

Featured Sections

In the Nation
... Pages 4-5

Featured
Commentary
... Pages 8-9

2nd Amendment
Section ... Pages 16-17

Letters to the Editor
... Page 18

Do You Know This Idaho Attorney?



See Page 19

US~Observer Exposes Client's Deceit

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

LAKE CHARLES, LA - On December 19, 2008 Kathleen Berry, a psychologist from Lake Charles, Louisiana, retained the services of the US~Observer to help get her children, Zachary and Ryan Hebert back to her and away from their father, Michael Hebert. Kathleen had stated to me that her children were suffering for far too long and she was more than convincing. She said that because of the abuse inflicted by Michael, Zachary and Ryan were failing school, getting into fights and her youngest of two, Ryan had even been

Story on Page 12

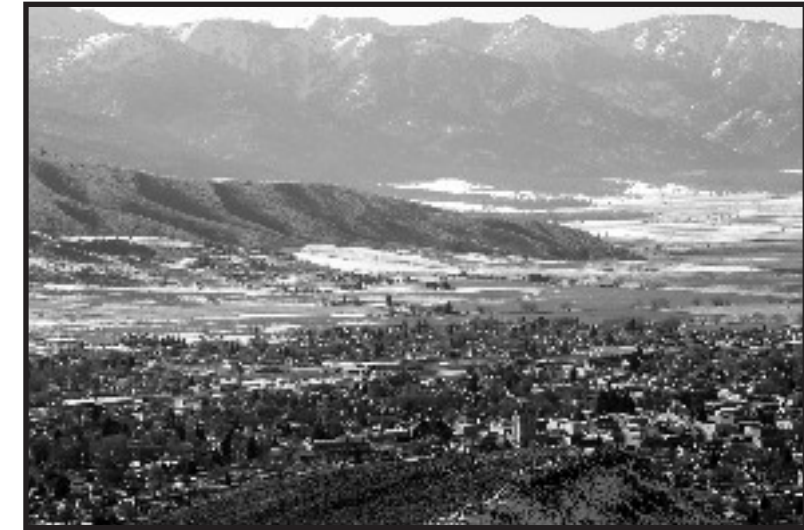
USFS Travel Plan 'Stealing' Public Access

County
Commissioners
Assist Fed Theft



By Brian Addison

EASTERN OREGON - There is a shift in control occurring in this country away from the protections of civil liberty and personal freedom to a more centralized system of government. Nowhere is this great change more evident than in the mountains of northeastern Oregon, where the people face the closure of thousands of miles of forest roads, and the loss of motorized access to the abundant resources and recreational



Toward the mountains of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

opportunities in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF).

The forces pushing toward the latest change in federal land-use management include federal agencies, the well-funded private environmental preservation organizations and our political representatives - right down to the local level. A concerned local public is just awakening to the threats posed by the Travel

Management Rule and to the potential loss of our freedom to access the public lands of the WWNF. In a few corners of northeastern Oregon there is growing outrage at what is perceived as another great western land grab by the federal government, this time under the veil of the 2005 national Travel Management Rule.

The people of northeastern Oregon first learned of the Travel

Continued on page 11

Elderly Couple Swindled Gary Holmes' History of Fraud



Ed and Aida Hanson

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

VANCOUVER, WA - 72 year old Ed Hanson and his wife Aida, an elderly couple residing in Vancouver, WA have been left with almost nothing to their name as they have become one of the

many victims of "career criminal" Gary Holmes, (aka Gary Douglas Holmes) currently a resident of Southern Oregon.

Ed Hanson contacted the US~Observer to tell his horrifying story of how Gary Holmes, a self proclaimed financial investment expert doing

"Gods" work has cost him and his family nearly everything material. Holmes scam, "Castle Builders Ministry," purported to pay off mortgages, credit card debt and financed vehicles. Holmes promised to accomplish this by placing the money he received from trusting people like Ed and Aida into an investment program that compounded interest. This is the exact lie that Holmes has been using for years to bilk the elderly out of their life savings. The US~Observer has been following Holmes for over three years and you can view our previous articles at www.usobserver.com and search for "Lariat".

Holmes formerly operated a business called the "Lariat Group" with Robert Chamberlain and Butch McIntyre. Holmes' Lariat Group used nearly the same deceptions and lies to steal the elderly's money as did Castle Builders Ministry, the fraudulent business that Ed and Aida Hanson

Continued on page 15

Texas Heirs Face Looming Danger

Editor's Note: Would you want your final wishes to be overruled and your heirs to be stripped of what should rightfully be theirs? This type of 'estate looting' is occurring across the country. The US~Observer sincerely hopes Judge Burt Carnes takes it to heart that his ruling in this case just might have impact beyond his "little" corner of Texas.



Burt Carnes, Judge of the 368th Judicial District Court, Williamson County, Texas.

Story on page 13

The State of My Union

By Ron Lee

This is a rant. It is not a threat, nor do I have first-hand knowledge of any planned uprising.

Splintered, reeling in panic, ANGRY ... this is the State of my Union. My America. Not the D.C. world of "reality" where they pretend to know what the public needs; where their lack of knowledge of their constituency's true needs astounds me.

Splintered.

Splintered because there are really two Americas. One wanting nothing more than a government that leaves them alone. A government that works under the letter of constitutional law, allowing for the states to make tough economic choices. A government that realizes its public aren't a bunch of sheep that need to

Continued on page 10

Inside this edition

Oregon Sheriff Defends Rights	Page 6
Devvy Kidd: Ten Square Miles	Page 14
Freedom-Loving "Terrorists"	Page 20
What is an American?	Page 24

US~Observer

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

PRSR. STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, OR
Permit No. 188

NationalGrange.org

Resolutions for a Stronger America

Right to Keep and Bear Arms



The National Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 3,600 local communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable Rural America. It was formed in the years following the American Civil War to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. Over the past 137 years, it has evolved to include non-farm rural families and communities.

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

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

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

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



nationalgrange.org
The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

Subject: “The Right to Keep and Bear Arms Act” (H.R.3125)

Whereas: In June, 2003, the United States sponsored a "Week of Action Against Small Arms." This action is against privately owned firearms, which proves the United Nations is against the fundamental right of the American people "To Keep and Bear Arms" per the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whereas: United Nations Secretary, General Kofi Annan has called on members of the Security Council to "Tackle the proliferation and easy availability" of small arms and light weapons. French President Jacques Chirac has called for a global tax on firearms. On a worldwide comprehensive program of gun control, the United Nations Security Council praises the restrictive gun policies of Red China and France.

Whereas: The United Nations isn't an elected representative form of government. It's members are appointed by the countries they represent. They have proven by their resolutions and revisions to the United Nations Charter that they are working toward a one-world federal government and do not respect the rights of the United States as our creator. The actions of the United Nations against the American people's rights to keep and bear arms per the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution proves what their real goals are.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports the passage of H.R. 3125, "The Right to Keep and Bear Arms Act", because this bill prohibits United States taxpayer dollars from being used to support or promote any United Nations action that would infringe on the American people's rights to keep and bear arms per the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution.

• *This resolution adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at it's regular meeting held on May 10, 2004.*

• *This resolution adopted by the Oregon State Grange at it's 131st Annual Session held at Joseph, Oregon week of June 21 - 25, 2004 regular meeting held on May 10, 2004.*

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

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

■■■

The Independent Jury's Secret Power

By Don Doig
National Coordinator
Fully Informed Jury Association
(FIJA)

Are you one of the millions of Americans who feel you have no control over the government, that lately it seems to be acting more like a "master" than a "servant"?

Did America's Founders leave us defenseless? No, they did not. We, the people, do have a very powerful personal "handle" on our government. This is the power of the jury to judge the law itself, if justice requires it, and to refuse to convict the defendant if the law is lacking in merit. Jurors may believe a law to be unconstitutional, or fundamentally unfair, or misapplied in the case at hand. In order to fulfil their responsibility to the defendant, the community, and their own consciences, they must not set aside their own judgment of right and wrong. Jurors can never be punished for a verdict which displeases the judge.

In a word, the jury was traditionally viewed as a political institution, charged with the responsibility not only to deliver justice in a particular case, but to enforce the Bill of Rights! Just like the three sitting branches of government, it has a veto on proposed laws.

These principles date back hundreds of years. In 1670, William Penn was arrested for preaching a Quaker sermon, by so doing breaking the law of England, which made the Church of England the only legal church. The jurors in his trial, led by Edward Bushell, refused to convict him, despite being detained for days and held without food, water, tobacco or toilet facilities. The most adamant four of them were then put in prison for nine weeks.

When it eventually released the four by court order, the highest court of England both acknowledged and established that trial jurors could not be punished for their verdicts. Our freedoms of religion, peaceable assembly and speech thus all trace to our right to a trial by a jury of peers, a jury un intimidated by the government.

The sedition trial of John Peter Zenger, in the American colonies, was another

landmark case. Zenger was arrested for publishing materials critical of the Royal Governor of New York colony and his cronies, accusing them of corruption. While the charges were true, the jury was told that under the law, truth was no defense.

Zenger's attorney, Andrew Hamilton, argued to the jury that they were judges of the merits of the law, and should not go against good conscience to convict Zenger of violating such a bad law. The jurors agreed. Zenger was acquitted in about fifteen minutes, and his case helped establish the right to freedom of the press.

As Thomas Jefferson said, in a letter to Thomas Paine in 1789: "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet devised by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

America's second President, John Adams, said in 1771: "It is not only [the juror's] right, but his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

And John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said: "The jury has a right to judge both the law as well as the fact in controversy." Georgia v. Brailsford, 1794.

In American legal tradition, an unconstitutional law is viewed as invalid, and is no law at all. And until a law passes the test of community acceptance, and is enforced by juries, it cannot be viewed as a done deal. Meanwhile, legislators continue to receive community feedback on how their work is being received.

Judges have, for the last hundred years, tried to hide this power from the American people, and now actively attempt to suppress it. The Fully Informed Jury Association is working to inform all Americans about their right as citizen jurors to vote their consciences, and would like to see citizens chosen to serve as jurors told the truth about their actual rights and responsibilities, as a matter of law.

Contact:
FIJA, P.O. Box 59, Helmville, MT
59843; 1-800-TEL-JURY.

■■■

What rights
do you
have as
a juror
that
THE
JUDGE
WON'T
TELL
YOU?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! fija www.fija.org 800-TEL-JURY
FULLY INFORMED JURY ASSOCIATION

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

If you are then you are aware of how the ‘justice’ industry (racket) in America works. You (**the innocent person**) are falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a “plea bargain” from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a retainer to cover the usual \$150.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven’t even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn’t completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can’t win your

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

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

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

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

The US~Observer newspaper will not waste your time or your money. This is not a game, it’s your life and your freedom. We do not make deals. If you are innocent, then nobody has the right to steal what belongs to you, most of all, your liberty. Nobody! That includes your attorney—as well as your supposed public servants. Why have a bad day when it’s still possible to force justice...right down their throats?

If you are innocent and there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, *the US~Observer* provides a 100% money-back guarantee on criminal cases should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication. *The US~Observer* investigates cases for news and therefore we don’t print that which can’t be resolved. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

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

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

Contact the US~Observer at: (541) 474-7885

US~Observer

Demanding Accountability

Breaking the Bounds of Abusive Regulations

Professional investigations on the following:



Civil • Criminal • Theft • Blackmail • Stalkers
Surveillance • Defamation • Missing Persons
Fraud • Legal Malpractice

(541) 474-7885

The Scales Of Justice Are Finally Tipped In Your Favor

www.usobserver.com

In The Nation

U.S. output plummets, manufacturing at record low

By Lucia Mutikani

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. industrial output fell to its lowest level in almost seven years in February and manufacturing in New York state slumped further this month, according to data released on Monday that pointed to a deteriorating economy.

Adding to the economy's problems, the Treasury said foreigners were net sellers of U.S. securities in January, a worrying development at a time when the government is rolling out a massive spending plan to break the 14-month recession.

The Federal Reserve said industrial production fell 1.4 percent last month, following a 1.9 percent drop in January and worse than market expectations for a 1.1 percent decline.

Compared with February 2008, output declined 11.2 percent, with the index at 99.7, the lowest since April 2002, the Fed said.

Despite the poor data, U.S. stocks were on a firm footing as they extended their recovery from 12-year lows hit earlier this month, boosted by optimism that some stability might be returning to the financial sector.

Prices of government bonds fell, losing some of their safe-haven allure as equities rallied. The U.S. dollar dropped, with the euro touching a five-week high as investors took a dim view of the capital outflows in January.

Analysts said the data dashed hopes that the economic downturn, which started in December 2007, is close to finding a bottom. That optimism had been fanned by a report last week showing a modest decline in February retail sales.

"Hopes that the U.S. recession is close to ending are not supported by these nasty figures," said Roger Kubarych, an economist at Unicredit Markets & Investment Banking in New York. "Several more months of declining industrial production are highly probable."

Industrial capacity utilization dropped to 70.9 February, matching a December 1982 record low for the series, which dates back to 1967, from 71.9 in January, the Fed said.

Manufacturing eased 0.7 percent in February after sliding 2.7 percent in January. The pace of decline slowed due to an increase in the production of motor vehicles and parts after extended plant shutdowns in January, the Fed said.

Production once made this country great



EXPORTS EVAPORATING

"The manufacturing sector is still declining as firms struggle to pare inventories and come to grips with lower consumer spending, evaporating exports and the full force of a capital spending downturn," said Daniel Meckstroth, chief economist at the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI.

"These negative forces are a lot to absorb and it is too early to see a turnaround in the industrial sector. The best we can say is that the industrial side of the economy is declining at a decelerating rate."

Separately, the New York Federal Reserve's Empire State factory index showed manufacturing activity in New York State slumped in March. It dropped to a record minus 38.23 in from February's minus 34.65.

One silver lining in the report was the six-month expectations gauge of business conditions, which bounced back into positive territory. But this was coupled with more signs that tight credit conditions were hampering business.

The report's new orders and shipments indexes also dropped sharply to record lows. Investment was suffering as well, with gauges on expectations of capital spending and technology spending falling to their weakest on record.

Housing, which is at the center of the global economic and financial crisis, remains stuck deep in recession. The NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market index was flat at 9 in March, marking a fifth consecutive month of single-digit readings.

There was more bad news for the recession-hit economy, with the Treasury Department saying net overall capital outflows from the United States were a record \$148.9 billion in January.

Demand for long-maturity securities like bonds, notes and equities shifted from an inflow in December. This comes as the government lays out a \$787 billion stimulus plan to halt the economy's downward spiral.

But there was some comfort, as China and Japan, the largest holders of U.S. securities, increased their Treasury holdings.

"The reluctance of foreign investors to buy U.S. assets is a concern for the dollar going forward," said Matthew Strauss, senior currency strategist, at RBC Capital Markets in Toronto.

■ ■

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

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

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

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

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

Join our professional Network today and become part of the machine that will change our troubled nation.

Call 541-474-7885

Ponzi Schemers Could be Hiding in the Hedges

By Kaja Whitehouse

The Securities and Exchange Commission is extending its hunt for Ponzi schemers into the world of hedge funds on a bet that scam artists might be taking advantage of the secretive nature of the sector.

At the same time, the Wall Street watchdog agency is also investigating whether some hedge-fund managers are "favoring their own interests" when it comes to getting money out of locked-up funds.

"During the current crisis, the SEC has become particularly concerned about possible hedge-fund offering frauds, where fraudsters use the non-transparent and largely unregulated status of hedge funds to conceal large Ponzi schemes," SEC Commissioner Elisse Walter told the House Financial Services Committee yesterday.

The SEC has tried to step up its efforts to root out Ponzi schemes after it got caught flat-footed in the \$65 billion Bernard Madoff scandal.

Meanwhile, Walter said the agency was also probing whether hedge funds that have blocked most investors from withdrawing money are in fact allowing exceptions for those deemed worthy.

In other words, whether hedge fund managers are selectively letting their friends and colleagues get out while blocking the exits for other investors, such as some of the nation's state pension funds.

Eager to keep cash-strapped investors from further bleeding their funds dry, even big names like Ken Griffin's Citadel Investments and Steve Feinberg's Cerberus Capital Management have imposed restrictions that prevent investors from withdrawing their money.

Many hedge-fund managers say they're already resigned to the prospect of SEC chief Mary Schapiro moving toward regulating their industry.

"Remember that most frauds occurred in the regulated area," snipped one hedge-fund executive, referring to the fact that Madoff's investment arm, at the center of the Ponzi scheme, was registered with the SEC as an investment adviser.

■ ■



In The Nation

Obama to Bill Combat Wounded for Medical Care *Requires private insurance carriers to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs*



(Newsmax) - The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization says he is "deeply disappointed and concerned" after a meeting with President Obama today to discuss a proposal to force private insurance companies to pay for the treatment of military veterans who have suffered service-connected disabilities and injuries. The Obama administration recently revealed a plan to require private insurance carriers to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in such cases.

"It became apparent during our discussion today that the President intends to move forward with this unreasonable plan," said Commander David K. Rehbein of The American Legion. "He says he is looking to generate \$540-million by this method, but refused to hear arguments about the moral and government-avowed obligations that would be compromised by it."

The Commander, clearly angered as he emerged from the session said, "This reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle' given that the United States government sent members of the armed forces into harm's way, and not private insurance companies. I say again that The American Legion does not and will not support any plan that seeks to bill a veteran for treatment of a service connected disability at the very agency that was created to treat the unique need of America's veterans!"

Commander Rehbein was among a group of senior officials from veterans service organizations joining the President, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and Steven Kosiak, the overseer of defense spending at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The group's early afternoon conversation at The White House was precipitated by a letter of protest presented to the President earlier this month. The letter, co-signed by Commander Rehbein and the heads of

ten colleague organizations, read, in part, " There is simply no logical explanation for billing a veteran's personal insurance for care that the VA has a responsibility to provide. While we understand the fiscal difficulties this country faces right now, placing the burden of those fiscal problems on the men and women who have already sacrificed a great deal for this country is unconscionable."

Commander Rehbein reiterated points made last week in testimony to both House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. It was stated then that The American Legion believes that the



reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate that VA treat service-connected injuries and disabilities given that the United States government sends members of the armed forces into harm's way, and not private insurance companies. The proposed requirement for these companies to reimburse the VA would not only be unfair, says the Legion, but would have an adverse impact on service-connected disabled veterans and their families. The Legion argues that, depending on the severity of the medical conditions involved, maximum insurance coverage limits could be reached through treatment of the veteran's condition alone. That would leave the rest of the family without health care benefits.

The Legion also points out that many health insurance companies require deductibles to be paid before any benefits are covered. Additionally, the Legion is concerned that private insurance premiums would be elevated to cover service-connected disabled veterans and their families, especially if

the veterans are self-employed or employed in small businesses unable to negotiate more favorable across-the-board insurance policy pricing. The American Legion also believes that some employers, especially small businesses, would be reluctant to hire veterans with service-connected disabilities due to the negative impact their employment might have on obtaining and financing company health care benefits.

"I got the distinct impression that the only hope of this plan not being enacted," said Commander Rehbein, "is for an alternative plan to be developed

that would generate the desired \$540-million in revenue. The American Legion has long advocated for Medicare reimbursement to VA for the treatment of veterans. This, we believe, would more easily meet the President's financial goal. We will present that idea in an anticipated conference call with White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel in the near future.

"I only hope the administration will really listen to us then. This matter has far more serious ramifications than the President is imagining," concluded the Commander.

■ ■ ■

ACORN to Help with 2010 Census!

By Bobby Eberle

Remember ACORN? If you watched any coverage of the 2008 election, you surely heard of the group. If you saw Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck voting at a polling location near you, they were probably registered by an ACORN volunteer.

This corrupt organization has faced lawsuit after lawsuit claiming the group is responsible for massive voter fraud. What did the group do after that? They moved on to "help" people break the law by breaking into locked-down, foreclosed homes and encouraging the evicted home owners to continue living in the homes, even though they could not pay the bills. Now, this group will be helping with the 2010 census.

So, people who got into homes they couldn't afford and don't pay their bills are not only encouraged by ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) to remain in their homes, they are also being aided by ACORN to do so. Check this out:

As Fox News reports, ACORN "signed on as a national partner with the U.S. Census Bureau in February 2009 to assist with the recruitment of the 1.4 million temporary workers needed to go door-to-door to count every person in the United States."

Just how accurate do you think this census is going to be with ACORN involved? Much is at stake with the new census. As I wrote last month in U.S. Census Becomes Focus of Latest Power Grab, Obama already is looking to exert more control over the census. The census not only determines congressional allocation, but it also provides the raw data by which government spending is allocated on



everything from roads to schools.

ACORN has been accused of voter fraud, embezzlement, and more... and yet this is a group that the federal government wants helping with the census?

"It's a concern, especially when you look at all the different charges of voter fraud. And it's not just the lawmakers' concern. It should be the concern of every citizen in the country," Rep. Lynn A. Westmoreland, R-Ga., vice ranking member of the subcommittee for the U.S. Census, told FOXNews.com. "We want an enumeration. We don't want to have any false numbers."

The news story quotes an ACORN spokesman, Scott Levenson, as saying that ACORN "has not been charged with any crime." Levinson adds, "ACORN is committed to a fair and accurate count." Does anyone actually believe that?

In order to carry out the census, a large number of volunteers are needed. But what is not needed is help from an organization that claims to be non-partisan but goes out of its way to support left wing candidates and causes. ACORN should not be anywhere near the census process.

■ ■ ■



If you could find a way to put real one ounce Silver Eagle Dollars, the lawful money of the United States of America, in the hands of true American Patriots (including yourself) month after month at near zero cost, when would you want the information?

www.patriotsilver.org

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Oregon News

Sheriff Supports Constitution
Gilbertson working to supplant crime best he can

By Ron Lee
Investigative Journalist

GRANTS PASS, OR - Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson has been the target of innuendo and rumblings within the community who suspect Gilbertson's idea to create "shooting districts" within the county as a move to, ultimately, terminate their 2nd amendment rights. Several outspoken individuals and groups have stated to the US~Observer that they are considering a recall of the sheriff. They cite, along with the shooting districts, that he just hasn't done his job and that property crimes aren't handled at all. Gilbertson's critics say that the sheriff no longer patrols and has fallen into the same category as his predecessor, Dave Daniel, who decried the public for not passing more funding for the department. Daniel's own undersheriff, Brian Anderson, had allegedly even commented, "F*** the public. They get what they pay for." It was the exposure of this comment that cost Anderson the election when he ran for the post of Sheriff and landed Gilbertson in office. Gilbertson had maintained throughout his campaign that he'd supply the best coverage he could with whatever the public chose to give him. Something his critics say he has forgotten. Gilbertson's reply is simple and straight-forward. He believes in the Constitution and the 2nd Amendment - which he says he will protect should the Feds think otherwise. He supports an individuals right to achieve a concealed carry permit, and that those citizens have a right to privacy. Gilbertson further states that he is working for the safety of all citizens and just because he is trying to find funding for needed areas of the department it does not mean he isn't doing the best he can with what has been provided.

Under Oregon Revised Statutes (206.010; General duties of sheriff), the sheriff has to maintain and staff the jail, provide court records (subpoena, warrants) processing and serving, as well as "arrest and commit to prison all persons who break the peace, or attempt to

break it, and all persons guilty of public offenses." The law says nothing about crimes against personal property, however, Gilbertson maintains that he would like to go after all criminals and investigate all crimes, but that he is faced with supplying deputies for the more serious crimes against people. When asked about property crimes Gilbertson said, "what do I do? Do I pull deputies off a rape case or a homicide, to go look into a home robbery? Do I pull deputies in from going after the drugs that are the root cause of robberies?" The fact is, there is only a certain level of coverage and protection that the current level of funding can provide and while Gilbertson states he is doing everything he can with that funding, he believes it his responsibility to provide the level of service that the public wants, so he has to find and propose ways to fund it. "It is part of my job as Sheriff ..." Gilbertson stated in regards to finding the funding.

As for the shooting districts, it was only an idea that Gilbertson had floated to Commissioners as several highly congested areas of the county have had issues with property owners not acting responsibly and shooting into neighbors' property causing concern over potential loss of property and life. While shooting into someone else's property is already a crime, some landowners feel threatened, and fear retaliation if they were to file charges against their neighbors. Gilbertson says that the issue of shooting districts is now dead, and he asks citizens to file reports so they can be properly followed up, as shooting incidents endanger lives.

Gilbertson reiterated his previous statement at a recent public forum, "we have a wonderful shooting range in this county, Sportsman Park, where people who live in congested areas can go and shoot responsibly."

Looking toward the future, Gilbertson is unsure of how the current economic downturn will affect the community as far as the sheriff's department is concerned, but he has stated, "the Sheriff's Office is under-going a Strategic Recovery Planning process ...



Josephine County, Oregon Sheriff Gil Gilbertson

regardless of funding considerations, we are committed to performing a Top-to-Bottom review and revision of the Office's operating policies and procedures. This review will work towards optimizing efficiency as well as ensure that our exposures to potential losses are minimized." One thing Gilbertson is sure of, he will defend the public's Constitutional rights and do his job to the best of his ability.

■ ■ ■

Southern Oregon Search & Rescue

Devoted Volunteers Putting Their Lives on the Line



By Ron Lee
US~Observer

GRANTS PASS, OR - The Oregon Search & Rescue (SAR), based in Merlin, Oregon, recently held their annual certification training. Many attended to learn the basic principles of survival, searching and land navigation, while others attended to become full-blown active SAR members. Those 18 individuals were sworn-in by Sheriff Gil Gilbertson on March 6, 2009, and they join a very devoted and lively bunch, who all take their responsibility with sincere seriousness.

According to the Josephine County Search & Rescue web site:

"The Josephine County Sheriff's Patrol Search & Rescue was incorporated as a legal unit in March of 1967. This all volunteer, not-for-profit, non-political organization is not funded by any agency or county general fund dollars.

The Sheriff is responsible for every search in Josephine County, as provided

under ORS 401, therefore, every active member of this organization is deputized. Subsequently, only those of high moral standards and driven to help others are accepted.

Each active member has their own personal equipment with additions provided by the organization. Members of this organization are represented from all walks of life; willing to go on-call whenever needed, day or night. Josephine County Search & Rescue is an all-weather, versatile unit, equipped with everything needed to conduct a well organized search. The individuals have proven themselves available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no cost to the county.

In addition to active duty members, Search & Rescue has specialty teams for specialized rescue situations. These teams include: the Swiftwater Rescue Team, Dive Team, Mountain Rescue Team and Confined Space/Technical Rescue Team.

Every Member of the Josephine County Sheriff's SEARCH & RESCUE Division must meet certain standards and training to ensure a safe and successful search and/or rescue. The standards are developed and maintained by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA). These certification standards are the minimum



which meet state requirements of the Office of Emergency Management and still allow the flexibility for the specific needs or conditions in which our ground personnel operate. The OSSA certification standards are the minimum standards for SAR personnel who will be involved in the field with ground SAR operations as well."

The Josephine County SAR will be hosting the summer California Oregon Search and Rescue (COSAR) exercise from June 11th-14th. Each year a new participating county hosts the event. COSAR was created to better integrate surrounding counties in the event of a multi-county search. As stated on the SAR blog:

"These summer exercises challenge our technical search skills by providing realistic problem solving opportunities using teams integrated from the 8 participating counties. The results of the search exercises and training modules are thoroughly analyzed after

the fact to identify and remedy any practical problems encountered under field conditions. Each debriefing improves the integration among the county SAR units which increases the probability of actual successful search and rescue outcomes."

The COSAR event is an important training exercise that, unfortunately, comes at a cost to the hosting county's SAR unit.

The US~Observer would like to extend our deepest gratitude to these selfless and devoted individuals with SAR and suggest you make your contribution today to this worthy cause. You never know when it will be you, or your loved one, needing SAR. To find out how you can help, call Josephine County Sheriff's Search & Rescue at (541) 955-5552 and leave a message. They'll call you back. Or, you can send your contributions to: P.O. Box 814, Grants Pass, OR 97528.

■ ■ ■

“Lethal to the American ideal” Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 690 allows State to Seize Bank Assets

By Brian Addison

The proposed Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 690 would expand the powers of the Oregon Department of Revenue (ODR) at the expense of personal privacy and has been referred to by Oregon Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli (R) as, "lethal to the American ideal." Senator Ferrioli has vowed to oppose SB 690 and other current legislation that in his words, "attempts to curtail our right to privacy...and undermines the core of what it means to conduct our lives without the watchful eye of Big Brother constantly gazing over our shoulders."

If passed into law, SB 690 would authorize the ODR to create a "data-matching system" with all banks and financial institutions doing business in the state of Oregon. Banks and financial institutions would then be required to provide the name, address, social security number, and other identifying information of any account holder who has neglected to pay state taxes or file a tax return.

SB 690 then paves the way for the ODR to seize the assets of delinquent tax-payers through their bank accounts, with the provision, "A financial institution...is not liable under any state law or to any person: For encumbering or surrendering any assets held by

the financial institution in response to a notice of lien or levy issued by the department."

In addition to allowing the Department of Revenue to search bank account information and seize assets of bank patrons, SB 690 would also strengthen the investigative and reporting powers of the Oregon Department of Revenue by allowing the sharing of tax related information with local law enforcement agencies, state and federal agency officials, and credit reporting services.

"This is wrong, and I will fight it," declared Senator Ferrioli as he closed his discussion on SB 690 and other legislation currently under consideration during the 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly 2009 Session.

Citizens interested in responding to the proposals in SB 690 should contact their elected officials and the sponsor of the bill. SB 690 is sponsored by The Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue. The Committee on Finance and Revenue is comprised of five state senators under the leadership of committee Chairwoman Senator Ginny Burdick (D) Portland, Vice Chairman Sen. Frank Morse (R) from Albany, Sen. Chris Telfer (R) from Bend, and Senators Mark Hass (D) and Diane Rosenbaum both from Portland.

■ ■



Oregon Legislation

Oregon's only
no compromise
gun lobby

By Oregon Firearms Federation

Although there are numerous bills dealing with firearms in the 2009 Legislature, some good and some very bad, the two that have had the most attention have been HB 2463 and HB 2727.

HB 2463 would require Oregon to recognize all other state's concealed handgun licenses, and HB 2727 would protect the privacy of CHL holders.

What makes both these bills remarkable is the support they have received from both sides of the aisle and the law enforcement community. As a matter of fact, HB 2727 which was created with the help of the Oregon Firearms Federation, was introduced at the request of Oregon Sheriffs.

Since a Medford teacher was harassed by her school district and principle when it was discovered that she had a concealed handgun license, it has been clear that making this information public could result in widespread abuse. In fact, the Medford Mail Tribune demanded the names of every teacher in the county who had a CHL.

The sheriff, Mike Winters, refused to disclose the names and legal action has been ongoing ever since. With the passage of 2727, these kinds of invasive demands would be halted.

HB 2727 has support of virtually every

sheriff in Oregon and the vast majority of CHL holders.

House Bill 2463 would recognize the concealed handgun licenses from every state that issues one. This very concept has been debated in the Oregon Legislature for years, and over and over the law enforcement community has opposed it. But this year, the Oregon Sheriffs have stated their approval of the concept, defusing all but the most anti-gun legislators.

Both of these bills have been heard in the House Judiciary Committee but not passed as of time this article was written.

Other bills that correct errors in Oregon law are currently languishing in the Senate Judiciary Committee where the chairman, Floyd Prozanski, has indicated no interest in hearing them. One, SB 573, would correct the anomaly in Oregon law that allows someone with a felony conviction to petition the court to have his rights restored to BUY a gun, but is still not allowed to OWN a gun. So far efforts to convince Prozanski to address this error have been unsuccessful.

HB 2463 and 2727 have a good chance of passing on the House floor, but their fate in the Senate is uncertain.

A list of all pending gun legislation is available on the website of the Oregon Firearms Federation - oregonfirearms.org.

Contact your legislator today! ■ ■

Clip & Save!

Best Mexican Food in Town!

At the Location Below...

Offer Excludes Fish & Shrimp

One Coupon Per Customer

Lupita's

TAQUERIA

Authentic Mexican Food

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

147 "E" St.

Grants Pass, OR 97526

BONDED INSURED

GRANTS PASS

ROOFING

Hot - Mobiles - Shingles & Shakes

Free Estimates

(541) 476-0502

J. SAENZ, OWNER

ROOFING SINCE 1952

LIC. #58171

OREGON ELECTRIC

541-597-4553

KEN LEGAUX, OWNER

E. J. "FRENCHY" LEGAUX, SUPERVISOR

CCB# 70126 LIC# 30798

6375 Lakeshore Dr

PO Box 428

Selma, OR 97538

cell 541-660-9660

GP 541-582-2791

IN GRANTS PASS, OREGON

YOU CAN FIND ALL YOUR

SURVIVAL NEEDS AT:

MILITARY SURPLUS AND MORE

6TH & "J" • OPEN MON.-SAT. TIL 5PM

The Choice is Clear ...

1569 NE 6th St

Grants Pass, OR

541-474-4499

DIAMOND

WINDOWS

Windows • Doors • Siding • Skylights

with professional installation

COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out

Your Government at Work: Betraying American Citizens



By Frosty Wooldridge

Last week, after millions of phone calls and faxes reached all 100 U.S. Senators, our government stripped the E-Verify from the \$800 billion stimulus package.

What does that mean? It means, according to Robert Rector of the

Frosty Wooldridge Heritage Foundation, a minimum of 500,000 criminal aliens and as many as 1.5 million more of them will gain jobs from American taxpayer dollars. In other words, undermine the American worker by using his own money to give jobs to criminal aliens.

As CNN’s Jack Cafferty said, “This recession-depression isn’t that bad and unemployment is only at 8.1 percent and we’ve only lost 4.4 million jobs in the last 15 months. What’s wrong with giving a few hundred thousand jobs away to people who shouldn’t even be in the country in the first place? This is your government at work.”

Thankfully, seventy-five members of Congress asked House leaders last Tuesday to shut down a loophole allowing billions in economic stimulus funds for 300,000 to 1.4 million construction workers who are in the country illegally.

“I believe that this figure may be low,” said Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-FL. “We owe it to the American workers and to American taxpayers to ensure that their money does not go to employ workers in our country illegally.”

To illustrate the incredible fraud in the U.S. Senate, the House version of the package included a requirement that legal residency be verified. But that provision vanished in the Senate package signed by Obama.

By Tuesday, 75 representatives from both sides of the aisle sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner.

They said, “...protect taxpayers and legal workers by including these critical jobs protection provisions in any future economic recovery legislation.”

Steven Camarota, director of research for the Center for Immigration Studies, www.cis.org, said, “The 300,000 figure applies only to the construction portion of the \$787 billion stimulus package. Spending in that

sector is expected to generate about two million jobs, and illegal workers comprise about 15 percent of the construction workforce. At least another one million non-construction jobs are expected to be generated by stimulus spending. Because about five percent of the overall U.S. workforce consists of illegal workers, that would be another 50,000 jobs that “could be” going to illegals.”

Do you think a ‘higher’ form of corruption works in this sorry stimulus package? You would be correct!

Unknown to most Americans and hidden from them by this Congress and the mainstream media, 20 million criminal aliens along with millions of legal migrants to this country send \$80 billion back to their home countries annually in the form cash remittances.

“The fact that illegal aliens send a substantial portion of their earnings abroad reduces the stimulus effect that their employment has inside the United States,” says Robert Rector, senior research fellow with the Heritage Foundation. “It’s outrageous that in a bill designed to provide employment for Americans, Congress has deliberately chosen to allow jobs to be given to illegal immigrants.”

Who did it? House speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid, and President Obama present three distinct possibilities.

“It was somebody high up in the Democratic Party,” Rector said. “We don’t know who it was beyond that.”

If you look at the pro-immigrant lobbyists and the U.S Chamber of Commerce that represents corporate America, you might gain a pretty good clue.

Rector said, “The stimulus bill was the worst case of special-interest lobbying and secrecy that I have seen in Washington in a quarter of a century. It was very clear that they rushed that bill through as rapidly as they possibly could because they did not want the American public to understand what was in the so-called stimulus bill.”

I called my two senators in Colorado; Senator Mark Udall and Michael Bennett. Both democrats! Both voted E-Verify down. Curiously, our Governor Ritter designated Bennett the new Colorado senator when Senator Salazar ascended to Secretary of the Interior. You wouldn’t think Bennett could be corrupted within two months in office, but again, you would be wrong.

Their office aids blew enough smoke up...well, you know what I mean.

The level of corruption in the U.S. Congress rivals third world countries. With straight faces, those men and women pretend to represent American citizens while they lie and cheat them at every level. They allow 20 million illegal aliens free-roaming access within our

country. They undermine immigration law enforcement. They refuse to enforce the “War on Drugs” by closing down our borders with troops.

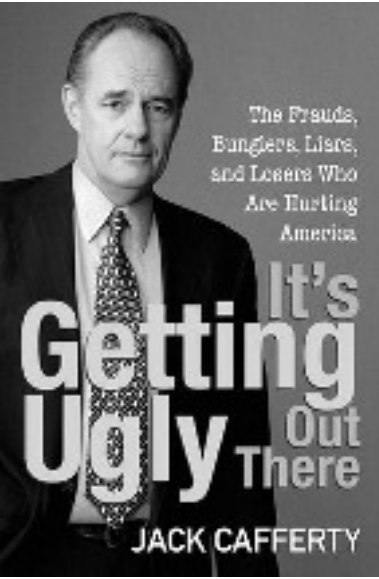
They promote insourcing, outsourcing and offshoring of American jobs. They refuse to mandate English as our national language while

watch our educational systems collapse under multiple languages. They look the other way while taxpayers shell out billions for the exploding ‘anchor baby’ phenomenon. They force American taxpayers to pay for education and medical care for millions of criminal aliens.

Congress twiddles its thumbs, while, and this is the latest figure, 31.1 million Americans live on food stamps. While that’s happening, Obama promotes full amnesty for 20 million criminal aliens and Congress didn’t include E-Verify in the stimulus package to make sure as many of them as possible could take jobs from American citizens.

As Jack Cafferty said, “Your government at work.”

Frosty Wooldridge, a math and science teacher, has bicycled across six continents – from the Arctic to the South Pole – as well as six times across the USA, coast to coast and border to border. He presents “The Coming Population Crisis in America: and what you can do about it” to civic clubs, church groups, high schools and colleges. He has guest lectured at Cornell University, teaching creative writing workshops, magazine writing at Michigan State University, and has presented environmental science lectures at the University of Colorado, University of Denver, Texas A & M, University of Dayton and Regis University. He also guest lectures on "Religion and Ethics" at Front Range College in Colorado. He addresses a national audience with his “Connecting the Dots” radio show twice weekly. Over 100 TV, newspaper and 200 radio stations have interviewed Wooldridge. He works to bring about sensible world population balance at www.frostywooldridge.com.



By Eric Coltrane

I am finding it difficult to stress the implications of these financial crises (there are more than one) they are coming one after the other, after the other. Legislation of all sorts is being embedded in the “stimulus” bills being passed supposedly to stem the tide of this economic downturn (Soft Depression as Jim Puplava calls it). The “Pork” in these bills doesn’t bother me near as much as the legislation being implemented to erode the civil liberties of the U.S. citizen. It seems in a time of crises there are factions in the U.S. Government that have a different agenda than upholding the Constitution.

dissenters. The Campaign for Liberty is the furthest thing from a violent movement. They advocate using your vote to change the make-up of legislators that tell you what you want to hear, to legislators that want to truly uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. The Campaign for Liberty was founded on Rep. Ron Paul’s defense of the Constitution of the United States. His constituents know that when he votes on a bill (or legislation) that he gives it the toughest scrutiny as to whether it conforms to the Constitution. Most legislators don’t, that is why he has been dubbed “Dr. No”. Ron Paul has been re-elected for the past eleven years

These range from the freedom of speech, and individual privacy, to the owning of a firearm. In Missouri the State troopers have been given a list that implies that certain groups are seditionists. Peaceful groups such as the Campaign for Liberty are lumped in with violent

in his district in Texas. Rep. Paul is one of the most humble men I have seen. I have never met him, but it would be an honor to do so one day.

Can you imagine if President Obama accepted a good tutoring from Rep. Ron Paul on the Constitution of the United States? President Obama says that he wants “bi-partisan” support. How come he doesn’t listen to strong support for Constitutional freedom asked for by real patriotic Americans? Is his agenda different than what is outlined by the Founding Fathers? Does the CIA, FBI, IRS, DEA, DEQ, and the DOD realize that citizens questioning government actions is what made the United States of America great? Dissent needs to be welcomed for this republic to thrive! Debate brings knowledge (workable knowledge) to all sides.

As I write this, the House voted 328-93 to approve a 90% tax on bonuses for some executives at companies that are getting bailed-out. I feel like this is a wool cap being pulled over the eyes of U.S. citizens. The U.S. Government

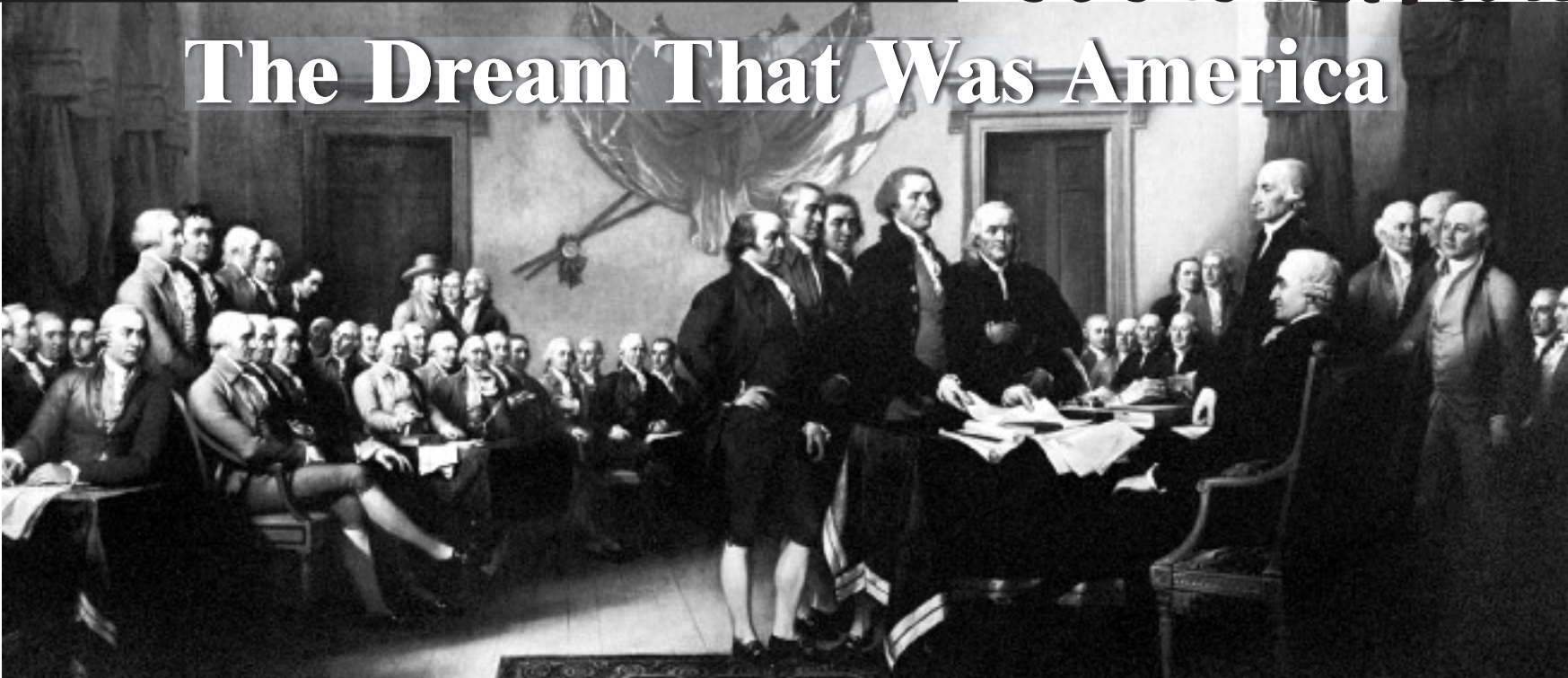
gave the money without putting restrictions on it. What did they think they would do with it? My feeling is that it is a ruse to keep citizens from seeing that their civil liberties are being taken away, slowly, but surely. If you make a loud enough noise over here you won’t be able to hear the gunshot over there. That’s my take on it. I’m listening for the gunshot. America, please wake up and listen for the gunshot too.

Eric Coltrane is a 45 year-old single father who raised three, now grown, children. He is self educated, in part due to being a voracious reader and has consumed more than 2000 books. His fear of the degradation of the U.S. Constitution has been his inspiration to write and inform the sleeping and/or complacent population of the United States. His other interests include gold mining, music, and the Great Northwest outdoors. He has lived in Southern Oregon since 1976. His commentaries have been published locally and nationally.

"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

The Dream That Was America



By Robert Hawes

In Ridley Scott's film *Gladiator*, the ailing Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius (portrayed by the late Richard Harris) travels from the comforts of Rome to the muddy battlefields of second-century Germania on a mission. The Roman army, fighting under the capable leadership of General Maximus (Russell Crowe), has finally defeated the Germanic tribesmen, and Aurelius now longs to turn his attention from the maintenance of an empire to the restoration of a republic. The chief obstacle that stands in his way is his own failing health. Rome needs a young, strong and vigorous leader to take it down the path that Aurelius envisions. His son Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) is weak and spoiled, full of base ambition, not at all the man for the job of relinquishing power. Maximus is the man Aurelius wishes to succeed him to the imperial seat, but Maximus is tired of war and strife, and more than anything else he simply wants to return home. In the following lines of dialogue, Aurelius struggles to convince Maximus that Rome still needs its finest soldier:



Gladiator © Copyright, DreamWorks SKG

MAXIMUS: "5,000 of my men are out there in the freezing mud. 3,000 are cleaved and bloodied. 2,000 will never leave this place. I will not believe they fought and died for nothing."



Robert Hawes

not seen what it has become. I am dying, Maximus. When a man sees his end he wants to know that there has been some purpose to his life. How will the world speak my name in years to come? Will I be known as the philosopher, the warrior, the tyrant? Or will I be remembered as the Emperor who gave Rome back her true self? There was once a dream that was Rome, you could only whisper it. Anything more than a whisper and it would vanish, it was so fragile. And I fear that it will not survive the winter."

Most of you probably know the story. Commodus learns of his father's intentions, kills Aurelius and tries to do the same to Maximus, who barely escapes with his life. Maximus is sold into slavery, becomes a gladiator, and eventually fights in the Colosseum under the eye of Commodus. At one point in the film, Maximus points toward the bloodthirsty crowd awaiting him and exclaims, "Marcus Aurelius had a dream that was Rome... And this is not it. This is not it!"

Say whatever derogatory thing you will about Hollywood; chances are, I'll see your insult and raise you a little righteous indignation. But every once in a while a film comes along with a message that rings true in a powerful way. *Braveheart* was such a film. And while *Gladiator* isn't quite on the same level (the story it depicts is fictional), it



Braveheart Copyright © Paramount

carries its own impact. The struggle it portrays, that of a good man battling against evil in high places, has universal appeal. The ideals behind the story rise above its historical setting.

And every time I hear Richard Harris speaking as Marcus Aurelius I can't help but think: there was once a dream that was America too, and I fear that it may not survive the next election.

For a moment, set aside your party affiliation and whatever special interest you might have and travel back in time with me. We won't need to go far; the seventies and eighties will do just fine. This was the era in which I grew up.

It was also the latter part of the Cold War. The Soviet Union was our great enemy. Why? Because the Soviets were communists, and communists were the sworn enemies of freedom. They were not merely authoritarians but totalitarians. They believed in absolute state control over every aspect of an individual's life, and they were intent on spreading their system throughout the world.

I clearly remember being taught that, in the Soviet Union, fear ruled with an iron fist. Government spies were everywhere. The secret police could listen in on your phone calls at any time. They could read your mail. They could search your home and other property and seize whatever they liked. You could never be certain that you weren't being watched, no matter where you were. You had to carry identification papers everywhere you went, and many times you had to have

permission to travel very far at all. And it wasn't just government agents that you had to be concerned about; you also had to live with the fear that your own friends, co-workers or family members might report you for "suspicious activities" or "politically questionable statements," sometimes for no other reason than to endear themselves to the communist party bosses. You had no enforceable rights where the state was concerned. Government agents could kick your door down in the middle of the night, drag you away to a state prison, torture you and even execute you. Your family would never know where you were. More than likely, you would not have legal council or ever see the inside of a courtroom. You were the property of the



Russian officers check papers

state, which was free to do whatever it liked with you.

We called this oppressive, militaristic mega-state "the Evil Empire," and we prided ourselves on being everything that the Soviets were not.

In America, the common man had enforceable rights, even where the government was concerned. Americans were not the property of the state. You could travel where you wished, and most of the time the government didn't care about what you were doing. Americans could say what they wished, engage in whatever peaceful political activities they wished, with no fear of violent reprisal. Americans did not disappear into gulags. If the government accused you of illegal activities, it had to give you a day in court and prove its case before a jury of your peers. Sure, America had its problems; virtually everyone admitted that. But we were still the "land of the free," and our institutions and daily lives backed that

Continued on page 10

NewsWithViews.com

WHERE REALITY SHATTERS ILLUSION

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 Chancellor

Jeanne Wollman

Paul Kraxberger

Tedd Peck

Joe Snook

Editor/Investigator

Ron Lee

Subscription Rate:

\$29.50 / 12 monthly issues

\$50.00 / 24 monthly issues

See Page 23 of this Issue

For advertising,
please contact 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

Continued from page 1 • State of My Union

be led, or children whose hands they have to hold. They are the responsible America who, in bad times, unite to get things done. They are the ones that you can rely on to search for you if your lost, or build you a new home should yours burn down. They are the true community, built from the neighborly way of old, living under the principle of ‘do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.’ Bottom line, they are the doers. They are the ones who work long and hard. The ones that believe capitalism equals inventiveness, creativity and opportunity. They stand for the little guy, weak or injured and show him how to get back on his own feet, and then leave him to live his life as he wishes - as long as it doesn’t harm others. This America believes in true justice, based on factual guilt. They believe the pursuit of happiness is something to be worked for, not handed - that life and liberty are the only things that are “given” and that both are worth dying for.

The other America is built upon entitlement. It wants to see more government regulations, because it doesn't want the burden of being responsible for it. It wants the government to provide for it, feed it, heal it, because it believes that equality means provision. Its government is large and ominously similar to what we fought during the cold war. This America's public are the ones who feel that they shouldn't be responsible for anything, and lay in wait to sue you for everything you have - because they want it. They believe its okay to turn their backs on their community if it means their self advancement. They are the ones who cry foul when their own personal choices bite them - like smokers who say its the fault of the manufacturers, or that guns are to blame for the criminals who load a gun and then pull the trigger. They see the world and life as something to control and manage, which furthers their need for more regulation, but then cry when that regulation infringes on their own pursuits. They believe in “equal” (special) rights for everything with the exception of what they do not like. Blame is their game, selfishness their method; and their government rules them accordingly, further restricting their freedoms, because its in their own best interest, and these people blindly

believe it is. This America doesn’t believe anything is worth dying for, but that material pursuits, at times, are worth killing for.

Reeling in Panic.

Reeling because my America is seeing the end of an economic era and the beginning of a tidal wave of financial woes never before witnessed in modern history. My America knows you can't throw made-up money at any problem and think it will fix it. They know that when you print 1.2 TRILLION dollars and have nothing tangible backing that money, you have just added 1.2 Trillion Zeros to the worth of our currency and have actual devalued it completely. Let me put it a different way ... If you have a city suffering from a drought, and this city has a dam upstream, you don’t blow the dam! This will simply flood your city. And guess what, soon the water will RECEDE (recession, get it) and you won’t have a dam of water to pull from in times of emergency any longer and the drought will be worse than before. It works that way in economics, too. See, my America knows this. They also know that bail-outs should never happen. Its better to allow for free market failure than government controlled corporations. They are panicked because they see that their retirement is gone and that their children, and theirs, and theirs, and theirs (and so on), will have to pay for this mess even though it’s just all made up money. They fear government ownership and federal control of their daily lives and see it happening with every new piece of legislation being drafted. They are frightened that the food supply is being targeted by both outside influences (China) and our own government who is vying for more complete control. They are panicking because they are watching this great country erode into a culture of something-Americans, and not plain Americans. Unity is gone and the true spirit of being multi-cultural under one flag, is replaced by wanton disregard for the learning of what should be our common language. They are reeling in panic, because their representatives have lost sight of what it means to represent. Instead, they present to the people and say, “see what I have done for you!” All the while lining their own pockets. This misrepresentation and constant lying has turned this panic, to anger ...

ANGRY.

Angered by people who SWEAR AN OATH to the Constitution of the United States and then just to trample all over it. They are angry that reason is lost and seemingly vacant in those who are supposed to know better. Angry because our liberties and freedoms are being stripped from us at an alarming rate. Angry that our borders and cities are being flooded by narco-illegals, and the solution provided to us thus far is to give all these law-breaking illegal aliens amnesty. We are told that to uphold law against an illegal is un-American (Pelosi)! They are angry because if they break the law they are punished, put into a justice system that is nothing more than a money-grubbing machine designed to further fleece the public. Truth is ignored as long as there is a suspect; guilt now presupposed.

With each new day there is something else to be angry for; some new legislation that further yokes us to a future of slavery, owned by the state. Now, the few patriots that are left are being targeted; their peaceful movements labeled extremist and militant. Our Constitutional rights are being slated to be taken away. They are angry because they are splintered and reeling from panic.

And they are wondering when enough is enough?

The American (Re)public can only be pushed so far before they rally and push back. Mark my words, it's coming. Not that I want it to, just that it is.

What is sad, however, is that we, the people, all let it get this bad in the first place. We gave up control to those who would lead us, not represent us, and truly, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

What is the state of your union? Write me. Tell me. I’m interested.
ron@usobserver.com

Ron Lee has been an investigative journalist with the US~Observer for over 6 years. He has been a freelance and published writer since 1985. He attended Richmond University in London where he focused on theatre arts, and the University of Nevada Reno where he dual majored in criminal justice and psychology. His favorite quote;

“The truth shall make you free.” -- John VIII. 32

Continued from page 9 • The Dream That Was America

claim to a high degree, certainly in comparison to the Soviet Union.

This is the dream that was America versus the nightmare that was the Soviet Union.

Now, fast-forward in time. As I write this, fewer than twenty years have passed since the Berlin Wall fell and the Cold War specter lifted. The Soviet Union is gone, and America. . . well, if you had told us in the 1970s or 1980s what America would be like today, and where it seems to be heading, I don't think we would have believed you.

You see, today the American government tells us that it can spy on us whenever and however it likes. It can read our e-mail and postal mail, track our financial records, pry into our medical histories, force libraries to turn over lists of the books we read, force internet service providers to turn over records of our surfing habits, and tap our phones and record our calls. It can deny us the right to travel without certain government approved "papers." It can send its agents into our homes without warrant and remove whatever it wishes, without ever notifying us even. The president claims that he can seize anyone, including American citizens, and turn them into non-persons. The government -- the American government -- can arrest you without warrant, put you into prison without charge, and hold you for as long as it pleases. It can deny you legal

council and try you before a military court, where none of the regular rules of evidence and reasonable person standards apply, and where your guilt will be assumed. It can subject to you "enhanced interrogation techniques" (torture, by any other name -- "Ve hev vays of making you talk"), and you will have no recourse. Your family may not be permitted to know where you are. Since September 11, 2001, the precedent has been set that presidents -- and those who take orders from them -- are not bound by law or accountable to anyone in any way whatsoever, as long as they claim to be acting in the name of "national security." And if you question any of this, these self-appointed caesars bristle like enraged porcupines and suggest that maybe you don't have the best interests of the country in mind, that you need to choose whether you'll be "with us or with the terrorists." We have former president George W. Bush (a member of the party that once prided itself on being the "party of limited government," and that even now prides itself on being the party that brought down the Evil Empire) to thank for this unfortunate state of affairs. Even more unfortunate is the fact that his successor, President Barack Obama, has not repudiated these police-state doctrines.

This is America, 2009; not the Soviet Union, circa 1980. Like it or not, we are, by degrees, becoming like the very thing we once hated. And we are becoming

more like it all the time.

Some will call this unpatriotic nonsense. "We're nothing like the Soviets," they claim. "We're just changing to meet the changing threats of our time, and if you haven't done anything wrong, you don't have anything to worry about."

Really?

So, we can do the same types of things that the Soviets did but not be like them? We can adopt their police-state tactics, spy on people like they did, hold secret courts like they did, kick down doors and haul people away like they did, throw people into secret prisons like they did, torture people like they did, refuse to answer questions like they did, ignore the laws like they did, and criticize the opposition as being disloyal like they did. . . and yet be nothing like them? Notice that I'm not saying that we're the same as the Soviets; I'm saying that we're becoming progressively more like they were, that we're on a slippery slope here, and that we're desperately trying to rationalize our way out of confronting the obvious (torture isn't torture as long as we don't call it that, etc.).

Tell me, how much evil do you have to do before you yourself become evil? Is there a certain magic number of people that we need to have in prison without charge before it becomes wrong? How many do we have to waterboard and stuff into cramped, freezing cells

Continued from page 1 • NO Public Access in Local Forest ...

Management Rule in March of 2007, when United States Forest Service (USFS) officials held a series of public meetings to propose new motorized travel regulations for the WWNF. The USFS proposal included the removal of 4,261 miles of roads from the existing road-system in the WWNF; a change in forest travel policy to a system where all remaining roads would be closed unless designated as open; and, the elimination of all motorized cross-country travel in the WWNF.

After introducing the plan to the public, USFS and county commissioners received over 6,500 comments and signatures from local people opposed to the new travel management proposal. During the same time period, the USFS received only 200 comments from local residents supporting the plan.

Several local organizations also went on record to oppose the USFS closure proposal including the Eastern Oregon Mining Association, Baker County Livestock Association, the Eastern Oregon ATV Club and Forest Access for All. The Eastern Oregon Mining Association claims that the USFS travel management plan as proposed is "illegal," in part because the proposal fails to adhere to the more user-friendly guiding document, The 1990 Blue Mountain Forest Plan.

In June of 2008, after receiving the overwhelming opposition from their constituents, commissioners from the five counties of northeastern Oregon signed an agreement to cooperate with and to work under the leadership of the USFS during the expected two-year duration of the Travel Management Plan in the WWNF.

By signing the agreement, commissioners have combined Baker, Grant, Union, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties into one "cooperating agency." Once the counties accepted cooperating agency status, the agreement then names the USFS as the "lead agency".

The county commissioners finalized the agreement in June of 2008, but it was not until August that the agreement was obtained and distributed publicly.

In September, shortly after the agreement was obtained by the public, commissioners from all five counties were presented with a public request to terminate the agreement they'd made with the USFS. Instead of cooperating and working in a subordinate role under the lead of the USFS, commissioners were asked to retain their counties' independence and governmental status and then to enter into a process of "coordination" working government-to-government with the USFS during the travel management planning project.

Several weeks after the request to terminate the agreement with the USFS, Baker County Commission Chairman Fred Warner Jr. traveled to Texas and attended a workshop given by the Stewards of the Range to learn more about coordination. After attending the workshop in Texas, President of Stewards of the Range Fred Kelly Grant traveled to Baker City and gave a three-hour talk on coordination.

Despite all of the attention toward coordination, and after nearly eight months of repeated requests from the public to terminate the cooperative agreement with the USFS, not one of the 15 commissioners from the five counties has done so and today the cooperative agreement and subordinate status of the counties is still in place.

When asked recently about why he hasn't gone ahead and started the work it takes for Baker County to coordinate with the USFS during the Travel Management Plan, Commissioner Warner claimed, "I haven't seen coordination work for communities." Warner has made this claim several times but provides no examples of communities who had failed to protect local interests through coordination. Warner was quoted in a recent interview talking about using coordination in dealing with the placement of electrical transmission lines in the county but mentioned no plans to use coordination during the Travel Management Plan project.

If Commissioner Warner and the Baker County Commissioners still don't fully understand the benefits and protections to local interests through the process of coordinating with the USFS, then maybe they should reread their own Baker County Ordinance 2001-1, which sets forth the requirement of the county to use coordination with the USFS and Department of Agriculture during all land management and planning actions that could potentially impact county interests, of which, access through and to locations in the forest are a priority.

In fact, Baker County Ordinance 2001-1 refers to the use of coordination no less than 17 times and cites the federal laws and executive order that, "requires federal agencies to coordinate actions and projects with local governments so impacts arising from federal projects may be identified."

In light of the cooperative agreement recently signed by county commissioners and the USFS, two more quotes from Baker County Ordinance 2001-1 stand repeating. First, the purpose of the ordinance as stated by Baker Commissioners in 2001; "Adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to secure and promote the public peace, general welfare, health and safety of the citizens of Baker County through preservation of their customs, culture, and economic stability, protection and use of their environment, and endorsement of their constitutionally protected private property rights."

And, a quote from the Procedures section of the ordinance; "the following shall apply to all state and federal plans, projects and programs that affect or have the potential to affect the use of land or natural resources within Baker County, including the acquisition and disposition of land itself, to the fullest extent required or permitted by law, all federal and state agencies shall: Coordinate procedures with Baker County as equals."

Eight years later, and the words quoted above must have gone forgotten by at least one of the currently serving commissioners because he was serving on the Baker County Board of Commissioners eight-years ago and helped sign Ordinance 2001-1 into law.

The USFS continues to work on a draft Environmental Impact Statement which considers the social and environmental impacts of their proposed travel management plan and the impacts of five other alternative travel plans for the WWNF that were submitted by various groups.

A team of 25 USFS employees led by Whitman District Ranger Ken Anderson began working on the draft EIS in September and the due date for the document has been pushed back after expectations that it would be complete by January.

The five counties have assigned one representative who attends the USFS travel management plan team meetings. The county representative is limited in releasing information from the planning meetings to the public however, after signing a confidentiality agreement with the USFS.

One member of the public from Baker County attempted to attend the USFS travel management plan work meetings when they began in September and was allowed to stay for the initial introductions and orientation, but was asked to leave once the planning work began. This person was asked to leave even after claiming the right to attend the planning work meetings by citing the Government in Sunshine Act, which opens agency meetings to the public.

As the people of northeastern Oregon await the draft EIS and final travel management decisions on road closures, there is a feeling among many, that their county representatives have placed local interests behind the access closure plan of the USFS. Some local people have given up hope that their commissioners will back out of the agreement with the USFS and have begun to prepare for the appeals process.

There is also the growing sense among some, that the Travel Management Rule is only one of many current attacks on freedom being carried out on the battleground of the public lands. The latest effort to shift control over public lands in the western states comes not only from the national Travel Management Rule, but also from recent court rulings favoring the concerns of the environmental preservationists over the economic and personal freedoms of the American people, from federal legislation that looks to revise mining laws in the US, and from proposed legislation looking to claim another 400,000 acres of the WWNF as a Wilderness Area.

For a more detailed discussion on the Travel Management Plan in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the loss of civil liberties and individual rights please visit the web-log at address: forestaccessforall.blogspot.com

Edward Snook's Note: Brian laid out this theft by our corrupt federal government very well, now, how

about an answer, a plan of action that will stop government abuse dead in its tracks? If enough concerned citizens unfold their long-clasped hands, locate their backbones (which will be quite a chore for many) and make an absolute commitment to say NO MORE and then enforce that NO MORE, change will result.

6,500 local people opposed this proposal and 200 supported it. Where are the 6,500? These 6,500 absolutely must get together and discuss making a commitment to stop asking and start demanding.



These people need to realize that their commissioners work for them and not for themselves.

They need to read their "Constitution of the United States of America!" A great place to start would be Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 which states, "To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings." This limitation on the federal government (Congress) is written in plain English – it absolutely prohibits the Feds from controlling, using, or occupying any of our public lands for reasons other than those specifically enumerated above.

Baker County Commissioner Fred Warner Jr. and all other commissioners from the counties concerned, upon entering office, swore an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, not to corrupted court rulings that distort and pervert it and certainly not to unconstitutional agencies of our federal government.

These commissioners are conceding and giving another large section of the farm to a federal agency who has already stolen a majority of it. Answer: The US~Observer is a watchdog newspaper like those that existed decades ago. When corrupt public officials or individuals start their chicanery the Observer is there. We investigate thoroughly and upon obtaining the proof of the illegal or wrongful act(s) we confront the official or individual and give them the opportunity to stop whatever it is they are involved with. If they refuse to accept the facts of the situation and stop their corrupt or illegal actions then the Observer attacks them publicly with the truth in the form of newsprint. We literally ruin the corrupt person's reputation, just as it should be. We continue our attack until the person does a complete "about-face" or until they are shamed into moving from the job or community where they are conducting their dangerous agendas.

What if every time these commissioners from eastern Oregon and USFS Ranger Anderson went out in public people started pointing fingers, whispering the word thief? What if they were publicly humiliated every time they ventured out of their home? Sounds harsh, but this is the ONLY solution that is sure to work. Each day we watch our wonderful country slip further into perverse degradation. Most producers have been destroyed by vile environmentalist's organizations and the laughable federal courts that assist them.

Keep "coordinating" and keep slicing up the pie and soon there will be none left. Just go find a logger, if you can, and you will find that he will be in full agreement with me.

Continued from page 1 • US~Observer Exposes Client’s Deceit

expelled from school. Kathleen painted a picture so bad, that I was ready to jump on the next plane to Louisiana and get her children back for her. After concluding our investigation, we found that nothing could be farther from the truth.

While conducting our initial investigation, we printed a lead in, evidentiary article based off of the evidence that Kathleen had presented and the witnesses that she had provided to our investigator who travelled to Louisiana. What was to come, shocked us all, but I must say that our article was excellent in the fact that it did exactly what it was intended to, expose the facts.

Shortly after our newspaper reached the public, we began receiving many calls and emails from concerned people, all in support of Kathleen’s ex-husband or against the Lake Charles Family Courts, but none in support of Kathleen Berry? I spoke with Michael Hebert’s attorney, Henry Liles and subsequently Hebert himself in regards to our article and Hebert produced much of the evidence that our article had been written to obtain.

History

On August 2, 2004, Michael Hebert filed for divorce from Kathleen Hebert/Berry. By Consent Judgment filed on December 2, 2004 the parties agreed that they would undergo psychological evaluations with alternating weekly custody of their two minor children, pending the trial on the merits of their divorce, since they were not in agreement of custody for their minor children.

On October 14, 2005, Michael sought and obtained an ex parte order of temporary sole custody and a civil warrant for the return of the children when Kathleen evacuated with the minor children the week Hurricane Rita made landfall and she subsequently refused to return with the minor children to the court’s jurisdiction. Kathleen and the children were located in Largo, Florida, and after obtaining an emergency order from the Florida Courts to enforce the 14th Judicial District Court of Calcasieu Parish of Louisiana’s ruling for temporary sole order and civil warrant to take possession of the children, Michael retrieved the children and returned them to Calcasieu Parish.

Upon the return of Zachary and Ryan Hebert to their father, Michael Hebert filed a “Rule for Temporary Restraining Order, to Post Bond for Visitation and Contempt of Court”, which was heard on October 27, 2005, at which time the parties stipulated that the physical custody of the minor children would remain with Michael, with Kathleen having specific alternating weekend, mid-week and holiday visitation, and restraining orders issued prohibiting Kathleen from removing the minor children from Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

The trial on the merits of the custody matter was held on March 7th, 8th and 9th of 2006. Dr. Post, the psychologist who evaluated the boys, testified that both boys, especially Zachary, are more closely bonded with their father. Dr. Post also testified that Zachary indicated that he had more matched interests with Michael, felt his father was not so intrusive as was his mother, and that his mother had “secrets” he

couldn’t tell his dad which made him uncomfortable and anxious. Dr. Post’s testimony concluded that Michael was “a better match” for the children. Putting a psychologists testimony aside, as it’s been my experience that most psychologists can be bought and paid for, I was overwhelmed to see the remaining evidence that I received from other sources. Why were none of these documents presented to the US~Observer originally? Could Kathleen have intentionally kept them hidden in a box, hoping that the truth would easily be concealed?

The evidence that follows leads to the inescapable conclusion that Kathleen took advantage of the events associated with Hurricane Rita to secret the children from Michael in Florida with no apparent intention of returning them. Kathleen submitted an application for admissions to Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida well before Hurricane Rita was even projected to hit her residence in Louisiana. The US Postal Service records, indicated that Kathleen submitted a request for address change on September 20, 2005, to her parents residence in Florida. School records from St. Patrick Catholic School in Florida, showed that Kathleen enrolled the children in school there within days of the hurricane, with absolutely no indication to the school that the enrollment was to be on a temporary basis. The application for admission to the school listed her and the children’s home address as that of her parents. It indicated that Kathleen had already procured a Florida doctor for the children, and applied to become a member of the Catholic Church there, as well. Further, she failed to give the school any of Michael’s contact information such as his address or telephone number, and failed to list him as an emergency contact for the children, which clearly shows that Kathleen was attempting to keep the children from Michael.

Although Kathleen testified that she had no intention to keep the children in Florida or seek custody there, Kathleen’s diary reflected her attempts to hire an attorney in Florida in order to obtain temporary custody there, which she would have had no need for had she actually intended to return to Louisiana, which is exactly the opposite of what Kathleen had told me when she hired us. Michael’s cellular telephone records reflected many attempts by Michael to contact Kathleen by telephone immediately before and after the hurricane (49 calls between 9/22 and 10/24). Kathleen’s cellular telephone records, on the other hand, reflected only 9 attempted calls during the same period from Kathleen to Michael, but numerous calls to and from other parties. I believe Kathleen (a psychologist) made the calls only for the record. In other words, she dialed the number and then disconnected, having no intention of contacting Michael Hebert.

Kathleen had stressed to me that Michael had physically abused her, which at first was hard to grasp, and the “evidence” I have now seen, which the court ruled against only clarifies that she has created a “monster” that doesn’t exist. She sent our investigative reporter photos after our first article of what she calls a “black and blue” left eye from the



Kathleen Berry in an image that she says shows a black eye.

day after the reported incident, to which none of the five photographs which I have, and were introduced into evidence, reflect any visible bruising to her areas of concern. The word “manipulative” was used by numerous witnesses, including Dr. Post, to describe Kathleen, as well as “controlling” and “emotional”. These are my exact conclusions as well.

On the other hand, Michael was described by most witnesses as “calm”, “patient” and “structured”. The Court found that this factor was in Michael Hebert’s favor. Later in Dr. Post’s report, she indicates that Zachary confirmed the refusal of Kathleen to take Michael’s calls by refusing to pick up the telephone if she heard Michael’s voice on the answering machine. Kathleen did not deny or otherwise rebut this testimony.

I have been privy to talking to many recognized people and seeing many letters, all in support of Michael’s parenting skills and the well being of Zachary and Ryan Hebert. Both of these boys are doing exceptionally well in their journey to adulthood. They are both on the Honor Roll and have been to my knowledge for the past year-plus. They are enjoying sports and other activities outside of school. Zachary Hebert recently won the National Geographic Bee at school and is on his way to the Louisiana state-wide competition. If Zachary wins at the state-wide level, he will continue on to Washington DC, where Alex Trebek (T.V.s Jeopardy) will be hosting the national competition. These events that have been proven, only show that their mother Kathleen has created a “Monster” that doesn’t exist and has manipulated many in her attempts to complicate and control the lives of her two boys. My appreciation goes out to Michael Hebert for his continuing struggle with Kathleen as he is doing exceptionally well raising two outstanding “young men”.

The facts of this sorrowful case are

simple. A family has fallen victim to divorce and one party has been unable to accept the truth, that moving on is reality. We have found that the accusations Kathleen leveled against Michael as she attempted to obtain our services are completely unfounded. Almost every tear-jerking example of abuse that Kathleen told us of were instances that actually did occur, but at times when she had control of her children.

There is always corruption within a court system because every court system in this nation deals with the so called “practice of law”. Constitutional rights have been bent so far out of shape in this country that they are either non-existent, or un-recognizable, however, our courts are not always wrong or corrupt as this case clearly shows. Ms. Berry tried her best to have us believe that the court in Lake Charles was out to “get her” just as her string of five attorneys had been. Nothing could be further from the truth...

The US~Observer is very clear when taking on new clients to inform them about honesty and factualness. We warn new clients in writing that they should not hire us if they are in any way guilty, which our investigation has clearly proven in this case. Kathleen Berry has created a monster for herself regarding the family courts in Lake Charles and she wonders why she has had her case dropped by her long-line of attorneys, and the US~Observer.

The only people who are supporting Kathleen are the ones who have witnessed what goes on in court almost two and a half years since she has been in contempt. She has support from no one who knows about the well being of her children, because if they knew what the US~Observer and her previous attorneys know, they would tell her, “Kathleen, get a job, start paying your child support, and start being a positive influence for your children’s sake.”

■■■

Advertisement

Everything you need to know on-line, instantly. Go to www.instant-infostore.com

Story from page 1 • Texas Heirs Face Looming Danger

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

GEORGETOWN, TX – Upon his death Vernon Kunshick intended that his daughters acquire his assets, so he placed them into a living trust for that purpose. Now, his wishes are being challenged by his second wife Teddie Jo Kunshick and the attorney who Vernon Kunshick used to prepare that same trust.

Teddie Jo Kunshick, is apparently seeking court approval to retain the trust assets of her late husband under the guise of alleged estate administration purposes. She is also trying to disqualify Kunshick’s daughters, his primary heirs, as trust beneficiaries. If successful this will essentially place another dagger into the wishes of Vernon Kunshick. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for March 16, 2009 in a Williamson County, Texas District Court and is to be heard by Judge Burt Carnes.

Should clearly stated final wishes of an individual be respected? Should courts and/or legal manipulations and procedures reconfigure a decedent’s property distribution intentions at the behest of estate administrators? This case listed as “Teddie Jo Kunshick, as Trustee of the Vernon Kunshick Living Trust, v. Patricia Gayle Gregory and Lou Ann Anderson”, just might answer these questions. Ultimately, Judge Carnes’ ruling could affect all Texans’ individual rights to determine their final distribution of assets, as well as affecting all beneficiaries’ rights of inheritance. As the nation’s second most popular retirement locale, this case could set standards for those who live and die in Texas, particularly in Williamson County – home to Sun City Texas and the state’s largest concentration of senior citizens.

Property being passed down through generations of family was once a time-honored American tradition, but today, legal system abuses and selective treatment of probate documents threaten intended property transfers. Legal commentator Horace Cooper refers to this rise in estate litigation as a new inheritance tax designed to divert assets from intended beneficiaries. Cooper cites Marshall v. Marshall (Anna Nicole Smith’s action against her deceased husband’s family) as an example of such activities, but warns that estates of far less value are becoming similarly vulnerable.

Prior to his 1998 marriage to Teddie Jo Line, Vernon Kunshick created a trust to ensure assets accumulated during 46 years of marriage to his first wife were maintained as separate property. Vernon Kunshick was his trust’s trustee until a 2001 health downturn mandated other involvement. Vernon’s daughter, Lou Ann Anderson, became trustee and served in that capacity (or as co-trustee with Kunshick) until 2004 when she resigned due to “escalating hostility” on the part of Teddie Jo Kunshick. With limited options, Vernon Kunshick made Teddie Jo Kunshick his co-trustee. (Story continues below ...)

Major Conflict of Interest

Vernon Kunshick died in May 2006. In November 2007, Teddie Jo Kunshick filed a lawsuit against Anderson and Patricia Gayle Gregory, Kunshick’s other daughter. She was represented by

Ron Greening, the attorney Vernon Kunshick used for his estate plan preparation. I don’t know about Texas, however in Oregon and many other places one would call it a “major conflict of interest” for Greening to create a trust for a person and then attempt to exclude that trusts intended beneficiaries after the person is deceased.

In her lawsuit, Teddie Jo sought court approval to withhold trust funds for a spend-down plan intended to “ensure that adequate funds are available to administer the Trust” over the course of her life. The beneficiaries viewed this action as contrary to their father’s intentions. Vernon Kunshick had earmarked \$40,000 for the trustee’s use in paying taxes, insurance and for other maintenance items associated with a life interest allowing her continued use of his residence. Beneficiaries maintain Kunshick’s intentions are clearly shown through a hand-written distribution model in which he detailed a nominal withholding for trust administration and the bulk of assets being distributed to his daughters and only grandchild upon fulfillment of specific bequests to Trustee Kunshick in her beneficiary capacity.

Trustee Teddie Jo Kunshick received her specified bequests upon Kunshick’s death. The grandchild’s distribution was delayed when her mother, Lou Ann Anderson, declined signing a release that violated trust terms and Kunshick’s intentions by attempting to remove the child as a successor beneficiary upon receipt of the bequest. The delay continued additional months as Ron Greening, despite numerous requests, would not provide more than a partial copy of the trust’s most recent (fourth) amendment. Kunshick’s daughters only received a distribution offer with the lawsuit filing.

Court documents indicate months of hearings including a mediation session deemed “premature” due to the plaintiff’s failure to receive discovery requests. At that time, Ron Greening did not accept mail at his court filing address. In March 2008, Judge Burt Carnes dismissed the case. Despite an open court admission that the pleadings did not constitute a “justiciable controversy” and sought only an “advisory opinion,” Ron Greening re-filed the next day asking for a rehearing and motion for new trial.

The defendants scheduled a Motion for Sanctions to be heard at a May 2008 hearing along with Greening’s new trial motion. This motion contended the plaintiff’s initial pleading was filed in bad faith and for the purpose of harassment. It stated the lawsuit sought to intimidate defendants into relinquishing their rights, to indemnify Trustee Kunshick and Greening from any and all claims of any character in the administration of the Trust and to needlessly increase the cost of litigation.

In an accompanying affidavit, Defendant Lou Ann Anderson stated her father’s intention was for the trust “to minimize legal involvement and legal expense,” that Trustee Kunshick stopped communication with beneficiaries and instead delegated all contact to be through Ron Greening, that “although all distributions to the Trustee were made shortly after our father’s death, the distribution to us has been stonewalled,” and that upon filing the suit, Greening’s letter demanding a full release in exchange for \$51,000 to each daughter was “in contrast to our father’s specific instructions.” The

affidavit continued that “Mr. Greening’s law firm has already billed in excess of \$35,000.00 as of March 2007 and we are no closer to getting a resolution of our rights under the Trust than when our father died.” The document concluded with “My sister and I are not attempting to contest the Will or Trust in any way, but are merely trying to secure the rights that belong to us under the Trust documents prepared by Mr. Greening.” While Judge Carnes ultimately granted the plaintiffs’ rehearing/new trial motion, the defendants’ sanctions motion was never heard.

Defendants Gregory and Anderson filed a counterclaim in August 2008 stating “After Vernon Kunshick’s death, Teddie Jo Kunshick and Ron Greening have conspired to prevent the Defendants/Third-Party Plaintiffs from receiving their benefits under the trust and filed this suit to get this Court’s approval of that conspiracy.” The “conspiracy” was described as an attempt to set aside funds “to finance trust administration over the expected life of the trust, primarily to benefit the Trustee and Mr. Greening.”

Mike Cosby of Pakis, Giotes, Page & Burleson deposed Teddie Jo Kunshick and Ron Greening in November 2008. Characterizing herself as a “full-time trustee,” Trustee Kunshick expressed uncertainty on the overall trust value. She acknowledged the amount sought to be withheld has ranged from \$194,000 to \$216,000, but offered no explanation for the amounts’ basis. Transcripts indicate similar responses from Ron Greening. Both also argued they had not filed a lawsuit against beneficiaries. Defense-filed documents described the plaintiffs’ deposition testimony as “Thus, Mrs. Kunshick filed a lawsuit, purportedly to ask the Court to bless the amount she wants to withhold from dissemination, expressly acknowledging under oath that she knew the ‘girls’ (Defendants) would not accept that projection, disclaiming that she knows the source of the projection that she claims should be accepted, deferring to her attorney who likewise denies knowing the source of the projection, and they have refused to identify any witnesses who might know the source of the projection; all the while acknowledging that the projection for which they seek a blessing is completely at odds with the handwritten projection prepared by the Settlor of the Trust (Vernon Kunshick) in his own handwriting.”

After depositions, the defendants amended earlier filings, added an application for trustee removal and scheduled a February hearing. Trustee Kunshick and Ron Greening responded by changing their lawsuit to a non-suit, an attempt to negate their 15-month legal action against the beneficiaries.

In a bait and switch tactic, Greening also asked Judge Carnes to realign the case making trust beneficiaries the plaintiffs and Trustee Kunshick the defendant to support the trustee’s declaration that Gregory and Anderson are no longer beneficiaries. By proclaiming the defendant’s countersuit to the trustee-initiated litigation a trust contest and an effort by beneficiaries to enlarge their interest, Trustee Kunshick now claims they “forfeit any amount to which they may have been entitled under the Trust, and their interest passes as if they predeceased Mr. Kunshick.”

Additional plaintiff motions seek to bring Kunshick’s sole grandchild, daughter of Lou Ann Anderson, into the case as an indispensable party. Anderson

refused to sign a 2006 Trustee Kunshick/Ron Greening-generated release that sought to violate the trust and terminate her daughter’s successor beneficiary status. The trustee and Greening now want to also diminish the parental rights of Anderson and her husband, the child’s father, by precluding them from serving as their daughter’s guardian in future actions.

Another Greening filing supports the trustee’s desire to withhold and potentially deplete the trust by quoting the trust’s Fourth Amendment: “the Trustee may make disbursements to herself for purposes of health, education as well as maintenance and support in the Trustee’s accustomed standard of living.” Interestingly, this clause is on the document pages withheld from beneficiaries by Greening for six months. If considered valid, the clause brings into question the necessity and motivation of any trustee-initiated legal action.

Despite being filed outside legal timeframes, Greening asked Judge Carnes to hear his pleadings ahead of the trustee removal motion. The judge opened the February 19 hearing saying he had not read all the motions. After opening statements, Judge Carnes ruled he would hear no motions until a time at which he could hear them all. As Trustee Kunshick has attended none of the hearings related to her litigation, the defense subpoenaed her for court appearance, but learned that Judge Carnes only requires assurance of “availability.” A similar position was articulated when the defense asked the court to grant a motion freezing trust assets. Judge Carnes instead was satisfied with Ron Greening’s word that no funds would be spent before the March 16 hearing.

To date, the US~Observer’s investigation finds legal maneuvering occurring at great expense to Vernon Kunshick’s trust and his beneficiaries yet facts of the case are still to be addressed. Upon that happening, trust assets may be depleted. If Ron Greening’s invocation of the HEMS clause (health, education, maintenance and support) is legitimate, he demonstrates the uncalled for and inappropriate nature of the trustee’s litigation. How can a trustee be considered as acting in good faith or as a proper fiduciary after unnecessarily creating a conflict leading to 15 months of litigation and causing major expense to both the trust and the trust beneficiaries? It therefore is not surprising that Trustee Kunshick and Ron Greening are working to pre-empt the beneficiaries’ trustee removal motion by disentitling Kunshick’s daughters from any intended inheritance.

These proceedings illustrate how the execution of an estate plan can become a legal entanglement, beneficial to few and why these “case trends” pose a dangerous threat to many. The bottom line is, a person’s last wishes should be just as secure today as they were in past decades, but unfortunately they aren’t.

The US~Observer will continue reporting to America on this case, watching closely what Judge Burt Carnes allows to happen with Vernon Kunshick’s estate assets.

Anyone with information on this case, including the players involved is urged to contact Edward Snook at:

541-474-7885

■ ■

Ten Square Miles of Criminal Enterprise

By Devvy Kidd
NewsWithViews.com

Events over the past five months since the carefully orchestrated storm was set for bank "bail outs" should make it clear to any American not walking around in a self-imposed coma that we have crossed the Rubicon. As I have written for many years: Non essential businesses will continue to go under as Americans only have enough disposable income for absolute necessities like shelter, food and transportation to their jobs or the unemployment office. This massive give away by Congress since last September is simply sealing our fate.

Americans are frightened, confused. Already we've seen several tragedies where fathers have killed their entire families and themselves because he's lost his job and the bills were piling up. We will see more and worse. We the people are now being held hostage with a gun to our head to aid and assist in the final destruction of our constitutional republic. We are being held hostage with the gun of government to our heads to fund the final destruction of capitalism, freedom and liberty.

We the people are being held hostage with the gun of totalitarian government to fund the continuation of the unconstitutional, immoral invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan based on lies and manipulation. To fund organizations who conduct massive vote fraud (ACORN), filth in the Arts and schools and more killing of unborn babies. Fund the furtherance of one world government as the impostor president is openly shoving communism down our throats with the approval from most members of Congress.

The whimpering Republicans who are now "reinventing themselves" did NOTHING to correct the abuses by Marxist Bill Clinton and shoved a good dose of Fascism down our throats. Now they're objecting to more of the same they heaped upon us in big spending and draconian legislation from 1995 - 2007? Republican turn coats ("leaders") are actually embracing nationalization of private banks. That alone should tell GOP faithful where these poltroons stand on free markets.

When the usurper president, Barack Hussein Obama aka Barry Soetoro aka and so forth announced you and I will be required to bail out toxic mortgages to save home owners facing or in foreclosure, I was surprised anyone was surprised. Didn't Marxist Obama tell you during the rigged election that he was going to redistribute the wealth:

"Conservatives yesterday ripped Obama after he was caught on video telling an Ohio plumber that he intends to take the profits of small-business owners and "spread the wealth around" to those with lesser incomes."

The impostor president has also proclaimed in yet another "fix it" plan for the economy: Tax businesses and tax the wealthy. In order to buy such warped thinking, one must check their brain at the door next to Obama's empty head. The wealthy create jobs. To single them out for "extra" taxes is to punish success and violate the U.S. Constitution for apportioned taxation (See A Pioneer on the Withholding Issue about half way down).

Piling heavier taxes on businesses to sell the illusion of "stimulating the economy," is somewhere between lunacy and utter stupidity that won't save or create a single job. The massive number of pink slips falling all across the country continues to build: 600,000 more jobs were lost last month bringing the total (as near as one can tell with all the lies and cooking the books in DC) to 3.2 million jobs lost in 13 months.

States, due to gross mismanagement, can't pay tens of thousands of unemployment claims as jobs disappear and revenues shrink. The gang rape bill will force you and me with a gun to our heads to fund state deficits by stealing the fruits of our labor.

California is run by a communist state legislature (Democrats) and has been for years. The Republican leadership in California said a fiscal conservative like Sen. Tom McClintock "couldn't win." He didn't have name recognition. Those cretins shoved an immoral pig down the throats of their party faithful and Arnie, the grossly unqualified "movie star," moved into the governor's mansion and has rubber stamped the collapse of that state from day one. Now that California is near utter bankruptcy, Comrade Obama, with approval from Congress, will force you, me and our children to fund their mess. How far will California's

\$14 BILLION dollar tax increase go when they're funding almost \$10 BILLION a year to feed, clothe, educate and incarcerate almost 8 million illegal aliens? Think about that good citizens of California.

These states who have blown their tax revenues out their backsides now demand "stimulus" money from your pocket. You are already fleeced by the federal machine to pay for the unconstitutional Federal Department of Education to waste HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS to dumb down America's children and socially indoctrinate them with immoral agendas. Now, the states want more from an empty treasury to prop them up to pay for education, reward the criminals (illegal aliens) sucking resources and the list goes on and on. I live in Texas. It is NOT my responsibility to pay for the mistakes of South Carolina, Alaska or California's state legislatures.

Remember Obama's proclamations about how many jobs he will create (amazing considering the president of these united States of America has ZERO authority to create a single job):

Dec. 6, 2008: "President-elect Barack Obama said Saturday he has asked his economic team for a recovery plan that saves or creates more than 2 million jobs, makes public buildings more energy-efficient and invests in roads and schools."

Jan. 3, 2009: "The president-elect says he wants to "create three million new jobs" -- this is a change from a few weeks ago, when he said he wanted the plan to create OR SAVE two million jobs."

Jan. 10, 2009: "Facing growing criticism of his economic recovery plan, President-elect Barack Obama made public Saturday a detailed analysis by his economic advisers that estimates the \$775 billion plan of tax cuts and new spending would create 3.5 million jobs over the next two years."

January 10, 2009: "President-elect Barack Obama countered critics with an analysis Saturday by his economic team showing that a program of tax cuts and spending like he's proposed would create up to 4.1 million jobs, far more than the 3 million he has insisted are needed to lift the country from recession."

Bald faced lies because the numbers don't lie. Tax cuts with a deficit cut in half by 2013? All hocus pocus without any basis in reality. The impostor president wants to put a gun to your head (IRS) to pay someone else's mortgage; some 7 - 9 MILLION of them while you have trouble paying your own on time. More of Obama's communist (progressive) ideology, which has enraged people all across this country. Santelli's rousing call for a new Tea Party is resounding border to border, coast to coast - except with those who believe they have the right to steal from your paycheck. Don't feed me the rubbish about "the common good." That is pure communist ideology.

Last year 2.8 million homes went into foreclosure. If the numbers (7-9 million) are accurate, the situation is even more dire than we thought. Comrade Obama is talking \$75 BILLION to bail out homeowners by stealing the fruits of your labor with money that does not exist. The treasury is overdrawn almost \$11 TRILLION dollars right now. How do you write another hot check for \$75 BILLION dollars when your checkbook is already overdrawn by \$11 TRILLION dollars? Change, Comrade Obama? Here's more change - \$20.3 MILLION dollars that does not exist:

Presidential Determination No. 2009-15 of January 27, 2009: 'Unexpected Urgent Refugee and Migration Needs Related To Gaza.'

Important to "the national interest" to rob and steal from you, me and our children to fund this grand larceny with more hot checks?

Not only does the U.S. Constitution NOT authorize this looting of the people's purse, but as Obama is an usurper president, this PD has NO effect or force of law. That \$20.3 MILLION bux will have to be borrowed from the central bank (FED) with the interest slapped on the backs of you, me, our children and grand children.

Obama is not only a pathological narcissist, but a

Devy Kidd

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

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

Devy's Archives CD includes her best selling booklets *Why A Bankrupt America* (1,633,000 copies) and *Blind Loyalty* (700,00 copies on vote fraud).

Plus 900 files, columns and the trial files of Vivien Kellems.

The cost is \$24.95 for the CD.

www.devy.com

Knowledge is Power

masterful liar and since not one member of the media at his press conference questioned the origin of those numbers of foreclosures expected, we really don't know. Remember during the so called "bail out" crisis last September what a treasury spokeswoman who should have been fired said about the \$700 billion dollar bail out: "It's not based on any particular data point. We just wanted to choose a really large number." They made it up to be sufficiently enormous to frighten everyone into rapid action. And it worked."

What will never work is more bailouts or "stimulus" nonsense stealing the fruits of your labor, mine, our children and grand children to prop up what is imploding and cannot be stopped. Last September I wrote a column titled, 'Bailouts: the wound that will keep on hemorrhaging.' The gang rape bill passed by Congress and these new proposals by an usurper president represents no change, just the continuation of the march towards complete collapse. The suffering by our fellow Americans is in its infancy with the worst yet to come.

Please allow me to bring up a few things here you might have missed.

Marxist Hillary Clinton has been parading around

Continued on page 15



Butler Trailers

Serving the Utility
and Construction
Industries proudly
since 1968!

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

Continued from page 1 • Elderly Couple Swindled

fell prey to. Holmes has secured a new crew of partners to aid him in his criminal undertakings – Eddie Salas of El Paso, Texas (Sales), Elley Maillet of Jacksonville, Florida (Sales), Jay Dikkers of Grants Pass, Oregon (Trustee), Richard Holman of Grants Pass, Oregon (Trustee) Stella (Unknown motivational e-mailer) and his alleged common law wife Deborah Eldridge (who notarizes his fraudulent documents), have all contributed to his schemes. These people appear to be the main players of the Castle Builders Ministry scam, which is reportedly now called “Financial Hope”.

How the scam works

Holmes and his team of crooks prey on anyone (preferably elderly) through websites, organizations, churches, or any other means possible. Once they get these people's attention, they start using swift sales skills and "God" as a motivator. They rake in their pot of gold by promising them that they can pay off their mortgage in as little as two years if their new client invests around 30-40k into a high return investment program. Holmes uses some of his new investor's money to pay his clients mortgage payments just long enough for this new client to spread the news about this seemingly wonderful program, allowing Holmes to suck in many more referrals. The waiting game then starts, which consists of motivational emails using religion as a means to tide everyone over long enough for Holmes to steal as much money as possible and for him to plan his escape. Even after clients get upset, Holmes uses confidentiality agreements and the fact that if they get authorities involved that no one will get their return, which causes most to stop dead in their tracks. By the time someone contacts authorities, the Holmes crew has already moved on to another group, another program, another scam.

The latest group of reported victim's, come in part through a group named WASA (Wealth And Success Association) which is comprised of people who are strong in their faith and generally retired or in search of a better standard of living. Gary Holmes was introduced to this group by Jerry Smith and Daniel Meyerhoffer, who is, or was part of WASA. From that point on, Holmes used the "word of god" and his clever tongue to spread his scam like the bubonic plague. Holmes has taken WASA's members for a ride that they will never forget. Some of the people who were deprived of thousands of dollars are no longer alive to tell their story and some say that the deceitful work of the self proclaimed "Righteous Servant" Gary Holmes, could have had much to do with their deaths. One member has had seven heart operations. His doctor says this is due to severe

stress. One can only assume that it's not because his home is paid in full, as promised by Holmes. On January 22, 2009, WASA President Justin Tallman wrote a letter to WASA members in regards to their written demand to Holmes for the return of their investments. Tallman strongly urged them to re-consider their attempts to go after Holmes as Tallman felt they should continue to wait, instead of getting authorities involved and possibly losing everything. This letter may have given Holmes just the amount of time needed to further distance himself from the very people he had stolen from.

Answers to the Victims' Request

Previously, our government had turned a blind eye to Gary Holmes when the US~Observer exposed this corrupt scam years ago, which has allowed Holmes to remain free to go about business as usual, until now. With recent pressure put on the authorities and The US~Observer's involvement, Holmes is finally under the "Spotlight" by the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations. There was a case number issued in late February which should help those who are hesitant to come forward, more eager to voice their case. Although Holmes is currently involved in another program which is called "Financial Hope", which can be viewed at www.financialhope.com and is part of Crown Financial Ministries, his days are seemingly numbered. While visiting Holmes' website I was beside myself to see that this worthless crook is now offering to get people out of foreclosure by taking their money with no guarantees for saving their home.

Since the 148k loss for the Hanson family, Ed Hanson recently had to undergo surgery, having a stint inserted last month to keep his heart operating properly and he would greatly appreciate seeing justice served. It is only through continuous information provided by victims of these scams that people like Gary Holmes can finally be held accountable. Although some may never see a dime of what they have lost, the US~Observer strongly urges the victims of Castle Builders Ministry, Financial Hope and Gary Holmes to do what is right and sound their voice so that others won't have to go through what so many already have. Please contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 with any information you have, and remember how you felt when you last read Holmes' factually hypocritical statement, "In His Service," because there are others out there getting sucked in as I type this article. The US~Observer understands what some have had to go through and will continue to track down Holmes until he gets what he deserves - bottom bunk in Madoff's jail cell. ■■■

Continued from page 14 • Ten Square Miles of Criminal Enterprise

Asia begging our mortal enemy, the COMMUNIST Chinese to keep buying our debt. This morally bankrupt female (who should have been indicted for a dozen crimes over the years) has made it quite clear: Human rights do not matter. It's okay with her the commies force the murder of unborn babies in China right up to nine months; their totalitarian government murders their own people to quell dissent. Their "businessmen" skin dogs and cats alive. The fur from these screaming little animals is woven into doll's clothes, sweaters and parkas and sold to you in violation of our laws. Not a problem for Clinton who serves as Secretary of State illegally. China isn't our trading partner, they're the master. China holds America by the throat because they hold our debt and Clinton is begging them to buy more so Congress and Marxist Obama can continue looting the people's treasury to fund our own destruction.

While Clinton is sucking up to these monsters, these are the same commies who celebrate a bloodied America on 9/11. Do NOT ever forget that Communist China celebrated the attacks of 9/11!

The Chinese state-run propaganda machine is cashing in on the terror attacks in New York and Washington, producing books, films and video games glorifying the strikes as a humbling blow against an arrogant nation. Communist Party officials say President Jiang Zemin has obsessively watched and re-watched pictures of the aircraft crashing into the World Trade Center. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, workers at Beijing Television worked round-the-clock to produce a documentary they called Attack America.

As rescue workers picked through the rubble of the twin towers, the commentator proclaimed that the city had reaped the consequences of decades of American bullying of weaker nations. He said: *"This is the America the whole world has wanted to see. Blood debts have been repaid in blood. America has bombed other countries and used its hegemony to deny the natural rights of others without paying the price. Who until now has dared to avenge the hurts inflicted by unaccountable Americans."*

Judicial Watch has filed a lawsuit to get Clinton removed from office and we should all pray for their success.

We the people are under attack by every alphabet soup agency in this country. Our food supply is being endangered and our family farmers and ranchers are being killed off in favor of genetically modified foods and big agri-corporations. Americans must put aside "fun time" to fight. Search "NAIS Alert" on-line.

We the people are going to be used as guinea pigs again. Remember how everyone laughed when experts tried to warn about cell phones and the link to cancer and brain tumors? It's no joke anymore as we now know. Congress unconstitutionally robbed the people's purse to fund converter boxes for the DTV conversion. \$1.34 BILLION dollars from an empty treasury to make sure people can get their daily dose of propaganda. Now experts are warning about adverse health effects from digital broadcasting.

AND, did you know that spying cameras have been found inside these converter boxes being sold to you? (If you purchase one of these boxes and look inside, please send me an email and let me know what you find.)

I am still combing through the gang rape bill ("American Recovery and Reinvestment Act"). This is the same policy making blunders FDR used which prolonged the depression. This gigantic fraud contains a provision for doctors to enter your medical records into a giant electronic government data base at a cost of \$10 - 12 BILLION dollars. Not mine. As soon as I find the exact language in the bill, I'm sending my primary care physician and the neurosurgeons who operated on my spine, notification that I forbid my medical records from being electronically entered into any government data bank.

Tenth Amendment resolutions by the states or "reclaiming sovereignty." Yes, this is great, but there is no teeth behind these resolutions. They are just more pretty words on a piece of paper. How many of these states who have proclaimed sovereignty are taking "stimulus" package money? How will they bite the hand that feeds them? Hmm? For those who might not know, there was a small movement like this back in the mid-90s and nothing ever came of it because the state legislatures always ended up caving into the federal machine for money.

Honest money bills have been introduced in several states. These must get passed and only a massive demand by the citizens of those states will get their the job done.

Congressman Ron Paul has reintroduced his bill to abolish the privately owned Federal Reserve. While some think the effort to abolish the FED only materialized during Ron Paul's run for the presidency last year, I can assure you, this has been a top priority for a long time. On September 29, 1993, my project delivered over 1.7 MILLION signatures to Congress to abolish the FED and it's evil twin, the IRS. Ron Paul's original bill, H.R. 2755 was introduced in June, 2007. Not a single cosponsor. His new bill is H.R. 833. It also has no cosponsors. That alone should tell you that Congress has no intention of implementing real solutions to our economic collapse.

Do NOT be fooled with the current bill in Congress to replace the IRS with a "fair" tax. This is another trap that must be rejected. Shame on these fools for introducing and sponsoring such poison. These alternative taxing schemes have been around since the late 50s. They are band aids that will keep the FED sucking the lifeblood of this country dry.

I don't know how Americans are sleeping at night.

My mail box continues to fill up with requests for investigations and "Please cover this, Devvy." This is why I decided to do my own radio show. I hope you will tune in to get the truth and facts as I cannot cover it all in columns. Please do ask family, friends and colleagues to listen because my show is not about politics, it's about solutions. Identify your enemy, expose them and fight effectively. Not with political band aids, but with the very constitutional solutions that are already there.

Devvy Kidd appears on radio shows all over the country, ran for Congress and is a highly sought after public speaker. Devvy belongs to no organization.

Devvy isn't left, right or in the middle; she is a constitutionalist who believes in the supreme law of the land, not some political party.

Devvvy's website: www.devvvy.com ■■■



EMAIL ALERT NOTIFICATION

SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE EMAIL ALERTS, NEWS YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE OPERATE AND PUBLISH OUR NEWS THROUGH GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT WWW.LSOBSERVER.COM OR SEND SUBSCRIPTION
TO 233 ROGUE RIVER HWY. #387 GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97527

KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

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.



Federal Gun Licensing Coming Soon? *Blair Holt Bill a Reality*

By US~Observer Staff

USA - Ranks of gun owners across America have been forwarding an e-mail which is focused on the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sales Act of 2009 (HR 45). According to Snopes.com, a web site that verifies or debunks many circulating e-mail rumors, the Blair Holt bill is TRUE and would:

“• Prohibit possession of any handguns or any semiautomatic firearms that can accept detachable ammunition-feeding devices (excluding antiques) by anyone who has not been issued a firearm license.

• Require all sales of those types of firearms to go through licensed dealers.

• Direct the Attorney General to establish and run a federal record-of-sale system.

• Require the possessors of firearms to secure them (by secure gun storage or safety devices) when they are kept in locales where children might be capable of gaining access to those firearms.

In order to be issued a firearm license under the provisions of the Blair Holt legislation, applicants would be required to submit the following information to the Attorney General:

1. a current, passport-sized photograph of the applicant that provides a clear, accurate likeness of

the applicant

2. the name, address, and date and place of birth of the applicant

3. any other name that the applicant has ever used or by which the applicant has ever been known

4. a clear thumb print of the applicant, which shall be made when, and in the presence of the entity to whom, the application is submitted

5. with respect to each category of person prohibited by Federal law, or by the law of the State of residence of the applicant, from obtaining a firearm, a statement that the individual is not a person prohibited from obtaining a firearm

6. a certification by the applicant that the applicant will keep any firearm owned by the applicant safely stored and out of the possession of persons who have not attained 18 years of age

7. a certificate attesting to the completion at the time of application of a written firearms examination, which shall test the knowledge and

ability of the applicant regarding:

• the safe storage of firearms, particularly in the vicinity of persons who have not attained 18 years of age

• the safe handling of firearms

• the use of firearms in the home and the risks associated with such use

• the legal responsibilities of firearms owners, including Federal, State, and local laws relating to requirements for the possession and storage of firearms, and relating to reporting requirements with respect to firearms

• any other subjects, as the Attorney General determines to be appropriate

8. an authorization by the applicant to release to the Attorney General or an authorized representative of the Attorney General any mental health records pertaining to the applicant

9. the date on which the application was submitted

10. the signature of the applicant.”



Bobby Rush - According to the Washington Times, when serving in the Army he went AWOL in 1968, co-founded the state's Black Panther Party.

This bill was introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush [D-IL] on January 6, 2009 and was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on February 9, 2009.

Make sure to let your voices be heard and contact your representatives today. To keep track or read the full text of this bill go to www.govtrack.us.


...

Where do YOU stand on the issues?

Conservative or Liberal...


We want to hear from YOU!

e-mail us at:
editor@US~Observer.com




Second Amendment Foundation

SAF.ORG



HUNTER'S ALERT!

www.huntersalert.org



"The Common Sense Gun Lobby"

CCRKBA

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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

Wolf Delisting Back on Track



By Jim Mann
Daily Inter Lake

There had been uncertainty about how the Obama administration would proceed, but Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced Friday the decision to remove gray wolves from the list of threatened and endangered species.

The delisting proposed by Salazar mirrors a move by the Bush administration in January that was suspended in order for the new administration to review. It will apply to wolves in the western Great Lakes region and in Montana and Idaho, but not in Wyoming.

"There was a lot of uncertainty primarily because this was an innovative approach to the Endangered Species Act itself," said Montana wolf recovery coordinator Carolyn Sime, referring to the official separation of Wyoming from the recovered Northern Rockies wolf population. "It demonstrates a higher level of flexibility. It's innovative and it hasn't really been done in the past."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that Wyoming law and its wolf management plan "are not sufficient to conserve its portion of the Rocky Mountain wolf population," according to a press release announcing the decision.

"It's definitely a carrot for Montana and a stick for Wyoming," Sime said.

"This is what we worked for," said Joe Maurier, director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "We're pleased the new administration agrees that Montana has done its part to ensure that the wolves are established and secure in this part of the Northern Rockies. Now it's time for the state to take over management of this wildlife species."

In a statement, Salazar recognized the good-faith cooperative efforts that have been made toward delisting wolves.

"It has been a long and active partnership including states, tribes, landowners, academic researchers and sportsmen and other conservation groups, the Canadian government and many other partners."

He called the recovery of wolf populations "one of the great success stories of the Endangered Species Act."

While delisting has substantial support from Montana's political leadership, sporting organizations and some conservation groups, there was a wave of press releases from

environmental groups Friday criticizing the move and promising legal action to stop it.

"We are disappointed that the government is relying on a flawed, rushed delisting rule from the Bush era," said Melanie Stein of the Sierra Club. "Removing federal protections from wolves will leave them at the mercy of aggressive state plans that treat wolves as pests rather than a valuable wildlife resource."

"We are outraged and disappointed that Secretary Salazar has chosen to push the same, terrible Bush administration plan for wolf delisting just six weeks into President Obama's administration," added Roger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife. "We all expected more from the Obama administration, but Defenders of Wildlife will now move to sue Secretary Salazar as soon as possible."

The promised litigation is likely to focus on the exclusion of Wyoming wolves from the broader Northern Rockies population.



In February hunters gathered in front of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office in Kalispell to protest federal wolf management and get the delisting pushed through. Allison Money/Daily Inter Lake

Suzanne Stone, the northern Rockies representative for Defenders of Wildlife said the delisting proposal 'still fails to adequately address biological concerns about the lack of genetic exchange among wolf populations in the northern Rockies and it still fails to address concerns with the states' wolf management plans and regulations that undermine a sustainable wolf population by killing too many wolves."

In a ruling last July that halted a previous delisting effort, U.S. District

Obama Effort to End Armed Pilots Program an Outrage, Says CCRKBA

BELLEVUE, WA - A revelation by the Washington Times that President Barack Obama is trying to quietly end the armed pilot program, making air travel more vulnerable to terrorist attack, should outrage travelers, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said today.

"The Washington Times nailed it," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, who proposed arming pilots just hours after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and championed the armed pilot program. "What Obama is doing is risking public safety, as the newspaper put it, 'in the name of an anti-gun ideology.'"

The newspaper reported in its Tuesday edition that President Obama is "quietly ending the federal firearms program" by diverting some \$2 million from the training program to hire "supervisory" staff, whose job, it appears, will be to harass armed pilots through unnecessary field inspections.

"How dare the president, or anybody in his administration, take measures to erode the safety of air travelers," Gottlieb questioned. "The armed pilot program provides a guaranteed level of security to the public. There may or may not be an air marshal aboard every airplane, but there is definitely a pilot in the cockpit."

"We trust commercial airline pilots with \$500 million aircraft," he continued. "We can certainly trust them with \$500 pistols to defend those planes, and the lives of their passengers."

"Certain individuals have never liked the armed pilot program," Gottlieb acknowledged. "These anti-gun, anti-self-defense bureaucrats seem more interested in their own power, and protecting their little empires, than they are in protecting the public. And now, Obama is catering to their anti-gun bigotry."

Call the White House at (202) 456-1111, or send a comment by visiting www.whitehouse.gov/contact.

With more than 650,000 members and supporters nationwide, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (www.ccrkba.org) is one of the nation's premier gun rights organizations. As a non-profit organization, the Citizens Committee is dedicated to preserving firearms freedoms through active lobbying of elected officials and facilitating grass-roots organization of gun rights activists in local communities throughout the United States.

SOURCE Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms ■■

Judge Donald Molloy also raised concerns about the long-term ability for maintaining genetic connectivity among wolves throughout the region.

But Ed Bangs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wolf recovery coordinator, has expressed confidence that the latest delisting proposal more than adequately addresses that issue and others.

He and other delisting advocates stress that the wolf recovery goals for the region, in terms of wolf numbers, have been met every year since 2002.

Senate on a 48-0 vote and its sponsor, Sen. Bruce Tutvedt, R-Kalispell, predicts it could get unanimous support in the House.

Sime said the state's annual wolf report should be complete within a week, and it will likely have a minimum estimate of the state wolf population ranging from 450 to 500 wolves. That would amount to a 10 to 15 percent increase over 2007 numbers, after several years of annual population growth in the 20 to 30 percent range.

Those numbers will likely be included in a delisting rule that will be published in the Federal Register in the next two weeks, she said.

After a 30-day comment period, and barring any legal action, the delisting would take effect and Montana would assume management of wolves. The state would then implement a wolf hunt running in tandem with big-game hunting seasons, with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission setting quotas this summer to limit wolf harvests in four hunting districts. Quotas would be set every year, based on wolf numbers, hunter success rates and other factors.

Farmers and ranchers would also have far greater latitude in defending livestock that are threatened by wolves. In Northwest Montana, where wolves now have full "endangered" status, livestock owners cannot take lethal action against wolves even if they are seen attacking their animals.

Do YOU think the Wolf should be de-listed?

Give us your thoughts!

editor@usobserver.com

Articles and Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged – they must be typed, a maximum of 1,000 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**

Letters to the Editor



Estate of Corruption

Editor;

I am familiar with Lou Ann Anderson's case but appreciated the article by Mr. Snook. We have a case we have been fighting for 6 years in Illinois.

Our case also involves a trust, very predatory, written by a trusted local attorney naming a trusted local Bank & Trust as Co-Trustee. My father, a mentally disabled veteran since WWII, (PTSD) for which he received a pension, attempted to provide for his and Mother's care in their last years. The trust is "missing".

However, a sign of missing trusts is a small phony estate used as a "pass-through". Also, estates close to creditors, usually in 6 months, most people do not realize, trusts do not. A subrogation attorney took my deceased father, (3 years) into small claims over an accident claim. My father was fully insured and no tickets were issued, no blame cast, no witnesses. Yet an attorney confidently shows up and asks the Judge for 7,862.

It is a system designed to plunder the life long assets of elders. The above is easily accessed on the Macon County docket in Illinois. When I discovered the citation by searching the docket, the citation was changed to read, "Donna Counterman, As Executor of Darrell E. La Bounty Estate." Notice not the estate but D Counterman. The missing trust exists and they are plundering it. I reported documents missing when I entered my parents home to prepare for Dad's funeral: life insurance (included in the trust), banking documents, irs documents, wills and trusts, (he wrote several) and a large CD >100,000 which he showed me five weeks before his death.

This is profitable working system designed to benefit attorneys and bankers. Illinois' State Police Director, Larry Trent wrote us three personal letters attempting to ridicule our belief of physical and financial abuse of my parents. The Crimes Against Seniors Investigator stated, "Maybe your Dad gave it away". The attorneys were allowed to control discovery. Guess what? They didn't find a thing. I believe this is a not uncommon effective system to plunder.

I was an only child and life insurance in my name is missing. The only party capable of cashing it would be the Bank & Trust named as co-trustee. They deny the trusts existence, but that can be done in any case. No bank executive or rep has testified under oath; the court protects them.

Mr. Snook, please continue your efforts to expose. Independent media is the only hope. I will send a contribution in Annie's name. (Our loss, my mother, the story is way too painful.....She was murdered for estate conservation.)

As trusts become more popular, (they are pedaled as the greatest thing since white bread) this will increase. They are next to impossible to discover, as you have seen in Lou Ann's case. Until attorneys are held responsible for fraud and racketeering, it will continue.

As I write, I must cease and write my complaint to Illinois ARDC against Maurice J Barry, our attorney. If you look at the ARDC website, you will see he is under complaint from another attorney already. that and criminal complaints is usually what ARDC responds to....."Don't piss off another attorney". The Illinois AG's response to our case, is "Hire an Attorney" although Lisa M, AG will soon be running for Gov. We intend to hang in and fight.

If you search the docket, their are multiple cases with La Bounty spelled with and without the space. Mrs. Counterman is my half-aunt who I hadn't seen in 40 years.

Thanks for your effort.

**Helen & Paul La Bounty
Colorado**

“Patriotic” Scam Artist Jeff Lowrance

US~Observer,

Over the years, I have seen a number of scam artists rip off "patriotic" investors. I have always wondered whether these predators were not actually agents of the Powers That Be, deployed precisely to deplete the wealth of their opponents. If J.L. is not run to ground by the FBI, I should not be surprised.

Edwin Vieira

Inside look at Kathleen Berry

I actually received two copies of your publication: one at my home as she has the directory for the students there and the other at my office in my official capacity.

I understand there was a trial last week -- the mother has absolutely refused to pay the child support she has been under order to pay for quite some time and is in arrears over \$20,000. Regardless of whether you believe you should have custody of your children, when you don't have it, you owe support. My understanding is that she currently is incarcerated serving a sentence for contempt for her repeated failure to pay child support.

I also learned that she has been banned from our elementary school because of the disruptions that she has caused there, much to the embarrassment of her children I'm sure. Although we are a small, Catholic school, we have several broken families and quite a few non-domiciliary or non-custodial parents who use lunch as a means of visiting with their children. She is the only one that I know of ever who has been banned from the school and, between my two children, we've been there 12 years now.

Also, weekend before last she presented herself at our church and handed out fliers to all persons attending making derogatory comments about

both judges (apparently Judge Cutrer is a target as well as she, Judge Cutrer, denied an ex parte request for change of custody filed by the mom). I was out of town that weekend so I missed it. If you like, I can get a copy and forward it to you.

I have in the past represented quite a few fathers against mothers like her. They are very, very difficult to deal with, come across as wonderful, loving, and caring mothers when in truth and in fact they treat their children as objects, pawns in the power struggle with their ex mate (who is now their enemy). Very, very sad situations those are.

Anyway, I'm done looking into this. If you have any particular question, let me know and I'll gladly find the answer.

Kathy Kay

All isn't well in Lake Charles

My wife and I read your article with interest. We were aghast to learn of the wide disparity between the national average and the Lake Charles numbers of children taken from their homes.

My wife has been "victimized" by this same family court system in Lake Charles by Judge Lilynn Cutrer. We also have an all-too-powerful psychologist (Dr Simoneau) to whom the judges defer without question. He is an active supporter of national father's rights.

Our OCS office is shameful. The employees there are ignorant and very quick to attack the parents. We've tried to constructively use the OCS to help us with a problem teenager - much to our regret. We were slandered and libeled in court by the OCS.

Conversations we've had with other Lake Charles parents, outside the court room while awaiting hearings, indicated that both Bradberry and Cutrer are also very quick to impose contempt charges and fines on parents who dare to attempt to speak up for themselves. It would be interesting to know the number of contempt charges imposed by these judges.

By the way, Cutrer recently ran unopposed and won. She has built a self-serving empire and has grown her court staff significantly over the years.

I can't imagine that people down here are any worse parents than any other place in the country, but we certainly seem to have an elitist family court system who believe they know best what is good for us. I wonder why our local news hasn't run a story on this.

Personally, I've experienced Henry Liles as opposing counsel in a divorce case. My ex-wife was awarded one of our homes in our divorce, which she ultimately had to sell (to Mr. Liles) to settle his fees. Mr. Liles had my wages garnished without a hearing on a contempt charge for payment of alimony - when I got my hearing I was found not in contempt, but the garnishment was in effect for seven months.

**Dean Sartain
Lake Charles, LA**

State considers return to gold, silver dollars

Proposed bill slams Fed, allows payments in precious metals

By Drew Zahn
WorldNetDaily.com

A bill being considered in the Montana Legislature blasts the Federal Reserve's role in America's money policy and permits the state to conduct business in gold and silver instead of the Fed's legal tender notes.

Montana H.B. 639, sponsored by State Rep. Bob Wagner, R-Harrison, doesn't require the state or citizens to conduct business in gold or silver, but it does require the state to calculate certain transactions in both the current legal tender system and in an electronic gold currency. It further mandates that the state must accept payments in gold or silver for various fees and purchases.

While Wagner was unavailable for comment, the bill's language clearly alleges the nation's current financial system, with its reliance on the private Federal Reserve system for money supply, is a danger to American freedom.

"The absence of gold and silver coin, whether in that form or in the form of an electronic gold currency, as media of exchange," the bill states, "abridges, infringes on and interferes with the sovereignty and independence of this state ... and exposes this state and Montana citizens, inhabitants and businesses to chronic problems and potentially serious crises that may arise from the economic and political instability of the present domestic and international systems of coinage, currency, banking and credit."

Further, the bill states, relying only on the

depreciating legal tender issued by the Fed subjects citizens to "losses in purchasing power" inflicted by the government, a dilemma the bill says amounts to the "incremental confiscation" of property by government in violation of the U.S. Constitution's protections for just compensation and due process.

The Fifth Amendment states, "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

Critics of the current financial system argue that using Federal Reserve notes as legal tender, rather than gold- or silver-backed currency, means the value of Americans' money – and thus their "property" – is siphoned away by inflation, a process perpetuated by the government's reliance on legal tender. Gold and silver, critics say, don't lose their value on the whims of the Federal Reserve.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, even favors abolishing the Fed's system of fiat currency to return to dollars backed by gold.

"Throughout its nearly 100-year history, the Federal Reserve has presided over the near-complete destruction of the United States dollar," the Texas Republican said. "Since 1913 the dollar has lost over 95 percent of its purchasing power, aided and abetted by the Federal Reserve's loose monetary policy."

"How long will we as a Congress stand idly by while hard-working Americans see their savings eaten away by inflation? Only big-spending politicians and politically favored bankers benefit from inflation," he



Montana State Rep. Bob Wagner

said. Wagner joins legislators in several other states encouraging their respective governments to reconsider accepting gold as a form of payment. Indiana's S.B. 453, Colorado's H.B. 09-1206, Missouri's H.B. 0561, Georgia's H.B. 430 and Maryland's H.J.R. 5 are among the gold currency bills introduced just this year in various legislatures.

Montana's H.B. 639 has been referred to the Legislature's State Administration Committee. ■■

Be Debt-Free in a Fraction of the Time with Money Merge Account™ System



- Pay off your mortgage in as little as 1/2 to 1/3 the time
- Potential savings of tens of thousand of dollars in interest
- Little to no alteration to your current standard of living
- No refinancing of your existing mortgage required
- Required – an income and a desire to get out of debt

With the Money Merge Account program you can significantly reduce the interest you pay on your house mortgage while rapidly paying down the principal. It works on all kinds of debt - credit cards - student loans - auto loans. Be debt free!

Call 1-866-435-1377 for a free personal analysis or email muffer@cableone.net

(No social security information or bank account numbers needed)

Results will vary and are determined by individual financial situations. The information contained herein does not constitute an offer or a solicitation to lend or extend credit.

Contact: Coyote Moon, LLC Independent Agent, United First Financial 834037

SPECIAL ALERT

US~Observer Opens Investigation on Idaho Attorney A. Bruce Larson



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

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

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

We have been informed that Larson will be seeking a judgeship in Idaho in the not too distant future and therefore we are obligated to

the public to conduct a thorough investigation of this attorney.

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

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

Don't Be a Victim of the System!
Call 541-474-7885
or e-mail editor@usobserver.com
With over 20 years fighting for the vindication of innocents. We Know how to get the job done!

Freedom-Loving Americans labeled “terrorists”

An e-mail received by a member of Campaign for Liberty

Dear Friend of Liberty,

Maybe you've heard, or maybe not, but the Missouri State Police think you might be a security threat. Why? Because you support Ron Paul and the Campaign for Liberty. Also, because maybe you own guns, oppose abortion or homeschool. Even, and I'm serious, because you support the U.S. Constitution.

I know, it's ridiculous...and probably steams you a bit. But here at Campaign for Liberty we are going to give this foolishness the treatment it deserves. More on that in a moment. Let me give you a bit more background.

As you may be aware by now, the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) recently released a report titled, "The Modern Militia Movement" to over one thousand Missouri law enforcement officers.

What is the Missouri Information Analysis Center? According to its website,

"MIAC is the mechanism to collect incident reports of suspicious activities to be evaluated and analyzed in an effort to identify potential trends or patterns of terrorist or criminal operations within the state of Missouri. MIAC will also function as a vehicle for two-way communication between federal, state and local law enforcement community within our region."

The MIAC warned officers that violent militia members are "usually" supporters of presidential candidates like Ron Paul and are also known for opposition to things like the Federal Reserve and the income tax.

The "study" was undoubtedly written by some university liberal who knows nothing of the hundreds of thousands of Missourians who share our values. I can only imagine how many hundreds of thousands of Missouri tax dollars funded this.

Both Ron Paul and Campaign for Liberty champion principles of freedom, peace, and prosperity. We believe that the Founder's vision for America can be reclaimed through education and peaceful activism. It is a common practice of elitist intellectuals and backroom bureaucrats to attempt to crowd everyone



into groups and stick labels on them, especially when it involves those who support a Constitutionally-limited government.

Anthony Gregory, editor-in-chief at Campaign for Liberty, has posted an excellent new article on our site (www.campaignforliberty.com) concerning government broad-brush fear campaigns.

It is important that we respond in the right way when faced with such a government labeling, and the proper way is to go straight to the top in Missouri.

The way to fight thugs and ignorant people in authority is not to cower or rage, but to proudly proclaim who you are and what you believe.

That's why I urge you to sign our Citizen's Petition today.

Our petition spells out in no uncertain terms who we are and what we believe. And it reminds those in charge of enforcing Missouri's laws that we are citizen activists who will not be intimidated nor embarrassed into silence.

Simply owning a gun does not make you a threat. It means you are a free citizen.

Supporting our Constitution does not make you worthy of a watchlist, it makes you a Patriot.

In Liberty,

John Tate
President, Campaign for Liberty

REVOLUTION

Orlando ‘Tea Party’ draws more than 4,000

By Helen Eckinger
Sentinel Staff Writer

Singer Lloyd Marcus told the crowd assembled in Lake Eola Park on Saturday that he was going to give them his take on the first days of the Obama administration.

Then he shrieked. That pretty much summed up the mood in the park Saturday afternoon, when more than 4,000 people attended the Orlando Tea Party, a conservative rally aimed at expressing discontent with Washington.

The attendees, many of whom said they'd heard about the rally on local conservative radio host Bud Hedinger's radio show, brandished flags and homemade signs bearing slogans such as "Repeal the pork or our bacon is cooked" and "Obama lied, liberty died."

"We're really scared about what's happening in our country," said Debby Whisenand, 71, of Largo in Pinellas County. She waved a sign that read "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

Her feelings were shared by Lisa Feroli, one of the event's organizers, who said that a similar fear motivated her to e-mail Hedinger with the idea for the Orlando Tea Party.

"The goal was to get people united, to let people know that they aren't alone in their feelings on despair," Feroli said. "We want to speak out against the push toward socialization that we feel is taking place in our country."

Several speakers addressed the crowd, estimated by Orlando police and event organizers at 4,200, on a variety of topics, including gun rights, freedom of speech, the dangers of communism and, most prevalently, the economy, especially the Obama administration's bailout plan.

"We have had enough of massive government-driven bailout using our money," Hedinger said, prompting the crowd to start chanting "U.S.A." over and over.

Glenn Austin, and his wife, Frankie, of Oviedo, also said they were anxious about the economy. They chose to express their worries, however, in a rather novel way: They wrapped banners calling for the end of the Federal Reserve around the tiny waists of their Chihuahua, Pepper, and miniature pinscher-Chihuahua mix, Peanut.

"Everything's gone to the dogs," Frankie said.

IRS Loses Case

A Loss so devastating, that a Federal Judge said that “if everyone did what this person did, it would be the end of this government!”

... And he didn't even use a lawyer!

- See how this person proved that he was not a taxpayer as defined by the IRS Code.
- Find out how you to can do the same.
- We provide all the evidence necessary.
- Remember, if you're not a “taxpayer” as defined by the Code, nothing in the IRS Code applies to you.
- Stop employers from being unlawful withholding agents!
- Stop Liens, Levy's, seizures and attachments.
- One call does it all.

A new and unique program to deal with IRS Problems! How to Avoid Income Taxes Lawfully!

**THE
FREEDOM
FOUNDATION**
Defenders of the Constitution

For More
Information
**CALL
401-226-5961**

MILITARY SURPLUS AND MORE

6TH & “J” • OPEN 10AM - 5PM • MON. THRU SAT.

**AIRSOFT GUNS & AMMO • CAMPING • SURVIVAL •
KNIVES • SWORDS • MODELS • BDUS • AND MORE...**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 541-476-5442

Continued from page 10 • The Dream That Was America

before it becomes un-American?

And as for not having anything to worry about as long as you haven't done anything wrong -- please, don't tell me you've fallen for this! This argument assumes two things:

- 1) that the government is accountable to someone for what it does with you, and;
- 2) that it has to prove that you've done something wrong before anything bad can happen to you.

Neither one of these is necessarily true anymore. All the government has to do is classify you as a suspected "terrorist" and the legal niceties that we used to call "rights" suddenly vanish, along with all of their guarantees. If the president and his subordinates have the authority to ignore the laws of the land, then whether or not you've done anything illegal is a moot question by default, because the law no longer exists as far as you are concerned! You are no longer being judged by that standard; you are being judged by the whims of the powerful, whose motives and actions are not being judged by anyone. You cannot tie the hands of the law and then expect it to protect you.

Our Founding Fathers understood this. This is why they required an oath to support the Constitution on the part of our government officials, because they knew

that the only way the common people can be safe from tyranny is if their government is restrained by the law. The Constitution isn't there to hinder us, it's there to protect us -- because freedom is fragile. It must be guarded, handled delicately, cared for like the precious thing that it is.

Some will argue with the comparisons I've made to the old Soviet Union, because, like General Maximus, they refuse to believe that our country is caught up in corruption, that our leaders have anything but pure motives, and that our men and women in uniform are killing and being killed for nothing but the most honorable of causes. They too have seen much of the rest of the world, if only by way of CNN or Fox News, and they find it brutal and cruel and dark. America is their light in that darkness, and as long as it remains a bit brighter than what they see around them, they seem willing to overlook the fact that our "city on a hill" doesn't shine as brightly as it once did. Cruelty, brutality and darkness are creeping in here, but as long as we're not as bad as someone else, we're generally content with our illusions of safety and superiority. We find no contradiction, no hypocrisy in speaking the tyrannical language of the Soviet state with an American accent.

God forgive us. The men who froze at Valley Forge, who crawled up the beaches of Normandy into the murderous teeth of Nazi machine gun fire, who faced undreamed of horrors in steamy jungles thousands of miles from the comforts of home, did not fight so that we could let our country slip into the hands of those who would re-make us in the image of our enemies. Whether you agree with every cause that Americans have spilled their blood for or not, we can acknowledge that most of them believed that they were fighting for freedom, to protect the whisper-fragile American dream. They didn't sacrifice to give us Moscow on the Potomac. We owe them, ourselves, and the future generations who must live with the world we give them, more, much more, than to let this happen with so little struggle.

There was once a dream that was America. And friends, this is not it. This is not it.

Robert Hawes is the author of One Nation, Indivisible? A Study of Secession and the Constitution. He was born and raised in Northern Virginia, now lives in South Carolina with his family, and is pursuing a career as a freelance writer. He maintains a blog at jeffersonian73.blogspot.com.

EXCLUSIVE! The US~Observer is proud to offer you:

‘The Underground Lawyer®’

The US~Observer Collector’s Edition of the Millennium Edition (3rd printing) of ‘The Underground Lawyer®’ is a 2009 re-release honoring the Twentieth Anniversary of its first printing.

Each hard-bound book is signed by Michael Minns and is numbered from between 1 to 100. That’s right, there are only 100 in existence!

Best yet, through our exclusive deal, we are offering them below normal retail!

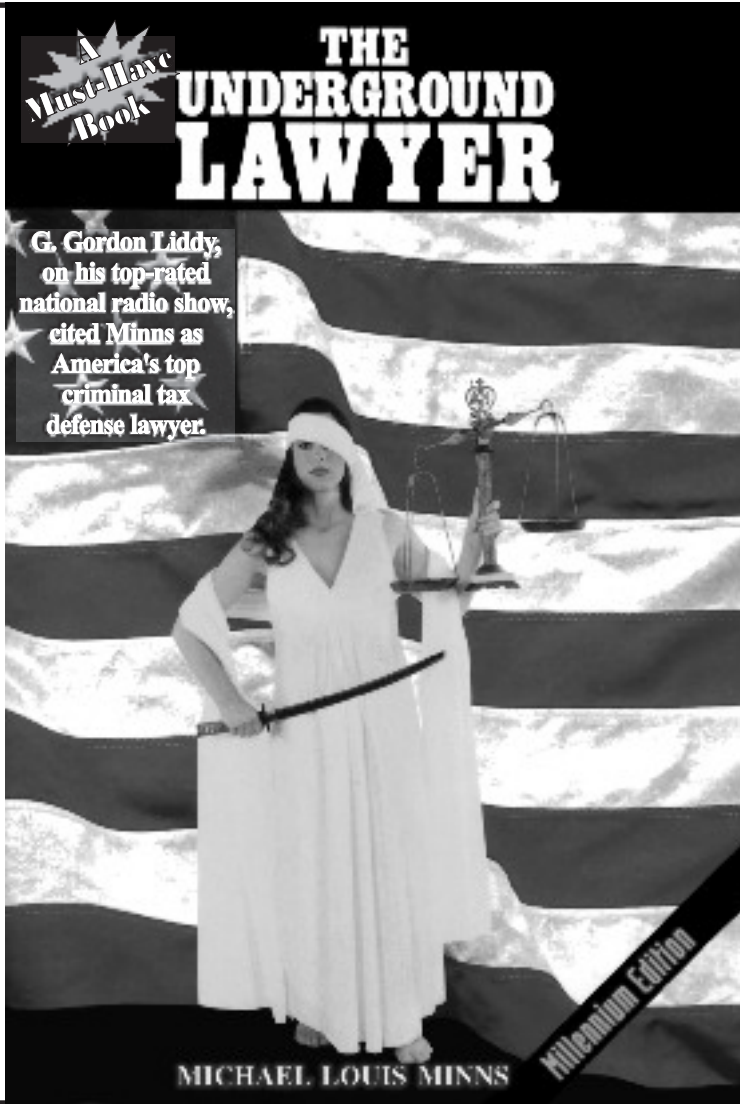
Mail your order to: Yours for only \$29.95! Get it Today! These won’t last!

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

Each

Include your check, or money order and return shipping address along with \$7.00 for Shipping and Handling

On-line orders may also be accepted check www.usobserver.com for details.



No Contracts! Low Monthly Dues

PRO TIME FITNESS
LIVE LONG

LIVE STRONG

Grants Pass, OR
2163 NE Spalding Avenue
Three Rivers Industrial Park #17 & 18

479-6300

Monthly Membership Includes 24-Hour Gym Access

Pro Time Fitness is Now Offering

"A Place to Fight!"

Featuring Professional Boxer and Trainer Dominic Rivera

Training for both men and women in the exciting world of Mixed Martial Arts

Pro Time Fitness,
"the only place in town where form meets function!"

Health

Neck Fat a Measure of Heart Risk



By Ed Edelson
HealthDay Reporter

(HealthDay News) - A too-tight shirt collar might be an indicator of future heart trouble, Framingham Heart Study researchers report.

Doctors have long measured fat in the gut -- visceral adipose tissue, to use the formal name -- to help assess the risk of cardiovascular disease. But fat in the neck is closely associated with the known factors for heart trouble, such as cholesterol levels and diabetes, said a report using data on 3,320 offspring of the study's original participants.

"Neck circumference was associated with cardiometabolic risk factors, even after adjustment for visceral adipose tissue," the researchers wrote in the report, which was to be presented Wednesday at the American Heart

Association's Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention annual conference in Palm Harbor, Fla.

The standard ways to assess obesity is to measure the waistline and determine body-mass index. But neck fatness could add to the risk assessment a physician makes by measuring the waistline, the researchers said.

"Upper-body subcutaneous adipose tissue and visceral adipose tissue independently contribute to cardiometabolic risk," they reported.

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, a professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the researchers had "done a really good job of looking past the conventional measurements of risk."

"This is another way by which clinicians can assess the degree of adiposity of patients as a measure of cardiovascular risk and make recommendations about reducing risk," he said.

But the basic message, Fonarow said, is that carrying too much fat is not good for the heart, no matter where in the body the fat happens to be.

"It is just another insight into how much adipose tissue there is," he said. "When you measure waist circumference, you look at visceral fat in the abdomen. Here you're looking at visceral fat in another area of the body."

"The study makes good sense to me,"



said Dr. Kirk Garratt, director of interventional cardiovascular research at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. "They are putting a quantifiable measurement on something we've known for some time -- that people with upper-body obesity are at heightened risk of cardiovascular disease."

The obese body comes in two forms, Garratt said: pear-shaped, with most of the excess weight around the hips; and apple-shaped, with most of the weight in the upper part of the body.

"People with most of the weight in the upper part of the body have more cardiovascular disease," Garratt said. "It appears to be that certain kinds of metabolic abnormalities contribute to the atherothrombotic risk."

But no matter where the excess fat is located, it's best to lose it, he said.

"Everybody who has a body-mass index over 25 increases the risk of coronary events, regardless of where they are carrying their weight," Garratt said.

More information
The American Heart Association has more on the risks of obesity.

Health Study Highlights

Frankincense kills Bladder Cancer cells



Frankincense oil killed human bladder cancer cells in laboratory tests, say U.S. researchers.

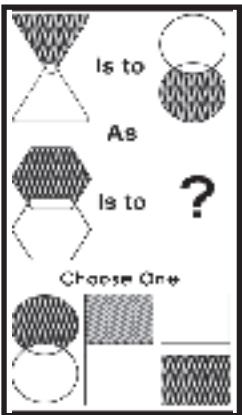
They tested normal bladder cells and human bladder cancer cells and found that frankincense oil could discriminate between the two types of cells, United Press International reported.

Genetic analysis revealed that frankincense oil suppresses bladder cancer cell growth by stopping cell cycle progression and kills the cancer cells by activating numerous cell death pathways, said researchers at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Oklahoma City VA Medical Center.

"Frankincense oil may represent an inexpensive alternative therapy for patients currently suffering from bladder cancer," researcher H.K. Lin said in a statement, UPI reported.

The study appears in the journal BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

In late 20's, some mental abilities decline



Certain kinds of mental skills hit their peak at age 22 and then begin to decline at age 27, according to U.S. researchers who followed 2,000 healthy people, ages 18 to 60, for an average of seven years.

The study found that age 22 is when the brain reaches the high point in terms of speed of thoughts, ability to reason and visual problem-solving ability, CBC News reported. Test scores in these areas begin to decline at age 27.

University of Virginia psychology professor Timothy Salthouse and colleagues concluded, "aspects of age-related cognitive decline begin in healthy educated adults when they are in their 20s and 30s."

But the researchers also found that vocabulary skills and general knowledge improved until age 60, CBC News reported.

The study was published in April's issue of the journal Neurobiology of Aging.

the concentrated power of **VIBE®**

ONE OUNCE =

Just ONE POTENT OUNCE of VIBE is EQUIVALENT to nutrients** found in:

11 Tomatoes Vitamin A			10 Cups Green Beans Folate
30 Broccoli Selenium			19 Wheat Slices Zinc
96 Blueberries Antioxidants			Certified Organic Aloe Vera Gel
5 Cups Green Tea (EGCG Content)			12 Orange Slices Vitamin C
71 Cantaloupe Vitamin E			25 Asparagus Calcium

PLUS a comprehensive blend of healthy nutrients from whole-food sources

To order VIBE, please contact Eniva at 1-866-959-9151 or the individual listed here.

ENIVA®

Joseph Snook - 916-342-0132 or joe@usobserver.com

Don't forget to ask how you can get this product for FREE!

When you call Eniva, please give the information shown above to place an order.

VIBE® combines MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED nutrients in sufficient quantity, proper balance and scientific ratios. Plus, **VIBE®** provides ADDITIONAL beneficial nutrients to address your body's complex needs.

The end result is a premiere ALL-IN-ONE supplement for daily living that is also able to address the unique needs of the aging process. Not only does **VIBE®** deliver all of this, but it comes in a great tasting liquid for easy consumption and absorption. Read on and learn how you, too, can unlock the secrets of vibrant health with **VIBE®**.*

A Little Drink May Be Good for Your Bones

By Steven Reinberg
HealthDay Reporter

(HealthDay News) - Older men and postmenopausal women who have one or two glasses of beer or wine a day appear to have stronger bones than both nondrinkers and heavy drinkers, a new study suggests.

Moderate drinking has been associated with decreasing the risk for heart disease, but it also has been linked to increasing the risk for some cancers. And though their study found that beer and wine could be beneficial to bone strength, the researchers cautioned that people need to balance the risks and benefits of alcohol with their individual health concerns.

"We were looking at the relationship between different types of alcohol and bone mineral density [BMD] because there is a controversy about how it might affect bone," said lead researcher Katherine L. Tucker, director of the Dietary Assessment and Epidemiology Research Program at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston.

Alcohol was protective of BMD in older men and postmenopausal women, Tucker said, "but we didn't see any relationship in premenopausal women."

Among women, she said, wine was

very protective, and in men, beer was the most protective, "partly because men drink more beer and women drink more wine," she said. Drinking liquor was less protective, she added.

And men who had more than two drinks a day actually had the lowest BMD, Tucker said.

What that suggests is that the relationship is complex but there might be components in beer and wine that could help protect bone. For example, beer contains silicon, which has been associated with stronger bone. In wine, polyphenols, which have been linked to protection from heart disease, might also protect bone, she said.

The report is published in the April issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

For the study, Tucker's team collected data on 1,289 postmenopausal women, 248 premenopausal women and 1,182 men who took part in the Framingham Osteoporosis Study, an offshoot of the original Framingham Heart Study. The researchers looked at data on their drinking habits and took BMD measurements in their hips and spine.

Men who had one to two drinks of beer or alcohol a day had about 3 percent to 4 percent higher hip BMD than nondrinkers, the study found. In postmenopausal women who had more than two alcoholic drinks a day,

including wine, hip and spine BMD measurements were found to be 5 percent to 8 percent greater than in women who didn't drink.

Although moderate drinking improved BMD, men who had more than two drinks a day had hip and spine BMD measurements 3 percent to 5 percent lower than in men who drank less, the study reported.

"Moderate intake of beer or wine is good for bone, but heavy drinking is bad," Tucker said. Heavy drinking is a major risk factor for osteoporosis, she added.

In addition, postmenopausal women have to balance the fact that any alcohol is associated with an increased risk for breast cancer, Tucker said.

"You really need to think about your own health risks and your family history and balance those," she said. "If your primary concerns are heart disease and osteoporosis, then a glass or two of wine is probably helpful. But if your primary concern is breast cancer, you really need to be careful of any alcohol."

Even moderate drinking can increase



the risk of cancer in postmenopausal women, according to a study published in the Feb. 24 online edition of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. The study, which included more than 1.2 million middle-age women, found that moderate drinking accounts for 13 percent of breast, liver, rectum and upper respiratory/digestive tract cancers.

Dr. Robert P. Heaney, a bone and nutrition expert at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., said he agreed that moderate drinking is good for bone.

"This study should be taken as confirmatory," Heaney said. "As the authors note, a bone benefit from moderate alcohol consumption has been described several times previously. The current study sought mainly to tie up some of the loose ends around the previously described findings."

"It can be said to boil down to the three basic features of good nutrition: moderation, variety and balance," he said. "Or, put another way: A little bit is better than none, and too much is too much."

■ ■ ■

**If you, or anyone you know, are falsely accused of a crime contact us IMMEDIATELY! We can help.
541-474-7885 or editor@usobserver.com**

Advertising

The US~Observer has been in publication for 16-plus years and we have a large distribution to a demographic of primarily middle and upper class people. We have subscribers in all fifty states and a number of foreign countries as well. Our readership have proven to be very responsive as they believe in supporting like-minded people.

We are currently offering a two month advertisement pricing special in both our hard-copy newspaper publication and on our web site (www.usobserver.com). Due to the current financial crisis in America the US~Observer is taking a bold step in dropping our advertising rates by 30% to 45%. This special pricing should help all businesses realize new income, while keeping costs at a minimum.

TWO MONTH PRICING SPECIAL!

- Full Page \$770.00 (image size: 10.25"Wx16"H)
- ½ Page \$505.00 (image size: 10.25"Wx8"H)
- ¼ Page \$280.00 (image size: 5.125"Wx8"H)
- Business Card \$150.00 (image size: 3.38"Wx4"H)
- Custom ad pricing available.

12 INSERTIONS IN PRINT EDITION & RUN OF WEB SITE (Approx. 1 yr.)

- Full Page \$6,270.00 (image size: 10.25"Wx16.25"H)
- ½ Page \$ 4,400.00 (image size: 10.25"Wx8.3"H)
- ¼ Page \$ 2,300.00 (image size: 5.125"Wx8.125"H)

RUN OF WEB SITE MEANS

The Full page includes a 468x60 web banner and a 140x140 web banner placed on the main page, and breaking news pages.

The Half page includes a 468x60 web banner placed on the main page, and breaking news pages.

The Quarter page includes a 140x140 web banner placed on the main page, and breaking news pages.

Not to mention, you can change your print ad in every run and your banner ads as often as you would like.

Simply put, this is a golden opportunity to market your product or cause to people who take action.

Please e-mail: joseph@usobserver.com

Get the US~Observer in Your Mail Box!

Subscription Cost:

12 issues for \$29.95!!

Ask about the "100 Club"
(50 papers for \$50 per edition)

Subscription Total: \$ _____

US~Observer

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

Phone 541-474-7885

Subscription Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ Office (____) _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

US~Observer

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

Check or Money Order

US~Observer*Demanding Accountability*

Newspapers fold as readers defect and economy sours

By Stephanie Chen
CNN

(CNN) - The Rocky Mountain News, gone. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, gone.

The chains that own large metropolitan dailies such as the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune are in bankruptcy. Other papers, large and small, are teetering on the brink.

On Monday, the Ann Arbor (Michigan) News announced that it will publish its last edition in July. Taking its place will be a Web site called AnnArbor.com.

Three other Michigan newspapers announced Monday they are reducing their publications to three days a week. The Flint Journal, The Saginaw News and The Bay City Times will publish print editions on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, according to the mlive.com Web site, as research shows those are the highest readership days for newspapers.

The situation now looks grim for The Tucson Citizen. In the past 25 years, circulation at Arizona's oldest newspaper has dwindled from 65,000 to 17,000. The Gannett Co. paper could fold if a buyer can't be found.

At least 120 newspapers in the U.S. have shut down since January 2008, according to Paper Cuts, a Web site tracking the newspaper industry. More than 21,000 jobs at 67 newspapers have vaporized in that time, according to the site.

More bad news could be coming this week as newspapers struggle to meet challenges posed by changing reader habits, a shifting advertising market, an anemic economy, and the newspaper industry's own early strategic errors.

Amid the decline comes concern over who, if anyone, can assume newspapers' traditional role as a watchdog. For more than 200 years, that role has been an integral part of American democracy.

"I know it sounds somewhat cliché, but when you have competition with [the Arizona] Star, it makes both entities better," said Jennifer Boice, an editor who has

devoted more than 25 years of her life to the Tucson Citizen.

Competition naturally breeds better journalism is the credo of many newspaper veterans. And better journalism means an engaged and informed public.

"The winner is the community," Boice said. "They get better information quicker and more of it."

Despite arguments like Boice's, newspapers are losing their relevance in the lives of a majority of Americans, particularly younger readers.

Many industry analysts agree many more papers will soon become extinct. Most two-newspaper towns will likely disappear, perhaps by the end of 2009, some experts say.

Among the next newspapers to go, experts say, are major metropolitan dailies relying on an expensive business model that requires costly newsprint consumption and gas-guzzling deliveries.

The quirky San Francisco Chronicle is reported to be circling the drain. If it were to close, San Francisco would be the first big U.S. city without a major daily paper.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Boston Globe are bleeding about \$1 million a week, according to a media report issued by the Pew Center for Excellence in Journalism. Experts say more big-city papers are expected to follow the example of Gannett's Detroit Free Press, which started cutting back on print edition delivery in December.

The challenges facing newspapers long predate the worst economic slump since the Great Depression. Daily subscriptions per household began a steady decline in the 1920s, yet the newspaper industry adapted and thrived despite competition from radio and television.

But easily accessible, high-speed Internet connections and smart phones have dramatically shifted the way people get their news. Ironically, news is still in strong demand. It's abundant, accessible and usually free on the Web.

The outlook is so grim that the American Society of

Newspaper Editors, a membership organization for daily newspaper editors, canceled its annual convention in April after deciding that "the challenges editors face at their newspapers demand their full attention."

Job cuts are keeping many newspapers on life support.

Paul Gillin, a social media consultant, said such losses are to be expected for an industry that has failed to adapt to the influx of online publishing tools and social networking sites.

"Information has become democratized today," said Gillin, who has predicted print newspapers will disappear by 2015. "You get a lot of advice from your friends, blogs and multiple media sources. Who reads just one newspaper?"

Many newspaper experts expect national publications such as the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Washington Post and The New York Times to survive. They say the largest papers could even benefit from industry woes and grab market share because of their wide penetration.

In the meantime, these papers are facing a harsh economy. At The Washington Post, owned by Washington Post Co., earnings plunged 77 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008. The newspaper was saved by the parent company's Kaplan educational division, which raked in more than half the company's revenue that year.

The future offers the industry little comfort, with studies showing newspapers have lost a generation of young readers. A Pew Research Center report this month found only one-third of Americans polled say they would "miss" the newspaper a lot if it were no longer around.

US~Observer's Note: While many newspapers are struggling, the US~Observer is thriving. Why? We do not bow to the will of advertisers; because our model is not based on ad revenue alone. Perhaps, some of these "mainstream" outlets should hire us to get them straight. ■■

What is an American? A look back - Has it changed?

By Peter Ferrara
Associate professor of law
George Mason University School of Law

September 25, 2001 - You probably missed it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper there an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So I just thought I would write to let them know what an American is, so they would know when they found one.

An American is English...or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them choose.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God-given right of each man and woman to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

An American does not have to obey the mad ravings of ignorant, ungodly cruel, old men. American men will not be fooled into giving up their lives to kill innocent people, so that these foolish old men may hold on to power. American women are free to show their beautiful faces to the world, as each of them choose.

An American is free to criticize his government's officials when they are wrong, in his or her own opinion. Then he is free to replace them, by majority vote.

Americans welcome people from all lands, all cultures, all religions, because they are not afraid. They are not afraid that their history, their religion, their beliefs, will be overrun, or forgotten. That is because they know they are free to hold to their religion, their beliefs, their history, as each of them choose.

And just as Americans welcome all, they enjoy the best that everyone has to bring, from all over the world. The best science, the best technology, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes.

Americans welcome the best, but they also welcome the least. The nation symbol of America welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed.

These in fact are the people who built America. Many of them were working in the twin towers on the morning of September 11, earning a better life for their families.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo and Stalin and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world.

But in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

So look around you. You may find more Americans in your land than you thought were there. One day they will rise up and overthrow the old, ignorant, tired tyrants that trouble too many lands. Then those lands too will join the community of free and prosperous nations.

And America will welcome them. ■

