



CASE SPOTLIGHT

Alleged Fraudulent Idaho Survey Creates Nightmare for Landowners



Butch and Dorothy Walker

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Idaho County, Idaho – Property disputes between neighbors just outside of Grangeville, Idaho began back in 2009 and they escalated, until a lawsuit was filed by Sydney (Butch) and Dorothy Walker in late 2011. The Walkers have

named Bessie Harmon, Etta Harmon, Ellan Hoiland, Thain Hoiland, Elvin Hoiland and the Grangeville Highway District as Defendants in their suit. However, our current US-Observer investigation is uncovering what appears to be a history of possible out-and-out fraud as opposed to a dispute. The Walkers were represented

Continued on page 2

IRS TARGET

US Attorneys Attack Elderly Lady Innocent Victim to Face Jury

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Omaha, Nebraska – The federal trial of a completely innocent and elderly Nebraska resident, Donna Kozak, is currently scheduled to begin on July 28, 2014 in Omaha, Nebraska. Kozak is represented by Omaha Attorney David R. Stickman.

As previously reported in the US-Observer, “Donna Kozak is currently charged with nine felony crimes. Two counts pertain to tax crimes and seven counts pertain to filing false liens into the public record regarding an unrelated event. The U.S. Attorney’s Office via their indictment sums the tax charges up: “Beginning as early as 1997, and continuing until at least on or about December 13, 2012, in the District of Nebraska and



Donna Kozak

elsewhere, the defendant, DONNA MARIE KOZAK, corruptly endeavored to obstruct and impede the due administration of the internal revenue laws by not filing federal

individual income tax returns. First off, Donna Kozak is completely incapable of ‘corruptly endeavoring’ to do anything. In 1996, Donna was a member of a local college faculty in her third of ten years of teaching adults English as a Second Language. According to witnesses, Donna is exceptionally academic and she is a wonderful Christian, mother and wife.”

THE PROSECUTION

Department of Justice Attorneys Brian D. Bailey and Matthew R. Hoffman are currently prosecuting Kozak for the U.S. government. Neither attorney has questioned Ms. Kozak and neither knows the facts of this case. The same can be said of the Grand Jury whose Foreperson, along

Continued on page 14

Free After 4 Decades in Prison

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Oklahoma, 1970 – President Nixon sent combat troops to Cambodia to destroy the North Vietnamese headquarters. The Kansas City Chiefs beat the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. It was the year of the first Earth Day and New York Marathon. Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin died. Zip-Loc bags were invented. Violence erupted at Kent State University resulting in the death of four students. Former Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry was in the first grade. 1970 was also the year that Reno Francis, a young Native American man, was wrongly convicted of a crime he didn’t commit and sentenced to



Verna and Reno Francis

life in prison. In the small eastern Oklahoma town of Holdenville on an August evening of the same year, Cathy Scott was murdered. Reno 23, had been at a party where Cathy was also in attendance. After leaving the party, Reno was arrested by local police while trying to use a

pay phone in a nearby parking lot under suspicion of being “high on an unknown substance.” It wasn’t until two days later that Cathy’s parents reported their 13-year-old daughter missing. Her body was discovered shortly thereafter in a storage shed near the party site. Reno, who was in jail at the time, was charged with the crime.

WRONGFUL CONVICTION

Reno pled innocent and cooperated with police, even agreeing to take part in a police line-up. Knowing he was not guilty, Reno assumed he had nothing to worry about. Reno was wrong. The police lineup included only one person - Reno Francis.

Continued on page 10

National Heritage Areas



By Norman L. Kincaide Ph.D.

Colorado - A concerned group of about thirty Southeast Colorado farmers, ranchers and residents gathered at the Bent’s Fort Inn in Las Animas, CO on the evening of January 13, 2014 to listen to Bob Parker of Ozarks Property Rights Coalition. The Ozarks Property Rights Coalition successfully stopped a National Heritage Area (NHA) in Missouri and Arkansas. As a result of this meeting Southeast Colorado Private Property Rights Council (SECPPRC) formed on

January 30, 2014, providing the residents of the region with an advocate for defending their private property rights, maintaining their local sovereignty and informing the public about and hopefully stopping a NHA proposal for Southeast Colorado. A November 25, 2013 La Junta Tribune-Democrat article announcing a Gates Family Foundation award of nearly \$400,000.00 to Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado (C&P), Palmer Land Trust (PLT), Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Continued on page 10

CASE CLOSED

Life After “Not Guilty”



Armando Garcia

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

The Dalles, Oregon - Armando Garcia’s senior year of high school was anything but normal. Instead of typical teenage worries like deciding what to wear or studying for a test, Armando had much more pressing concerns. Facing a myriad of stacked rape charges and disallowed from attending his school, Armando spent what should have been a fun-filled year desperately fighting for his freedom. Accused of rape by an ex-girlfriend after her parents found out details regarding their intimacy via Facebook, Armando was looking at serious prison time.

Even though insurmountable evidence attested to Armando’s innocence, it didn’t matter once he reached the courtroom. The prosecution, with Armando’s ex-girlfriend and her father, a

Continued on page 2

CASE CLOSED

Anonymous Call Prompts Abuse of 9 Year Old Girl

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter



“Sarah”

Southern Oregon -After a fun-filled week of camping for spring break, Sarah and her children unknowingly returned home to what she could only describe as “a real life nightmare.” While Sarah and her family were away, the Department of Human Services (DHS) received an anonymous “call of concern” regarding her children. According to documents, the anonymous caller alleged that Sarah’s children “were filthy and living in unsanitary conditions.” After attempting to contact Sarah, a DHS employee left a message with her parents. Shocked at the allegations, Sarah rushed to defend herself and her children against the horrific allegations.

It was too late. Without permission from or direct communication with Sarah, DHS went to her children’s school and interviewed all but one of her children. During the interrogation, one of Sarah’s young sons allegedly stated that his 9-year-old sister (the one that wasn’t interviewed) had been “sleeping with a 20 year old man.”

Continued on page 10



Wayne Allyn Root
• Greatest Scam Artist in History
Page ... 7



Thomas Sowell
• A Lame Duck Country?
Page ... 8



Judge Napolitano
• Beware a beneficent government
Page ... 8



Hannah Rappleye
• Trial by Fire: Junk science
Page ... 13



Sidney Powell
• Prosecutorial Misconduct
Page ... 14

Postal Patron

US-Observer
233 Rogue River Hwy, PMB 387
Grants Pass, OR 97527-5429

PRSR, STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Medford, OR
Permit No. 125
ECRWSS

The Jamie Clark Case

Bond Granted After Three Years in Prison!!!

Page 3

Continued from page 1 • Alleged Fraudulent Idaho Surveys Create Nightmare for Landowners

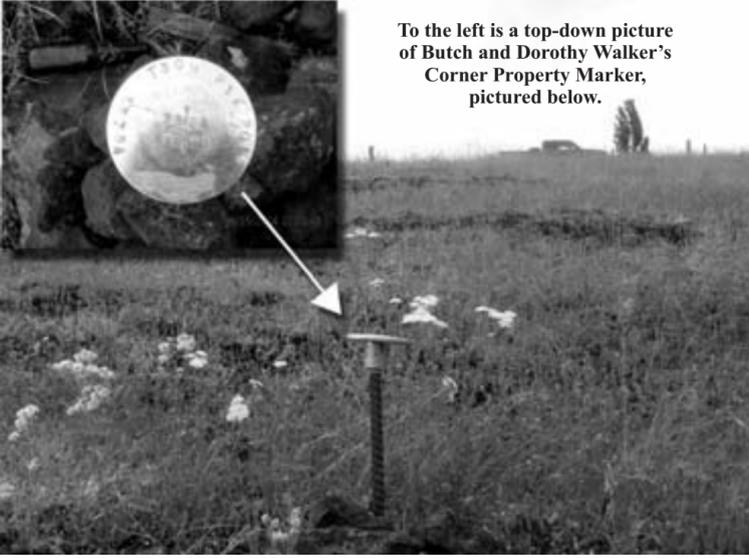
Continued from page 1 • Life After “Not Guilty”

by Attorney Dennis Charney until he filed a Declaratory Judgment Motion, which, according to the Walkers and experts we have consulted with, basically gave away a good portion of their land. The Walkers fired Charney and demanded he withdraw his “ill-conceived” Motion. Much more can be written on this issue if the need arises.

The Walkers have since hired Attorney Wes Hoyt.

On June 12, 2014, the Defendants in this case filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, “upon the grounds and for the reason that there exists no genuine issue as to any material fact.” I have never read a more frivolous Motion in my 30-plus years of investigating such matters. I have found that there are four records of survey, and various corner records filed, with little to no agreement on boundaries and corners, yet there is very good evidence that possible fraud was perpetrated in a survey and corner record back in 1977. Not one surveyor is using the original corners that were in place when the Walkers purchased their land.

Idaho District Judge John R. Stegner is presiding over this case and I will closely analyze and report on his rulings.



To the left is a top-down picture of Butch and Dorothy Walker’s Corner Property Marker, pictured below.

HISTORY

According to Dorothy Walker, who has conducted an extremely thorough investigation and study into surveying laws, the surveys on the properties in question and deeds and issues involved, “everything is wrong with the current surveys. None of them match up with our original corners and they don’t match each other.” After studying the surveys myself and again, speaking with our experts, I completely agree with Ms. Walker. How is that for “a genuine issue to a material fact?”



Butch and Dorothy Walker’s Property

Our investigation shows that the Walkers started purchasing their properties in 1968. They are the third family to own the land and their property was purchased based on the original Government Land Office (GLO) corners. By law, these corners should be unchangeable; however, forces appear to have been at work for many years to alter these original corners.

According to one witness, in 1977, (9 years after the Walkers purchased their property) their neighbors hired a surveyor to divide their property. Their licensed surveyor allegedly moved original section corners or created new corners, redefined deeds, changed right of ways, and changed the neighbor’s property description to fit his new corners. Without the Walker’s knowledge, this surveyor allegedly changed their corners in the process.

The US-Observer has received reports that there is no record of this survey on file at the court house and the corner records of these new corners were not filed until 1996, 20 years after the survey problems were created. The law states they had to have been filed within 90 days.

Since 1977, this surveyor’s changes have allegedly been causing all the chaos, property disputes, and

lawsuits in this Grangeville area. The property disputes and chaos allegedly started when the original corners were moved and the disputes and chaos will not stop until the original corners are restored. I should note that all of the Walkers deeds match the original GLO corners, not the alleged false corners that this surveyor set and other surveyors have used.

THE BOMBHELL

The Walkers have hired a well-known and respected surveyor to validate a corner that was actually discovered by a surveyor the Walkers had previously hired. This surveyor has already placed the corner and filed on it. When I confronted the surveyor who originally discovered it, he stated, “I just didn’t have enough facts at the time and I had to get my survey done, because the attorney needed it. When I told him that I believed fraud was involved back in 1977, he responded, “I thought that might be possible myself.”

I now have two surveyors stating that it appears that the survey that started this entire mess was fraudulent.

THE RESOLUTION

At this juncture it would be easy for the surveyor(s) and Attorney(s) involved in this alleged scam to just say they made “mistakes.” All property lines can be corrected and the Walkers can be “made whole” so to speak.

If this charade continues or those involved start lying, they can look forward to gaining top front page notoriety in the US-Observer. At that point all involved can rest assured that the US-Observer won’t be going anywhere until all facts are public and until Sydney and Dorothy Walker are totally vindicated.

While I currently use the word mistake in an attempt to leave those involved a “backdoor out,” I strongly expect that I will be using the term fraud in the very near future if this wrong isn’t corrected. I will also be naming names and providing a wealth of information publicly that will leave absolutely no room for doubt. My strong advice to those who have made “mistakes” or who committed fraud is to take the backdoor without delay.

Editor’s Note: Anyone with information on Surveyor Carl Edwards or regarding this case is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email to ed@usobserver.com.

sheriff’s deputy, at their side, aimed to inhibit Armando’s freedom at all costs. All it took was an unfounded accusation from an ex. There was no innocent until proven guilty! Unfortunately, that’s often the case today. Despite what the Constitution says, the burden of proof lies with the defendant. With police power behind them, all the courts need is an allegation.

Imagine for a moment you are a minority accused of raping a caucasian female 2 years your junior in a small, rural Oregon community. Oh, and her father happens to work in local law-enforcement. Based solely on the girl’s word, you are charged with rape and forbidden from attending your senior year “until your case is resolved.” In short, Armando was told to prove his innocence if he wanted to return to a normal life. Fortunately, Armando found a great support system.

The charges against Armando came about while he was still a junior, creating an ordeal that lasted for his entire senior year and the following summer. Armando, a one-in-a-million personality, “stayed positive,” not succumbing to the pressure of being falsely accused and labeled a rapist. After the case was over, Armando stated, “Towards the end of it all, I was tempted to take the last plea deal (one of numerous deals offered) because I was so tired of everything. Knowing that I didn’t do it, I fought it all the way to the end.”

On August 27, 2013, Armando was found “not guilty.” All the hard work by his attorney, honest information from witnesses, and a full investigative report by the US-Observer paid off, and Armando was free to move forward. Or was he?



Armando Garcia

The case was now closed. Armando was found not guilty. But was Armando really vindicated? Absolutely not! Even after being found innocent, people like Armando still have a record, and it was up to Armando to erase it. Despite being found “innocent,” his arrest charges remained, making Armando a target for future abuse. Armando’s attorney, James Leuenberger, filed documents to have Armando’s record expunged. In October, 2013, it worked, and the arrest and rape charges were erased from his record.

Armando stated that he “really appreciates” what the US-Observer did for him, saying, “Not many people would’ve been on the side of someone who was being accused of such charges. People tend to think because someone is charged...that they did it, and sadly that’s just humanity’s view on things.”

Armando finished his senior year of high school one year late, and on Saturday June 7, 2014 he participated in the graduation ceremony. Armando is finally moving on.

Holding no grudges against Kelsey (his accuser) and her family, Armando states, “She was scared about the whole situation. The information was found out by Kelsey’s family, and she probably reacted out of fear. This was her first relationship with sexual intercourse.” It likely didn’t help that her father was a deputy sheriff. Considering what he endured, Armando is incredibly understanding and forgiving.

As advice to others in similar predicaments, Armando says, “Try not to worry. I had a 50/50 chance of going to jail. I stayed positive. Don’t lose hope, and don’t forget that you didn’t do it.”

Currently, Armando plans on “working for now and hopefully starting college in the fall with future plans of majoring in psychology.”

Life after being found “not-guilty” is not something Armando carries proudly, but fortunately he has freedom on his side. His positive mentality will no doubt go a long way for him.

How many others have been falsely accused of sex crimes? How many of them were unable to find the same kind of support Armando did? Even though Armando wasn’t facing a life sentence, he was facing a sentence that would last for a large portion of it. And even when released from prison, he would face the lifelong stigma of being a registered sex-offender.

If you or anyone you know have been falsely charged or convicted of a crime, please contact the US-Observer immediately. Act fast - time is not on your side. Armando Garcia knows this all too well.

Write: editor@usobserver.com or call (541)-474-7885.

The Best Mexican Food in Grants Pass!

BUY 3 TACOS GET 1 FREE!

With This Coupon

Lupita's
TAQUERIA

Located on the corner of "E" & 7th, Downtown

147 E St. Grants Pass, OR

Authentic Mexican Food

TREE REMOVAL

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

MOUNTAIN TREE CARE LLC

Forest Management • Fire Fuel Reduction
Stump Grinding • Mistletoe Removal
Pruning • Painting • General Construction

Proudly Serving Southern Oregon
Licensed & Insured

CCB#200348

Pedro • Owner
541.621.3024

Jenny • Owner
541.531.5786

North Carolina Idaho

BUTLER
TRAILER MFG CO.

Proudly serving the Utility and Construction Industries since 1968

www.butlertrailer.com

Randleman, NC Orofino, ID

336-674-7804 or 208-476-5662



Jamie Clark

By Joseph Snook
Investigative
Reporter

On June 5, 2014, Jamie Clark was finally given another chance to prove his innocence. After nearly three years in prison, Jamie was granted a bond, giving him temporary freedom to work on his DUI Manslaughter appeal. Jamie has maintained his innocence for almost eight years. In a very complicated case, with twists and turns that have basically left everyone involved speechless, Judge Kastrenakes unexpectedly approved Jamie's bond at his

Bond Granted After Three Years in Prison!!!

most recent hearing. Judge Kastrenakes had already ruled against a previous bond for Jamie, so this news was shocking. Prior to the bond being granted, Jamie's father Jim stated, "The only punch that is sure 'not to land' is the one you don't throw! So, we are still throwing as many punches as we can!" Something worked - this punch landed! Content from the US~Observer's articles on Jamie's case was, "read in front of the Judge prior to the bond being granted" according to witnesses. Jamie now plans on assisting his defense for the upcoming appeal scheduled for the end of this summer. Although he will be released, he will be on strict monitoring, pending the outcome of his appeal. For a complete background on this case, simply Google



Judge John S. Kastrenakes

search "Man Appeals DUI Manslaughter Conviction - Evidence Heavily Favors Misconduct by Prosecutor." This article has links to all previously written articles, which give an in-depth report on this case. The US~Observer plans on producing a short documentary on Jamie's case this summer. You can follow us on Facebook, www.usobserver.com or the "Jamie Clark Deserves Justice" Facebook page to stay informed about this case and the upcoming documentary. Congratulations to Jamie and his Family. They are real-life examples of a family that has fought a long hard battle and managed to stay positive throughout the process. The US~Observer fully expects to help exonerate Jamie Clark - the evidence is there, and it proves his innocence. ★★★

Common core issue highlights huge role of federal government in education

By Dr. Susan Berry

(Breitbart) - A positive byproduct of having the Common Core Standards in the political spotlight is that Americans are now learning of the enormous role the federal government has had in education for nearly 50 years, from President Lyndon Johnson's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in 1965, to President Barack Obama's decision in 2009 to use federal "Race to the Top" funds to lure states into adopting nationalized standards.

In Mississippi, longtime U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran (R), who not only supported his state's adoption of the Common Core standards, but also voted in 1979 to help President Jimmy Carter establish the U.S. Department of Education, is engulfed in a contentious primary battle with State Sen. Chris McDaniel (R), who fought to rid his state of the controversial standards.

Last Monday, Mississippi Commissioner of Higher Education Hank Bounds criticized McDaniel, based on a comment McDaniel made in April about Common Core. Bounds said, "I am deeply concerned by the comment that not only should the U.S. Dept. of Education be abolished, but federal dollars should not flow to the states, because the word 'education' is not in the Constitution."

"The word 'education' is not in the Constitution. Because the word is not in the Constitution, it's none of their business," McDaniel said. "The Department of Education is not constitutional."

Bounds said McDaniel's position could affect \$2 billion in federal dollars for elementary and secondary education, should he be elected.

Similarly, Mississippi Board of Education chairman Dr. Wayne Gann issued a letter expressing his concern about McDaniel's "support for abolishing the U.S. Department of Education and eliminating nearly \$800 million in federal funding from our Mississippi schools."

"The nearly \$800 million in federal funds Mississippi receives accounts for 24 percent of the state's overall education budget," Gann wrote in what appears to be an attempt to cast McDaniel as a candidate who doesn't want children to get the best education. "Can you imagine how devastating this would be for the children of this state to not receive the money they



with Race to the Top, the possibility of money to a state in return for obedience to the federal government's policy whims. And now, as with the No Child Left Behind waivers, the Department is offering regulatory flexibility - that is substituting one set of burdensome regulatory requirements for another set - in exchange for the state's obedience to the federal government.

McGroarty points out that, until the federal government started passing money to state departments of education, these state departments had a minor role. In fact, it's likely many of the state education bureaucrats who are promoting Common Core can thank the federal government for grants that provide them with jobs.

"Another problem with conditional funding is that the state education bureaucracy tends to act as advocates for the federal policies and view legislators and citizens with paternalism and hostility," McGroarty explains. "This weakens a state's system of checks and balances and undermines citizen-directed government."

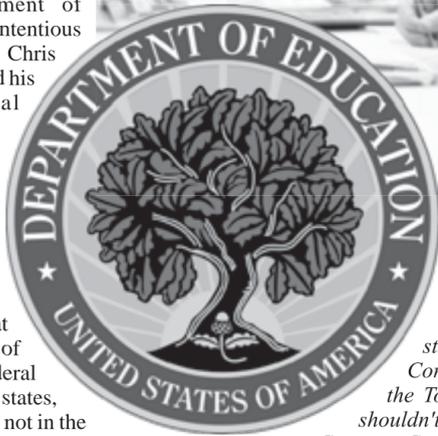
"The elimination of the U.S. Department of Education and the prohibition of conditional funding and waivers would mean that the citizens of a state could truly make their own decisions about education policy and spend all their money as they see fit—whether that money came from state taxes or the federal government," he said.

Neal McCluskey, associate director of Cato's Center for Educational Freedom, agrees with McGroarty, and then observes the results of decades-long interference in education by the federal government.

"The U.S. Department of Education is unconstitutional – the Constitution only gives Washington specific, enumerated powers, and authority over education is not among them – but it also has a decades-long record of failure," he told Breitbart News. "Test scores have been stagnant throughout its lifetime, while spending has skyrocketed. Its oodles of higher education dollars mainly translate into rampant tuition inflation and waste."

"And it doesn't create new money," McCluskey asserts. "It takes it from taxpayers, burns a bunch off in bureaucracy, then offers the remainder back with politicized, stultifying rules attached."

The issue of the Common Core standards in the U.S. Senate primary race in Mississippi has raised a small-scale version of the conversation Americans are ready to have about the role of the federal government in education. ★★★



need?" In response to these criticisms, McDaniel responded: *No one was proposing a cut in that... It was a statement we were discussing about Common Core. We were speaking specifically about Race to the Top funds. And what I said is that those funds shouldn't be contingent upon those states adopting Common Core. Common Core has no business being in our schools, so I was saying, "don't spend that federal money as a result of accepting something we find objectionable." I wasn't saying, "cut off all federal aid and federal funding." I was saying, 'the Race to the Top program and the Common Core is problematic.'*

McDaniel's comment zeroes in on one of the main problems with the U.S. Department of Education – the fact that funding funneled to states comes with "strings" attached.

Emmett McGroarty, education director at the American Principles Project, agrees with McDaniel.

"The U.S. Department of Education is not necessary to make a mere transfer of money from the federal government to a state," McGroarty told Breitbart News.

He continued: *What the Department bureaucracy does enable is conditional funding and waivers. The Department provides money or, as*

PATTERSON'S KENPO
352 SECOND AVENUE/PO BOX 475
GOLD HILL, OREGON-97525
Styles that we teach here:
Patterson Kenpo Karate
TaeKwonDo
Small Circle JiuJitsu
Combat Aikido
American Kenpo Karate
Kayo-Ka-Shin Karate
MMA
VISIT ONLINE:
PATTERSONSMARTIALARTS.WEEBLY.COM
EMAIL: PATTERSONSMARTIALARTS@YAHOO.COM
PHONE: 1-541-292-9784

What would you do
if you were...
Sentenced to Life...
plus 25 years?
Watch the video that's
changing the way we look at
children advocates and the
role they play in potential
false prosecutions
vimeo.com/usobserver/lifeplus25years

WINDOW & DOOR
Serving All Of Southern Oregon
CGB-163591
WINDOW • DOORS • SKYLIGHTS
WE INSTALL
SALES • SERVICE • REPLACEMENT • REMODEL
• Vinyl / Wood & Aluminum Windows
• Skylights & SunTunnels
• Patio Doors & Custom Doors
• Fiberglass & Wood Doors
• Visit Our Showroom
Contact Us Today For A Free Estimate
Grants Pass Medford/Ashland
541-474-4499 541-857-5944

Start your own US~Observer!
Want to experience real justice?
Want a substantial income?
For details:
541-291-6052
or email: editor@usobserver.com

In The News

WHAT THE?! SPOTLIGHT

Prisons suing states for millions if they don't stay full



By Terry Shropshire

(Rolling Out) - The prison-industrial complex is so out of control that private prisons have the sheer audacity to order states to keep beds full or face their wrath with stiff financial penalties, according to reports. Private prisons in some states have language in their contracts that state if they fall below a certain percentage of capacity that the states must pay the private prisons millions of dollars, lest they face a lawsuit for millions more.

And guess what? The private prisons, which are holding cash-starved states hostage, are getting away with it, says advocacy group, In the Public Interest.

In the Public Interest has reviewed more than 60 contracts between private prison companies and state and local governments across the country, and found language mentioning "quotas" for prisoners in nearly two-thirds of those contracts reviewed. Those quotas can range from a mandatory occupancy of, for example, 70 percent occupancy in California to up to 100 percent in some prisons in Arizona.

It is very interesting and telling that so few major national news organization are willing to report on the monstrous, ravenous and criminal system that is devouring hundreds of thousands of black and brown boys. Even those who do not subscribe to conspiracy theories have looked askance at this shocking report.

Welcome to the greatest manifestation of modern-day slavery, ladies and gentlemen.

One of those private prisons, The Corrections Corporation of

America, made an offer last year to the governors of 48 states to operate their prisons on 20-year contracts, according to In the Public Interest.

What makes these deals so odious and unscrupulous? Take a look:

1) The offer included a demand that those prisons remain 90 percent full for the duration of the operating agreement. You know what that means: if there are not enough prisoners then there will be an unspoken push for police to arrest more people and to have the courts send more to prison for petty, frivolous and nonviolent crimes. There will also be a "nudge" for judges to hand down longer or maximum sentences to satisfy this "quota."

2) Private prison companies have also backed measures such as "three-strike" laws to maintain high prison occupancy.

3) When the crime rate drops so low that the occupancy requirements can't be met, taxpayers are left footing the bill for unused facilities.

The report found that 41 of 62 contracts reviewed contained occupancy requirements, with the highest occupancy rates found in Arizona, Oklahoma and Virginia.

In Colorado, Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper agreed to close down five state-run prisons and instead send inmates to CCA's three corrections facilities. That cost taxpayers at least \$2 million to maintain the unused facilities.

It is getting difficult to rationalize the societal cost of keeping prisons full just to satisfy private investors who treat prisoners as commodity and cattle. ★★★

Woman sets-up fake Facebook, learns niece wants her dead

By Scott Kaufman
The Raw Story

A 19-year-old Alabama woman is in jail after she asked a fictional stranger to murder her family and dog.

According to court records obtained by AL.com, Marissa Williams lived with her aunt in Fosters, Alabama, but their relationship became strained after Williams began asking strangers she met on Facebook over to her aunt's house.

When her aunt asked her to stop and refused to allow her to attend parties with strangers she met online, Williams blocked her aunt on Facebook.

So her aunt created a fake profile for "Tre 'Topdog' Ellis" and added her niece as a friend, hoping that she could use the ruse to teach Williams about the dangers of online social interaction.

According to court documents, the experiment backfired. On the first day Williams interacted online with "Ellis," she provided the fictional man with her phone number and home address, asked him to buy her alcohol and bring it to her aunt's home to drink, and



offered to have sex with him if he would pay her \$50 phone bill.

A few days later, she confessed to "Ellis" that she hated her life in Alabama and wanted him to come to her aunt's house and "kidnap" her. Williams said that if her aunt tried to stop him, he should just shoot and kill her.

Her plans became increasingly elaborate, as she eventually provided the fictional man with instructions on how to break into her aunt's house, and requested that he break in her aunt's window so he could murder her and her fiance first. She also requested he kill her cousin and the family dog before he "kidnaped" her.

Before the plans could get any more concrete, Williams's aunt called the Tuscaloos County Sheriff's Office, who arrested the 19-year-old on solicitation of murder charges. ★★★

Police shoot teenage girl within 20 seconds of arriving to 'help' her

(Police State USA) Half Moon Bay, CA - A family was crushed and a community is outraged after a call for help turned into a hasty death sentence for a disgruntled teenage girl with special needs.

On June 3rd, 2014, the Serrano family was having difficulty with a young female family member who suffers from a mental illness and depression. Yanira Serrano-Garcia, 18, had apparently gone off of her medication and became agitated and hard to control.

During past episodes, the Serrano family had called medical personnel to help them control Yanira. That Tuesday evening, they called the fired department for help once again. This time, however, police officers arrived instead of paramedics.

The family had instructed the dispatcher that the girl was acting erratically and wouldn't put down a kitchen knife. San Mateo County deputies responded to the scene expecting to confront an armed suspect.

Deputy Mehn Trieu was among the first responders to the housing complex at roughly 9:23 p.m. Trieu exited his vehicle and found Yanira outside. Within 20 seconds of arriving, he determined she was a threat and opened fire, confirmed department spokeswoman Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt.

Trieu, a 9-year-veteran, claimed that he feared for his life and had to shoot the "knife wielding woman" nearly immediately after arriving. A family friend, however, described the object she was holding as a "butter knife."

Yanira was struck and killed. No one else was injured. Deputy Mehn Trieu was put on paid administrative

leave.

The shooting sparked outrage across the community. Yanira's friends and family described her as having "special needs" and that police officers may not have the training to deal with people with health issues such as hers.



Yanira Serrano-Garcia

"[Yanira] wanted to be normal. She wanted to stop taking her medication, and I get it. Sometimes when my feet hurt I just want to be normal. I don't want to take pills. I get her...all we want is justice," said a friend of Yanira's during a community march. "Sadly, they mistook her for something she didn't do, and a cop decided to get his gun out when he could have gotten out his taser, his pepper spray," she said.

"I feel bad for her for what happened," said Saul Miramontes, Yanira's cousin. "I don't know why this officer couldn't understand what was going on through her life, or could have done at least something better than try to take her life away, you know?"

"She has special needs and we just want answers," said Yanira's brother, Tiny Serrano. "Who are we supposed to call now when we need help when who is supposed to help us is killing our kids?"

This incident represents yet another example of how calling the government to intentionally confront family members, particularly those with mental illness, often ends in unnecessary tragedy and death. It may prove wiser to find other ways to deal with such situations, avoiding the unnecessary introduction of armed strangers who are trained to use violence to eliminate any perceived threats — real or imagined. ★★★

Colorado governor tries to apologize for gun control measures, blames staff

By Stephen Dinan
The Washington Times

WASHINGTON — Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's awkward attempt to patch things up with his state's sheriffs over his support of controversial gun control legislation isn't going as planned.

The governor, a Democrat, offered a series of unusual explanations during a meeting he held last Friday with a group of Colorado sheriffs for why he signed legislation that restricts the sale of ammunition magazines of more than 15 rounds.

First, Hickenlooper blamed his staff for not anticipating the opposition on gun control. He then apologized for his staff's inability to effectively communicate and promised to do better in the future.

When Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith pressed the issue, Hickenlooper snapped back, "What the f---? I apologized!"

He apparently was kidding around, as the sheriffs could be heard laughing. But on his Facebook page, Smith said he was surprised by the governor's choice of words.

"I'm a big boy and I won't pretend for a moment that it's not language that's foreign to me — but I found that type of attitude and response to be well below the

dignity of the office of governor," Smith wrote. "This was a sitting governor, in a public meeting, responding to another elected official."

Hickenlooper also said he felt pressure to sign the bill into law because a member of his staff "made a commitment."

"To be honest, no one in our office thought it would get through the legislature," he said. "There were several Democrats who said without question they weren't going to vote for it."

The measure passed the Democrat-controlled legislature. No Republicans voted for it.

Last year, Hickenlooper spoke in favor of gun-control measures that called for background checks for all firearm sales as well as transfers.

After a group of gun control bills were signed into law earlier this year, 55 of the state's 62 elected sheriffs filed a federal lawsuit against the state, claiming the regulations violated the Second Amendment. The judge ruled the sheriffs could not sue the state while in office but did say they could once their terms ended.

Colorado has been very aggressive in pushing through gun control measures. The passage of three gun bills by the state legislature last year led to the ousting of two Democratic state senators — former Senate President John Morse and Angela Giron. Both were replaced by Republicans. ★★★

Ex-deputy says he was trained to beat up inmates then cover it up

By Jean Trinh
laist.com

A former deputy revealed the horrific details of how he and other guards abused inmates at L.A. County jails and worked together to cover up the brutality.

Gilbert Michel, 40, told a courtroom on Tuesday that he learned "on the job" as an L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. deputy to use excessive force, beat inmates unprovoked and shoot them with a Taser gun, according to the L.A. Times. He and other jail guards would make sure they all had the same accounts of what happened and then write falsified reports so it would justify their actions.

And it sounded like the inmates were completely helpless in the jails. If they wanted to report the abuse and drop off a note in a complaint box, Michel said that the complaints "wouldn't go anywhere" because the guards were the ones who had access to the box.

In one situation where Michel felt disrespected by an inmate who refused to answer Michel's routine questioning, he shoved the inmate's face into a wall and later wrote up a bogus report. According to the Times:

Michel and the other deputy fought the inmate and eventually handcuffed him, then the other deputy sprayed the inmate with pepper spray, he said. They took the inmate to the clinic for his injuries, then Michel wrote up a report in which he made up a claim that he had seen the inmate passing drugs through the bars, and that the inmate had called him a homophobic slur during the search.

Michel testified in the case involving six sheriff's officers who were accused of impeding a federal civil rights investigation into accusations that there was excessive force being used at L.A. County jails.

Michel, who has since resigned from his position, was charged after he accepted a bribe from a person he didn't realize was an undercover FBI agent to smuggle



in a cell phone to an inmate in the summer of 2011. That inmate cooperating with the FBI, Anthony Brown, would later send the FBI details and photos of excessive force used in the Men's Central Jail as part of their two-year investigation.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Lizabeth Rhodes told jurors last week that once deputies discovered the cell phone during a routine search and that it was part of an FBI investigation, they worked hard to keep Brown away from his FBI handlers now that his cover was blown. She also said that sheriff's officials told Michel not to cooperate with the FBI, and that he had been manipulated and blackmailed.

Michel pleaded guilty in 2012 to one count of bribery and agreeing to cooperate with federal prosecutors, and faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. However, he hasn't been charged for excessive force.

Men's Central Jail has a long history of excessive force and brutality. Guards severely beat up a man who was visiting his brother in jail in 2011 because he brought in a cell phone. Another inmate died two days after a deputy punched him in his head in a jail cell that same year. ★★★

Student expelled for consensual sex 'due to pressure from federal government'

By Bob Unruh
WND.com

A student is suing Occidental College in Los Angeles for expelling him after a female student allegedly sent text messages indicating she had wanted to have sex, arranged for a rendezvous, then one week later accused him of sexual assault.

The case is the latest to follow the Obama administration's new effort to crack down on campus rape.

The plaintiff, who filed anonymously as John Doe, said the female student texted him asking if he had a condom, informed a friend she was "going to have 'sex'" (sic) and coordinated a route to his dorm.

Police investigated and decided not to prosecute, but the male student was expelled, because of "pressure from the federal government to take action on sexual assault," according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which is working on the case.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Alison Meyers found that witnesses "agreed that the victim and suspect were both drunk" but were "willing participants exercising bad judgment."

The college, nevertheless, which had faced a multi-plaintiff lawsuit from attorney Gloria Allred before the "Doe" case arose, found the student "responsible" for sexual assault.

FIRE Senior Vice President Robert Shibley said disregard "for due process on campus, prompted by mandates from the federal Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, has predictably led to unjust results."

"Occidental has now provided another stark demonstration of how the abandonment of fair procedures in

college tribunals is failing students by producing outcomes whose accuracy cannot be trusted," he said.

FIRE said the encounter between the first-year students was on Sept. 8, 2013. More than a week later, after the accuser was "counseled by Occidental employees," she filed a complaint.

The accuser cited advice from Professor Danielle Dirks, who was reported to have said Doe "fit the profile of other rapists on campus in that he had a high GPA in high school, was his class valedictorian, was



on [a sports] team, and was 'from a good family.'"

When police refused to charge Doe, Occidental hired attorney Marilou Mirkovich. She found it was more likely than not that the accuser "engaged in conduct and made statements that would indicate she consented" but still concluded she was "incapacitated."

FIRE said the ruling appeared to violate Occidental's own policy defining "incapacitated" as someone who "lacks conscious knowledge of the nature of the act... or is physically helpless."

The lawsuit came after Doe was expelled.

Shibley said Occidental dismantled the due process system in the case and "rendered vast numbers of students unwitting rapists."

WND columnist Thomas Sowell

recently wrote about the issue of assault: "There seem to be a dangerously large number of people who think that the law exists to give them whatever they want — even when that means denying other people the same rights that they claim for themselves," he wrote. "Nowhere is this self-centered attitude more common than on college campuses. And nowhere are such attitudes more encouraged than by the Obama administration's Justice Department, which is threatening colleges that don't handle rape issues the politically correct way — that is, by presuming the accused to be guilty and not letting constitutional safeguards get in the way."

The New York Times reported that the White House was increasing the pressure on universities to be more aggressive in combating sex assault on campus.

But WND reported a recent move by the administration to mandate a lower standard for convictions in on-campus rape trials — the preponderance of evidence — was defeated.

At the time, the U.S. Department of Education said that while criminal trials must show guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt," campuses were being told to use the preponderance standard, which means it was more likely than not that something happened.

Various civil and student rights organizations had fought the proposal, and word came on their victory through Inside Higher Education.

The group said the draft regulation approved after a series of meetings on the plan "scrapped a controversial effort by the Education Department to require campus sexual assault proceedings to adhere to guidance issued by the department's Office for Civil Rights." ★

RISE OF THE
MODERN
DEBTORS'
PRISON

Eileen DiNino



Mom of 7 dies in jail over unpaid school-related fines

By Ben Velderman
EAGnews.org

Philadelphia — A growing number of Americans are expressing outrage that a Pennsylvania mother of seven died in jail recently while serving a 48-hour sentence over unpaid, school truancy-related fines.

Eileen DiNino, 55, was found dead Saturday June 7th in her jail cell. Authorities don't know the cause of death yet, they have ruled out suspicious behavior.

DiNino was being penalized because several of her children routinely missed school. According to the Associated Press, "She had racked up \$2,000 in fines, fees and court costs since 1999 as the Reading School District tried to keep her children in class, most recently at a vocational high school."

All told, DiNino "faced fines from nine active truancy cases, which spawned 55 citations," the AP adds.

The fines related to school truancy are quite small — perhaps \$20 — but it's the court-related costs that are most expensive, sometimes reaching \$150. Such costs add up quickly and make it nigh impossible for low-income parents to pay.

"In recent years, the government has found all sorts of interesting ways to extract money from people," said Richard Guida, a lawyer who is experienced in handling truancy cases.

DiNino had no ability to pay her \$2,000 fine. She was reportedly unemployed, on welfare, and completely overwhelmed by her children.

District Judge Dean Patton, who sentenced DiNino to jail, is deeply troubled by her death.

"This woman should not have died alone in prison," Patton told the Reading Eagle. "Our ultimate goal is not to fine people or put them in jail, but that is the only tool the Legislature has given us when people can't afford to pay."

The Huffington Post reports that Patton also "acknowledged that a short jail stint can sometimes 'break the habit' of parents who'd rather party into the night than take their children to school the next day."

In the county where DiNino lived, roughly 110 parents of truant students are jailed every year.

Americans of all political stripes are denouncing the practice and likening it to the debtor's prisons from the nation's Colonial days.

"The circumstances of DiNino's death are a stark and tragic reminder of how being poor is considered a crime worthy of punishment in the United States," Salon.com writes.

Pennsylvania lawmakers should examine those concerns and consider adjusting their policies, especially those related to socking citizens with court fees. The idea of making criminals shoulder the costs of the court system makes sense in theory, but it's excessively punitive in practice.

As tragic as DiNino's death is, her life was even more so. Guida, the attorney with experience handling truancy cases, described DiNino's case as a glimpse into the "inner-city life" that many women are living.

Without judging DiNino — few details of her personal life have been reported — it's safe to say the similar, chaotic situations many women and children find themselves in stem from the breakdown of the family unit. The sexual revolution that began in the 1960s has borne its fruit: single-parent homes, absentee fathers, overwhelmed mothers, poverty, and children who roam the streets instead of study in class.

So yes, let DiNino's tragic death in a jail cell spur discussions of how society can be more compassionate to the poor.

But maybe the bigger lesson is to be found in her sad and troubled life. ★★

Government can confiscate your so-called 'inactive' bank accounts

By Erica Ritz
The Blaze

Let's say you take out a safety deposit box for precious family heirlooms, or create a bank account for your children that you don't make transactions with regularly. How long would it take you to realize that the government has actually confiscated your property, sometimes without even informing you?

That's what happened to Glenn Beck's chief of staff, Joe Kerry, and countless other Americans across the United States, many of whom are unaware that the state can legally take hold of your possessions if your account shows no signs of activity for a certain period of time.

The law varies state-to-state, but according to a 2008 report by ABC News, the waiting period used to be in the range of 15 years, whereas it is now usually closer to three. Why has the government lowered the threshold in so many places?

From the 2008 ABC report: "The 50 U.S. states are holding more than \$32 billion worth of unclaimed property that they're supposed to safeguard for their citizens. But a 'Good Morning America' investigation found some states aggressively seize property that isn't really unclaimed and then use the money — your money — to balance their budgets." [Emphasis added]

The Australian government recently lowered its own threshold from seven years to three, and according to the Herald Sun, nearly \$360 million was seized from from roughly 80,000 inactive accounts over the past year. That's reportedly more than the Australian government seized in the past five decades combined.

ABC, which wrote that states return "less than a quarter of unclaimed property to the rightful owners," explained how the law affected one woman:

San Francisco resident Carla Ruff's safe-deposit box was drilled, seized, and turned over to the state of California, marked "owner unknown."

"I was appalled," Ruff said. "I felt violated."

Carla's name was right on documents in the box at the Noe Valley Bank of America location. So was her address — a house about six blocks from the bank. Carla had a checking account at the bank, too — still does — and receives regular statements. Plus, she has receipts showing she's the



kind of person who paid her box rental fee. And yet, she says nobody ever notified her.

"They are zealously uncovering accounts that are not unclaimed," Ruff said.

To make matters worse, Ruff discovered the loss when she went to her box to retrieve important paperwork she needed because her husband was dying. Those papers had been shredded.

And that's not all. Her great-grandmother's precious natural pearls and other jewelry had been auctioned off. They were sold for just \$1,800, even though they were appraised for \$82,500.

Beck said he was talking about the situation in Australia — unaware that the United States has similar laws — when Kerry said the same thing happened to him.

"I guess it was six months ago," Kerry explained on Beck's radio program. "[My wife, Melinda] was like, 'Joe, we stopped getting the statements on this one account.' And first she wanted to know if I liquidated the account. I assured her I had not. She's like, 'What happened?' She started going through the statements, and on one statement, which was full of language, one sentence in one paragraph of that statement said, 'If you have no activity on this account, we will close out this account...'"

Kerry, an attorney, said he didn't understand how the account was considered dormant when dividends were paid into it, and they were paying taxes on the money the whole time.

"Never called you or notified you?" Beck asked.

"Nothing from the state," Kerry responded.

Kerry said he and his wife even went to their state senator about the matter, asking why they were never informed that the funds were set to be confiscated when all of their contact information was accurate.

Kerry said they received an answer

along the lines of: "Well, under this new law ... you don't log into this account in a six month period, that money is transferred to the state."

Kerry said he eventually received confirmation that the money was transferred to the state, but that the state didn't even seem aware of how much it had confiscated.

"Our state senator is calling me, I guess, Department of Treasury at the Pennsylvania level, and they could not tell us where that money was, how much was taken, and how we would get it back," Kerry remarked.

He said they were eventually able to figure out how much had been taken by looking at old statements, and were astonished when they found that the same thing had happened to a number of their neighbors.

"I talked to Melinda today," Kerry concluded. "As of two weeks ago, the state of Pennsylvania has now started sending this money back."

Beck was stunned that the American government can confiscate private property in such a way, saying "this is such a dangerous thing."

"It's a shark bump," Beck concluded. "If they can do this, they can do anything."

★★★

US-OBSERVER NOTE ON FALSE CHARGES:

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

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

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

541-474-7885
editor@usobserver.com

Putin Advisor Proposes "Anti-Dollar Alliance"



(Zero Hedge) - It has been a while since both Ukraine, and the ongoing Russian response to western sanctions (which set off the great Eurasian axis in motion, pushing China and Russia close together, and accelerating the "Holy Grail" gas deal between the two countries) have made headlines. It is still not clear just why the western media dropped Ukraine coverage like a hot potato, especially since the civil war in Ukraine's Donbas continues to rage and claim dozens of casualties on both sides. Perhaps the audience has simply gotten tired of hearing about mixed chess/checkers game between Putin vs Obama, and instead has reverted to reading the propaganda surrounding just as deadly events in the third war of Iraq in as many decades.

However, "out of sight" may be just what Russia's political elite wants. In fact, as VoR's Valentin Mândrăscu reports, while the great US spin and distraction machine is focused elsewhere, Russia is already preparing for the next steps. Which brings us to Putin advisor Sergey Glazyev, the same person who in early March was the first to suggest Russia dump US bonds and abandon the dollar in retaliation to US sanctions, a strategy which worked because even as the Kremlin has retained control over Crimea, western sanctions have magically halted (and not only that, but as the Russian central bank just reported, the country's 2014 current account surplus may be as high as \$35 billion, up from \$33 billion in 2013, and a far cry from some fabricated "\$200+ billion" in Russian capital outflows which Mario Draghi was warning about recently). Glazyev was also the person instrumental in pushing the Kremlin to approach China and force the nat gas deal with Beijing which took place not necessarily at the most beneficial terms for Russia.

It is this same Glazyev who published an article in Russian Argumenty Nedeli, in which he outlined a plan for "undermining the economic strength of the US" in order to force Washington to stop the civil war in Ukraine. Glazyev believes that the only way of making the US give up its plans on starting a new cold war is to crash the dollar system.

As summarized by VoR, in his article, published by Argumenty Nedeli, Putin's economic aide and the mastermind behind the Eurasian Economic Union, argues that Washington is trying to provoke a Russian military intervention in Ukraine, using the junta in Kiev as bait. If fulfilled, the plan will give Washington a number of important benefits. Firstly, it will allow the US to introduce new sanctions against Russia, writing off Moscow's portfolio of US Treasury bills. More important is that a new wave of sanctions will create a situation in which Russian companies won't be able to service their debts to European banks.

According to Glazyev, the so-called "third phase" of sanctions against Russia will be a tremendous cost for the European Union. The

total estimated losses will be higher than 1 trillion euros. Such losses will severely hurt the European economy, making the US the sole "safe haven" in the world. Harsh sanctions against Russia will also displace Gazprom from the European energy market, leaving it wide open for the much more expensive LNG from the US.

Co-opting European countries in a new arms race and military operations against Russia will increase American political influence in Europe and will help the US force the European Union to accept the American version of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a trade agreement that will basically transform the EU into a big economic



Putin advisor Sergey Glazyev

colony of the US. Glazyev believes that igniting a new war in Europe will only bring benefits for America and only problems for the European Union. Washington has repeatedly used global and regional wars for the benefit of the American economy and now the White House is trying to use the civil war in Ukraine as a pretext to repeat the old trick.

Glazyev's set of countermeasures specifically targets the core strength of the US war machine, i.e. the Fed's printing press. Putin's advisor proposes the creation of a "broad anti-dollar alliance" of countries willing and able to drop the dollar from their international trade. Members of the alliance would also refrain from keeping the currency reserves in dollar-denominated instruments. Glazyev advocates treating positions in dollar-denominated instruments like holdings of junk securities and believes that regulators should require full collateralization of such holdings. An anti-dollar coalition would be the first step for the creation of an anti-war coalition that can help stop the US' aggression.

Unsurprisingly, Sergey Glazyev believes that the main role in the creation of such a political coalition is to be played by the European business community because America's attempts to ignite a war in Europe and a cold war against Russia are threatening the interests of big European business. Judging by the recent efforts to stop the sanctions against Russia, made by the German, French, Italian and Austrian business leaders, Putin's aide is right in his assessment. Somewhat surprisingly for Washington, the war for Ukraine may soon become the war for Europe's independence from the US and a war against the dollar.



Experts Say Ebola Outbreak 'Tip of the Iceberg'

By Maggie Fox

(NBC News) - An "out of control" outbreak of Ebola in West Africa that's being called the deadliest ever is far from over and it's likely to get worse before it gets better, experts predict.

And health workers who have been fighting the outbreak, which spans three countries and has killed more than 300 people, say they are certain many cases are going unreported as they see gruesome infections, dangerous myths and people fleeing the virus, potentially spreading it further.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," said Robert Garry, a microbiology professor at the Tulane University School of Medicine who's been leading relief and investigation efforts in Sierra Leone for the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium.

Dr. Mwayabo Kazadi, from the health unit for Catholic Relief Services, agreed that many cases could go uncounted and undiagnosed in the region, where Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia come together.

"When you don't have a proper health system in place, it is pretty difficult," Kazadi said.

Garry says team members arrived in at least one village to find it deserted, and the body of an Ebola victim left unattended in a house. It's not hard to imagine what happened, but it makes it impossible to track down people who might have been infected and get them to hospitals for what care can be provided, and to prevent them from infecting others.

A Doctors Without Borders official said Friday that the outbreak was out of control.

And the numbers make it clear this is the biggest outbreak yet of Ebola since the virus was first identified in 1976. The virus, which causes a particularly nasty form of hemorrhagic fever, has killed 337 people out of 528 infected.

"This is the biggest outbreak we have ever actually seen of Ebola," Kazadi said. "It's the biggest both in numbers and in terms of geography," Garry agreed.

The biggest outbreak affected 425 people in Uganda in 2000, killing 224 of them.

Ebola is spread in bodily fluids, and the worst stages of the disease make that frighteningly easy. "People are throwing up. They have diarrhea," Garry said. Patients can develop tiny blood hemorrhages on their skin and in their eyes.

At least a dozen women were infected by a healer, probably as they washed and kissed her body when she died of Ebola and they were preparing her for her funeral. The case illustrates just why this outbreak is so difficult to fight.

The healer, who used snakes as part of her practice, made some frightening and dire predictions from her death bed. "She said she was going to release the snakes and said anybody who saw the snakes would die the way she did," Garry said.

This frightened some of the people in her village, and they attacked some volunteers

from Garry's team, throwing rocks at their vehicle.

Garry's back in the U.S. for a few days trying to scrape up funding to buy protective gear for health care workers. The WHO and other groups are also providing such gear, but it's getting spread thin.

If workers start re-using gloves, gowns or goggles, they could end up spreading the virus. There's no cure and no vaccine, and the outbreak is killing 60 percent of its victims.

Volunteers are trying to get the word out about how the virus is spread, but it's tricky getting the message right.

"People have been resisting the idea that it was just not some type of curse or spirit. Or that it's people trying to keep them from eating bush meat," Garry said.

One suspicion was that people initially got Ebola by eating bush meat — apes, monkeys, bats, and rodents slaughtered for food. That's how experts now believe the AIDS virus first



started circulating among people and it's possible Ebola originated there, too.

But now it's spread mostly person-to-person, Garry said. "The only thing that people hear is 'Don't eat bushmeat.' It just gets people riled up. It's not a useful message."

The porous borders in the area make things difficult, also. People, many of them in the same ethnic groups, pass freely from one country to another.

Genetic testing makes it clear this particular Ebola outbreak is being caused by a local strain that arose in West Africa. Ebola had only been seen in central Africa before, but the discovery suggests that the virus had been circulating undetected before. Hemorrhagic fevers are common in Africa — Garry's team was originally in Sierra Leone to study and fight another virus, one that causes Lassa fever.

"We're probably finding (Ebola) now because we are looking for it," he said.

Bats are another suspected source. Bats carry hundreds of viruses and carry antibodies to Ebola, which suggests they can be infected. Bat meat could be one source, but so could bat spit.

"It's mango season. The bats are eating the mangoes and the people are eating the mangoes," Garry said.

It's not an unusual idea. Researchers tracking Middle East Respiratory Syndrome virus or MERS are also checking the theory that fruit-eating bats may spread that virus in their saliva.

Get a US~Observer Subscription

All The News You Need To Know

Detach and mail along with your subscription amount

Keep-up on the real news, Subscribe Today!

Includes Shipping!

Subscription Cost: 12 issues for \$29.50!

Buy 12-issue subscriptions for family members or friends and get them for the low price of \$19.50 each!

24-issue Subscription only \$50.00!

US~Observer

233 Rogue River Highway PMB #387
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527-5429

Phone 541-474-7885

Subscription Form

Check One: 12-issue Subscription \$29.50 24-issue Subscription \$50.00 "Family" Subscriptions \$19.50 ea.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ Office (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

If ordering more than 1 subscription, please enclose the recipients' names & mailing addresses, and \$19.50 fee (each) with this form.

Check or Money Order

US~Observer
233 Rogue River Highway PMB #387
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527-5429

LIBERTARIAN • li-b?r- 'ter-ē-?n

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

-Merriam-Webster

YOUR PERSONAL LIBERTY

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

The Magical World Of Political Speech

By Bob Livingston
PersonalLiberty.com

“Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.” — George Orwell

I keep the above George Orwell quote near me at all times. It serves as a reminder to me to decipher political speech whenever I see or hear it.

Political speech contains magical properties. It mesmerizes the masses because it is more illusory than a David Copperfield grand finale.

But political speech is dangerous. While it sounds innocuous, it is as deadly as a bear trap hidden beneath the leaves or a siren singing her song. It can grab you suddenly, or it can ensnare you subtly. Either way, you learn too late that you have been conned and there is no escape.

The magic of political speech is not happenstance. There are change agents at work in the inner sanctums of power whose job it is to create special words and phrases that are used in political speech. Those words and phrases are repeated over and over by the elites in order to dumb us down and create a conditioned response.

The process of dumbing down and the conditioning of the mind to create a nation of good, obedient subjects loyal and subservient to political authority and to the legitimacy of the political order begins early on. We are now

several generations into the plan by the elites to create a Nation of state-worshipping ignoramuses taught pseudo-history and inculcated with a loyalty to and dependence upon big government. For many — if not most — of the Nation’s young people below the age of 25, government provided them with most of their meals while the majority of their days were spent submitting to government authority figures (teachers/principals/school officers) in rigid, structured environments that dissuade original thought.

Also aiding the elites and politicians in this effort is an army of “journalists” who never stray far from the official line of the State apparatus. They are eager to spread their lies and half-truths because that ensures them their seats near (or even inside, in the case of the Barack Obama Administration) the halls of power. On that rare occasion one of them strays too far from the party line, retribution is swift and harsh (see Helen Thomas and Sharyl Attkisson). This discourages dissent.

Politicians have learned that the more lies they tell, the more lies we believe. And the more lies we believe, the more dependent we become. Conversely, the fewer myths, lies and deceptions we succumb to, the less dependent we are and, therefore, the more liberty we enjoy.

I long ago learned the power of propaganda. I have watched as otherwise intelligent and thoughtful people have had their minds so manipulated by political speech that they acted

contrary to their own best interests without a second thought. It seems that organized and sophisticated propaganda is able to operate outside the threshold of intelligence. In other words, without some imperative to trigger inquiry, very intelligent people buy into lies and myths the same as the general population. The lies and myths then become conventional wisdom. The human mind rarely accepts a challenge to conventional wisdom.

When confronted with a challenge to the established belief system, the mind closes off. When this happens, the individual employs avoidance behavior, writes off the new knowledge as conspiracy theory and labels it as kooky, insane or stupid. The information is then dismissed, never to be considered again, even when the facts support the new knowledge. Psychologists call this quirk of human nature cognitive dissonance. It means the rejection of information not in harmony with previous beliefs.

The esoteric purpose of propaganda is to extract wealth and labor illegally as concealed involuntary servitude or to steal the people’s liberty right out from under them, and even have the populace to thank the thieves for doing so, especially if it is done under the guise of keeping the people “safe” or to “save the children” from some danger, real or imagined. Those who use propaganda to persuade the populace against their best interests create myths and sell them as benefits.

The elites also use distractions for this purpose. These distractions serve to draw the people’s attention away from the important issues and focus it on the mundane and the trivial, much as the illusionist uses sleight of hand. These distractions can be events that occur naturally or by chance, which are then seized upon by the elites. But sometimes the distractions are artificial creations — also called “false flag events” — designed and triggered for the specific purpose of refocusing the attention of the populace. (Bill Clinton’s bombing of a Sudanese aspirin factory at the time of his deposition in the Paula Jones case and at the peak of the Monica Lewinsky scandal is a prime example.)

Often, these distractions serve a dual purpose. For instance, the callous and senseless murder of six people by the mentally depraved Elliot Rodger on May 23 has mesmerized the populace. It has created some distraction away from the burgeoning Veterans Affairs scandal, the Internal Revenue Service scandal, the Benghazi scandal and the ongoing collapse of the economy and Obamacare. But more sinister is its use by the

gun controllers and hoplophobes to once again attempt to advance their assault on the 2nd Amendment.

Congressman Steny Hoyer employed classic political speech (or doublethink) in announcing that Democrats will try to steal more 2nd Amendment liberties by expanding background checks on weapons purchases through an amendment to an upcoming bill. While acknowledging that expanded background checks would have made no difference in the Rodger case, Hoyer said Congress must do something. (By the way, half of Rodger’s victims were killed with knives and five of the 13 injured were struck with his car. Curiously, Hoyer did not call for background checks on knife and car purchases.)

There is nothing lawmakers love more than making laws, even when they know their laws won’t accomplish their stated purpose. This is particularly true of those laws that take more authority for the state, or if they enrich the fascist system. For lawmakers, the “unintended consequences” of their laws are just like gravy, because then they get to pass more laws to correct the unintended consequences. This, of course, leads to more “unintended consequences” and the passage of more laws.

Obama is a master of classic political speech. In a political fundraiser in Chicago last week, he moved from blaming George W. Bush for his problems and put the onus on the Founding Fathers.

According to Obama, he is unable to move his agenda forward because the Constitution requires each State be represented by two Senators. “Obviously, the nature of the Senate means that California has the same number of seats as Wyoming. That puts us at a disadvantage.”

This, of course, is nonsensical on its face and is pure argle-bargle. Democrats control the Senate 53-45 with one socialist and one independent, both of whom vote with Democrats. However, it reveals something of Obama’s true nature. That is, he wishes to be a dictator and he detests the republican system of government our Founders gave us, but which we have almost totally lost to fascism.

But of course, in the world of political speech, such tommyrot as this is accepted as great political philosophy and applauded by the sycophants and toadies.

Certainly, the current regime has not cornered the market on magical political speech and propaganda; but it has more weapons in its arsenal than any before it. ★★★

The Greatest Scam Artist in History



I’m Wayne Allyn Root for Personal Liberty. The greatest scam artist in history has scammed America — again. A terrorist mastermind gets Miranda rights on American soil, while a U.S. Marine hero has no rights in Mexico. That’s par for the course in Barack Obama’s America.

Look around. America is in free fall. The Internal Revenue Service scandal is exploding: The IRS says “the dog ate Lois Lerner’s emails.” The very evidence that could lead to the impeachment of the President has disappeared into cyberspace. At the same moment, Obama is still taking heat for releasing five Jihadist mass murderers in a swap for an alleged deserter. At the same moment, Iraq is crumbling. Everything we fought for, the trillion dollars we spent “liberating” Iraq, the many brave men who died... it’s all being erased as Iraq falls to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Soon, Baghdad will fall; the writing is already on the wall. This is the greatest foreign policy embarrassment in U.S. history. Then there’s the Veterans Affairs scandal. Under Obama’s leadership, the Nation is in crisis and dramatic decline.

So what does the greatest scam artist to ever occupy the White House do? He pulls out the WMD (weapons of mass distraction). He “wags the dog” to distract the masses. He gives permission for U.S. special forces to capture the architect of Benghazi — a terrorist

hiding in plain sight for the past 20 months. Presto. The Kool-Aid drinking mainstream media call Obama “a hero.” Amazing. No one can be this dumb, can he?

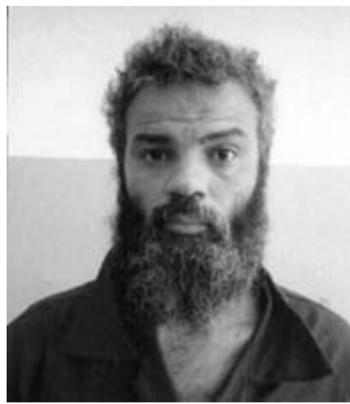
But the scam is much deeper than it appears. The capture of Benghazi terrorist mastermind Ahmed Abu Khattala isn’t just a cover-up for the PR mess Obama is in. The capture itself is the biggest scam of all.

First, we let this Benghazi butcher enjoy life in plain view for 20 months. Suddenly, Obama decides the time is right to capture him — right at the exact moment Obama needed to change the headlines. Pure bread and circuses. I’m surprised he didn’t just call for the start of the “Hunger Games.”

But the second part of Obama’s scam is far more dastardly. Obama is sending the terrorist mastermind to the U.S. instead of Guantanamo. He will be read his Miranda rights, like any other American citizen innocent until proven guilty. Why? Guantanamo was built for exactly this kind of unique situation, to house “the worst of the worst” enemy combatants and to interrogate them without the need for Miranda rights.

This scam was all planned out for months — 20 months, to be exact. Obama wanted the perfect timing — to hide a country in disarray and decline. And he wanted the perfect circumstances — the man with the knowledge of what happened at Benghazi protected by Miranda.

Abu Khattala is the definition of a “high-value target.” He can put Obama’s fingerprints at the scene of the crime. He can testify that Benghazi was a terrorist attack from Day One, that no protest of a movie was ever involved. He can testify that his terrorists used weapons supplied to Libyan rebels by the Obama Administration to kill our own brave men. He can testify that even the terrorists were shocked that Obama never sent



Ahmed Abu Khattala

terrorist talks at trial, which is unlikely, no one will hear about it until Obama is enjoying life as a billionaire author and global speaker at his Hawaii estate.

a rescue mission. He can say: “We all expected to die on a suicide mission, but your President was too weak to fight back. Because of Obama, this was a great victory; and we lived to brag about it.”

So how do you shut up the terrorist mastermind? You read him his Miranda rights. You tell him he has the right to “lawyer up.” You protect him from enhanced interrogation.

On American soil we can’t touch him. No Jack Bauer-style creative interrogation. No loud music. No threats to his family. No nothing. Here it’s just nice questions asked by polite FBI agents who could lose their pensions if they don’t mind their manners.

Here in America a high-profile trial like this will take years to happen — two, or three, or four years. Just enough time that Obama is safely out of office. So even if the terrorist talks at trial, which is unlikely, no one will hear about it until Obama is enjoying life as a billionaire author and global speaker at his Hawaii estate.

The #1 Most Visited Libertarian Website
- Compete.com

Subscribe FREE!

Visit Personalliberty.com to claim your FREE subscription to Personal Liberty Digest™!

America’s #1 news site for independent-minded individuals gives you the analysis and opinions to see through the clutter of the Mainstream Media. Subscribe today - FREE!

Personal Liberty Digest

LIVE FREE IN AN UNFREE WORLD.

www.Personalliberty.com

COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out

Beware a beneficent government



By Judge Andrew Napolitano

The president is an ardent progressive. This dastardly philosophy of government was brought into the American mainstream 100 years ago by a Republican, Theodore Roosevelt, and a Democrat, Woodrow Wilson.

Its guiding principle is the belief that government -- not individuals -- is the chief engine of human progress. If that means government tearing down rich persons to help poor persons, if that means the massive redistribution of wealth, if it means federal regulation of every conceivable occupation or productive endeavor, if it means fighting an unjust war, progressives are for it.

Progressivism's adherents finance the government by borrowing or by heavily taxing only the rich, both of which are sold as being painless to most voters.

Before the progressives, the dominant political thinkers in America were Madisonians. James Madison, who kept the notes at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 -- notes that eventually formed much of the language of the Constitution -- made clear what the purposes of the Constitution were: to prescribe discrete areas of human endeavor in which the new federal government could legislate; to set forth open-ended areas of human behavior in which no government could legislate; and to leave the remaining areas of governmental endeavor in the hands of the states. The areas delegated to the federal government are only 17 in number and generally are referred to as federal powers. The areas in which no government may regulate are infinite and generally are

referred to as natural rights.

The progressives have turned this philosophy on its head. T.R. and Wilson believed that the federal government could regulate any behavior, right any wrong, tax any event and curtail any freedom, subject only to the express prohibitions in the Constitution itself.

This view of American government not only contradicts Madison, but it also contradicts the language of the Constitution itself, particularly the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, which state in writing what Madison said many times throughout his life.

President Obama, most congressional Democrats and many congressional Republicans are ardent progressives. They view Congress as a general legislature with no limits to its powers -- and they mean no limits. For example, in an area clearly beyond congressional reach, such as in-state highway speed limits, the progressives found a way to extend their reach. They offered money to the states to repave their highways, with the condition that the states adhere to federally prescribed speed limits (only South Dakota declined). Once the courts gave their imprimatur to this assault on the Constitution, the feds realized that by spending taxpayer dollars -- by bribing the states -- they could extend their regulatory tentacles to any extra-constitutional area they chose.

Progressivism's adherents finance the government by borrowing or by heavily taxing only the rich, both of which are sold as being painless to most voters. Yet, the former merely delays the due date of bills until tomorrow for goodies consumed today; the latter takes cash out of the free market today, where it could contribute to growth and jobs tomorrow, and puts it into the hands of the mindset that runs the Post Office and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Progressives hate the states because they can be laboratories of less government. They love central government and all of its creations, such as the cash-printing Federal Reserve, the wealth-stealing progressive income tax, and the concept of a federal safety net for all

persons. None of this, except the income tax (which Wilson promised would not exceed 3 percent of adjusted gross income), is authorized by the Constitution.

Yet today, we are witnessing a government that is beyond ideologically progressive. Does Obama understand that progressive ideas have consequences and that governmental behavior often has unintended consequences? It would appear not, as his long train of incompetence and indifference, grounded in progressive thought, keeps picking up speed. It is crushing human freedom, destroying human wealth and even taking human lives.

Under his presidency, the government saddled us all with a three-sizes-fits-all

version of compulsory health care (which caused more than five million persons to lose their coverage and their doctors); it has been spying on all Americans all the time (and we sleepily permit it to do so); it allowed our ambassador in Libya to be murdered (after it destroyed the lawful government there); it told illegal aliens they need not worry about deportation (and thus encouraged the immigration of hundreds of thousands more -- even unaccompanied children -- to our shores); it neglected veterans to the point of death in government hospitals (demonstrating conclusively that the feds cannot deliver health care); it released assets material to terrorist organizations into the theater of war in the Middle East (ostensibly in a prisoner swap to save a weird military bird who once embraced his captors); it has claimed the power to kill Americans it views as a threat to others and yet too troublesome to arrest and bring to trial (all the while claiming it has a secret reading of the Constitution and American law that somehow justifies this); and it has added \$6 trillion to government debt (with no plans to repay it).

What's going on? The modern presidency is blinded by a conceit that says it can do no wrong. This is partially the result of the passage of power from the states to the feds and from Congress to the president and partially the fault of a president who relishes telling us all how to live. In Obama's hands, all this power produces the vast unhappiness and government recklessness we now see every day.

The same Madison whom Obama rejects warned 200 years ago against the Obama mindset:

"Experience should teach us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the Government's purposes are beneficent. Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasion of their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding."

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



version of compulsory health care (which caused more than five million persons to lose their coverage and their doctors); it has been spying on all Americans all the time (and we sleepily permit it to do so); it allowed our ambassador in Libya to be murdered (after it destroyed the lawful government there); it told illegal aliens they need not worry about deportation (and thus encouraged the immigration of hundreds of thousands more -- even unaccompanied children -- to our



By Thomas Sowell

A Lame Duck Country?

Pundits are pointing to President Barack Obama's recent decline in public opinion polls, and saying that he

may now become another "lame duck" president, unable to accomplish much during his final term in office.

That has happened to other presidents. But it is extremely unlikely to happen to this president. There are reasons why other presidents have become impotent during their last years in office. But those reasons do not apply to Barack Obama.

The Constitution of the United States does not give presidents the power to carry out major policy changes without the cooperation of other branches of government. Once the country becomes disenchanted with a president during his second term, Congress has

little incentive to cooperate with him -- and, once Congress becomes uncooperative, there is little that a president can do on his own.

That is, if he respects the Constitution. President Obama has demonstrated, time and again, that he has no respect for the Constitution's limitations on his power. Despite his oath of office, to see that the laws are faithfully executed, Barack Obama has unilaterally changed welfare reform laws, by eliminating the work requirement passed by Congress during the Clinton administration.

He has repeatedly and unilaterally changed or waived provisions of the ObamaCare law passed by Congress during his own administration.

President Obama has ordered Border Patrol agents not to carry out provisions of the immigration laws that he does not like. We see the results today in the tens of thousands of illegal immigrants entering the country unimpeded.

President Obama's oath of office obviously means no more to him than his oft-repeated promise that "you can keep your own doctor" under ObamaCare.

Why do we have a Constitution of the United States if a president can ignore it without any consequences?

The Constitution cannot protect our rights if we do not protect the Constitution. Freedom is not free, and the Constitution is just some words on paper if we do not do anything to those who violate it.

What can ordinary citizens do? Everything! Theirs is the ultimate power of the ballot that can bring down even the most powerful elected official.

The most important thing the voters can do is vote against anyone who violates the Constitution. When someone who has violated the Constitution repeatedly gets re-elected, then the voters are accomplices in the erosion of protection for their own freedom.

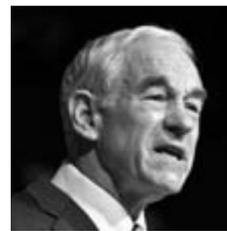
Laws without penalties are just suggestions -- and suggestions are a pitiful defense against power. ***

ol·i·gar·chy

/ˈɑːliˌɡɑːrkē, ˈɑːli-/

noun

a form of government in which all power is vested in a few persons or in a dominant class or clique; government by the few.



By Ron Paul

WE MUST CHANGE OUR FOREIGN POLICY FROM ONE OF INTERVENTIONISM AND CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION AND DIPLOMACY.

Ron Paul

In 2006, I invited the late General Bill Odom to address my Thursday Congressional luncheon group. Gen. Odom, a former NSA director, called the Iraq war "the greatest strategic disaster in American history," and told the surprised audience that he could not understand why Congress had not impeached the president for pushing this disaster on the United States. History continues to prove the General's assessment absolutely correct.

In September, 2002, arguing against a US attack on Iraq, I said the following on the House Floor:

No credible evidence has been produced that Iraq has or is close to having nuclear weapons. No evidence exists to show that Iraq harbors al Qaeda terrorists. Quite to the contrary, experts on this region recognize Hussein as an enemy of the al Qaeda and a foe to Islamic fundamentalism.

Unfortunately, Congress did not listen.

As we know, a few weeks ago the second largest city in Iraq, Mosul, fell to the al-Qaeda allied Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Last week an al-Qaeda that had not been in Iraq before our 2003 invasion threatened to move on the capitol, Baghdad, after it easily over-ran tens of thousands of Iraqi military troops.

The same foreign policy "experts" who lied us into the Iraq war are now telling us we must re-invade Iraq to deal with the disaster caused by their invasion! They cannot admit they were wrong about the invasion being a "cakewalk" that would pay for itself, so they want to blame last week's events on the 2011 US withdrawal from Iraq. But the trouble started with the 2003 invasion itself, not the 2011 troop withdrawal. Anyone who understands cause and effect should understand this.

The Obama administration has said no option except for ground troops is off the

table to help the Iraqi government in this crisis. We should not forget, however, that the administration does not consider Special Forces or the CIA to be "boots on the ground." So we may well see Americans fighting in Iraq again.

It is also likely that the administration will

begin shipping more weapons and other military equipment to the Iraqi army, in the hopes that they might be able to address the ISIS invasion themselves. After years of US training, costing as much as \$20 billion, it is unlikely the Iraqi army is up to the task. Judging from the performance of the Iraqi military as the ISIS attacked, much of that money was wasted or stolen.

A big US government weapons transfer to Iraq will no doubt be favored by the US



military-industrial complex, which stands to profit further from the Iraq meltdown. This move will also be favored by those in Washington who realize how politically unpopular a third US invasion of Iraq would be at home, but who want to "do something" in the face of the crisis. Shipping weapons may be an action short of war, but it usually leads to war. And as we have already seen in Iraq and Syria, very often these weapons fall into the hands of the al-Qaeda we are supposed to be fighting!

Because of the government's foolish policy of foreign interventionism, the U.S. is faced with two equally stupid choices: either pour in resources to prop up an Iraqi government that is a close ally with Iran, or throw our support in with al-Qaida in Iraq (as we have done in Syria). I say we must follow a third choice: ally with the American people and spend not one more dollar or one more life attempting to re-make the Middle East. Haven't we have already done enough damage? ***



"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

No Greater Sorrow



By Justin O. Smith

(The Federal Observer) - In regard to U.S. immigration policy and the current flood of illegal aliens into the United States, the only issue one must consider is whether the U.S. is to be a

nation governed by the rule of law or by despotism and Obama's decrees, which do not consider anything other than manipulating the American people and holding power for the marxofascist Progressive Movement, that calls itself "the Democratic Party". Obama has shown unbelievable temerity, when it involves breaking immigration law, any law for that matter, and his administration has violated the American people's trust with malice and purposeful, criminal nefarious intent.

In 2013, Obama, Attorney General Holder and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released 36,000 criminal aliens into our society, while they awaited deportation. Among these illegal aliens, there were 193 convicted murderers, 426 rapists, 303 kidnappers and thousands of other assault, theft and drug crimes committed, according to the May report from the Center for Immigration Studies.

Just months before the last presidential election, Obama essentially granted amnesty, illegally and unConstitutionally, to 800,000 illegal aliens, through his executive order, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which deferred deportation proceedings. This amounted to an open invitation to the people of South and Central America and a sign that they would not be turned away.

The Washington Times noted (6-10-14) that an estimated 10,000 unaccompanied children are being apprehended each month, as they are smuggled into the U.S.; and yet, they are permitted to stay, while military bases in Texas, Arizona and California are overflowing, and another 1200 are being

transferred to Ft Sill, Oklahoma. And these are just the ones that have been caught.

In Brownsville, Texas, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen details a "criminal conspiracy" from a December 2013 court order, in which illegal alien parents are paying smugglers to bring their children to the U.S., believing amnesty is coming. He focuses on an Obama policy that spends \$2 billion U.S. taxpayer dollars to reunite illegal alien children with their illegal alien family, through the Department of Homeland Security. Nobody gets charged with smuggling and nobody gets deported, as the DHS rewards their criminal conduct.

Many immigrants crossing the border in south Texas have been flown to El Paso, to be more easily processed by the Border Patrol. They are then released to be on their way to wherever they choose to go, according to the El Paso Times (6-7-14). One illegal alien, identified only as Maria, said that immigration officials contacted her sister to arrange travel plans, and she is on her way to Tennessee to reunite with her sister.

The humanitarian crisis that has arisen on the southern border is "a crisis of the federal government's creation, and the fact that the border remains insecure - now apparently intentionally - while this operation continues full speed ahead is deplorable", stated Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

Humanitarian crisis or not, simply reaching the United States' sovereign territory doesn't automatically entitle an illegal alien to either amnesty or citizenship, nor should it. Denying U.S. citizenship is not punishment and neither is denying "legal status" for someone, who has already shown an inclination to ignore U.S. law. And, this "crisis" does not demand that the U.S. deliver the minors to the custody of a parent living here illegally, who purposefully

chose to leave that child behind years ago; if anything, provision them, the adult they arrived with and the illegal parent for a return trip home, and let them fix their own nation's problems, since this would be infinitely less costly to our nation in the long term.

Many of the conditions these illegal aliens are attempting to escape, such as the "abuse and persecution" mentioned by White House spokesperson Josh Earnest and the "corruption, poverty and violence" referred to by Santa Cruz (Arizona) Sheriff Tony Estrada, are of their own making. They accepted the Che Gueverra, Chavez and Ortega brand of Latin American Marxism and class warfare - the same type of class warfare that Obama and the Progressives are instigating across America - the same type of cradle-to-grave government control that always ends in abysmal failure and poverty for all.

In May, Obama stated that he would act in August, illegally and unConstitutionally once more, to "make law" and comprehensive immigration reform, through an executive order, if Congress did not act soon. Should Obama follow through on this threat, every man, woman and youth, who value Freedom in America, should take to the streets in mass civil disobedience and protest.

Why would we want to bring these sort of influences and worldviews into the country? Any right thinking, logical minded American doesn't choose this. But Obama does, because Central and South Americans typically vote Democratic and "legalizing" them will ensure the marxofascist Democratic Party's lock on power for the rest of the century.

When Arizona Governor Jan Brewer complained angrily about the feds dumping illegal aliens from Texas into her state, without any warning, federal officials told her that this

will be ongoing for the foreseeable future, as 1,000 more illegal immigrant children were scheduled to arrive within days. Adults and family groups will also arrive.

"This is not a humanitarian crisis. It is a predictable, orchestrated and contrived assault on the compassionate side of Americans by her political leaders that knowingly puts minor illegal alien children at risk for purely political purposes", asserts the statement by the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers.

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala), after warning for many years that Obama's immigration policy was certain to create just such a crisis, recently stated: "President Obama is responsible for this calamity... Only by declaring our border is no longer open - that the law will be restored - can this emergency be stopped."

Republicans must stop falling for Progressive gambits and ploys presented through a myriad of fallacious postulates, such as the immediate need for new "comprehensive immigration reform". The only real solution for repairing our so-called "broken immigration system" is to enforce current immigration law and secure the border now.

Unless We the People - the American people - have become as corrupt as this Obama administration, we must stand now against this criminal exploitation of Central American children and this political deception. We must stand against those political leaders who are for "a path to citizenship" and amnesty for illegal aliens, before fully protecting our national security (jobs and economy) and public safety (the right of people to be secure in their property and person). For if we fail to stand against the tyrants in DC, we will be committing national suicide, and America, as we knew it (B.O. - "Before Obama"), will disappear forever, remade in the image of the newly arrived.

"There is no greater sorrow on earth than the loss of one's native land."

~ Euripedes 431 BC

★★★



By James Kunstler
Kunstler.com

In just about any realm of activity this nation does not know how to act. We don't know what to do about our mounting crises of economy. We don't know what to do about our relations with other nations in a strained global economy. We don't know what to do about our own culture and its traditions, the useful and the outworn. We surely don't know what to do about relations between men and women. And we're baffled to the point of paralysis about our relations with the planetary ecosystem.

To allay these vexations, we just coast along on the momentum generated by the engines in place - the turbo-industrial flow of products to customers without the means to buy things; the gigantic infrastructures of transport subject to remorseless decay; the dishonest operations



of central banks undermining all the world's pricing and cost structures; the political ideologies based on fallacies such as growth without limits; the cultural transgressions of thought-policing and institutional ass-

covering.

This is a society in deep danger that doesn't want to know it. The nostrum of an expanding GDP is just statistical legerdemain performed

to satisfy stupid news editors, gull loose money into reckless positions, and bamboozle the voters. If we knew how to act we would bend every effort to prepare for the end of mass motoring, but instead we indulge in fairy tales about the "shale oil miracle" because it offers the comforting false promise that we can drive to WalMart forever (in self-driving cars!). Has it occurred to anyone that we no longer have the capital to repair the vast network of roads, streets, highways, and bridges that all these cars are supposed to run on? Or that the capital will not be there for the installment loans Americans are accustomed to buy their cars with?

The global economy is withering quickly because it was just a manifestation of late-stage cheap oil. Now we're in early-stage of expensive oil and a lot of things that seemed to work wonderfully well

before, don't work so well now. The conveyor belt of cheap manufactured goods from China to the WalMart and Target stores doesn't work so well when the American customers lose their incomes, and have to spend their

Coasting Toward Zero



government stipends on gasoline because they were born into a world where driving everywhere for everything is mandatory, and because central bank meddling adds to the horrendous inflation of food prices.

Now there's great fanfare over a "manufacturing renaissance" in the United States, based on the idea that the work will be done by robots. What kind of foolish Popular Mechanics porn fantasy is this?

If human beings have only a minor administrative role in this set-up, what do two hundred million American adults do for a livelihood? And who exactly are the intended customers of these products? You can be sure that the people of China, Brazil, and Korea will have enough factories of their own, making every product imaginable. Are they going to buy our stuff now? Are they going to completely roboticize their own factories and impoverish millions of their own factory workers?

The lack of thought behind this dynamic is staggering, especially because it doesn't account for the obvious political consequence - which is to say the potential for uprising, revolution, civic disorder, cruelty, mayhem,

and death, along with the kind of experiments in psychopathic governance that the 20th century was a laboratory for. Desperate populations turn to maniacs. You can be sure that scarcity beats a fast path to mass homicide.

What preoccupies the USA now, in June of 2014? According to the current cover story Time Magazine, the triumph of "transgender." Isn't it wonderful to celebrate sexual confusion as the latest and greatest achievement of this culture? No wonder the Russians think we're out of our minds and want to dissociate from the West. I've got news for the editors of Time Magazine: the raptures of sexual confusion are not going to carry American civilization forward into the heart of this new century.

In fact, just the opposite. We don't need confusion of any kind. We need clarity and an appreciation of boundaries in every conceivable sphere of action and thought. We don't need more crybabies, or excuses, or wishful thinking, or the majestic ass-covering that colors the main stream of our national life.

James Howard Kunstler has worked as a reporter and feature writer for a number of newspapers, and finally as a staff writer for Rolling Stone Magazine. In 1975, he dropped out to write books on a full-time basis. His nonfiction book, "The Long Emergency," describes the changes that American society faces in the 21st century. ★



GOLD

AmericasGoldVault.com

"Devy Kidd Endorsed"

Get the facts and protect your assets today

Call Harvey Gordin
602-228-8203

Tell him Devy sent you!

Made from the finest tobacco leaves from around the world, Mya Cigars are made by real Cuban "tabaqueros" in the one and only cigar factory located in West Palm Beach, FL.

"Handmade Since 1896"

Email: myacigar@bellsouth.net • www.myacigars.com • 561-659-3230

Continued from page 1 • Free After 4 Decades in Prison

With no witnesses to the alleged crime, why was a line-up necessary? The assistant DA handling the case threatened Reno with the electric chair. Fearing for his life, Reno caved to the threats and reversed his plea. At the advice of his court-appointed attorney, Reno waived his right to a trial, appeal, and to remain in county jail for 10 days. For reasons still unknown to Reno, his family was not allowed to visit or watch his hearing. After facing the judge alone, save his second-rate attorney, Reno arrived at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester as a convicted murderer just 17 days after his arrest.

Reno knew nothing about the murder. Years later he still has no idea who may be responsible for ending Cathy's life and sending him to prison. Rather than speculate and possibly incriminate another innocent party, Reno remains silent about who the murderer might be. He states, "I'm sorry for what happened. I feel for them (Cathy's family). I wish I could do something, but there's nothing I can do. Whoever did this is either deceased by now or is still out there. I believe the person, or persons are still out there."

PRISON LIFE

While serving over four decades in prison, Reno participated in every program available to him. He joined Speak Out, a program designed to keep troubled youths out of prison. He ran over 20 times in the Prisoners' Run Against Child Abuse, even winning one year for running 44 miles. A spiritual leader amongst his peers, Reno encouraged inmates to change their lives. Known as a peacemaker on the prison yard, Reno was well-liked and respected by prison staff and inmates alike.

Reno Francis is a positive person with an unbreakable faith in God. He loves to laugh and joke around. He is thankful for each day on this earth and tries to make the most of it. His wife, Verna, supported him during a large portion of his prison stint, only missing three Saturday visits over a number of years. Despite being locked up, Reno was a strong father figure for Verna's young son, Dusty. Watching them interact, you'd never guess that they aren't blood related. Visitors to the prison commented on the love shared between Reno and Dusty, noting the pleasure it was to watch them together. Every winter, they would play board games. Every summer, they could be found on the visiting yard practicing Dusty's pitches with a baseball made of trash and rubber bands.

In March of 2014, Reno celebrated his 67th birthday behind bars.

INVESTIGATION

During our investigation into Reno's case, we discovered an absolute lack of evidence to support the state's claim against Reno other than the guilty plea the assistant DA extorted from him. There was no evidence, no witnesses, no DNA - nothing! According to records, "Mr. Turner (Reno's prosecutor) was fired from his position as assistant district attorney shortly after Reno's conviction for using underhanded tactics and threatening defendants who refused to plead guilty."

It's not surprising, then, that Reno was told "that the State's evidence against him was destroyed in a fire" before being told on another occasion that "the file was destroyed in a flood."

The lack of evidence combined with the tactics used to convict Reno should make anyone with a sense of justice cringe.

FREEDOM

On April 30, 2014, Reno walked out of prison a free man. Legal experts agree, "This is an extremely rare case. Given the status quo, Reno should have spent his dying years behind bars. He was convicted and sentenced to life." Nonetheless, Reno was "discharged" and his life sentence was commuted.

The US-Observer championed Reno's case, supplying numerous letters along with pertinent information to legal authorities. Additionally, the US-Observer published numerous articles that influenced his release. Reno graciously said, "I'm proud of what you (the US-Observer) are doing. You have all of my respect. Ed (investigative reporter) has all of my respect. I love him very much."

Debra Hampton, Reno's attorney, relentlessly pursued his freedom. Reno stated, "She stayed on top of everything and did what she could. It took time. She kept her faith in me and believed in me. I'd recommend her to anyone."

Reno's loving wife, Verna, dedicated decades to helping free Reno. While talking about Verna, Reno lovingly said, "I love her to death. That's my heart. I wouldn't be here without her. It wasn't easy. I would give my life for her at the drop of a hat. I'm gonna be a tick on her for the rest of my life!"

Reflecting on his experience, Reno is surprisingly content. He says, "I have no bitterness towards anyone. I know that's kind of hard to understand why, but I've seen a lot of hate, and I live with that every day. What bothers me is that I have many brothers in prison. I'm here, and they're still there. Many people who are still incarcerated for things they didn't do."

Prison was a rough place to grow up. I had to do everything I could to keep my name good in there. I'm content to enjoy life and enjoy every day. I put the night in question behind me years ago.

No matter what happens, just keep on pushing - don't ever give up. That's the worst thing you can do. Keep searching for people that can help you. I was able to walk around with my head up."



Reno and Verna Francis

On June 13, 2014, Reno and Verna Francis were officially married. Verna reflected on what it's like to have Reno home, "It's wonderful. One of the pleasures is just watching him eat and enjoy good food. Knowing he's safe and not having to worry. The kids are really enjoying him too. He's taken some weight off of my shoulders that I've had for so long."

Congratulations on your freedom, Reno! This moment will never be forgotten.

*Verna Francis helped contribute to this article.

Continued from page 1 • Anonymous Call Prompts Abuse of 9 Year Old Girl

When the interviews were complete, DHS contacted Sarah. Finally made aware of the interview without her consent, Sarah, a very protective mother, grew extremely distressed at the situation and became increasingly skeptical about DHS and their practices.

Uncertain about what to do and concerned for the safety of her children, Sarah kept them home from school. She no longer trusted the school officials in charge of protecting her kids.

DHS set an appointment to interview Sarah's daughter, but due to her skepticism about DHS, Sarah brought her father, Dennis, instead. In a meeting Sarah described as "intense," Dennis, knowing Sarah as a protective mother who would never let anything inappropriate happen to her kids, defended her against DHS' accusations.

The DHS case-worker inquired about a man present on the spring break camping trip, and Sarah responded that the man present "was a very close family friend" who was decades older than a "20 year old man" described by her son. Witnesses stated that the family friend "never slept with any of Sarah's children."

Sarah states that during the DHS meeting, "What I had to say didn't matter. I repeatedly told the case-worker that nothing inappropriate happened with my daughter or anyone else." Nonetheless, the situation worsened.

Even though they knew Sarah would be unable to attend, DHS mandated that Sarah return the next day with her daughter for another appointment. After missing the meeting, DHS mailed Sarah a letter requesting an appointment for April 17, 2014.

Sarah again brought her father to the meeting, and again the meeting went anything but well. When Dennis and Sarah asked "who made the phone call to DHS," they were informed that the caller's identity would remain anonymous. Feeling they had the right to face their accuser, Dennis then told the case-worker that all further communication with DHS would take place through their family attorney. A court hearing was scheduled for the following day.

The case-worker's notes from the meeting allege that Dennis responded to the possibility of a court mandated "pick up order (for Sarah's daughter)" by stating that this "will be bad." According to the notes, "This was interpreted as a threat." But was it really a threat?

At this point, Sarah and Dennis contacted the US-Observer.

With only a court-appointed lawyer with her at the hearing, the judge informed Sarah that she must "have her daughter present for an interview within one hour, or the police would be there to pick her (Sarah's daughter) up." The judge also informed Sarah that her daughter was presently "in temporary legal care and custody of DHS Child Welfare." Sarah could retain physical custody of her daughter, "providing that you (Sarah) comply with the following conditions..."

Sarah complied and brought her daughter to the interview; however, Sarah was barred from the building while the interview took place. Sarah, who has never been convicted of a violent crime, waited nervously until the interviewers returned her daughter without saying more than a few words.

A few days later, DHS called Sarah to inform her that her daughter required a physical examination to determine whether or not she had been sexually abused. Sarah was mortified at the thought that her innocent, 9-year-old daughter would have to endure an intimate examination from a complete stranger all because of one "anonymous phone call." Sarah was then told she would not be allowed into the medical examination to support her daughter.

What could Sarah do? She was stuck. If she defied the order for a physical examination, she risked losing her



"Sarah" with her children and her father

children to foster care and getting arrested. There's something wrong with the system when a mother like Sarah is unable to fight against a group of people who were willing to steal her daughter's innocence based on a single "anonymous allegation" and a dubious interview with a child.

Sarah was forced to comply and bring her daughter to the medical exam. The results were negative. No evidence of sexual abuse was found.

Sarah's story is a prime example of total police control. You may think you have rights, but you don't. The only rights you truly have are what the government decides at the time.

So what happened with Sarah? Since there was nothing to indicate sexual abuse and no evidence to the effect that Sarah's children were "filthy or uncared for," DHS would have to leave Sarah alone, right? Wrong. The DHS case-worker threatened Sarah with "child neglect" due to the fact that Sarah had not enrolled her daughter in public school. The real fact is that Sarah was already in the process of enrolling her children in private school. Sarah was forced to comply with further DHS requirements including doctor's appointments, interference rules, and allow DHS "access to the home and daughter at both scheduled and unscheduled times."

Sarah complied. Sarah even took her daughter to a DHS designated dentist. After her daughter was found to have a cavity, Sarah couldn't help but wonder if DHS would call it neglect?

On May 29, 2014, a status hearing took place to determine future DHS involvement in Sarah's case, including the possibility of "an alternate plan" for Sarah's daughter. Nobody from DHS appeared at the hearing, and Sarah was informed that the case was now "closed."

In an instant, it was over. Sarah and her family got their lives back from the all-mighty DHS, rubber-stamping, family court.

Although relieved to have the ordeal behind her, Sarah stated, "Even though it has only been a few weeks since the 'real abuse of my daughter by DHS' occurred, I've noticed a very distant and angry child." Dennis agrees.

Sarah admits to not making the best life decisions in the past, but she insists that she is a fit parent who would never neglect her children or knowingly allow any form of abuse.

Some things can't be undone. How do you reconcile forcing a 9-year-old to endure a medical exam where a complete stranger spreads her legs and touches her private area based on completely anonymous information? Sarah's father, Dennis, may have been right when he said, "DHS is the actual predator."

Editor's Note: We do not dispute that many children are harmed and require DHS intervention. However, in this case and in numerous other documented cases across the US, DHS has over-stepped its bounds and abused its power. So I ask, could there be any legal liability on behalf of DHS?

Due to the fact that DHS backed off of this case, the US-Observer has chosen to withhold the names of those involved, however it is highly possible that DHS and the legal system involved will hear much more from Sarah and her family. ***

Continued from page 1 • National Heritage Areas

(RMFU) prompted the meeting in Las Animas. These organizations with implementation partners, the National Park Service (NPS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition were going to "create one of the largest protected landscapes in the country" and "establish a national heritage area in Southeastern Colorado."

Their vision for Southeast Colorado, initially, included eight counties: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo, totaling more than 10 million acres, later revised to six and a half counties (excluding western Las Animas and all of Pueblo County).

Residents of Southeast Colorado, who had never worked together before, joined forces to organize public meetings to present information on how NHAs adversely impact private property and subvert local sovereignty. Crowds continued to grow in size from 50 to 120 to over 200. Editorials were written and published in the local newspapers informing the public of the hazards of NHA designation. A core group of speakers included: Kimmi Lewis, Kim, CO; Ed Hunnicutt, La Junta, CO; Barb Leininger, La Junta, CO; Elisabeth Erickson-Noe, Bent County, CO; and Norman Kincaide, Rocky Ford, CO. SCPPRC also created a website (www.nonha.org) and a Facebook page (go to facebook.com and search for "Southeast Colorado Private Property Rights Council").

SECPARC filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and documents pertaining to this proposal were received in April. Even before receipt of the FOIA documents there were problems with the NHA process. The executive director of C&P missed meetings with the Bent County Commissioners, Rocky Ford Museum Board and Las Animas County Commissioners. Canyons and

Plains published a schedule of community information meetings on March 12, 2014, then cancelled them the next day because of staffing changes, unavoidable circumstances, logistical conflicts, and personal commitments.

Canyons and Plains held one public meeting on April 3, 2014 in Springfield, CO, where executive director of the Park County NHA gave a presentation. Outside of that meeting C&P only presented to elected officials and regional conservation and economic development organizations. The extent of NPS expertise in contributing to this effort was a two-page information sheet about what a NHA is.

Individual SECPARC county chapters sponsored public meetings in Kim, Pritchett, Walsh, Lamar, La Junta, Ordway, Eads, Las Animas, and Hasty. In May, County Commissioners of Las Animas, Prowers and Kiowa Counties passed resolutions against the NHA proposal, while others were passed by Branson School District, Southern Colorado Livestock Association, Timpas Grazing District, and Rocky Ford Museum Board.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) and Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition, named in the November 25, 2013 Tribune Democrat article and listed by C&P on their Request for Proposal, issued, December 1, 2013, were, in fact, not partners to the NHA proposal.

Ben Rainbolt, Executive Director, RMFU, stated in the La Junta Tribune-Democrat, April 25, 2014 and the AG Journal, May 2, 2014:

"RMFU was not consulted, informed or invited to participate in any discussions to consider forming a national heritage area in Southeast Colorado. We are not a partner, nor do we have a voice in, or support in principle, any projects other than the Land Link initiative. RMFU



Elisabeth Erickson-Noe

Cops Seize Millions By 'Policing for Profit'



By Nick Sibilla
Forbes

Texas law enforcement are continuing to enrich themselves using a little-known legal doctrine known as civil forfeiture, according to a new series of investigative reports. Under civil forfeiture, property can be forfeited even if its owner has never been charged with a crime. In these proceedings, accused criminals have more rights than innocent owners and the government sues the property, not its owner. These cases can be so baffling, one Texas Supreme Court Justice recently compared civil forfeiture to Alice in Wonderland and the works of Franz Kafka. But civil forfeiture isn't just a quirky curiosity—it's a powerful incentive for law enforcement to take millions.

Last month, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported that the District Attorney's Office in Tarrant County, Texas seized \$3.5 million, plus almost 250 cars and 440 computers in fiscal year 2013, roughly equal to about 10 percent of its budget. Of the property seized, almost \$845,000 was spent on salaries for 16 employees at the office. By comparison, only \$53,000 went to "six nonprofits that benefit victims or prosecution efforts." The county's narcotics unit spent an even greater proportion of forfeiture funds on salaries. Last year, the unit seized \$666,427 in cash and used \$426,058 to pay salaries.

Even more property was forfeited by participating in a federal program known as "equitable sharing." By partnering with a federal agency, local and state law enforcement can keep up to 80 percent of the proceeds from a forfeited property. Incredibly, police can collaborate even if doing so would circumvent their own states' protections for property owners.

Equitable sharing doled out almost \$60,000 to the Arlington Police Department and nearly \$400,000 to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Department of Public Safety in 2013. A joint task force composed of the Tarrant County DA's Office and the DEA received almost \$2.9 million, one of the highest bounties in the state.

In Texas, law enforcement can keep up to 90 percent of the proceeds from forfeited property. That clearly affects police priorities and provides an incentive to pursue cases rich in assets. In another article, the Star-Telegram delved into the forfeiture battle that ensued after law enforcement busted a low-level drug ring at Texas Christian University (TCU). Police arrested twenty-three people for selling marijuana, pills and other controlled substances. Most of those arrested were TCU

students, including four members of the football team. No one went to prison; they got probation, deferred adjudication or the charges were dismissed. Others received punishments as low as \$300 in court costs.

Yet by using civil forfeiture, police seized over \$300,000 worth of property from the students, including 15 cars, trucks and SUVs valued at more than \$250,000; over \$46,000 in cash; and over \$17,000 from laptops, iPads, iPhones and the like. As the paper noted, "The items were seized before formal charges were filed and months before any convictions." But according to an after-action report issued by the Fort Worth Police Department, the drugs seized in the investigation only had an estimated street value of \$29,000. So the property seized was worth far more than the drugs that were actually taken off the streets.

Civil forfeiture creates a "perverse incentive" and "skews law enforcement priorities," noted Allen St. Pierre, the executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). "It's one of the worst stepchildren of the war on some drugs."

Among the TCU cases, cash and electronic devices were typically forfeited to the state. As for the cars, some students were able to retrieve them, but only after months of waiting and negotiations. One student paid \$7,500 in an "economic agreement" with Tarrant County to retrieve his Cadillac Escalade. Another person sent \$17,500 to the county's narcotics unit to get back his Ford F-150.

Across the state, pursuing forfeiture cases related to cannabis has generated millions for Texas police. Between 2002 and 2012, the federal government processed \$64.3 million in cash and other valuables in civil and criminal marijuana forfeitures in Texas. According to the Wall Street Journal, that amount is the fourth highest in the nation.

"POLICE POWER CANNOT GO UNPOLICED"

Texas law enforcement has a long history of policing for profit. The Institute for Justice found that the average law enforcement agency in Texas took in forfeiture proceeds equal to about 14 percent of its budget in 2007. Among the 10 agencies that obtained the most forfeiture proceeds, that figure soared to one-third. Between 2001 and 2007, law enforcement agencies seized and kept over 35,000 cars, homes and electronics, forfeiting more than \$280 million. District attorneys have used these forfeiture funds on ridiculous purchases, including visiting casinos, a vacation to Hawaii and a margarita machine.

Most infamously, police in Tenaha seized over \$3 million from hundreds of drivers and even made "cash-for-freedom deals" with drivers. As The New Yorker reported last August, drivers "would go to jail and their children would be handed over to foster care. Or they could sign over their cash to the city of Tenaha, and get back on the road."

"The Texas criminal justice system wages war on the politically powerless and the poor

are just grist for the mill," remarked Robert Guest, a former prosecutor in Texas and now a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP).

Despite enacting some modest reforms in 2011, the Lone Star State still has an appalling lack of safeguards for property owners. To forfeit property, the government needs only to show by a "preponderance of the evidence" that someone's property is related to a crime. But in criminal convictions, the government must prove someone is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, a much higher standard.

Unfortunately, Texas isn't an outlier. According to the Institute for Justice's report, "Policing for Profit," 19 other states use the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard in civil forfeiture cases. Another 14 states require even less evidence to forfeit property.

The cost to defend oneself in court further stacks the deck against property owners. "Unlike a criminal charge, you do not have the right to court-appointed counsel when the government wants to take your property," explained Guest. "So the state usually wins their case by default judgment."

Tarrant County is no exception. Last year, the District Attorney's office filed 431 cases, but almost half of them were never contested. Less than 10 percent of cases actually went to trial. One attorney in Fort Worth noted that litigating complicated civil forfeiture cases can cost anywhere from \$25,000 to over \$100,000.

The odds of an owner winning a forfeiture case are further lowered by the reverse burden of proof in Texas. Incredibly, innocent owners actually bear the burden of proof in civil

Back in 2004, Ali sold a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado to a man who paid \$500 and agreed to pay the rest on credit. In 2009, the buyer was arrested for a DWI and sentenced to prison. Police in Harris County also seized the Silverado for civil forfeiture. But since Ali still held on to the car's title and the Silverado was registered in his name, he partnered with the Institute for Justice and sued to get his car back. Ali petitioned the Texas Supreme Court to hear the case.

In March, the court declined, meaning Texas gets to keep one more Chevy. In a scathing dissent, Justice Don Willett, joined by two other justices, lambasted the court for deciding not to hear Ali's case. Justice Willett also criticized the profit incentive ("When agency budgets grow dependent on asset forfeiture...constitutional liberties are unavoidably imperiled") and the reverse burden of proof ("owners trying to retrieve their homes and other possessions bear a heavier burden than the government that confiscated them").

To that end, the Texas legislature should enact a series of commonsense reforms. First, take away the incentive to police for profit. Instead of allowing law enforcement to keep up to 90 percent of the proceeds, mandate that those funds be deposited in either the general fund or in a specific neutral fund, like feeding the homeless.

Second, forfeiture should require a criminal conviction. Last month, Minnesota lawmakers overwhelmingly approved such a measure. Third, the government must bear the burden of proof when it comes to innocent owners. This would better protect the property rights of Texans like Ali.

Finally, to prevent cops from collaborating with federal agents and doing an end-run around these reforms, legislators should greatly restrict local and state law enforcement agencies from participating in equitable sharing. Utah once had a very effective ban that essentially killed equitable sharing in the state, until lawmakers defied the will of the voters and overturned it.

These reforms would go far in restoring constitutional protections to Texans. As Justice Willett succinctly put it, "police power cannot go unpoliced."

★★★



Justice Don Willett



Zaher El-Ali

forfeiture proceedings. In other words, they are guilty until proven innocent.

Zaher El-Ali lost his car to the government because someone else got a DWI with his car.

Continued from page 10 • National Heritage Areas

takes issue with anyone whose writings or comments suggest we are in any way involved in the creation of a national heritage area."

Neither C&P nor the NPS ever responded concerning this matter. Meanwhile, SECPPRC researchers spoke to over 200 people at the Cow Palace in Lamar on April 17. Back to back sessions in Eads were held on April 30 because the conference room at the Cobblestone Inn could not hold all those wishing to attend. The Senior Center in Ordway on May 12 was packed to standing room only after all the seats were taken.

Canyons and Plains and the NPS had been pursuing this NHA designation since 2007; from The Future of America's National Parks, First Annual Centennial Strategy for Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, August 2007:

"The Sand Creek Massacre NHS works closely with the Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism [sic] Group and in turn the Colorado State Parks Department and the Colorado State Heritage Tourism program to [sic] promote tourism to Southeastern Colorado. The Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism Group is working under a Preserve [sic] America grant to implement a heritage tourism marketing strategy... Currently, the Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism group is working with NPS to look at the possibility of National Heritage Area status for the region."

Southeast Colorado Regional Tourism Group became Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Task Force (SECORHT), now Canyons and Plains of Southeast Colorado. Possibly laying the groundwork for the NHA was a heritage tourism report, heritage tourism pilot project, way-finding initiatives, architectural surveys of downtown districts like that of Rocky Ford and surveys of historical assets on private property.

C&P also published a strategic plan April 30, 2008 which stated:

"Residents, business people and elected officials must 'buy into' this vision and see it as feasible. Success for the region will depend on

present and future leaders promoting this vision."

Though NHA is not mentioned, a heritage economy is defined: "all of the natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources that combine for a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape. These resources arise from patterns of human activity shaped by geography," citing the Sierra Business Council. The Blue Ridge NHA website also used this definition. This plan compared Southeast Colorado to the Four-Corners Region as a tourist region. Bent's Old Fort NHS, however, had only 23,000 visitors in 2013 while Mesa Verde National Park had over 400,000.

C&P and the NPS emphasize that an NHA does not infringe upon private property rights. The NPS, however, uses NHA designations to push its stewardship mission onto private property without having to acquire more park land.

From, Alexa Roberts, The Future of America's National Parks, First Annual Centennial Strategy for Sand Creek Massacre NHS, August 2007:

"The park is surrounded by privately-owned ranchland. The park is implementing land management strategies within its boundaries that are not currently used by private land owners. . . . Further, the park is maintaining a prairie dog colony because of its contribution to a healthy mixed-grass [sic] prairie mosaic [sic] of diverse plant and animal species, although controversial [sic] with adjacent landowners. The park is slowly establishing relations with neighboring landowners and

offering assistance [sic] where possible to highlight these prairie-restoration efforts with the hope that a common land management ethic may one day develop across a broader area, involving federal and private land managers."

Roberts, Superintendent of Bent's Old Fort and Sand Creek Massacre site, serves on the Otero County Historic Preservation Advisory Board and Kiowa County Historical



Cow Palace audience, Lamar, CO, April 17, 2014

Preservation Advisory Commission as well as C&P board. Preservation boards address Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 issues and how land use impacts historic resources and the landscape. The Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer, Dan Corson, suggested that the Kiowa and Otero County boards and Prowers County people have a joint training session on historic preservation during 2014, no doubt in anticipation of greater application of Section 106 over a wider area like a NHA.

Recently, one of the partners downplayed the pursuit of a NHA. Scott Campbell, Executive Director, PLT to J.D. Wright, a local rancher, May 27, 2014: "Palmer Land Trust is not promoting a National Heritage Area in southeastern Colorado. Nor is any organization. Palmer Land Trust is, however, partner to a locally initiated effort, led by Canyons and Plains to determine whether or not a NHA would serve the interests of southeastern Colorado through a feasibility study."

While a FOIA document email stated, Oct. 24, 2013, Rick Manzanares, Executive Director, C&P to Greg Kendrick, NPS: "Yesterday we had a meeting with all the partners to plan immediate and long-term strategies for accomplishing the goals of the grant. All of the partners agreed that we should start the groundwork to pursue a National Heritage Area for the region. . . . We have funding for a feasibility study."

National Heritage Areas are nothing more than public use covetous on a grand scale benefiting special interest group agendas and a paternalistic NPS. The C&P partnership sought to manage the economic recovery of Southeastern Colorado. Apparently, they couldn't even manage a campaign to initiate a NHA feasibility study or to effectively respond to "push back." Maybe the Centennial Strategy for Sand Creek Massacre NHS is indicative; it has numerous typographical errors. Then I had to remind myself: I suppose it's good enough for government work.

★★★

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.



The US~Observer
An informed electorate is the foundation of a Free Society!

Head of Operations

Ron Lee

Head of Investigations

Edward Snook

Investigative Reporters

Kelly Stone

John Taft

Curt Chancler

Jeanne Wollman

Lorne Dey

Joe Snook

Editor/Investigator

Ron Lee

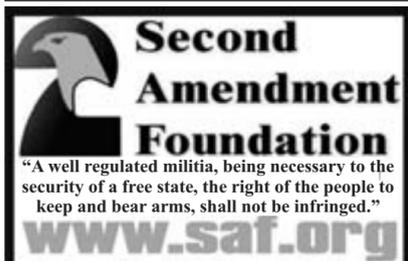
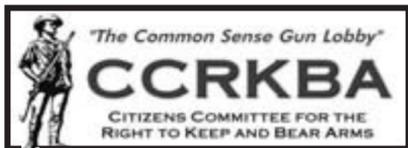
Subscription Rate:

\$29.50 / 12 issues
\$50.00 / 24 issues
See Page 3 of this Issue

For advertising, please call the office for rates, or e-mail us: editor@usobserver.com

US~Observer
233 Rogue River Hwy. PMB 387
Grants Pass, OR 97527

541•474•7885



Florida governor signs five pro-gun measures into law, including 'Pop Tart' and 'Warning Shot' bills

By Chris Eger

(Guns.com) - Gov. Rick Scott approved several pro-gun bills Friday that covered everything from clarifying use of force to ending insurance discrimination against gun owners.

"We have a solid, pro-gun governor who strongly supports the Second Amendment and these are all common sense pieces of legislation with a demonstrated need," Marion Hammer, president of the Unified Sportsmen of Florida and past president of the National Rifle Association, explained to Guns.com.

One of the most controversial of the pack was HB89, which changes the interpretation of the threatened use of force. It will make it legal in the state for one to effectively display a weapon in a self-defense situation if proper justifications are met.

The bill was originally crafted after Marissa Alexander, a South Florida mother, was sentenced to a 20-year mandatory sentence in 2012 for firing a handgun during a domestic dispute as a consequence of the state's "10-20-life" laws.

Commonly called the "Warning Shot" bill in the media, gun-rights advocates in Florida take exception to that classification.

"HB89 is not about warning shots," said Hammer to Guns.com Friday. "HB89 is about stopping abusive prosecutors from charging people with aggravated assault for defending themselves against an attacker."

"Self-defense is not a crime," the NRA icon continued. "Self-defense is a constitutional



Gov. Rick Scott

right and some Florida prosecutors have been violating those rights. Whether you display a firearm or discharge a firearm to stop an attacker, it is still self-defense. You shouldn't be forced to shoot an attacker to have the protection of the law. This bill tells prosecutors to stop treating victims like criminals and stop treating criminals like victims."

Rep. Neil Combee, the sponsor of the legislation, said Friday on Twitter that he hopes it will help with Alexander's case, which her legal team is currently appealing with the new law in mind.

Florida Rep. Neil Combee, the sponsor of HB89, said Friday on Twitter that he hopes it will help with Alexander's case, which her legal team is currently appealing with the new law in mind.

The second new law started as HB255/SB424 and is designed to stop discriminatory insurance practices against firearms owners. The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation already polices this type of discrimination, but the law adds more avenues to protect consumers.

The important change is that this law will allow individuals to sue companies directly if they feel they are discriminated against, i.e. their policy was canceled or denied due to a firearms collection.

Next, HB 7029 or "the Pop Tart bill" loosens the zero tolerance guidelines for educators and students in terms of simulated gunplay. The new law is a response to an incident last year in

which an elementary-school student was suspended for chewing a breakfast pastry into the vague shape of a firearm.

"Anyone that believed that a 5-year-old child should be suspended from school for pointing a finger and going 'bang bang' has some serious problems, yet that's been going on around the country," Hammer said of HB 7029. "Zero tolerance doesn't mean traumatizing young children for being children when they play."

The final two bills approved by Gov. Scott, HB 523, and HB525, are designed to speed up Florida's concealed-carry permit applications. HB 523 would allow qualified Tax Collector offices to 'fast track' the concealed-weapons licensing application process. HB 525 would ensure that the same public records exemptions that exist for the state on permit holder information are extended to the county tax collectors, so that applicant information cannot be shared and will remain private.

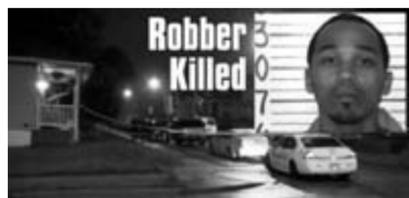
Gun-control groups pushed to throw up a roadblock to this pair of bills, asking voters to pressure the governor's office for veto.

"These bills would put guns in the hands of dangerous people," because they would expand Florida's "already flawed CCW-permitting system," explained Erika Soto Lamb, communications director of Everytown for Gun Safety, to Guns.com in an email.

Florida currently has more concealed-carry permit holders than any other state, with 1,269,021 issued as of May 14, 2014

Of the five pieces of legislation, SB424 will take effect July 1, 2014, while the other four became law immediately upon Scott's signature. ★★★

Dad watched in horror as two armed men held a gun to his daughter's head - So he did something about it



By Jason Howerton

(The Blaze) - Two armed criminals reportedly put a gun to a 17-year-old girl's head on Monday night as she was outside retrieving something from a car. The man, whose intentions still aren't entirely clear, then ordered the teenager to take them into her house — a decision that would prove to have deadly consequences.

Peering out the window of the St. Louis home were the girl's mother and father, each prepared to protect their daughter with deadly force. There was also a 5-year-old boy in the house, though his relationship to the family wasn't known on Tuesday.

The girl's father, a 34-year-old man, reportedly observed the men walking towards his home while holding a gun to his daughter's head, a sight that no father ever wants to see. He quickly retrieved his firearm and his wife did the same.

The brave dad then confronted the two criminals and opened fire, hitting both suspects with accurate shots. The girl's mother also fired off some rounds, but failed to hit either suspect.

One of the men was reportedly pronounced dead at the scene while the second suspect escaped only to later be arrested after calling his brother to take him to the hospital because he had been shot.

"Police identify the suspect who was killed as 31-year-old Terrell Johnson from north St. Louis," KTVI-TV reports. "The second suspect- a 33-year-old man- is hospitalized in critical but stable condition with gunshot wounds to his chest and both thighs. Police say he will face charges."

No one other than the suspected criminals were injured in the incident. ★★★

White House: Obama Prepared To Act 'Unilaterally' Again Using 'Executive Authority' On Guns



By Sam Rolley
PersonalLiberty.com

President Barack Obama is looking for new ways to act "administratively, unilaterally using his executive authority" to enact new gun control legislation, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said during a press conference Tuesday.

The official was responding to a journalist's questions about the President's reaction to news of a shooting that occurred at an Oregon high school. Two people were killed, including the shooter.

While the President is looking for ways to implement his gun control agenda unilaterally, Earnest stressed that the Administration would also like to see legislative action to increase gun control.

"The President's goal is to look for opportunities to act administratively, unilaterally using his executive authority to try to make our communities safer," Earnest said. "We're always looking for those opportunities. But none of those opportunities when they present themselves is going to be an acceptable substitute for robust legislative action."

Following the 2012 school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Obama implemented 23 new executive actions designed to strengthen gun

control laws. "There's no doubt there has been an alarming frequency of tragic incidents of gun violence that are concerning to Democrats and Republicans in Washington but more importantly to people all across the country," Earnest said. "The question is what can we do to make certain something like this never ever happens again? There are going to be other tragedies. The question, I think, really facing lawmakers right now is what common sense steps can Democrats and Republicans take to reduce the likelihood of gun violence."

During an Internet question-and-answer appearance on the social networking site Tumbler Tuesday, President Obama told participants that he felt his biggest frustration as President was his inability to convince Congress to pass stricter gun control legislation.

"People ask me what I'm proudest of and what are my biggest frustrations as president," Obama said. "My biggest frustration is that this society hasn't been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who can do damage. We're the only developed country where this happens. And it happens weekly. Our levels of gun violence are off the charts."

"If public opinion does not demand change in Congress, it will not change," he said. ★★★

RUSSCO GUNS PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Russco Guns

GUNSMITHING
CLEANING
RE-BLUING
AIRSOFT TECH

(541) 474-2357 1600 Southeast M Street

Articles and Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged — they must be typed, a maximum of 400 words or less in length. Please submit photographs or artwork. Contact Editor for permission to submit in-depth articles up to 1,750 words, plus graphics. Opposition opinions are welcome.

Always provide a computer disk or E-mail address. Accepted CD, PC or Mac format. Please save all text files in *text only* format.

E-mail

editor@usobserver.com

Please **No Faxes** they may lead to errors. *US-Observer* reserves the right to edit for clarity and for space requirements.

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor, guest editorials and submitted articles represent the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of *US-Observer* or its advertisers.

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



Butler Trailers

Serving the Utility and Construction Industries proudly since 1968!

With plants in:
Randleman, NC & Orofino, ID
336•674•7804
208•476•5662

Trial by Fire: Junk science sent man to prison for killing family

By Hannah Rappleye

(NBC News) - For the 26 years David Lee Gavitt sat in a Michigan prison, he told everyone who would listen that he did not set the fire that killed his wife and two baby girls. Nearly 25 years would pass before some of the nation's top fire experts would tell him they believed him.

“David's case was the classic example of a bad arson case,” said John Lentini, a leading fire scientist who reviewed Gavitt's case during the effort to get his conviction overturned. “People jumped to conclusions.”

Since Gavitt's conviction in 1986, the field of fire investigation has been turned on its head. Scientists and investigators have discovered that features long considered signs of a fire intentionally set, in fact also occur during accidents. This has prompted the re-examination of arson convictions across the country that may have been based on bad science.

The National Registry of Exonerations shows at least 17 arson convictions have been overturned in the past 24 years, in part on findings that the fire investigations were flawed. One of those was Gavitt's.

The fire that changed Gavitt's life started on March 9, 1985, inside the modest living room of his home in Ionia, a town of 12,000 in rural Michigan.

It spread from the window, gaining speed as it fed on the orange shag carpeting, the couch and upholstered chairs, and the collection of vinyl records that the heat quickly melted.

Gavitt later told police he woke to the sound of the family dog scratching at the bedroom door. When he opened it, he found the living room engulfed in flames.

“Angie, you've got to get the kids out of here,” he recalled shouting at his wife. “We're on fire.” He sprinted down the hall to an empty bedroom, he told investigators, slashing his arm as he smashed a window to help his family escape. But when he went back for his family, the house had filled with black smoke.

“I was on my hands and knees,” he told police in one of several interrogations. “I was hollering for her. ‘Angela, say something so I know where you're at so I can get you out of here,’ and there was no answer. The kids didn't even make a sound. I stayed in that room searching as long as possible. ... I could feel my hair singeing. I could feel the back of me burning. I thought to myself, ‘Oh dear God, it's over with.’”

Police found him sitting in a driveway across the street, bleeding and burned, surrounded by neighbors. As flames licked the edges of broken windows, Gavitt yelled, “Where are my wife and kids?” Responders rushed Gavitt to the hospital with severe burns on his back, arms and feet.

In minutes the fire had consumed nearly all of Gavitt's world: the one-story home rented on the wages earned from his factory job, and, he would soon discover, Angie and his two girls.

In 1985 David Gavitt was falsely convicted of arson after a fire consumed his home and killed his wife, Angie, and their two daughters Katrina and Tracy, shown here in a family photo.

After the fire scene cooled and investigators began to comb through the home's charred remains, they traced the path of the fire and found irregular, circular patterns on the floor. Based on what they knew at the time, the patterns indicated that someone had poured gasoline, or some other accelerant, a clear sign of arson. Gavitt, who had no criminal record or history of violence, became the main suspect.

Months later he was convicted and sentenced to life without parole for the murder of his family.

“This can't be happening,” Gavitt recalls thinking when he heard the verdict. “You just think, ‘My God, how do you prove your innocence?’”

Details of Gavitt's story mirror that of Cameron Todd Willingham, whose case helped catalyze a movement to re-examine the discipline of arson investigation.

In 1992, a Texas jury convicted Willingham of the murder of his three daughters. Investigators pointed to charred patterns in the shape of puddles and other signs to prove that the blaze that ripped through the Willingham house had been intentionally set. Willingham maintained his innocence.

By that time, the thinking behind fire science was already changing. The same year Willingham was convicted and sentenced to death, the National Fire Protection Association, which writes standards to promote fire prevention and safety, published its first science-based arson investigation guidelines. The guidelines asserted that certain phenomena, which for years had been considered distinct markers of arson --- such as “crazed” glass, puddle and V-shaped marks on the floor -- could occur in accidental fires.

One key change was the discovery of “flashover.” The phenomenon occurs when so much heat builds up in a room that everything within it ignites, or when “a fire in a room

becomes a room on fire,” according to Mike Marquardt, a special agent and certified fire investigator with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives, also known as the ATF. The patterns created by flashover, a natural occurrence, had long been mistaken as signs that a room had been doused with an accelerant.

In January 2004, a leading fire scientist who reviewed Willingham's case pro bono at the request of Willingham's supporters found that all of the evidence that had been used to argue the fire was arson did not stand up to the new scientific standards. Willingham, he said, had been convicted by “junk science.” Despite that,



This is what remained of David Gavitt's home after a fire on March 9, 1985, in rural Ionia, Mich.

the state of Texas put Willingham to death the following month.

Outrage about the execution mounted as arson science continued to evolve. In 2009, the National Research Council, which helps to shape policy on science, engineering and medicine, published a report that found that all matter of established forensics -- from fingerprinting to hair samples -- were not, in fact, well supported by science. In the case of arson investigations, the report found that “rules of thumb” that had long been understood as signs of arson “have been shown not to be true.”

In prison, Gavitt built some semblance of a life for himself, keeping busy with work and reading about other cases like his own. He struggled to persuade fellow inmates that he was not a “child-killer.” He began writing letters to anyone who might read them, but they generated little interest in his case. Wrinkles set in. Both his father and his mother, who put what little money she had toward her son's defense, passed away. He was not permitted to attend their funerals.

But Gavitt kept fighting, thinking of his wife, his girls, and his mother, who told him never to give up. “When I didn't have any hope left, she would give me hope and say, ‘David, I can't tell you when, but someday the truth will come out,’” Gavitt said.

Then in 2010, the University of Michigan Law School's Innocence Clinic took his case.

John Lentini, an expert who has investigated more than 2,000 fires, reviewed the case for the clinic. He found that the evidence used to convict Gavitt was based on fire science both outdated and flawed. One key piece of evidence in Gavitt's case was a chromatogram test, used by chemists to identify compounds at the scene of a fire. A lab technician interpreted the results of the test to mean that gasoline had been present in the house. Lentini found that the technician had misread the chromatogram. “This case is based on the finding of gasoline, and the finding of gasoline is erroneous,” Lentini said.

Because the criminal justice system makes it hard for appellate attorneys to challenge forensic evidence, winning exoneration in cases that do not involve DNA is notoriously difficult. Even so, Imran Syed, Gavitt's attorney at the Michigan Innocence Clinic, called his case a “textbook” wrongful arson conviction, one that has pushed the clinic to examine other arson cases.

“Every conviction that arose in that time period is called into question,” he said. “It doesn't mean every single person is innocent, of course. But every one of those cases deserves a second look because you're talking about people who were convicted on the basis of false assumptions.”

Syed found an unusually open ear in Ionia County Prosecutor Ron Schafer, who agreed to take a look at the case. Schafer, who was attending a nearby high school when Gavitt's case first unfolded, said he had no preconceived notions about his guilt, or possible innocence.

“We can certainly look at the science and say, ‘Today, what we know now, is different than what we knew then.’” Schafer said. “Does justice demand that we re-examine it? And in this case, that he would be entitled to a new trial? Absolutely.”

He asked the ATF's Marquardt to review the file. The special agent also found that the evidence that led to Gavitt's conviction did not prove arson. Marquardt said that investigators' fixation on the idea that a crime had been committed ultimately tainted their investigation.

If they had not already determined arson based on flawed science, Marquardt found, “The course of the investigation may have changed dramatically.”

While Schafer determined that evidence was

insufficient to re-prosecute Gavitt, he underlined that questions around Gavitt's actions that tragic day -- why, for example, he didn't break open the bedroom window where his children were sleeping -- remained unresolved. The re-investigation “doesn't give us that concrete, ‘We know this was accidental,’ or, ‘We know it was intentional,’” said Schafer. “Nobody knows that, other than Mr. Gavitt.”

Gavitt has maintained since his earliest interrogations that he tried to find his children in the burning room, and tried to go back for them before he was overcome with smoke and his injuries.

But advances in fire science have made



investigators more comfortable with unresolved questions. Applying the scientific method to fire investigations -- allowing for doubt, looking for concrete proof -- means far more fires are now left “undetermined.”

“As we learn more about fire, we understand that we may not be able to determine what happened,” Marquardt said. “We accept that more easily today than we did in the past.”

Texas has perhaps made some of the greatest strides on that front.

In 2011, the Texas Forensic Science Commission released a report on two problematic arson cases, including Willingham's, finding that neither designation of arson would sustain scrutiny by current standards, and issuing recommendations for improving fire investigations in Texas.

That spurred the most comprehensive overhaul of fire investigation in the nation. The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office has convened a panel of top experts to review potentially problematic arson convictions, and is revising training and investigation methods. Nine cases have thus far been reviewed. In two, the panel found the investigations credible. Five others, they found, did not stand up to modern fire investigation standards. Two proved inconclusive. Their work is ongoing.

“With power comes great responsibility--to make sure we are doing our part to maintain the integrity of the criminal justice system,” said Chris Connealy, the fire marshal who heads the review panel. “If there's one person in prison who shouldn't be there, then that's one too many.”

The Navarro County District Attorney's office, which prosecuted Willingham for murder and won his conviction, did not respond to a request for comment from NBC News. In the past it has stood by the conviction, and it tried to stop a 2010 effort by the Innocence Project to have Willingham declared innocent. In April, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles denied a petition for a posthumous pardon.

In June 2012, Gavitt strode out of the Carson City Correctional Facility. His conviction had been vacated, and the charges against him dismissed. Under a warm summer sun, he felt goosebumps prickle his skin. It was a sign, he said, that Angie and his daughters were there with him.

“Each and every time Angela would hug me, I would get them same bumps,” he said. “That's how I knew it was her.”

At 54, he is now trying to rebuild his life. He met a woman, Kathy, and married her. They gaze at each other like teenagers in love. Kathy is determined to make sure her husband has the best life he can.

That life now is a far cry from the dank prison cell in Carson City. He inherited grandkids, who call him “Grandpa.” For their first wedding anniversary, he and Kathy bought a house. “This is the first home David has ever owned,” Kathy said. “He's got a beautiful life now.”

But difficulty has followed him. In a state where jobs are scarce, Gavitt has struggled to find full-time work. It's hard to explain the 26-year gap on his resume. Unlike some other states, people exonerated of crimes in Michigan aren't entitled to compensation. A law to help the exonerated is currently pending before the state house. In the meantime, Gavitt finds work through temp agencies and tries to adjust to freedom.

As for any anger he may have at the system that put him away, he says most of it remains behind him, in his old prison cell.

“There were many times I felt like just giving up and not even write any more letters to anybody because I know what the response would be,” Gavitt said. “But each and every time I'd sit back on my bunk in my cell. There'd be, like, a voice saying, ‘Goddamn it, don't you ever give up, David Lee. You did not do this to us.’”

Lisa Riordan Seville, Jeff Rossen and Kevin Monahan contributed to this article.

★★★

All the President's Muses: Obama and Prosecutorial Misconduct

Chronic bungling DOJ officials have the President's ear



By Sidney Powell
(New York Observer) - As Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski has written, prosecutorial misconduct has become "an epidemic." And

evidence has come to light that our president, the nation's chief law enforcement official, seeks his counsel from the worst.

If ever a picture was worth a thousand words, it is a recently released White House photo (to the right) of President Obama and his muses—if one only knew the truth behind those muses whispering in the President's ear as they strategized in the aftermath of the Benghazi tragedy. To understand the (politely-put) "lack of transparency" from the White House, the enormous politicization of the Department of Justice, the release of Taliban leaders from Guantanamo, refusal to cooperate with congressional investigations, the IRS's harassment of political opponents, and the cover-up of Benghazi, read on.

President Obama's right-hand woman Kathryn Ruemmler, conveniently seated to his right, was his longest serving White House Counsel and remains one of his closest and most trusted advisors. When Mr. Obama selected Ms. Ruemmler to advise him on the most important legal matters, including the selection of federal judges, responses—actually oppositions—to congressional investigations, assertions of executive privilege and expansive executive orders, Mr. Obama said she "was an outstanding lawyer with impeccable judgment." The press reported that Jamie Gorelick said Ms. Ruemmler knew "the traditions and values of the administration."

Upon her recent departure, the President said he "deeply valued her smarts, her wit, her impeccable judgment—but most importantly her uncanny ability to see around the corners that nobody else in the room anticipates." More aptly put, she had an uncanny and nefarious ability to circumvent the rule of law by cutting those aforementioned corners.

Ms. Ruemmler returned as a Partner to the prominent international law firm Latham & Watkins, where she has sheltered intermittently between stints in the Department and the White House.

If you were feeling some sense of relief that Ms. Ruemmler is no longer in the White House, let that be fleeting. Obama also said that he "will continue to seek her counsel, and most of all, I am proud to call her a close friend."

Disturbingly, evidence has surfaced that the President Obama's close friend and senior

advisor violated her oath "to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," the rules of legal ethics, not to mention the law. As a senior member of the Enron Task Force, Ms. Ruemmler prosecuted four Merrill Lynch executives and sent them to prison on an indictment that was "fatally flawed." The conduct the prosecutors alleged was not criminal. At the same time, she deliberately hid exculpatory evidence—that is, evidence she was constitutionally compelled to hand

over to the defense. Indeed, the prosecutors not only acknowledge the evidence as exculpatory, they yellow-highlighted it as such—then buried it. Not only did Ms. Ruemmler hide the evidence she had identified as crucial to the defense, but she signed the false and misleading "disclosure letter" to defense counsel. Ms. Ruemmler then elicited hearsay testimony from witnesses that was directly contradicted by the first-hand evidence she and her Task Force hid. She capitalized on and compounded the injustice, repeatedly telling the court and jury "facts" that were directly refuted by the evidence she hid.



Kathryn Ruemmler, President Obama, Lisa Monaco, and Susan E. Rice
(White House Flickr photo by Pete Souza)

over to the defense. Indeed, the prosecutors not only acknowledge the evidence as exculpatory, they yellow-highlighted it as such—then buried it.

Not only did Ms. Ruemmler hide the evidence she had identified as crucial to the defense, but she signed the false and misleading "disclosure letter" to defense counsel. Ms. Ruemmler then elicited hearsay testimony from witnesses that was directly contradicted by the first-hand evidence she and her Task Force hid. She capitalized on and compounded the injustice, repeatedly telling the court and jury "facts" that were directly refuted by the evidence she hid.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ultimately reversed 12 out of 14 counts of conviction against the executives, acquitting one entirely. All the defendants were released, after having spent up to a year in prison on a sham indictment, while Ms. Ruemmler and her cronies continued both to hide the evidence that defeated the government's case and to demand that the Merrill executives be prosecuted a second time on the same indictment.

Mr. Obama's second muse, directly to his left in the photo, is Lisa Monaco—probably just a coincidence that she's a close, longtime friend

she had served as Director Mueller's chief of staff, apparently while Enron Task Force Director Andrew Weissmann (who helped Caldwell destroy Andersen) also served as special counsel to Mr. Mueller. Mr. Weissmann later became General Counsel for the FBI in 2011 while Ms. Monaco was heading the Department's national security division.

It leaves one to wonder why the former Enron Task Force cabal dominates the president's inner circle? All of their trials were tainted with Supreme Court and appellate reversals, outrageous abuses of government power, a plethora of prosecutorial misconduct, and even guilty pleas had to be withdrawn because of their over-reaching.

All the President's muses could learn something from All the President's Men: "Nothing's riding on this except, uh, the first amendment to the Constitution, freedom of the press, and maybe the future of the country."

The picture is rounded out, shall we say, by the presence of yet another Obama muse: Susan Rice. She was not on the Enron Task Force, but is, as George F. Will politely described it in the Washington Post, "accident-prone." Individually or combined, their disregard for truth, for individual rights and liberties, their willingness to hide evidence and intimidate witnesses, and their contempt of Congress and for the Rule of Law, is staggering. Bowe Bergdahl, the Taliban leader-release, and the Benghazi cover-up are but a mere sampling of the corruption. Perhaps the President would "rather laugh with the sinners than cry with saints," perhaps his muses are much more fun, but where does that leave the rest of us?

acquired the defendants on others. Of course, the prosecutors demanded a second trial. Drunk on unlimited taxpayer resources, they continued fighting to keep the evidence hidden and protect the ascension of the cabal.

Obama chose Ms. Monaco to be his Counter-Terrorism advisor. Was that because of Ms. Monaco's experience with the "terror of a prosecutor" Leslie Caldwell, also from the Enron Task Force, who now heads the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice? Ms. Caldwell spearheaded the destruction of Arthur Andersen LLP and its 85,000 jobs only to be reversed 9-0 by the Supreme Court because of the flawed indictment and the absence of criminal intent.

Or was Ms. Monaco chosen because of her illustrious rise in the Department of Justice following her Task Force stint? And there was also her close connection with the FBI, where



Attorney General Robert H. Jackson

Attorney General Robert H. Jackson once said, "The prosecutor has more control over life, liberty, and reputation than any other person in America. His discretion is tremendous. . . . While the prosecutor at his best is one of the most beneficent forces in our society, when he acts from malice or other base motives, he is one of the worst." A prosecutor has almost unilateral, unchecked ability to destroy the lives of those he charges. It is beyond troubling that our top law enforcement officer chooses the company of those who repeatedly failed their duty.

Sidney Powell worked in the Department of Justice for 10 years and was lead counsel in more than 500 federal appeals. She is the author of Licensed to Lie: Exposing Corruption in the Department of Justice.

Continued from page 1 • US Attorneys Attack Elderly Lady ...

with Assistant U. S. Attorneys in Omaha, U.S. Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and Michael P. Norris, signed an undated and unattested indictment without calling Ms. Kozak for any testimony or to submit any evidence documents on her behalf. My previous article, located on our website – usobserver.com and titled, "The Tax Protestor Trap – And Resulting Nightmare" explains very well how Kozak was deceived by professional tax-scam-artists into believing that she wasn't required to file a federal 1040 income tax form.

Many well-educated and polished "tax experts," including some ex-IRS agents and ex-government employees taught Kozak that federal income taxes were "voluntary" and they provided plenty of "proof" in the form of past Supreme Court decisions, statements by IRS officials and the IRS Tax Code itself to convince her they were correct. When the IRS and Kozak became at odds, these same professionals and others convinced Kozak that they had the "legal" remedies to resolve her disputes and the disputes of others associated with her.

These so-called experts left out one very important fact. The fact was that if Kozak were to be indicted and put on trial, the federal judge would instruct the jury that all U.S. citizens are required to file income tax forms if they earn beyond a specific amount of money. You see, Kozak paid her taxes, but she simply refused to file the Form 1040 because she came to have a specific belief about using that form. In fact, the withholding system actually created an overpayment of taxes for her and her husband for some years. The way the IRS system works is that if you file for past years, which the Kozaks have now done in order to bring closure to their circumstances, and there is a tax owed, you still must pay. But if you have an overpayment, and the filing is beyond 3 years, the IRS will not return any of that

money. They keep it without crediting it to other taxes owed.

It will also be well-established at trial that the liens Donna submitted to a public record for a third party are not recognized remedies by the current system of government which is operating this country. During one interview Donna Kozak stated, "I feel very humiliated for having believed these people about alternate remedy processes. I had no idea that I was being deceived. I actually thought that I was being patriotic and



Deborah R. Gilg and Michael P. Norris in front of the Federal Courthouse in Omaha, NE

attempting to correct my government that has gone so far off course."

While there is sufficient evidence to prove that Donna Kozak is innocent, much of it will be inadmissible during her trial due to corrupted laws, court rules, etc. Actually, the only defense that Kozak will have when she faces her jury, will be her good faith belief that she wasn't required to file and her belief that the liens she filed were appropriate remedies to keep court and IRS officials in check.

It is an ABSOLUTE fact that Donna Kozak did not have any

intent to commit a crime, just as it is an ABSOLUTE fact that, just like hundreds of thousands of Americans, she believed her government was dysfunctional and corrupt and that she was doing her patriotic duty when she refused to file the forms and when she process-served a third-party's liens for filing.

Ms. Kozak was factually a victim of extremely deceptive tax-protestor professionals, making it completely impossible for her to be a perpetrator of a crime. This situation is actually no different whatsoever from the countless elderly people in America who fall victim to phone scammers on a daily basis. The scammers easily convince the elderly they owe money for one thing or another – the scammers access the accounts of the elderly and the rest is history.

Donna Kozak should be found NOT Guilty. If there is any other finding, it will be due to the very same corruption that Ms. Kozak was attempting to correct. If her jury finds her guilty, they will all eventually read my articles and they will live out their days knowing they have ruined a completely innocent fellow American. Each and every public official, including the federal judge in her case will live each day of their lives wondering who has read about their treachery and abuse and I assure them that I will completely ruin their legacy and reputation before I am through.

Nothing could be worse than for an American public servant to wrongfully attack the citizens they are supposed to serve, especially the elderly. The US-Observer takes such things very seriously. It is hoped that other men and women in the Omaha area will pack the federal court trial, currently scheduled for July 28th at the Omaha Federal Courthouse, in support of learning about their public servants and the kind of (in)justice they are planning to carry out, because you never know if you will be next.

NewsWithViews.com
WHERE REALITY SHATTERS ILLUSION

5 Exonerated in Central Park Jogger Case Settle Suit for \$40 Million

By Benjamin Weiser

(New York Times) - The five men whose convictions in the brutal 1989 beating and rape of a female jogger in Central Park were later overturned have agreed to a settlement of about \$40 million from New York City to resolve a bitterly fought civil rights lawsuit over their arrests and imprisonment in the sensational crime.

The agreement, reached between the city's Law Department and the five plaintiffs, would bring to an end an extraordinary legal battle over a crime that came to symbolize a sense of lawlessness in New York, amid reports of "wilding" youths and a marauding "wolf pack" that set its sights on a 28-year-old investment banker who ran in the park many evenings after work.

The confidential deal, disclosed by a person who is not a party in the lawsuit but was told about the proposed settlement, must still be approved by the city comptroller and then by a federal judge.

The initial story of the crime, as told by the police and prosecutors, was that a band of young people, part of a larger gang that rampaged through Central Park, had mercilessly beaten and sexually assaulted the jogger. The story quickly exploded into the public psyche, fanned by politicians and sensational news reports that served to inflame racial tensions.

The five black and Hispanic men, ages 14 to 16 at the time of their arrests, claimed that incriminating statements they had given had been coerced by the authorities. The statements were ruled admissible, and the men were convicted in two separate trials in 1990.

In December 2002, an investigation by the Manhattan district attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, found DNA and other evidence that the woman had been raped and beaten not by the five teenagers but by another man, Matias Reyes, a convicted rapist and murderer who had confessed to acting alone in the attack. Concluding that the new evidence could have changed the original verdict, Mr. Morgenthau's office joined a defense motion

asking that the convictions be vacated.

If approved, the settlement would fulfill a pledge by Mayor Bill de Blasio to meet a "moral obligation to right this injustice."

The proposed settlement averages roughly \$1 million for each year of imprisonment for the men. That amount would suggest that the city was poised to pay one of the men, Kharey Wise, who spent about 13 years in prison, more than it has in any wrongful conviction case.

The other four men — Kevin Richardson, Antron McCray, Yusef Salaam and Raymond Santana Jr. — served about seven years in prison.

The lawsuit had accused the city's police and prosecutors of false arrest, malicious prosecution and a racially motivated conspiracy to deprive the men of their civil rights, allegations which the administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg denied and fought vigorously for more than a decade in federal court.

In contesting the suit, the Bloomberg administration argued that the authorities had acted in good faith and with cause, and should not be held liable. In 2011, a senior corporation counsel lawyer said that the charges had been supported by "abundant probable cause, including confessions that withstood intense scrutiny, in full and fair pretrial hearings and at two lengthy public trials."

In early 2013, the city's Law Department echoed those views. "The case is not about whether the teens were wrongly convicted," a department spokeswoman said. "It's about whether prosecutors and police deliberately engaged in misconduct."

But in January, lawyers for Mayor de Blasio

asked the court to delay the litigation so that the new corporation counsel, Zachary W. Carter, could "get up to speed on the facts and the circumstances" of the case. Later, the mayor said that Mr. Carter was "committed to making sure we get to that settlement quickly, some complicated issues, but we're going to work through them very, very quickly."

If the proposed settlement is approved by the comptroller, Scott M. Stringer, it would then be submitted for approval to Judge Deborah A. Batts of Federal District Court in Manhattan.



From left: Antron McCray, Raymond Santana Jr., Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam and Kharey Wise

In 2007, Judge Batts rejected the city's motion to dismiss the suit and allowed most of the claims to proceed.

In such settlements, the city typically does not admit liability or wrongdoing; and any settlement with the five men would presumably include the legal fees and costs. Aides to Mr. de Blasio, Mr. Carter and Mr. Stringer all declined to comment on Thursday when asked about the discussions, as did Jonathan C. Moore, a lawyer representing four of the men. A lawyer for the fifth man did not return a message seeking comment.

The proposed deal comes not long after the city said it would settle two longstanding lawsuits involving the Police Department's stop-and-frisk practices. In that litigation as well, Mr. de Blasio reversed the city's long-held position, and he agreed to sweeping court-ordered reforms that the Bloomberg administration had tried to block on appeal.

The mayor made that announcement at a news conference in Brownsville, Brooklyn, where stop-and-frisk tactics had been widely used. He appeared with Mr. Carter; the police commissioner, William J. Bratton; and, in a

show of unity, lawyers with groups that had sued the city.

It is not yet known if or how the mayor might announce a settlement of the Central Park lawsuit, if it is approved.

Over the years, the men have consistently maintained their innocence in the rape of the jogger, Trisha Meili, who was left with no memory of the attack. (Years later, Ms. Meili revealed her identity and wrote a book, "I Am the Central Park Jogger.") In prison, three of the men — Mr. Richardson, Mr. Salaam and Mr. Santana — maintained their innocence in the rape at parole hearings, where such a stance hurt their chances at a reduced term. At the hearings, the men acknowledged being in the park as part of a group of teenagers, some of whom committed assaults unrelated to the attack on Ms. Meili, and most expressed regret for the events, without going into specifics, transcripts show.

Mr. Santana indicated in his hearing that the larger group was out to rob people. "I took part in with the beatings of that man," he said of one victim, adding, "If I could go back in time and not do it again, you know, it would have been a whole different story."

The men's lawyers have long said that their clients committed no crimes in the park that night.

In recent years, the case remained in the public eye, largely through a documentary, "The Central Park Five," made by the filmmakers Ken Burns; his daughter, Sarah Burns; and her husband, David McMahon.

As recently as last Friday, about 100 people gathered at the Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Brooklyn to view the film and to hear a talk by one of the men, Mr. Salaam. He described the stigma of living with the brand of being a rapist. "It wasn't a popular thing to be one of us," he said. The film, he added, "really gave us our lives back."

At one point, he addressed the lawsuit. "Mayor de Blasio has said that he will settle this case for us and there has been some positive motion," Mr. Salaam said, adding, "We've been waiting 25 years for justice."

★★★

How to Anonymize Everything You Do Online

By Andy Greenberg

(WIRED) - One year after the first revelations of Edward Snowden, cryptography has shifted from an obscure branch of computer science to an almost mainstream notion: It's possible, user privacy groups and a growing industry of crypto-focused companies tell us, to encrypt everything from emails to IMs to a gif of a motorcycle jumping over a plane.

But it's also possible to go a step closer toward true privacy online. Mere encryption hides the content of messages, but not who's communicating. Use cryptographic anonymity tools to hide your identity, on the other hand, and network eavesdroppers may not even know where to find your communications, let alone snoop on them. "Hide in the network," security guru Bruce Schneier made his first tip for evading the NSA. "The less obvious you are, the safer you are."

Though it's hardly the sole means of achieving online anonymity, the software known as Tor has become the most vouchsafed and developer-friendly method for using the Internet incognito. The free and open source program triple-encrypts your traffic and bounces it through computers around the globe, making tracing it vastly more difficult. Most Tor users know the program as a way to anonymously browse the Web. But it's much more. In fact, Tor's software runs in the background of your operating system and creates a proxy connection that links with the Tor network. A growing number of apps and even operating systems provide the option to route data over that connection, allowing you to obscure your identity for practically any kind of online service.

Some users, in fact, are experimenting with using Tor in almost all their communications. "It's like being a vegetarian or a vegan," says Runa Sandvik, a privacy activist and former developer for Tor. "You don't eat certain types of food, and for me I choose to use Tor only. I like the idea that when I log onto a website, it doesn't know where I'm located, and it can't track me."

Here's how you can use the growing array of anonymity tools to protect more of your life online.

WEB BROWSING

The core application distributed for free by the non-profit Tor Project is the Tor Browser, a hardened, security-focused version of Firefox that pushes all of your Web traffic through Tor's anonymizing network. Given the three encrypted jumps that traffic takes between computers around the world, it may be the closest thing to true anonymity on the Web. It's also rather slow. But the Tor browser is getting faster, says Micah Lee, a privacy-focused technologist who has worked with the Electronic Frontier Foundation—one of the organizations that funds the Tor Project—and First Look Media. For the past month or so, he's tried to use it as his main browser and only switch back to traditional browsers occasionally, mostly for flash sites and others that require plugins.

After about a week, he says, the switch was hardly noticeable. "It may not be entirely necessary, but I haven't found it that inconvenient either," Lee says. "And it does have real privacy benefits. Everyone gets tracked everywhere they go on the Web. You can opt out of that."

EMAIL

The simplest way to anonymously send email is to use a webmail service in the Tor Browser. Of course, that requires signing up for a new webmail account without revealing any personal information, a difficult task given that Gmail,

Outlook, and Yahoo! Mail all require a phone number.

Runa Sandvik suggests Guerrilla Mail, a temporary, disposable email service. Guerrilla Mail lets you set up a new, random email address with only a click. Using it in the Tor Browser ensures that no one, not even Guerrilla Mail, can connect your IP address with that ephemeral email address.

Encrypting messages with webmail can be tough, however. It often requires the user to copy and paste messages into text windows and then use PGP to scramble and unscramble them. To avoid that problem, Lee instead suggests a different email setup, using a privacy-focused email host like Riseup.net, the Mozilla email app Thunderbird, the encryption plugin Enigmail, and another plugin called TorBirdy that routes its messages through Tor.

INSTANT MESSAGING

Adium and Pidgin, the most popular Mac and Windows instant messaging clients that support the encryption protocol OTR, also support Tor. (See how to enable Tor in Adium here and in Pidgin here.) But the Tor Project is working to create an IM program specifically designed to be more secure and anonymous. That Tor IM client, based on a program called Instant Bird, was slated for release in March but is behind schedule. Expect an early version in mid-July.

LARGE FILE TRANSFERS

Google Drive and Dropbox don't promise much in the way of privacy. So Lee created Onionshare, open-source software that lets anyone directly send big files via Tor. When you use it to share a file, the program creates what's known as a Tor Hidden Service—a temporary, anonymous website—hosted on your computer. Give the recipient of the file the .onion address for that site, and they can securely and anonymously download it through their Tor Browser.

MOBILE DEVICES

Anonymity tools for phones and tablets are far behind the desktop but catching up fast. The Guardian Project created an app called Orbot that runs Tor on Android. Web browsing, email and IM on the phone can all be set to use Orbot's implementation of Tor as a proxy.

Apple users don't yet have anything that compares. But a 99-cent app called Onion Browser in the iOS app store offers anonymous web access from iPhones and iPads. An audit by Tor developers in April revealed and helped fix some of the program's vulnerabilities. But Sandvik suggests that prudent users should still wait for more testing. In fact, she argues that the most sensitive users should stick with better-tested desktop Tor implementations. "If I were in a situation where I needed anonymity, mobile is not a platform I'd rely on," she says.



EVERYTHING ELSE

Even if you run Tor to anonymize every individual Internet application you use, your computer might still be leaking identifying info online. The NSA has even used unencrypted Windows error messages sent to Microsoft to finger users and track their identities. And an attacker can compromise a web page you visit and use it to deliver an exploit that breaks out of your browser and sends an unprotected message revealing your location.

So for the truly paranoid, Lee and Sandvik recommend using entire operating systems designed to send every scrap of information they communicate over Tor. The most popular Tor OS is Tails, or The Amnesiac Incognito Live System. Tails can boot from a USB stick or DVD so no trace of the session remains on the machine, and anonymizes all information. Snowden associates have said the NSA whistleblower is himself a fan of the software.

For the even more paranoid, there is a lesser-known Tor-enabled OS called Whonix. Whonix creates multiple "virtual machines" on the user's computer—software versions of full computer operating systems that are designed to be indistinguishable from a full computer. Any attacker trying to compromise the user's computer will be confined to that virtual machine.

That virtualization trick underlines an important point for would-be anonymous Internet users, Lee says: If your computer gets hacked, the game is over. Creating a virtual sandbox around your online communications is one way to keep the rest of your system protected.

"Tor is awesome and can make you anonymous. But if your endpoint gets compromised, your anonymity is compromised too," he says. "If you really need to be anonymous, you also need to be really secure." ★★★

144 SW G. ST. GRANTS PASS, OR. • NEXT TO DUTCH BROS. COFFEE
• CALL TODAY FOR MEMBERSHIP •
541-441-2398

NitroFit

Gyms™

Membership Pricing

24 MONTH \$25 ADD FAMILY MEMBER \$25	18 MONTH \$35 ADD FAMILY MEMBER \$25	12 MONTH \$40 ADD FAMILY MEMBER \$35	6 MONTH \$45 ADD FAMILY MEMBER \$40
---	---	---	--

ONE TIME 24/7 CARD ACTIVATION FEE \$25

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



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

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

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

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

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

frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

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

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

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

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.

**Call Us Today!
541-474-7885**

**If you prefer email:
editor@usobserver.com**

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

The US-Observer's services have

VINDICATED



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

James Faire

Victim: Land Use Violation

Status: Dismissed

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

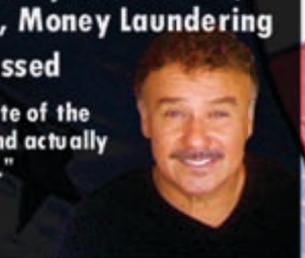


The Parkers

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

Status: Dismissed

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



Dean Muchow

Charge: Government Abuse

Status: Cleared

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



Manuel Mairs

Charges: Felony Perjury

Status: Dismissed & Compensated

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



Pamela Fanning

**Charges: Felony Grand
Theft/RICO**

Status: Dismissed

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



Al Perelstein

Victim: Investment Scam

Status: Compensated

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



WWW.USOBSERVER.COM