoing investigation underway he couldn't get involved. It was necessary to verify statements made by Deputy Bradford and to ascertain why she thought Chris should be the target of an investigation. I sensed

the Blue Line closing ranks. We will deal with Sheriff Holland's actions and actual involvement, which he denies, in future editions.

Changing directions, I proceeded to interview people who knew Chris Hoover. What I discovered was most revealing. Chris' Pastor Keith Newell told me that Chris was an outstanding young man with a strong Christian ethic. Newell was so impressed with Chris that he stated that he would entrust his own children to Chris' care. Next I spoke with Rick Moninghoff the Post Master in Otto, N.C. Mr. Moninghoff was Chris' scout master for years and said that he never met a more noble man in his life. Of all of the young men he was associated with in scouting Chris was by far the most honest and ethical man he had known. Are these the accolades of a sexual predator? Note well, there is one common thread that is evident with these character witnesses. They were never approached by Ashe at any time. It appears Ashe has made a "rush to accuse" and is "failing to verify serious allegations" as put forth by Attorney General Roy Cooper's office. He doesn't care about justice if it will deprive him of a conviction.

One more piece of information that surfaced pertained to an occurrence when Ashe was a stand in lecturer for one of Chris' criminal justice courses approximately four years ago at the Southwestern Community College. Ashe who is diminutive in stature, especially compared to Hoover, became annoyed when Chris bantered about Ashe standing up straight so they could see him while behind the lectern. Did Chris' playful nature become his undoing?

Rush to Judgment

A few weeks ago Chris was presented with an agreement to plead guilty to one count of "taking liberties with a child." Chris is rejecting this agreement because it is not the truth. This decision to reject the proffer is, however, exacting a high price on the Hoovers. According to a sworn affidavit, agent Ashe has approached Chris' spouse and implored her to talk Chris into accepting the agreement. In addition, Ashe has threatened to take her daughter to Chapel Hill for a week, thereby subjecting the child to more tests nearly five months after the alleged incident. If she refuses to let the child go to this exam, better described as indoctrination, she too will be charged with the crime of impeding an investigation. The latest revelation also describes Ashe as telling her that the SBI budget is tight and if Chris will accept the plea agreement it will save the SBI a lot of money. If the agreement is rejected they will somehow find the money to indoctrinate the child. As recently as three weeks ago SBI agent Ashe and assistant D.A. Jason Smith approached Mrs. Hoover and told her that if Chris didn't take the plea agreement they would see to it that Chris was convicted and sent to prison where his life would be in danger (Duke Lacrosse false prosecution plus!).

All of what I have reported stems from a claim by a child that she had a sore bottom. The charges against Hoover stem from an out of control investigation by SBI, trying to fit Chris to their imaginary crime, based on a tainted, one-sided investigation, fraught with coercion, extortion, innuendo and a rush to accuse. I wonder if the Attorney General will put an end to this miscarriage of justice as he did in Durham!

Editor's Note: Former Macon County, North Carolina Sheriff's Deputy Chris Hoover passed a polygraph test with flying colors, subsequent to the draconian tests provided by SBI Chris Smith. The positive test was administered by a highly qualified and unbiased professional – So much for the pre-determined tests given to Hoover in the middle of the night on June 2, 2008.

It should be noted that we have written the NC Attorney General, Macon County District Attorney and Macon County Sheriff twice and we sent them this article. They have chose to ignore our simple request for a legitimate investigation into this case – in fact, on November 13, 2008 I attempted to call Attorney General Roy Cooper only to be informed that he doesn't take calls. Now we go public!

If you are upset with the false prosecution of Chris Hoover take the time to call Macon County District Attorney Michael Bonfoey at (828) 454-6510 and North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper at 919-716-6400 • Fax: 919-716-6750.

When we, as Americans, allow such witch hunts to take place without responding, we can all rest assured that we might just be next. ■■■

COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out

Another Constitutional Question

By 'Nick'
restotherepublic.org

Few of us are willing to admit to our ignorance in a matter of import, and that in part has led us to the current financial crisis.

Fewer still are willing to admit to being wrong on any topic. Therefore the combination of ignorance and being pig-headed can result in a catastrophic outcome when played out on a field as large as that of the United States.

In Federalist 68, Alexander Hamilton wrote, "THE mode of appointment of the Chief Magistrate of the United States is almost the only part of the system, of any consequence, which has escaped without severe censure, or which has received the slightest mark of approbation from its opponents. The most plausible of these, who has appeared in print, has even deigned to admit that the election of the President is pretty well guarded. I venture somewhat further, and hesitate not to affirm, that if the manner of it be not perfect, it is at least excellent."

"It was desirable that the sense of the people should operate in the choice of the person to whom so important a trust was to be confided... Nothing was more to be desired than that every practicable obstacle should be opposed to cabal, intrigue, and corruption."

He then makes the point that, "They have not made the appointment of the President to depend on any preexisting bodies of men, who might be tampered with beforehand to prostitute their votes; but they have referred it in the first instance to an immediate act of the people of America, to be exerted in the choice of persons for the temporary and sole purpose of making the appointment."

The method for electing the president is clearly defined under Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution. And then in order that the process is clear and concise, the Union ratified the Twelfth Amendment, but the method of electing the president remains fundamentally the same.

I will freely admit that I am ignorant on many subjects, one of which is the tolerance we have for the legal community and their utter disrespect for our Fundamental Law. Views change, which will alter the execution of law, and thereby place us into uncharted territory. The more interpretation allowed the more the people would be set off balance.

It seems clear to me that the present mode of electing the president is far removed from that of our Founders original intent. These things may change through the arduous process of amending the Constitution. In so amending an existing aspect of the Constitution a repeal of the former article is necessary to validate that it is no longer a relevant part of our law, or so you would think.

To validate my thought process I perused the Constitution and its amendments, again. I compared the wording of the various articles, which of course should not match except for the precepts and the execution of the amendment.

Article XXI states, in Section 1, "The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed." Then Section 3 states that, "This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress." Other articles of amendment make the same charge, but not all.

At this point the water appears to be very muddy to me. Could it be that these amendments were not properly ratified at the time of the Secretary of States

declaration? Certainly there are questions about whether the Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Amendments were properly ratified, and probably adequate proof to know that something is very wrong.

So I believe, that if not intentionally, there are at least questions about what our government, through our representatives, was attempting to accomplish by being so circumvent in amending the Constitution.

Phil J. Berg, former assistant attorney general of Pennsylvania, filed a suit in Philadelphia Federal Court, demanding that Barak Obama produce a valid birth certificate to show that he is indeed qualified to run for the office of the president.

In answer to the challenge, the Obama camp, and that included the Democratic National Committee, fired back that Mr. Berg cannot state a claim upon which a relief can be based. The court has now agreed that we the people do not have any standing in questioning behavior that is in conflict with the Constitution.

For an answer as to how this decision was made it is simple enough to look back at the courts previous rulings, or should I say how they have interpreted our right to redress out the window. In the mind of the court, and apparently many Americans, there is no direct injury at this time. I suppose we will have to wait until he is sworn in and the ceiling starts to fall down.

I went a little deeper in this and referenced the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution to understand where this might be leading us. Section 3 reads, "If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified."

If you wanted to write a high-tension thriller with the plot being that the country is thrown into complete turmoil this is where you go. This might seem obscure to the reader, but with the current state of affairs, and our past history, nothing should seem that strange.

Writers of fiction often take their plots from real live events. They simply twist here, and move right instead of left when it creates the turn of events the writer seeks.

On October 19th, in his Meet The Press interview with Tom Brokaw, former Secretary of State Colin Powell states clearly that "there is going to be a crisis come along on the 21st, or 22nd of January that we don't even know about right now."

In order that Powell's comments seemed prophetic rather than cautionary, the usual talking points started to appear. The newly elected president is always tested, so said former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Obama's running mate Joe Biden chimed in, and I'm sure that the DNC made a point of contacting their cronies in the media to spin it around.

But it's time for the novelist to take over, don the tin foil hat, and breakout all the conspiracy theories, which are not going to be hard to come by.

Phil Berg stated that he went forward with his suit because the birth certificate that the Obama campaign posted was verified as a fraud. He also claims that Obama's grandmother said that she was there when he was born in Kenya. Obama could have easily brought the birth certificate to court, and have done with it. The court could have easily prevented a looming crisis by ordering Obama to produce the certificate, but it did not.

This is plenty of intrigue, and legal wrangling for

something as simple as proving that you are indeed an American citizen born in Hawaii. To put this into some perspective, government documents were released a few years ago showing that the Gulf of Tonkin incident didn't take place. E. Howard Hunt, on his deathbed, made tapes for his son stating that he, the father, was indeed on the Grassy Knoll, and that the assassination of Kennedy went all the way up to LBJ.

The election is done, the votes are counted and the new president, Barak Obama is in the wings waiting to take the oath of office. Chief Justice Roberts administers the oath, and the country has a new leader.

Prior to this, the Treasury has been completely sacked through the manipulations of the supposed bailout. Things are turning worse in the Middle East, tension with Russia is reaching a fever pitch, and the reality is starting to hit us that food shortages don't just occur in third world nations.

Riots begin in the inner cities where job opportunities have been depleted for a number of reasons. The people are hungry, they are angry, and they are disgusted with elected representatives whose only purpose appears to be to line their own pockets with taxpayer dollars.

The Pentagon has been gearing up for a number of years now to quell riots in America by slowly indoctrinating people to seeing military personnel on the streets, and conducting operations in small towns supposedly overrun with terrorists. The mindless only perceive some sort of illusion that they are being made safe, while others grow very suspicious.

The grocery shelves look somewhat bare, and when they are not the prices are unaffordable to many of the unemployed, or working poor. Confusion, and stress mount while the government proposes inane solutions while tightening the noose on the people.

Up pops a dark figure, no one actually knows whom these folks are that show up out of nowhere, but investigation usually concludes that they have ties to one political party or the other. In his dirty hands is proof positive that the newly elected president is not qualified to hold the office of the presidency.

The country is now in deeper turmoil. Unrest turns to conflict fostered by what some might see as racism, others may see as total deceit by the ruling party, and some, maybe just a few, will realize that it is a plot to completely destroy the Constitution, and bring about martial law.

Have I hit the nail on the head, or simply produced the makings of a great political thriller? If you haven't been paying attention there is much more going on in the world than the major media is showing us.

There have been food riots in other parts of the world, and there have been snippets in our own news about food lines right here in America. There are tent cities popping up, and states such as Michigan, which has for so long been depended on the auto industry, face major employment issues.

I can imagine, I can speculate, and I can certainly contrive a plot that places the United States in its grave. It is simple enough to write down theories, and it was certainly simple enough for Obama to produce a valid birth certificate, and for the DNC, in good faith, to tell its nominee to produce whatever was required.

In all of this maneuvering, there should be one name that lives in infamy if a constitutional question arises that may just place the last nail in the coffin. It is that of United States District Judge R. Barclay Surrick, who deemed that the people of this great country could not claim any real injury if they have been fraudulently presented with a constitutionally unqualified candidate for the presidency.

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WHERE REALITY SHATTERS ILLUSION

"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

Money growing on Oregon trees



By Tom Partin
Guest Opinion

The economic news facing Oregon is grim. Governor Ted Kulongoski and the state's legislative leaders face an anticipated \$1 billion budget shortfall and an unemployment rate that has shot up to 7.3 percent. Meanwhile, Oregon's forest products industry is struggling mightily and is estimated to lose another 7 percent of its jobs in 2009 on top of the 7.5 percent reduction experienced this year. The Governor has an opportunity to aid Oregon's economy and the struggling wood products sector by supporting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Western Oregon Plan Revision.

The BLM's plan would help put rural

Oregonians back to work and improve forest health conditions for the 2.1 million acres of O&C County timberlands in southwest Oregon. The plan calls for the sustainable harvest of 502 million board feet annually, which is less than half of the annual growth of these forests. The plan also sets aside over half of those lands for endangered species. It is a balanced plan that would also help idle plants reopen and improve the dire economic conditions the Governor must now address.

Harvests from Oregon's federal forests are less than 10 percent of levels experienced in the early 1990s. A more sustainable level of harvest is needed to help the industry access reasonably priced local timber to remain economically viable in the face of

intense domestic and international competition. Our federal forests are also in a dire need of increased management to address a growing forest health crisis.

Earlier this summer, the Governor toured federal and private forests in Klamath and Lake Counties and witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by insects, disease and overcrowding which are direct results of a lack of forest management. Afterwards he stated, "These poor forest conditions are present throughout much of Oregon's federal forests and greatly increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires" and called for action to restore forest health, reduce fire risk and provide a sustainable resource for Oregon's long-term economic viability.

Now is the time for the Governor to

take action to address Oregon's forest health problems and the economic woes that are currently plaguing our state. The Governor received the plan in early October and was given 60 days for review. He must support the BLM's plan to restore sustainable management to the O&C County timberlands in order to prevent disastrous effects, not only to our forest lands, but also to our air quality, drinking water, and our state's struggling economy.

Tom Partin is the President of the American Forest Resource Council. AFRC represents forest product manufacturers and landowners throughout the west and is based in Portland, Oregon.

■ ■ ■

Oregon's Big Land Use Swindle

By Margaret Goodwin
NewsWithViews.com

Thirty-five years ago, the Oregon State Legislature decided that government must have more control over private property. Oregon's economy was evolving and its population was growing. Liberal reactionaries feared the ensuing development would encroach on lands traditionally used for forestry and farms. Progress inevitably leads to growth. If growth is determined to be bad, then progress must be constrained, if not halted altogether. Development also posed a threat to viewsapes for those who felt a moral obligation to preserve the aesthetic purity of other people's property. The legislature's solution was to establish centralized control of resources to ensure that everybody's land was used "properly," rather than leaving it to the vagaries of the free market and personal inclination. So, in 1973, they enacted the Oregon Land Use Act (Senate Bill 100).

The Oregon Land Use Act required every city and county in Oregon to implement a Comprehensive Plan, and created a taxpayer-funded bureaucracy, the Land Conservation and Development Commission, to impose mandatory statewide standards with which all Comprehensive Plans must comply. One of their goals was to prevent urban sprawl, so the LCDC mandated the establishment of Urban Growth Boundaries and restricted all new commercial and industrial development to within the UGBs. To enforce the perpetuation of the traditional economy, the LCDC required every county to "protect" any undeveloped land outside the UGBs by zoning it exclusively for forestry or agriculture, thereby precluding future development.

The LCDC conveniently absolved itself of accountability to the citizens whose land was arbitrarily rezoned, by

declaring that it was the counties, not the LCDC, that determined the zoning of individual lots when drafting their Comprehensive Plans. Nevertheless, the LCDC reviewed every Comprehensive Plan to compel compliance with its mandatory standards, leaving the counties little latitude. Noncompliance would result in an "enforcement order" to cut off state funding of mandated county services until compliance was achieved.

Some counties didn't have sufficient resources to individually notify property owners that their land had been rezoned, but merely published notices in the newspaper. Property owners who missed the notices, or didn't read all the fine print, didn't find out their zoning had changed until they applied for permits to develop their land, sometimes years after the fact. Naturally, there was a huge outcry from citizens whose property rights had been yanked out from under them. Thousands of people suffered tremendous losses of property value; many lost their nest eggs for retirement.

After 30 years of legal battles, the voters passed Measure 37 in 2004, allowing citizens who could prove a significant loss of real property value as a result of regulatory changes to claim compensation for their loss. The state or local government had the option to issue a waiver, in lieu of monetary compensation, allowing the property owners to use their land as it was zoned at the time they purchased it. In most of the cases in which a claim was verified and approved, counties opted to issue waivers.

So many Measure 37 claims were filed that the Department of Land Conservation and Development's sweeping plans for statewide control of private property were threatened. So, the DLCD came up with a plan. In 2005, they declared that all Measure 37 claims required a state waiver in addition to the waiver issued by the county. Then they

bemoaned that there were too many claims to process within the six month time limit specified by Measure 37, and they needed to extend the limit by a year. Hanging the pending claims out to dry for another year bought them time to draft Measure 49, which would effectively repeal Measure 37. The state spent a lot of taxpayer money on a campaign to vilify and characterize Measure 37 claimants as greedy developers and evil capitalists. Their strategy succeeded and Measure 49 passed.

Measure 49 is patently absurd, putting arbitrary limits on the number of houses a property owner can build. Claimants were pressured to apply for a "fast track" permit, which was only available during a six months time period after Measure 49 was passed. The fast track permit would allow a property owner to build a maximum of three houses, regardless of whether their parcel was five acres or 5,000 acres. If they didn't apply for the fast track permit, the only other option was to petition for the right to build up to ten houses, but that would entail a more complicated and expensive process, with an onerous burden of proof that could only be satisfied if the land had actually been appraised for development before the Land Use Act was passed.

The DLCD also asserted that Measure 49 invalidated all existing Measure 37 waivers, except those that were already "vested" by having developed the property. However, the definition of vesting was left conveniently vague, and property owners who had spent millions of dollars developing their property were told they were not vested and could not continue with the development.

Furthermore, when one files a

M49... A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing



Measure 49 claim, there's language in it that says no additional relief or compensation is due, and no waivers may be issued with regard to the property. It appears as though the DLCD is attempting to compel Measure 49 claimants to sign away any rights they may have been granted under Measure 37.

In light of the recent US District Court ruling that Measure 37 waivers are Constitutionally protected contracts, it doesn't take a crystal ball to foresee lots of litigation in the future of the DLCD, and of all the counties they put in the middle between them and the citizens they tried to swindle out of the use of their land. And the Oregon taxpayers will be paying for it. Why doesn't the LCDC give up, go home, get their laws off of our land, and leave us alone?

Margaret Goodwin has a political opinion blog called Government is Not Your Daddy. She's also a regular political analyst on The Constitutional Matters Project, and has had articles published on a number of other Web sites. A conservative libertarian, she believes in free will and the free market. Before becoming a member of "the vast right wing conspiracy," she worked in the software industry for 12 years and, before that, was a self-employed accountant.

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who stole all the good chocolates are not being investigated, arrested, or indicted.

Mama always said: 'Sniff the chocolates first, Forrest'.

Quote of the day from a fund manager:

"This is worse than a divorce... I've lost half of my net worth and I still have my wife.."

The bailout, a different perspective:

Back in 1990, the Government seized the Mustang Ranch brothel in Nevada for tax evasion and, as required by law, tried to run it. They failed and it closed. Now we are trusting the economy of our country to a pack of nit-wits who couldn't make money running a whore house and selling booze? ■■

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Continued from page 1 • A Rigged Game of "Go-Fish"

saw mill. I was not allowed to fill out an injury report, so I went back to my main job at the plainer. I could not pull lumber off the 'green chain' so the boss had me out back feeding the plainer, which takes two hands and arms. After just minutes, I could only use my right arm. I did this for weeks because I didn't want to get fired for something that wasn't my fault - I had a wife and four children at home.

After being told I would be fired if I went to the doctor on company time, I decided that something had to be done about my pain. By this time the pain had got so bad that my wife had to help me do everything, even get dressed. I couldn't take it anymore so I had a co-worker stop by my house so I could tell him to let the boss know that I would not be able to work because of my pain. After 3 or 4 days the co-worker stopped by my house to let me know that I was fired for not calling in. This was a hard thing to do, especially when I had taken the time to have a close friend tell my boss about my injury, which was already more than clear. You see, at that time there was no phone at the plainer mill, which made calling my boss even more difficult. I think I worked at SPI for over 10 years and only missed three days of work."

Now, after much severe pain and many doctor visits, Paul had decided it was time to get a lawyer to handle this. Paul's lawyer who is now deceased ended up successfully representing him at a worker's compensation hearing with Administrative Law Judge Brophy presiding. Perrone's lawyer Ben Leep sought to get Perrone a judgment for financial compensation and to help with the doctor bills; but how can you put a

price on over 10 surgeries and medical coverage for the pain inflicted due to poor job management?

Paul had asked his lawyer to put down in writing that he was to have lifetime medical coverage with a doctor of his choice and that is just what Ben did. When the Attorney's for SPI reviewed the paperwork, they had SPI sign the documents without question. What happened? Did one of SPI's attorney's forget to read? They just agreed to the very thing they didn't want - Lifetime medical for Paul Perrone. Yes, Paul was awarded lifetime medical on May 13, 1987 and to make a long story short, SPI allegedly fired their attorneys that represented them on that day. Paul was finally starting to deal with his pain in a much more positive way.

After almost 20 years of medical coverage for SPI's negligence and over 10 neck and back surgeries later, Paul was doing the best that he could with the poor "Go-Fish" cards that he had been dealt.

One afternoon Paul was doing some yard work when he was hit by a branch and he was off to see the doctor, again. The doctor checked him out and released him. Days after the visit with his doctor, Paul went to the pharmacy to get his regular prescription and was told by the pharmacist he had a bill to pay. Paul asked, "What are you talking about?" The pharmacist replied, "You need to look into this Paul, SPI has cancelled your coverage."

After calling Barbara Zichichi who is SPI's workers compensation adjuster he was informed that since a new injury had occurred, not related to SPI, his medical coverage was no longer available to him. After his

many neck and back surgeries, a branch from the front yard had ruined what was left of Paul's life ... "Go-Fish."

This reporter attempted to contact Sierra Pacific in regards to this issue and I have also left messages for Barbara Zichichi, but haven't had the pleasure of a return phone call. I'm now starting to understand why Paul would wait at least 7 to 10 days without medication before Barbara would do her job. Fortunately for the US-Observer, we don't need a prescription for severe pain.

Paul has some children who are just as loyal and hard working as he once was and hopefully one day they will be able to put this all behind them and spend quality time together. For Paul, it might be a little too late, but when I met with his son, I could see years of fight left in his eyes.

Paul Perrone currently has terminal cancer, which is rumored to have been caused by a solution that Sierra Pacific put into their large dipping tanks to keep lumber from bluing. I've been told by different sources that SPI never followed protocol when adding the solution to the tank. I'm also very concerned about the burning pain that occurred when the solution would get on many of their former employee's limbs, reportedly causing - long term, significant pain and possibly cancer.

We hope that Sierra Pacific Industries will do what is right and attempt to repair a bridge rather than tear it down. But in case that is not their choice, SPI can look forward to more articles and more stories from other hard workers like Paul who have been told one to many times to ... "Go-Fish!"

Editor's Note: Mentioned in the article was a settlement by SPI to CA. The following outline of that settlement is on the California government web site, and it is an example of SPI's tendency to do things that are against the rules. Anyone with information regarding Sierra Pacific Industries, please contact Joseph Snook at: 916-342-0132.

SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES (SPI) CASE SETTLEMENT FOR \$13 MILLION

By The California Environmental Protection Agency

In late June, 2007, the California Air Resources Board, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and the California Attorney General reached a nearly \$13 million civil settlement of a jointly prosecuted air pollution enforcement case against Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), a timber operations company and California's largest private landowner. SPI, headquartered in Anderson, agreed to settle a civil complaint brought in 2004 alleging numerous violations of air pollution regulations. The complaints alleged that SPI operated sawmills and wood-fired boilers at their Lincoln, Quincy, Loyalton, and Susanville (now closed) facilities in violation of their air pollution control permits. Among the alleged air quality violations in the civil complaint were: falsification of emission reports as a result of operator tampering with monitoring equipment; failure to report emission exceedences and exceeding permit emission limits on a multitude of occasions over several years; failure to operate and maintain air pollution control equipment; and discharging soot from the Lincoln facility that caused nuisances to nearby residences. The settlement includes approximately \$8.5 million in penalties and public agency costs and fees. SPI will also spend \$4.5 million for projects to enhance future compliance of their operations in California or to benefit air quality. As part of the settlement, SPI will ensure that all conditions alleged in the complaints do not occur in the future.

This article can be found on ca.gov at: www.arb.ca.gov/enf/casesett/sierrapacific.htm.

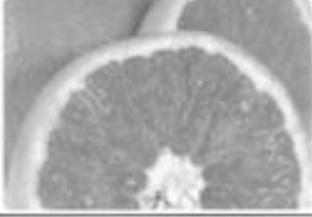


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Nobel winner Krugman's worst case: *a lost decade*



< Paul Krugman of the U.S., winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics for 2008, gives his Nobel lecture at Stockholm University in Stockholm December 8, 2008.
(Bob Strong/Reuters)

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) – Paul Krugman, winner of this year's Nobel economics prize, said on Monday that the world could face a Japan-style, decade-long slump.

Speaking in Stockholm where he will collect his 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.3 million) prize, U.S. economist Krugman again called on policy makers to spend liberally to cushion a withering global downturn.

"A scenario I fear is that we'll see, for the whole world, an equivalent of Japan's lost decade, the 1990s -- that we'll see a world of zero interest rates, deflation, no sign of recovery, and it will just go on for a very extended period," he told a news conference.

"And that's unfortunately very easy to see happen."

Krugman added that in his worst case scenario there would also be a series of extremely serious crises "in particular countries that are in big trouble."

He said there were already premonitions of economic and political crises in line with those in Argentina and Indonesia in the 1990s-early 2000s, particularly "in the European periphery."

Iceland and Latvia are among European countries that have been hit hard by the global financial crisis.

"We can easily be talking about a world economy that is depressed until 2011 and maybe beyond," Krugman said.

"If there's a safe place I can't see it."

Krugman is in the Swedish capital for the "Nobel Week," when laureates attend news conferences and events culminating with the prize ceremony and a gala dinner on Wednesday.

(Reporting by Anna Ringstrom; Editing by Victoria Main) ■■■

Words of Wisdom ...

"And I sincerely believe, with you, that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies; and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity in the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale."

--Thomas Jefferson

"A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor and bread it has earned - this is the sum of good government."

--Thomas Jefferson

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Continued from page 1 • Security Guard's Death Raises Questions

by writing her own news piece, printed below, that was published on November 27, 2008.

As a direct result of both articles the US~Observer has been inundated with calls offering information over the past few weeks.



Manny and Kathy Jones

By Leah Etling
Staff Writer -
Santa Ynez Valley Journal

A Santa Maria family who lost a husband, father and grandfather in May is speaking out about their concerns over how Manny Jones died and why they haven't been able to receive more information about the circumstances from his employer, the Chumash Casino of Santa Ynez.

Jones, 66, hopped on the casino bus to work his usual night shift as a casino security guard on May 2 and was never heard from by his family again.

He never clocked in for his shift, according to a county sheriff-coroner's investigation of the incident, but images of him walking around the casino "in a confused state," were seen on security cameras, according to the coroner's report.

After his body was found near the intersection of Highway 246 and Edison Street in Santa Ynez, his family has spent months trying to get information about what happened to him, said his son Mark Jones and widow Kathleen Jones. They can't understand why he would have walked 13 minutes from the casino, or why his body was found with holes in his pants.

"I don't want anything out of this except for (the casino) to be held

accountable," Kathleen said.

The casino has not been forthcoming regarding their requests, family members say. A call to casino and tribal spokeswoman Frances Snyder about the incident for this story was not returned.

A letter from Tribal First, a claims company that handled the incident on behalf of the Chumash Casino, said that it was denying a death benefit claim to the family.

"We are denying this claim because in order to be compensable, an injury must both arise out of and occur within the course and scope of your employment. There is no medical evidence to support that your husband's death was caused by anything industrially related. There is no evidence of any precipitating event attributable to his employment that caused his death," the letter from claims examiner Erica Brown states. "Please accept our sincere condolences; however, we cannot pay any benefits at this time."

Mark, a teacher, ultimately took the story of his dad's death to the US-Observer, an Oregon-based newspaper with the motto "demanding accountability" and also a professional investigation service.

After the Observer article, titled: "Wrongful Death at the Chumash Casino?" was published, Mark took the newspapers to the Chumash Casino, hotel and spa and distributed them. He was confronted by security guards and told never to come back on reservation land.

"We just felt robbed," Mark said of the family's reaction to Manny's death. "Something's not right." The family has not been offered any settlement or funeral cost funds by the casino, Mark said.

An autopsy performed on Manny's body concluded that he had died of natural causes. He had some history of atrial fibrillation and mitral valve disease and had smoked cigarettes. But the family says medical professionals told them the cause of Manny's death was inconclusive and wasn't related to a heart attack, aneurysm or stroke.

The family wants to know why, if Manny was disoriented or having trouble clocking in to work as shown on

duty to protect the rest of their fellow Americans from dangerous criminals, unjust laws and power hungry lawyers and judges.

Credit or blame for the verdict will go to you. Be sure to ask the judge how you can pose questions to witnesses so that you can learn the complete context should the lawyers fail to bring it out. If the judge doesn't allow the jury to ask questions then a NOT GUILTY verdict should result.

The government is working hard to "dumb down" the American public. They want all people reliant on it for everything including the ability to think. The government controls the people by controlling their thought processes. This welfare society it's creating is a far cry from the God fearing, independent, hard working, productive, family oriented people God created us to be. Who says we should stop thinking for ourselves and use common sense in making decisions? In reality and if we don't change the course we are on, it won't be too far down the road that we won't be allowed to think or make decisions, because government is rapidly taking these rights from us. Jurors had better wake up before the jury itself is gone...

■■■



Manny Jones, bottom left, surrounded by his loving family.

a casino security camera, no one attempted to help him or check his welfare.

After more than 30 years in farming in Santa Maria, Manny was working for the casino for the second time. He had retired from a four-year stint in 2004 and came back to work for the casino again in 2007.

"He had a great reputation," Mark said. The family has heard from many of his former coworkers from the casino expressing their sorrow and concern. However, those friends were not able to speak to the US-Observer or the Journal

for fear of losing their jobs. Casino employees were required to sign a confidentiality agreement about his death.

The reporter who wrote the US-Observer story, Joe Snook, said that his newspaper plans to keep on pushing for information on behalf of the Jones family. "He was a good man, very well loved, a church-going guy," Snook said of Manny.

You can read the US-Observer story online at www.usobserver.com.

You can reach Leah Etling at letling@syvjournal.com. ■■■

Contribute to Manny Jones' Wrongful Death Investigation

Since the US~Observer opened our investigation into the mysterious death of Manny Jones on October 1, 2008, we have been overwhelmed by the responses - not only regarding Manny Jones' case, but many other issues and claims of corruption pointed at the Chumash Casino located in Santa Barbara County, California.

The Jones family has tragically lost their "breadwinner" and the Chumash Casino is offering nothing more than a "deaf ear" to Manny's untimely death.

The US~Observer is willing and capable of completely exposing the facts associated with the Casino, but we need the assistance of our readership and those people who are aware of the severe problems and dangers associated with the Chumash Casino to join us financially.

The Jones family is struggling and the US~Observer is more than willing to

donate time to this extremely noble cause, but we need serious help with the cost of publishing and disseminating the information we have obtained and that which has yet to be discovered.

With your help we will not only completely expose the truth about Manny's death; we will expose other serious allegations against the Casino.

Please contribute along with the US~Observer so that the Jones Family and many others will get the closure they need and to insure that the Chumash Casino receives the proper exposure that is so long overdue.

Contributions may be sent to:

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233 Rogue River Hwy. PMB 387
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■■■

Continued from page 2 Jurors' True Duties ...

dictate anything you, period.

You can't be punished for voting according to your conscience. Jurors (and judges) often pressure hold-out jurors into abandoning their true feelings and voting with the majority to avoid the expense of a hung jury and mistrial, or because they are tired of deliberating and want to go home. You do not have to give in. Why? Because hung juries are okay!

Voting your conscience may lead to a hung jury. Don't worry, you are doing the responsible thing. There is no requirement that you must reach a unanimous verdict. The jury you hang may be significant as it may be one in a series of hung juries which send messages to the legislators that the laws concerned have problems and it's time for a change.

It is a fact that we have some down right dangerous criminals living among us and when bad people commit crimes they need to be properly punished, however, far too many innocent citizens are falsely prosecuted in our courts and it is up to all of us to make sure we are fully informed regarding the rights and duties of being a juror. It is the juror's

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Struggle for Wolf "Balance"

Who gets to decide the legal definition of it?

By Eve Byron

WISDOM - Loren Giem's ranch manager, Ken Wigen, first heard the howling Sept. 20 near their pasture in the Big Hole River valley.

The wolves' chorus made the hair on the back of Wigen's neck stand up. His dogs went nuts. Giem was nervous. But like his father and grandfather before him, Giem is a rancher and had almost a thousand head of Black Angus cows to rotate through four of the five pastures they use on 20,000 acres here. Most of this land is Giem family land, bought throughout the years since his grandfather moved here in the early 1900s.

"We put the cattle in that pasture and three others," Giem said last week, waving toward the rolling sagebrush hills that flow into heavy timber. "Within three or four days, Ken told me there was a problem up there." That "problem" is one many of Montana's ranchers now face, as wolves become established in the West. They were eliminated from the landscape around the time Giem's grandfather moved here, but almost 15 years after they were reintroduced in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park, more than 360 wolves roam Montana in 74 packs. An estimated 1,500 are scattered throughout the Rockies.

Giem's a lanky, chatty father of two with salt-and-pepper curly hair peeking out underneath his baseball cap. He earned an engineering degree in the early 1970s, and moved east for a few years, returning to Montana with his wife, Carol, to take up the family business. He hopes to someday pass the ranch onto his children and watch his grandchildren learn to rope and brand.

This week, slowly bouncing his Dodge truck east down the ranch road toward his pastures, Giem points out the rear window at the Pintler mountain range, where Idaho and Montana meet. Up ahead, in a corner of one of his pastures about a mile off the main road, the sagebrush is trampled into dirt and the fence is pushed outward.

"The cattle were balled up on the fence. We were sure we had wolf activity," Giem recalled.

They called Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' wolf management program, looking for advice, and a site visit turned up wolf tracks. Three days later, on Oct. 9, Wigen found the first dead mature cow. A government trapper, Graeme McDougal with the federal Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, confirmed wolves took it down.

"Numerous wolf tracks, various sizes indicated a pack, i.e. adults with YOY (young of year) at carcass and immediate area," McDougal wrote in his report. "Torn and uprooted sagebrush, several areas of blood indicate a struggle, attack, of approximately 30 yards in length.

"Canine marks present on external surface of hide on left front elbow region and right rear above fetlock Hindquarters and internal organs totally gone from feeding and scavenging. All signs consistent with wolf predation." Less than two weeks later, Giem had lost five more cows to wolves, and one was seriously injured.

Giem isn't the only rancher who has lost livestock to wolves this year. Since April 15, when the newly formed Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board started compensating people for ranch animals killed by wolves, the state has paid out \$79,270 for 213 claims. That includes: 61 head of cattle; 145 sheep and goats; a registered, full-grown roping horse; and two guard dogs. At least four llamas also were killed by wolves and submitted for reimbursement because they were guard animals, but the board decided they didn't fit the definition of livestock covered under the reimbursement program.

In the past decade, a nonprofit organization that compensates ranchers for losses because of wolves noted that at least 1,140 cattle, 2,100 sheep and about 100 other animals including horses, mules, goats, llamas and livestock guard dogs have been killed in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The Defenders of Wildlife has paid out \$1.1 million for those animals, in an attempt to shift economic responsibility for wolf recovery from individual ranchers to the millions of people who want to see wolf populations restored in the West.

Sometimes, the wolves hit a ranch here and there. But other times, as in Giem's case, they're repeat offenders.

In one reported situation, wolves killed 90 sheep last

spring on a ranch near Dillon, including 32 thoroughbred Rambouillet rams in three separate instances. In September, FWP reported 15 sheep had died in five incidents on one Reed Point Ranch in a month's stretch. In July, wolves killed two llamas and injured a third, which had to be euthanized, near Florence.

"We seemed to have three regions where they hit hard - Hot Springs (on the Flathead Reservation), near Hall and Drummond, and near Dillon," noted George Edwards, livestock-loss-mitigation coordinator for the state Department of Livestock. "Now there's a fourth area - Reed Point near Billings. They've been losing a lot of sheep there." Even if the ranchers are compensated for the cow or sheep, the price paid doesn't take into account other costs to livestock producers. Giem will get about \$5,000 for the six dead cows. But he moved the rest of his cattle out of his pastures 10 days early, at a cost of about \$2,000 per day in hay. His dead cows probably were pregnant, so he's also out six calves. The harassment by wolves and ensuing stampedes by his cattle, which have pushed through a couple fences, probably prompted some to abort and definitely caused them to lose weight, Giem said.

"These are my replacement heifers; they're the most important thing that we do every year. They're critical, and those animals were tortured," Giem said. "Next spring, I'm going to have about 425 cow/calf pairs to put up here, and just imagine what's going to happen if the wolves come around. The cattle will go nuts, push through fences, and the babies are going to get trampled." Carolyn Sime, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks statewide wolf coordinator, said she understands the frustration and anger ranchers have regarding their losses. Her agency tries to work with ranchers to use a variety of tactics, from range riders to "flandry" - flagging on electric fences - to help protect livestock. When predation occurs, the preferred course of action is to collar the wolves to track their movements, but Sime isn't averse to issuing "shoot on sight" orders for repeat offenders.

"I know it would sound hollow to say I share their frustration and I'm sorry, but it's true," Sime said. "The reality, though, is life is fundamentally different now. These are very real impacts on very real people with the restored wolf program "But to be brutally honest, our country and society has evolved into a world where we really value wildlife. Montana is one place in the lower 48 states where we can have wolves and grizzly bears. Our society wants big things with big teeth, and that's happened here. Yet this is their (the ranchers') land. We're trying to take a problem-solving approach." Sime acknowledges that the ranchers are impacted by wolves, and she lies awake some nights trying to figure out how to solve some of the tough livestock/wolf conflicts like Giem is experiencing.

"I rack my brain trying to figure out how we can come up with new tools or new strategies or find new funding so this producer can hire an extra hand or something," Sime said. "But there are times when our hands are absolutely tied, which is where some of my frustration comes in. We're wanting to help but not able to do much." Giem's been issued two shoot-on-sight permits, which are good for 45 days. He notes, though, that McDougal has flown the area regularly and hasn't seen a wolf yet. Wigen caught a glimpse of one, but it high-tailed out of the area once it was spotted.

"So what good are the permits if you can't find (the wolves)?" Giem asked. "The wolves come out of the forest at night, hit my cows, then go back into the timber in the morning. They're educated wolves now; they've been trapped and shot at, and know to hide when they hear the plane's motors." He adds that range riders aren't much help because of the timber and the total acres involved. Plus, with the wolves operating under the cover of darkness, they're even more difficult to find.

Still, Giem is pushing for eradication of the pack.

That's always an option, although not the first choice, Sime said. More than 60 wolves have been killed this



Eliza Wiley IR photo editor - Loren Giem stands by one of two heifers that wolves recently killed at his ranch in the Big Hole River valley. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks issued 45-day, shoot-on-sight permits to Giem, though he has been unable to fill them.

year, mainly due to livestock predation.

"This is one of those worst-case scenarios. We haven't had one like this for a while," Sime said. "It's important to realize we're not going back to the days of no wolves, but clearly in the management arena, lethal means are needed to address chronic wildlife losses."

Reporter Eve Byron: 406-447-4076 or eve.byron@helenair.com

Reader Comments:

Mechanic390 wrote:

"Elk and Deer harvests and numbers are down to record lows, Cattle are being killed, dogs are being attacked and dragged from porches to their excruciating death... Why? So a few idiots from Ca. or N.Y. can believe they might hear a Wolf howl at night while they drive through on I-90???"

"I'd like to know how many tax dollars have been spent on Wolf related activities, so the Wolves can rob us of our wildlife, cattle, pets, and ranchers' livelihoods. There's something wrong when priority is given to a hippy with the dream of hearing a howl over common sense and feeding our families!!" ■■■



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Continued from page 1 • Estate Looting of the Rich and Famous ... And How it can Happen to You



disgruntled family members, etc.) use probate venues and/or estate planning instruments (wills, trusts, guardianships) to perpetrate Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) actions – or more simply put, to loot assets of the dead or disabled/incapacitated.

IRA actions found in high profile cases often parallel the looting acts perpetrated on estates of far less value. These high profile cases can establish precedents - both good and bad - that impact people at all levels of the economic spectrum. It's important to understand these "infamous" cases as similar scenarios could play out in your life.

Brooke Astor, a woman known to appreciate beauty in many life venues, apparently spent her last years being exploited by her son, Tony Marshall. Marshall and lawyer Francis X. Morrissey Jr. are accused of looting Astor's nearly \$200 million estate of cash, art and real estate. Marshall is believed to have gifted himself money, disposed of property and fired staff in a manner contrary to Brooke's wishes. Upon enlisting the assistance of Francis X. Morrissey, the actions to take over Brooke's estate only became more aggressive and even include allegations of forging her signature on key estate documents. A Vanity Fair piece by John Richardson describes the IRA actions related to Brooke's estate and is highly recommended reading.

When her grandson and other friends intervened to "rescue" Brooke, the situation had surpassed financial elder abuse and appeared to have elements of physical and mental/emotional abuse as well. Brooke Astor was one of America's most famous women. She had financial and personal resources far exceeding the average person. Nonetheless, she became an IRA target as well as an elder abuse victim. The motivation and tactics used on Brooke are also utilized daily on people with far less resources. IRA and other elder abuse happened to Brooke Astor. It can happen to you.

Leona Helmsley, by most accounts, was a truly unpleasant person. With her August 2007 death, although it shouldn't make a difference, Leona's widely-acknowledged graceless demeanor seems to shade discussions regarding the distribution of her assets. Jeffrey Toobin recently wrote a piece for The New Yorker entitled Rich Bitch. He describes how Leona came to leave her estate, in the form of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust with an estimated value of \$3 - 8 billion, "to the provision of care for dogs" along with another catch-all category granting broader discretion to the trustees. Despite Leona providing clear direction, some involved seemed to think they deserved a portion of the estate and others elected to change the terms – contrary to Leona's final wishes.

Leona had four grandchildren. Two were included in her will as well as made executors (along with others) of her estate. Two were excluded from any inheritance. The first estate contest was

from the two disinherited grandchildren, but was settled quickly as estate executors "amended the will."

The idea that executors would change a will to include otherwise omitted heirs is cause for concern. Per news reports, this move was approved by the New York Attorney General as well as a judge. It established a precedent for disregarding the final wishes of a decedent and jeopardizing inheritance rights of named heirs. This legal point is now likely to surface in other probate disputes as rationalization for discounting clear intentions expressed in a will. It happened to Leona, it can happen to you.

Along with the will "amendment," the \$12 million set aside for the care of Trouble, Leona's Maltese, was reduced to \$2 million. Upon Trouble's death, unused money was designated to be transferred into the Helmsley charitable trust. Why, once again, was a legal precedent established in which a decedent's expressed wishes were disregarded? In due time, the same outcome would have been achieved yet with a course that included honoring Leona's wishes. Why then would a judge blatantly choose to disrespect a person's final wishes? As said before, Leona Helmsley's reputation of being a rude, mean and arrogant woman was likely deserved. Regardless, though, an ugly personality isn't grounds to usurp basic property rights including final distribution of one's assets.

As the primary "victim" of Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) cases is dead or if alive, disabled or incapacitated, any defense is usually relegated to designated beneficiaries - often other family members - who then can become targets of legal action. E. Pierce Marshall, the son of J. Howard Marshall II, became such a target in the case of Marshall v. Marshall and its parallel Texas suit, Marshall v. MacIntyre.

Pierce Marshall's stepmother Vickie – also known as Anna Nicole Smith - was unhappy that her husband did not provide for her in his estate plan. After J. Howard Marshall II spent several million dollars on Vickie/Anna in the three years prior to their marriage and another \$6.7 million during the 14-month marriage, she claimed he verbally promised to leave her half of his assets valued by some up to \$1.6 billion. This oral commitment was not reflected in six wills and seven other estate planning documents filed in courthouses throughout Texas by a man (J. Howard Marshall II) intent on his distribution wishes being available and well documented for proper execution. His family and circle of friends/employees were aware that J. Howard Marshall II was providing generously for Vickie/Anna during his lifetime in lieu of making her an estate beneficiary.

J. Howard Marshall II died in 1995 and with this, the unhappy Vickie/Anna, a woman who lived off but not with her husband during their brief marriage, initiated legal action that continues today. In fact, it appears no less than 13 separate pieces of litigation were filed within 12 months of J. Howard Marshall II's death with litigants ranging from disgruntled academic institutions (Haverford College v. MacIntyre), to American Express, Neiman Marcus, bankrupt former business associates and even J. Howard Marshall III, the elder son.

The facts of this matter would seem

clear-cut such that little should be open for dispute yet this case has traveled from a Harris County (TX) Probate Court to several California courts and then to the U.S. Supreme Court only to be returned and now currently under review by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on remand from the U.S. Supreme Court.

The final outcome of Marshall v. Marshall could impact the property rights of all Americans. In addition to an apparent desire for fame, fortune and the spotlight, Vickie/Anna always wanted to be taken seriously. Who knew that she might ultimately become the woman responsible for drastically eroding American inheritance rights!

The legal gamesmanship and incredible proceedings of Marshall v. Marshall offer lessons on how IRA practitioners use the legal system. Much has been written on the subject including a web site chronicling the entire case. In gathering common sense information relating this complicated case to more modest estates, numerous media accounts and other documents were reviewed. The Harris County Probate Court trial (Marshall v. MacIntyre) ran from September 2000 through March 2001 and, being the most extensive, detailed proceeding, serves as the basis for our analysis.

Vickie/Anna's claim for half of the Marshall estate was based upon an oral promise she alleged that J. Howard Marshall II made. He told her, but no one else. No physical evidence existed to support the claim - just her word that he had made a promise.

Texas probate law has long recognized properly executed - written - probate documents as the determinant in final distributions of assets. Moreover, Texas probate law specifically prohibits oral agreements to make a will (§ 59A). Vickie/Anna claimed that not only was she entitled to half of J. Howard Marshall's estate, but she accused Marshall's designated heir and younger son, Pierce Marshall, of tortious interference with her receipt of the alleged gift. This set the stage for Marshall v. MacIntyre, and later Marshall v. Marshall. If a court upholds Vickie/Anna's claim based on an unsubstantiated "commitment," this sets a precedent within the state that unconfirmed oral promises can actually supersede written wills. Given the legal industry's enthusiasm for GAL (Generate-Administrate-Litigate) strategies, this could pave the way for all sorts of alleged claims while simultaneously destroying any ability of individuals to designate the final distribution of their property.

In the years prior to the probate court trial, it appears that Vickie/Anna and her legal team began to doubt prospects for success in the Houston courtroom. To offset a potential defeat and mounting debt caused in part by a series of Vickie/Anna-as-a-defendant lawsuits, she also filed for bankruptcy in her home state of California.

Some legal observers viewed this as a "venue shopping" move in which a complainant actively seeks out a judge and/or court venue anticipated to be more friendly to a particular case. Pierce Marshall intervened in the bankruptcy proceedings to protect his interest in a 1995 lawsuit in which Vickie/Anna and two attorneys were sued and ordered to pay damages for libel over comments made to the media (E. Pierce Marshall v. Diana Marshall et al).

The California "second front" of this

dispute generated more legal gamesmanship. In October 1999, the Houston Chronicle wrote about a ruling earlier in the year in which (California) U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Samuel Bufford ruled that Vickie/Anna and Pierce Marshall were entitled to "share equally" in the estate and Koch Industries (the company in which Marshall had significant interest). Per the Chronicle, "Bufford's decision was not based on the merits, but as a way to sanction E. Pierce Marshall, 60, the younger of two sons, for allegedly destroying evidence and not showing up for depositions." This was the first move that granted any legitimacy to Vickie/Anna's claim and it wasn't based on the merits of the case??? The awarding of \$449 million or more was based on punishment for one of the court participants?

Other mind-boggling aspects of this case include how Judge Bufford withdrew his ruling in January 2000, but then reinstated it in September 2000, one day prior to jury selection starting in the Harris County Probate Court case. The issue of jurisdiction had long been debated as J. Howard Marshall II lived in Texas. His estate would generally be viewed as subject to Texas law, but this California judge was now dictating the distribution of his assets - and doing so not because of the case's merits, but as a sanction - punishment - for one of the principals! IRA cases are good at taking on a life of their own. This one sure did — and the form taken was nothing short of a monster with more details available at EstateofDenial.com. The points addressed are issues or actions which surface or have relevance to estate disputes (or potential disputes) of average Americans.

Sadly, Pierce Marshall died in June 2006. The legal battle was continuing as was his commitment to honoring his father's final wishes. And despite Vickie/Anna's 2007 death, judicial decisions made after the Houston trial continue to be under review.

Did Vickie/Anna really believe that Pierce Marshall committed tortious interference and denied receipt of her alleged gift? We certainly don't know and to a degree, it doesn't matter. Speculation can be defined as "engagement in business transactions involving considerable risk but offering the chance of large gains, especially trading in commodities, stocks, etc., in the hope of profit from changes in the market price."

Sound familiar? We're not lawyers, but a common sense, practical view says that Vickie/Anna, Marshall III and their attorneys knew that making this claim against Pierce could be lucrative. When these cases get going, reality becomes unimportant and the truth takes a back seat to the legal gamesmanship. In our opinion, these 15 years of litigation have been about nothing more than attempting to use an unsubstantiated claim and the legal system to extort assets received via a legitimate inheritance. It's that simple, it's that ugly and it happens every day.

Involuntary Redistribution of Assets practitioners target estates of all sizes and most people have neither the financial means nor general wherewithal to fight such an action. As this point is never lost on prospective asset looters, people must become vigilant. Those who initiate or participate in IRA actions are heinous individuals compromised both in their

Continued on page 16

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.



Why America's gun owners are justifiably up in arms

By Alan Gottlieb
and Dave Workman
Second Amendment Foundation

SAF ALERT - From the prospect of an incoming president and vice president with decidedly anti-gun-rights voting records, to a liberal West Coast mayor determined to ban firearms by "executive order" without benefit of city council or legislative review, American gun owners have good reason to doubt the sincerity of Liberal Democrats now in control of Congress and soon to control the Oval Office, who claim to support firearm civil rights.

Far too many red flags are being waved for gun owners to take a benign posture just six months after a landmark Supreme Court ruling confirmed what they had known all along; that the Second Amendment affirms and protects a fundamental individual civil right to keep and bear arms.

President-elect Barack Obama is on record supporting gun registration, permanent renewal of the ban on so-called "assault weapons," slapping an exorbitant increase on the federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, and banning handguns outright. His buffoonish vice president-elect, Delaware's Joe Biden, is a veteran gun control advocate who authored the original "assault weapons" legislation.

Recently, it was revealed that prospective Obama Administration employees were being asked this invasive question: "Do you or any members of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the

registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage."

Aside from demonstrating a serious ignorance of gun laws – only five states require some level of gun registration, and only in New York City and in New York's Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties is there a renewal requirement – this question suggests



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that gun owners, or kin of gun owners, will face anti-gun discrimination in their job search. Call it guilt by association, either with firearms or with a relative who owns one.

If this is the kind of "change" we can expect under the Obama administration, gun owners have reason to worry. The more that Democrats "change" the more they stay the same. American citizens flocked to gun shops after the election. Many of those people, ironically, were first-time gun buyers or gun owners

who voted for the Chicago Democrat. Obama reinforced gun owner apprehension by appointing Rahm Emanuel – point man for the Clinton administration on gun control issues – as his chief of staff. Eric Holder, his nominee for Attorney General, signed an amicus brief in support of the Washington DC gun ban, while arguing that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right to keep and bear arms, positions soundly rejected by the Supreme Court.

Both houses of Congress are controlled by Obama's Democratic Party, and leadership positions are occupied by devoted anti-gunners. As we detailed in our recent book, *These Dogs Don't Hunt: The Democrats' War on Guns*, the party excels in pro-Second Amendment rhetoric, but labors to reduce that right to a highly-regulated privilege.

This brings us around to Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle. He has promised to ban even legally-carried guns from city (make that public) property, by executive order. Nearly 250,000 Washington State residents are licensed to carry concealed handguns, and it is also legal in the Evergreen State to carry handguns openly, without a license.

Nickels was advised by the State Attorney General that he lacks the authority under Washington's model pre-emption law to enact a gun ban, but he has vowed to do it anyway.

Gun owners see this as imperial arrogance, and suspect that if Nickels can ignore his own state's preemption statute, then Congress and a Democrat president might just presume to ignore the Constitution. ■■■

Where do YOU stand
on the issues?

Conservative or Liberal...

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from YOU!

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Continued from page 15 • Estate Looting of the Rich and Famous

ethics and morals. Their behavior is in no way excusable, but it should be studied so as to understand with what you are dealing - that their creation of an uneven or chaotic playing field is far more important than any legitimate case merits. Pierce Marshall learned this, as have many other IRA targets.

Despite significant resources, the Marshall family has been unsuccessful in ending their legal and financial assault. Brooke Astor would never have anticipated her assets being looted. And with an estate plan intact, Leona Helmsley would not have foreseen her will being "amended." This should give

pause for concern as new IRA cases surface daily. Many people's economic welfare has already been harmed due to current economic turmoil and ever-increasing taxation. Now, estate assets once thought to be yours or your prospective heirs may not stay that way due to speculative efforts of disgruntled family members or others perceiving some "entitlement." Widespread exposure of this problem is critical. No inoculation for Involuntary Redistribution of Assets exists, but as we always say, forewarned is forearmed.

For more: www.estateofdenial.com ■■■

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“Oppressors can tyrannize only when they achieve a standing army, an enslaved press, and a disarmed populace.” -- James Madison

Gun Owners In Peril

OFF ALERT - The Party Is Over. The Fat Lady Has Sung. We now have the most partisan anti-gun president in American history. We also have a radically anti-gun congress.

We are surrounded. That simplifies the problem.

Buckle up, we are in for the fight of our lives. And we are going to win.

The following was on Obama's "Change" website:

"Address Gun Violence in Cities: As president, Barack Obama would repeal the Tiahrt Amendment, which restricts the ability of local law enforcement to access important gun trace information, and give police officers across the nation the tools they need to solve gun crimes and fight the illegal arms trade. Obama and Biden also favor commonsense measures that respect the Second Amendment

rights of gun owners, while keeping guns away from children and from criminals who shouldn't have them. They support closing the gun show loophole and making guns in this country childproof. They also support making the expired federal Assault Weapons Ban permanent, as such weapons belong on foreign battlefields and not on our streets."

That's right, a return to the failed policies of disarming the law-abiding while doing nothing to criminals. Obama wants to end private sales of firearms, expand the unconstitutional databasing of gun owners and end concealed carry anywhere in the country. He wants to criminalize modern firearms and magazines. His supposed "respect" for the Second Amendment is a fraud.

Obama has nominated Eric Holder to

be his Attorney General.

Holder was the number two man behind Janet Reno in the Clinton Administration and approved of the kidnapping, at gun point, of Elian Gonzalez. **(Photo below.)**

He later denied that the child was taken at gunpoint and said the goon squad who carried out this kidnapping acted "sensitively." Holder is a militant opponent of gun rights, except for state agents who use those guns against children. Holder was instrumental in Clinton's pardon of millionaire felon Marc Rich, whose wife was a major donor to the Democratic Party. His boss, Janet Reno, was responsible for the murder of almost 80 people at the notorious Waco conflagration.

Holder contributed an amicus brief to the Supreme Court arguing in favor

of a complete ban on self defense in America's murder capitol, and our nation's capitol, Washington D.C.

The Republican police state is behind us. The Democrat police state is about to return.

Obama, change you can believe in.

Principles that Obama supports on gun issues:

- Ban the sale or transfer of all forms of semi-automatic weapons.
- Increase state restrictions on the purchase and possession of firearms.
- Require manufacturers to provide child-safety locks with firearms.

Source: 1998 IL State Legislative National Political Awareness Test Jul 2, 1998



**Photo source unknown.*

“... And by the way, even if ... here, here's another thing you've got to understand.

Even if I wanted to take it [gun rights] away, I couldn't get it done. I don't have the votes in Congress.”

--Barak Obama in Pennsylvania, September 2008 - CSPAN.

Consider This ...

“Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest.” -- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

“A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government” -- George Washington

“It is also in the interests of a tyrant to keep his people poor, so that they may not be able to afford the cost of protecting themselves by arms and be so occupied with their daily tasks that they have no time for rebellion.” -- Aristotle in Politics (J. Sinclair translation, pg. 226)



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

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor



It's all about the 'Ice Cream'

To the Editor;

The most eye-opening civics lesson I ever had was while teaching third grade in 2000. The presidential election was heating up and some of the children showed an interest. I decided we would have an election for a class president.

We would choose our nominees. They would make a campaign speech and the class would vote. To simplify the process, candidates were nominated by other class members. We discussed what kinds of characteristics these students should have. We got many nominations and from those, Jamie and Olivia were picked to run for the top spot.

The class had done a great job in their selections. Both candidates were good kids. I thought Jamie might have an advantage because he got lots of parental support. I had never seen Olivia's mother.

The day arrived when they were to make their speeches Jamie went first. He had specific ideas about how to make our class a better place. He ended by promising to do his very best. Every one applauded. He sat down and Olivia came to the podium. Her speech was concise. She said, 'If you will vote for me, I will give you ice cream.' She sat down. The class went wild. 'Yes! Yes! We want ice cream.' She surely would say more. She did not have to.

A discussion followed. . . how did she plan to pay for the ice cream? She wasn't sure. Would her parents buy it or would the class pay for it. She didn't know. The class really didn't care. All they were thinking about was ice cream. Jamie was forgotten. Olivia won by a landslide.

Every time Barack Obama opens his mouth he offers ice cream, and 60% percent of America reacts like nine year olds. They want ice cream. The other 40% percent know they're going to have to feed the cow.

Spiker77

Socialist Government

Letter to the Editor;

Now that we have a socialist in the White House, I believe America's fate is sealed.

When government takes from one and gives to another, the incentive of both are diminished.

Limited government and free enterprise made America great. As a free enterprise Republic, America flourished. In two hundred years we went from the horse and buggy to the moon - Born by the limited government concept embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

The lessons of history are so plain. In Russia when government took control of production and distribution of wealth, productivity broke down. Forced labor camps were installed. Socialism is the handmaiden to Communism. It is like

cancer, it is progressive. It will kill you if it is not cut out.

All socialists should read Alexander Solzhenitsyn's books on the GULAG ARCHIPELAGO documenting life in Russia when individual liberty was extinguished.

Solzhenitsyn once said; " Oh ye liberals of the west, you will never understand it until you hear the shout, 'HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK', as you march off to your Archipelago." He tells us how one could be sent to the slave labor camps for no more than the expression on their face.

I believe the ignorant masses have made a dreadful mistake.

**Ben Hinkle
Bellingham, WA**

Making a Difference

Dear Mr. Snook,

We heard you on the Power Hour this past year with Joyce Riley. We believe what you said. We've spoken with you on the phone once or twice. Recently we cancelled our Prepaid Legal Service. Not having a computer, we're not keeping in touch with your website, except through Office Max.

We would like to be a part of your service. We believe in what you are doing. Thank God, there is someone like you doing what you do.

We will try to send you \$10.00 once a month while our income is good. If you have a group of people meeting in the Southeast area, once in a while; FL, GA, AL, Sc, VA, we would arrange to go. We'll try to get what information we can from your website – Keep doing what you do.

If you have a conference near here, or a new letter, or some people we could contact that would be great. Just imagine, having thousands of people in America like you, what a great country. But even one like you makes a difference!

We will make check to US~Observer and we will appreciate your feedback.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

**Deborah and Johnny Taylor
Hickory, NC**

Edward Snook's Note: Thanks so much for your kind and motivating words. Thanks for your much needed financial support and most of all for your realization that productive people must unite in these desperate times we all face. I am placing you on our subscriber list so you will receive a hard-copy publication of the US~Observer each month and I'll keep you posted regarding any events I know of.

Chip this Steak!

Letter to the Editor;

Cattle at the Badger Vac 45 sale, held at Sparta Equity, went from .97 to 1.08 a

pound, according to the Country Today. The math would indicate that an average price of 1.025 was paid. Now plug in the cost of the RFID tags and wait, the price paid was a loss! Combine that with \$7500 of wasted tax payer dollars translated into a loss for everyone involved. By participating in the program the producers took less and spent more. Who's brain dead idea was this anyway? Kansas State University studies showed a loss on source verified cattle four years ago. Isn't the definition of insanity doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Maybe our state ag committees should spend the money investigating Equity Livestock Co-op's Monopoly next time, after all research has shown that Wisconsin producers have received less than average prices for the last ten years. Furtherance of the NAIS program will not benefit the consumer or producer. Still have any doubts? Check this article from Australia where full implementation is in place, oh they were promised a premium price also and now receive the second lowest in the world. Just goes to show who our legislature is really working for.

One other thing, I sold mine on Dec 5th at Bloomington for 1.05 a pound!!! Without wasting any taxpayer \$!

Seems as if my signature on the vaccination/weaning report was all that was necessary. How far will the legislature go to sell out producers in Wisconsin, only time will tell.

**Paul-Martin-Griepentrog
Park Falls, Wisc**

EMERGENCY ROOM ...

The other day, I needed to go to the emergency room.

Not wanting to sit there for 4 hours, I put on my old Air Force fatigues and stuck a patch that I had downloaded off the Internet onto the front of my shirt.

When I went into the E.R., I noticed that 3/4 of the people got up and left. I guess they decided that they weren't that sick after all. Cut at least 3 hours off my waiting time.

Here's the patch. Feel free to use it the next time you're in need of quicker emergency service.



Anonymous

Bail out for the big three auto companies

Editor;

In 1988/89 I was a whistleblower who reported Ford Motor Company was defrauding the taxpayers through their wholly owned subsidiary "Ford Aerospace Corporation". They had two

Continued on page 19

Letters to the Editor continued



Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor
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billion dollars a year in defense contracting and were failing to meet most of their contract requirements. They were "pencil-whipping" their contracts. I was especially concerned about their lack of a safety program and they had two brand-new Ford vehicles involved in major accidents in a 15 month period at one work location. My inspection of the second vehicle determined that the cause was a defective axle that snapped off and caused total destruction of the vehicle and major injuries to the operator. Ford destroyed the vehicle (made it just disappear) and their manager broke into my office and stole the copies of that report out of my files and desk. Having seen their M.O. in the previous 3 years, I had taken a copy of the report home.

Thinking they had destroyed my report and the vehicle, the company tried to blame the operator by saying the accident was caused by operator error

(driving too fast for road conditions) and attempted to deny that employee workman's comp for on-the-job injuries. I was outraged and made a copy of the investigation report, photos and vehicle maintenance records available to the injured employee. An out of court settlement was reached but the company continued their fraud on reporting corrective actions on government safety inspections. They reported safety deficiencies corrected when they had not been. I contacted corporate headquarters and, seeing no corrective action, I then contacted OSHA.

It took Ford six months from the time they found out I had spoken to OSHA to drive me to a stress-induced heart attack at work in February 1990. Shortly after I recovered from the heart attack, Ford terminated my employment. I have not had a day of gainful employment since that day.

Senator Reid appointed a caseworker

named Peter Arapis to assist me. After 18 months of jerking me around, Mr Arapis informed me that he had discovered that Ford had blacklisted me and I would never work in this country again. He stated that Ford was "Racketeering" here and at other locations all over the country. When I asked the Senator to do something about that, their organization turned it's back on me and I was ignored. Recently I had occasion to contact the Senator's office again and was receiving the same kind of bullshit runaround and asked what had become of Peter Arapis. They claimed they had never heard of him.

I "googled" Peter Arapis and discover that he has been a lobbyist working for Ford Motor Company since 2004 (check it for yourself). Yep, he is the one who actually writes the checks to continue bribing Harry Reid who allowed a two billion dollar a year defense contractor to defraud the

taxpayers for ten years in the 1980s and into the 1990s.

By the way, how long after my discovery of a defective vehicle part causing major destruction of a new Ford vehicle in 1988 was it before Ford vehicles were rolling off freeways all over the country? Remember the Ford - Firestone debacle?

My Question: if the taxpayers have to provide this "bail-out" to Ford Motor Company to keep them from going under... HOW MUCH OF THAT GOES TO CONTINUE BRIBING HARRY REID AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THROUGH "LOBBYISTS" LIKE PETER ARAPIS?

AM I MISSED? YEP

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Make This an American Christmas

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"He, therefore, who is now against domestic manufacture, must be for reducing us either to dependence on that foreign nation, or to be clothed in skins, and to live like beasts in dens and caverns. I am not one of these." President Thomas Jefferson

Hard to believe another year is almost over. 2008 has been a tragedy for our republic. So many have suffered and sadly, it's going to get so much worse beginning early next year. While Christmas is just another "holiday" for millions, it is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by Christians world wide. While I am one of those who believes Jesus was not born on December 25th, tradition through out the world sets aside that day to celebrate his birth.

It's real easy to get caught up in the commercial frenzy. I've seen it escalate over the past decade into absurd proportions and the recent, senseless death of a Wal Mart employee in New York by a herd of animals is simply beyond words. The reason for the season, Jesus, has been trampled by the desire for cheap electronic trash from our enemy, the communist Chinese. I convinced my family many years ago to stop the commercial shopping spree. Back then my mommy was 74. The shopping and endless lines at the post office stressed her out so bad, where was the good will and cheer for her? Some members of my family, siblings and extended family, live like millions of others trying to stay afloat and for them, Christmas used to be nothing but a huge financial obligation accompanied by tons of stress. All that has gone away as we remember the birth of our Lord and Savior. The little ones continue to get gifts and we all make sure those gifts are Made in America.

Might I respectfully request YOU make this an American Christmas? I don't need to rehash the dire situation with the economy and jobs. Congress refuses to implement the solutions and impostor "president-elect," Marxist Barack Hussein Obama's announcement of a 21st-Century New Deal should scare everyone to death. However, you, me, our family members, friends and colleagues can do a lot this Christmas season to put money into OUR economy and support American jobs.

There's a section on my web site (www.devy.com), Made in America. (For full disclosure: I receive no financial compensation for any recommendations and that includes the reading and DVD/CD resources.) There you will find sources to tens of thousands of products made here in our country by our fellow country men and women. This list is updated fairly regularly. I buy from these sources; let me give you a few examples. Coffee makers are a popular gift. I own a BUNN. It was made in the USA. A little pricey, but worth every penny and their product line is on sale right now. This type of product lasts for years, so if you divide the number of years by cost and figure how much you use it, you can see

it's quite cost effective and we keep Americans employed. If you want to purchase a gift like this for say, your parents, all the kids chip in and make it one, quality gift!

I recently purchased sheets and a comforter from Ceilia Rachel (on-line). Their beautiful products are all made in America. My old shower curtain for the guest bath finally saw it's last days, so I purchased a really nice natural cotton one from Bean Products, Inc. My husband just purchased some cute little toys for his one year old grand daughter. Again made in America by Maple Landmark. Want to burn healthy candles this Christmas? Try Gelissimo's great product line; very pet friendly. From tools to winter clothing (and for your furry friend!), socks for diabetics (people rave about them), gym equipment - you name it - you can buy made in America.

The more products we purchase from American companies, the more competitive they will become. The more we demand Made in America from big retailers, the more they will seek out these companies as suppliers. The more clothing we buy from American companies, the more jobs we create along with quality and competition. Look at the toys being sold in this country. One in three are toxic and almost all toys have been made in communist China for the past 15 years. Medications are tainted. Fruit is tainted. The list is endless. Is this what you want to give as a gift to your loved ones or put in your body? I say buy American or go without. Retailers will and are getting the message. Another excellent resource to buy American is Roger Simmermaker's excellent publication, 'How Americans Can Buy American'.

May I also recommend some excellent reading sources as gifts? 'Your Right to Know' is a must have book. Americans are being poisoned by food sources that are flat out unhealthy for your body. Many have a difficult time in making decisions about what types of foods are safe. This book is an excellent resource.

'Safe Streets In The Nationwide Concealed Carry Of Handguns' by John Longenecker, is another great book. Of course, I also highly recommend Dr. Edwin Vieira's book on the constitutional militia, 'Constitutional Homeland Security: A Call for Americans to Revitalize the Militia of the Several States. Volume I, The Nation in Arms.' You can purchase a copy directly from Edwin by sending \$19.95 to Dr. Edwin Vieira, 52 Stonegate Court, Front Royale, VA 22630. His book, 'How to Dethrone the Imperial Judiciary' is also a superbly written book. And, of course, Michael Minns' book, 'The Underground Lawyer', is an extraordinary piece of work for anyone interested in the law and beating down judicial corruption.

NewsWithViews.com has so many excellent publications in their book section and also extremely well done and critically important CDs and DVDs, please forgive me if I leave out your favorite. We can continue to educate ourselves and our fellow Americans using these valuable resources. Whether you or a loved one has a particular

interest in the law, our food supply, educational, cultural or religious issues, I hope you will check out the selection. While there are so many great choices in the DVD section, some of my favorites are: A More Perfect Union: America Becomes A Nation, Understanding The North American Union and Public Private Partnerships. Hollywood's War on God, and World According to Monsanto.

Companies like Motorola dumped on American workers who built it into a power house. They out sourced design engineering and research and development jobs to India and said 'drop dead' to American workers. I refuse to do business with any company that has betrayed our workers. Now, Motorola is rated in the junk category by S & P. Bring those jobs home to America and people like me will buy your products. Think I'm kidding? I haven't owned a toaster since 1995 or so. My old one died after the unconstitutional NAFTA treaty was signed into law by Bill Clinton. I can't find a toaster made here in America, so I go without.

For those who support "free" trade, the destruction of those treaties is the wasteland out there across our land. For those who yell, "Reject protectionism!" you are foolish and anti-American. We have the absolute right and obligation to protect OUR job bases. MILLIONS of good paying, steady jobs have been lost from these unconstitutional trade treaties. We need to bring them home by buying American. We need our factories to reopen and provide good jobs, not paper pushing for some state, county or federal agency that produces nothing.

America has become a nation of service oriented jobs that is so dangerous to our survival, people better wake up and start supporting the rebuilding of our most important job bases. Fair trade is good. Free trade has brought the destruction of our most important job sectors (ag, manufacturing, industrial) to line the pockets of Congress and their big money donors. CAFTA, NAFTA and GATT have all but killed off a productive nation. Stop buying foreign fruits and veggies. It's bad for OUR economy and your health. By buying American you will also help reduce the trade deficit.

A very wise man by the name of Ezra Taft Benson, former Secretary of Agriculture during the Eisenhower Administration, addressed this issue in his magnificent book, 'An Enemy Hath Done This', pg 155:

"Already, I can hear the chorus chanting 'Isolationism, isolationism, he's turning back the clock to isolationism.' How many use that word without having the slightest idea of what it really means! The so-called isolationism of the United States in past decades is a pure myth.

"What is isolationism? Long before the current trend of revoking our Declaration of Independence under the guise of international cooperation, American influence and trade was felt in every region of the globe. Individuals and private groups spread knowledge, business, prosperity, religion, good will and, above all, respect throughout every foreign continent. It was not necessary then for America to give up her independence to have contact and



influence with other countries. It is not necessary now.

"Yet, many Americans have been led to believe that our country is so strong that it can defend, feed and subsidize half the world, while at the same time believing that we are weak and "interdependent" that we cannot survive without pooling our resources and sovereignty with those we subsidize. If wanting no part of this kind of "logic" is isolationism, then it's time we brought it back into vogue."

As our family still does gifts for the little ones, I give learning gifts to my niece and nephew. Not violent video games that rot the mind and soul of America's children and teens. A couple of years ago, it was a family pass to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. If memory serves me correctly, the one year family pass was something like \$45.00 and the kids had a wonderful time - all year long. When they moved to Colorado Springs, I sent a couple of gifts: A one year family membership to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and tickets to see the caverns and Seven Falls. This keeps the money local and supports local jobs - not jobs in communist China, communist Hong Kong, communist Viet Nam, the Philippines, Chile or our enemy, Mexico. A personalized gift like this creates family memories instead of junk that falls apart in a couple of months.

This situation is going to get very, very bad in the coming year. We the people will be the ones to save our republic, not mother government. You, me, our friends, family, neighbors and business colleagues: It's up to us and the first gigantic step is to keep jobs here and reject more federal and state interference into our free markets before we become a full blown communist country.

Might I also humbly suggest that when you see a Salvation Army volunteer, you drop a quarter or even a dollar in their bucket? During the Christmas season, these dedicated, Christian men and women are at post offices throughout the country. Every time I go to the post office from Thanksgiving through Christmas, I drop one dollar into their bucket. It adds up to maybe \$25.00, but if everyone put a little something in a few times during the season, we can feed those in true need in our towns and cities and help those who really do need a helping hand. Food banks across the country are in dire need. I know because I donate to a good one here in Big Spring. Instead of that \$1.75 soda at the gas station, maybe drop the money in the bucket when you see a Salvation Army volunteer. Remember: "But for the Grace of God, that could be me."

While we celebrate December 25, 2008 for the right reason, Jesus Christ, I am hopeful that Americans, if they do gift buying, will make the effort to support our country and our workers. I wish you and yours a safe and blessed Christmas.

Devy isn't left, right or in the middle; she is a constitutionalist who believes in the supreme law of the land. ■■

Report: World at Risk of Bio, Nuke Attack

It's 'More Likely Than Not' That a WMD Attack Will Occur by 2013, Panel Determines

By JASON RYAN

(ABC News) - A biological or nuclear attack is likely to occur somewhere around the globe during the Obama administration or shortly thereafter, a new congressionally mandated report has warned.

The report, titled "The World at Risk," starkly states, "The commission believes that unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013."

The ominous study by the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism and obtained by ABC News, will be released Wednesday.

The biggest threat is a biological attack, which the report considers to be a greater possibility than a nuclear or radiological attack.

"Terrorists are more likely to be able to obtain and use a biological weapon than a nuclear weapon. The commission believes that the U.S. government needs to move more aggressively to limit the proliferation of biological weapons and reduce the prospect of a bioterror attack," it says.

"The acquisition of deadly pathogens, and their weaponization and dissemination in aerosol form, would entail fewer technical hurdles than the theft or production of weapons-grade uranium or plutonium and its assembly into an improvised nuclear device," the report argues.

While terror groups lack the expertise to make biological weapons, the study warns that "terrorists are trying to upgrade their capabilities and could do so by recruiting skilled scientists."

As a cautionary example, "The World at Risk" cites the 2001 anthrax attacks in the United States, which the FBI and Justice Department have maintained were conducted by the late Bruce Ivins, a bio-weapons researcher at Fort Detrick.

The new report drew the same conclusions as a separate study released last month by the National Intelligence Council. That report, titled Global Trends 2025, predicted the threat from biological weapons would grow. "For those terrorist groups active in 2025, the diffusion of technologies and scientific knowledge will place some of the world's most dangerous capabilities within their reach. The globalization of biotechnology industries is spreading expertise and capabilities, and increasing the accessibility of biological pathogens suitable for disruptive attacks," it warns.

Pakistan Nuclear Stockpile Seen as Vulnerable

The commission said that Pakistan posed a particular danger for a WMD attack because al

Qaeda reportedly has a safe haven in Pakistan's wild tribal areas, the instability in the government and Pakistan's nuclear weapons stockpile.

"Pakistan is an ally, but there is a grave danger it could also be an unwitting source of a terrorist attack on the United States -- possibly with weapons of mass destruction," it claims.

The report notes that Pakistan's nuclear weapons stockpile consists of about 85 nuclear warheads and that China has recently agreed to

While security has been known to be inadequate at bioresearch facilities overseas, especially in the former Soviet Union, the report makes mention of a recent GAO study that found that security at several of the United States' top biological laboratories containing the world's deadliest diseases and viruses was inadequate.

The report also recommends that the United States should bolster rapid response ability and pharmaceutical stocks to mitigate mass casualties and should advance bioforensic capabilities.

Other recommendations include for the United States to push internationally for countries to address the issue of biosecurity, enhance disease surveillance networks and push for the adherence of the Biological Weapons Convention, which countries are to review in 2011.

Nuclear Ambitions of Iran and North Korea Must Be Stopped

On the issue of nuclear security, the report recommends that the United States needs to strengthen the current nuclear nonproliferation treaties and seek a "restructuring" of the US-Russian relationship.

Concerning Iran and North Korea, the commission recommends that "As a top

priority, the next administration must stop the Iranian and North Korean nuclear weapons programs. In the case of Iran, this requires the permanent cessation of all of Iran's nuclear weapons-related efforts. In the case of North Korea, this requires the complete abandonment and dismantlement of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs."

The study was conducted over six months, and included more than 250 interviews with government officials. Overseas site visits ranged from the U.S. national laboratories to Moscow. The commission was to travel to Pakistan, but the trip was cut short after the September bombing of the Marriott hotel in Islamabad. The commission notes in the report that it came within hours of staying at the hotel.

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build two nuclear power plants in Pakistan, which could help exacerbate a regional nuclear arms race with its nuclear armed neighbor India.

"Though most U.S. and Pakistani officials say that these weapons and their components are safe from inside or outside theft, the risk that radical Islamists -- al Qaeda or Taliban -- may gain access to nuclear material is real."

"America's margin of safety against a WMD attack is shrinking. But we also want to assure the people that there is ample and solid ground for hope about the future," the report states.

It makes a series of 13 recommendations for the incoming administration, which includes conducting a comprehensive review of domestic stocks of deadly pathogens and tightening security at those biological labs and research facilities.

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Health

University of Rochester Medical Center Public Release Breaking the silence after a study ends



While an estimated 2.3 million people in the United States take part in clinical trials every year, there currently exists no formal requirement to inform them of study results, an oversight that leaves participants confused, frustrated, and, in some cases,

lacking information that may be important to their health. In an article published today in the Archives of Neurology, researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center have proposed a novel and effective approach to disseminate the results of clinical trials to study volunteers.

Industry, government, and academic researchers are dependent upon the willing participation of millions of individuals to fill the estimated 50,000 clinical trials conducted every year that evaluate the safety and efficacy of experimental drugs and medical devices.

Researchers are only required to inform participants in instances when new information arises that may affect their willingness to continue participation. However, neither federal guidelines nor institutional review boards generally require disclosure of results at the conclusion of a study – even if the study is halted. Consequently, many research participants never learn the outcome of studies in which they volunteer.

"Individuals who volunteer to participate in clinical research frequently expose themselves to risks, both known and unknown," said neurologist Ray Dorsey, M.D., the report's author. "Because of their participation, they should be informed of the results of these studies in a timely and personalized manner."

In recent years, there have been several high-profile examples in which information has been either withheld from participants (and the public), participants were not directly informed of study

results, or they learned about negative study results indirectly from other sources such as the media. Despite recent federal efforts to mandate communications in instances when the product is approved, researchers are still not required to disclose results in instances when the drug or device has been tested in patients but – because of unfavorable results – abandoned before it is submitted for regulatory approval.

The paper details efforts of researchers to communicate the results of a clinical trial for an experimental drug (ethyl-EPA) for Huntington's disease. The results of the study – which showed no significant difference between the group of patients who received the drug and those who received the placebo – were also published today in the Archives of Neurology. The research was sponsored by the drug's manufacturer, Amarin Neuroscience, and conducted by the Huntington Study Group, an international network of researchers based in Rochester. The 12-month study included 316 adults with Huntington's disease and was conducted at 41 sites in the U.S. and Canada.

Over the course of the trial, the scientists and the sponsor developed a communication plan to inform participants of the study results. The goal was to directly inform participants within 48 hours of the official release of study results; federal securities law requires companies to publicly disclose study results if they have a material financial impact.

The plan included a mix of electronic communication and personal outreach. Information on the results was posted to the study's website and emailed to members of the Huntington's disease community. Additionally, study coordinators called each of the participants directly. Rochester neurologist Ira Shoulson, M.D., the study's principal investigator, and the CEO of Amarin Neuroscience also held a conference call which was open to all study participants and investigators during which they summarized the study results and then fielded questions.



The researchers surveyed participants after the communication efforts and found that more than half (56%) learned of the results of the study within 48 hours of the initial public release in 2007 by the company – the vast majority (73%) via a telephone call from the study staff. Participants reported a high level of satisfaction with the way results were communicated and had developed a strong understanding of the drugs benefits and risks.

"It is critical that we treat participants as partners in research," said Shoulson. "It is our hope that the commitment that the investigators and sponsor made to communicate the results of the clinical trial in a timely and personalized manner to research participants will set the standard for future clinical trials."

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University of Rochester Medical Center

■■■

Cold sores linked to Alzheimer's

By CTV.ca News Staff

Those who get frequent cold sores may be at higher risk for developing Alzheimer's disease, a new study suggests.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of Manchester, suggests that the herpes simplex virus, which causes cold sores, is also a major cause of the plaque found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

The researchers discovered that 90 per cent of plaques found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients contain DNA from the herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV1). Therefore, it appears that HSV1 is a major contributor to the development of plaques in the brain.

The findings, published in the Journal of Pathology, suggest that vaccination against the virus may help prevent the onset of Alzheimer's one day.

"Antiviral agents would inhibit the harmful consequences of HSV1 action; in other words, inhibit a likely major cause of the disease irrespective of the actual damaging processes involved," researcher Matthew Wozniak said in a statement. "Whereas current treatments at best merely inhibit some of the symptoms of the disease."

Alzheimer's is a neurological disease that is characterized by progressive memory loss and cognitive impairment.

While researchers know that Alzheimer's patients share the same brain abnormalities - namely plaque deposits and tissue tangles that damage healthy, living brain cells - the exact cause of the disease is unknown.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's, which affects about 20 million people worldwide, numbers that are



expected to grow rapidly as the boomer population ages.

These latest findings add to the team's previous work, which found HSV1 in the brains of elderly people, many of whom had a higher risk for developing Alzheimer's disease if they also carried a specific genetic mutation.

"We suggest that HSV1 enters the brain in the elderly as their immune systems decline and then establishes a dormant infection from which it is repeatedly activated by events such as stress, immunosuppression, and various infections," researcher Prof. Ruth Itzhaki said in a statement.

"The ensuing active HSV1 infection causes severe damage in brain cells, most of which die and then disintegrate."

The researchers will next study if antiviral agents have an impact on how HSV1 affects the brain, as well as the effect they may have on improving symptoms in Alzheimer's patients. ■■■

Nuts boost health

LONDON (Reuters) – Adding nuts to a traditional Mediterranean diet rich in fruit and vegetables appears to provide extra health benefits, Spanish researchers said on Monday.

A daily serving of mixed nuts helped a group of older people manage their metabolic syndrome, a group of related disorders such as obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and abnormal blood sugar, Jordi Salas-Salvado of the University of Rovira i Virgili in Spain and colleagues said.

"The results of the present study show that a non-energy-restricted traditional Mediterranean diet enriched with nuts, which is high in fat, high in unsaturated fat and palatable, is a useful tool in managing the metabolic syndrome," they wrote in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

The findings add to existing evidence of the health benefits of a Mediterranean diet that emphasizes vegetables, fish and healthy fats such as olive oil over red meat and alcohol. Studies have linked the diet to reduced risk of diabetes, asthma and a range of other conditions.

The researchers looked at 1,224 people in Spain aged 55 to 80 at high risk of heart disease. One group received advice on a low-fat diet while two others followed a Mediterranean diet, one getting an extra liter of olive oil per week and the other receiving an additional 30 grams of mixed nuts daily.

At the start of the study nearly two thirds of the men and women met the criteria for metabolic syndrome, but after one year the condition decreased by about 14 percent among those who ate nuts compared with 7 percent in the olive oil group and 2 percent in the control group on a low-fat diet.

Nuts contain beneficial nutrients such as fiber, arginine, potassium, calcium and magnesium, as well as a high level of unsaturated fats similar to olive oil, the researchers noted. ■■■

Cancer to pass heart disease as No. 1 killer

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Cancer is on pace to supplant heart disease as the No. 1 cause of death worldwide in 2010, with a growing burden in poor countries thanks to more cigarette smoking and other factors, global health experts said on Tuesday.

Globally, an estimated 12.4 million people will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year and 7.6 million people will die, the U.N. World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer said in a report.

"The global cancer burden doubled in the last 30 years of the 20th century, and it is estimated that this will double again between 2000 and 2020 and nearly triple by 2030," according to the report.

By 2030, 26.4 million people a year may be diagnosed with cancer, with 17 million people dying from it, the report forecast.

In men, lung cancer was the most common form in terms of new cases and deaths, while breast cancer was the most common type among women in new cases and deaths, according to the report. More men than women get cancer and die from it.

"This is going to present amazing problems at every level in every society worldwide," the IARC's Peter Boyle said at a news conference.

In the near term, cancer is expected to bypass heart disease as the leading killer globally in 2010, American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer

John Seffrin said. Cancer currently accounts for about one in eight deaths worldwide.

Trends that will contribute to rising cancer cases and deaths include the aging of populations in many countries -- cancer is more common in the elderly -- and increasing rates of cigarette smoking in poor countries.

Some rich countries have made progress in cutting cigarette smoking, which causes most cases of lung cancer as well as many other illnesses. In the United States, the most recent figures show that for the first time since records have been kept less than 20 percent of adults were smokers in 2007.

However, cigarette companies are finding new customers in developing countries. Seffrin noted that 40 percent of the world's smokers live in just two nations -- China and India.

Decades ago, cancer was considered largely a problem of Westernized, rich, industrialized countries. But much of the global burden now rests in poor and medium-income countries.

Many of these countries have limited health budgets and high rates of communicable diseases, while cancer treatment facilities are out of reach for many people and life-saving treatments are seldom available, Boyle said.

"There are more deaths in the world from cancer than from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

combined," Boyle said.

At the same time, progress against cancer has been reported by authorities in such places as the United States and Europe.

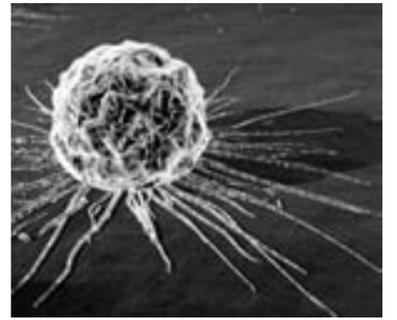
For example, health authorities in the United States reported last month that cancer diagnosis rates are now dropping for the first time in both men and women and previous declines in cancer death rates are accelerating.

They attributed the progress to factors such as regular screening for breast and colorectal cancer, declining smoking rates and improved treatments.

Cancer-prevention opportunities exist in countries of any income level, Boyle said, noting that many types of cancer are caused by individual behaviors such as smoking.

Some other "modifiable risk factors" for cancer that Boyle cited included alcohol consumption, too much exposure to sunlight, lack of physical activity and obesity.

(Editing by Julie Steenhuisen and Philip Barbara)



Metastizing Cancer

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Proof of Angels?

Picture captures image ... What do you see?

By Ron Lee
Investigative Journalist

Grants Pass, OR - For more than 6 days and over the Veteran's Day holiday one-thousand American flags flew and fluttered in the breeze at Riverside Park in downtown Grants Pass as a tribute to all of those who have served this great country. The tribute was brought to the community by the VietNam Veteran's Association and was sponsored by many local companies and organizations. One such group was Shadow Fox, a local not-for-profit airsoft team, who provided 24-hour security for the event. Dressed in their team's uniform (ACU), meant to match and honor the armed services, they stood guard through bitterly cold weather and torrential rain. They did this because they believe that service to this

fiancé stepped forward and took a picture just after Gray had gotten up and they headed toward their posts.

According to Scherer, three days had passed before he even looked at the photos on the small screen of his digital camera. On the photo taken just after Gray had said her prayer, he noticed some kind of white light. Zooming in, he saw that the shape was that of an Angel.

picture of a window with his flash on to see the difference between a flash reflection and that of the "Angel". They were completely different, but still he wanted to find some sort of rational explanation.

As a member of Shadow Fox and an investigative journalist with US~Observer, I welcomed the opportunity when Scherer and Gray approached me to

look at this image and try to debunk it, or prove it in some way. I immediately asked for the original memory card from the camera, which they provided. What I saw when I opened the file was a unique looking artifact on the picture. It appeared to be a picture of, what I can only explain as that of, an Angel, but I noticed other objects as well. It became clear that these other artifacts were raindrops that had fallen onto the lens of the camera, which were refracting ambient light, and perhaps the light reflected from the goggles on the monument in front of the flags. That light was from a lit gazebo-tent, used as the food station for Shadow Fox, which was directly behind Scherer when he had taken the photo. Also, there were other images that I recovered from the same card, pictures just before and after the "Angel" photo. While the photo just after the "Angel" picture did indeed have raindrops on the lens, there was no image - or smudge, for that matter - in the area where the "Angel" had appeared.

That got me thinking. So what if it is some random play on light?! So what if it could be explained away as a raindrop or smudge?! Such determinations are skeptical and inconclusive, not to mention speculative. There is nothing that can disprove that this picture is indeed that which people see ... an Angel. Basically, it comes down to this ... How would an Angel make its presence known? Would it be some random encounter with only one individual as a witness, or would it take shape in some photo with the help of probable causes?

With times being that which they are, I personally feel that people need to believe, perhaps more than ever, and just maybe the photo is whatever you see it as being; whatever you believe it to be. How wonderful it would be if we all saw an Angel and felt a loving presence, just like Michelle Gray, who, to this day, believes it was her father watching over her.

Editor's Note: Whatever your belief, we hope that you will send us a note with your thoughts, and pass this around for others' opinions. ■■

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

It is our hope, here at US~Observer, that you have a joyous Christmas and that this new year brings each of you the best in all your endeavors.



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country, whether it's in the armed services or in any form, should be honored. It was because of this that Neal Scherer and Michelle Gray showed up to take their posts on the evening of Saturday, November 8, 2008.

For Michelle Gray, the tribute had intense meaning. Her father, a former



Neal Scherer and Michelle Gray

VietNam Veteran, had died four years earlier. When she arrived she was overtaken by the spectacle of so many flags. Thinking of her father she went toward the flags and knelt in prayer, prior to starting her shift. Later, she would recall feeling as if her father was there with her; that she was being watched-over. Neal, her

He called Gray over to look at the image and instantly she knew, she felt and believed, that it was an image of her father in some sort of angelic form. But, they set about to explain the picture anyway.

Scherer explained that the picture had been taken at dusk and that he hadn't used a flash, which people who were there during the capturing of the image have verified. Even still, he took a



Picture taken just after "Angel" picture. This picture is of a different monument.