Promoting Excellence in Investigative Journalism

US OBSERVER
Vindicating the Innocent

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FALSE SEX ABUSE CASE

Felony Dismissed!
Timothy Tignor - Free at Last

"You stood against those who wanted to wrongfully destroy my life and you stopped them. Thank you so much Edward Snook and the US~Observer!" **– Tim Tignor**

Timothy Tignor

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Clackamas County, OR – No one can truly grasp the trauma of possibly having the rest of your life ruined by the stigma of being falsely charged with a heinous crime like sex abuse unless they experience it first-hand. Being innocent, like Tim Tignor, greatly enhances the pressure and most of all the emotions (stress) that overwhelm an innocent person who faces the possibility of a ruined life.

On May 17, 2018, Timothy Tignor received a Motion to

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JAMES FAIRE'S FALSE PROSECUTION

Justice on Trial – July 16th
Okanogan Prosecutor Seeks to Keep Facts From Jury

By Ron Lee
Editor & Investigative Journalist

Okanogan County, WA - Branden Platter, the Democrat incumbent Prosecutor of Okanogan County, who is seeking election in the upcoming Washington November vote, must have a different sense of what "justice" means than that of the average citizen. Across his newly launched campaign website, Platter uses the slogan, *"Proudly serving justice and the community with honesty, dedication, and transparency."* Having reported extensively on the false prosecution of James Faire, handled by Platter's office, we have concluded his slogan is nothing more than platitudes designed to elicit votes. Point of fact is, there isn't anything more unjust than an innocent being railroaded by the system under the guise of justice, and that truth is what Platter will face when Faire secures a deserved not guilty verdict in his upcoming trial. Based on his actions, Platter believes that his only hope of getting a conviction is to keep the most important facts of this case from the eyes and ears of the jury.

In what began as the infamous "Squatters run over woman" case, James Faire was arrested in Okanogan County and charged with First Degree Murder, Assault in the First Degree, Theft in the First Degree, and Criminal Trespass in the First Degree in June of 2015. Okanogan Sheriff Frank Rogers appeared on KREM 2 News the day after the incident and publicly indicted James Faire as the perpetrator, thereby locking the

Okanogan Prosecutor Branden Platter

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Montana Prosecutor Suzy Boylan
Unlawfully Strips War Vet's Property Rights

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Missoula, MT - In the early fall of 1991, Louis Polinsky purchased and began building on 18 plus acres of land for his family in Montana. Louis gave part ownership to his brother Steve and others who agreed to help build. His goal was to construct cabins on the land for family retreats; a place to gather and build memories together. But his biological brother, Steve, didn't see things quite the same. Steve began, "stealing and disrupting" the plan, according to sources.

The tension grew so large between Louis and Steve that the two filed mutual no contact orders. What was intended to bring the family together, did the exact opposite. According to Louis, both he and Steve's own Mother, "lost a lot of respect for Steve" because of his "deceitful actions." Louis' Mother stated in an interview, "I don't know what ever happened to Steve. I can't understand why he would lie about his brother for no reason at all. Steve has always hated Louis, even when Louis protected him while they were growing up."

Prosecutor Suzy Boylan

After a good amount of time, the brothers attempted to set aside their differences. According to Louis, he thought they had both "dropped the no contact orders." They could finally attempt to re-establish

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Feeding Off Faulk Trust Assets
Clackamas County's False Criminal Charges Filed Against Wrong Individuals

By US~Observer Staff

Clackamas County, OR - On November 20, 2017 Jack Dunn and his wife Rose Henley were arrested by Clackamas County, Sheriff's Deputies and charged with several counts of Theft and Criminal Mistreatment.

The US~Observer's investigation into this case revealed that the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) charges were brought even though no adequate investigation was made prior to arrest.

According to sources, CCSO's actions were prompted by special interest

Wayne Faulk

individuals. These individuals focused on profiting from the very estate that Dunn and Henley have been accused of stealing from.

CASE HISTORY

In early 2014, 69-year-old Wayne Faulk routinely walked from his 40-acre farm, located on South Potter Road just outside of Oregon City, to the Redland Store. According to neighbors and friends of Faulk, Wayne was a neighborhood favorite who was able to live on his Farm and enjoy his life because of a family trust that was set up to support

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US~OBSERVER VICTORY

Josephine County Jury Nullifies Bad Law
Bryan Tucker is Not Guilty!!!

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Josephine County, OR - During the late afternoon hours of May 24, 2018, a Josephine County Jury returned a verdict of NOT Guilty on all stacked charges brought against 20-year-old Bryan Tucker. The false charges originated with the Kaite Rogers' mother but were manufactured by Detective John Lohrfink and leveled against Tucker by Corrupt Josephine County District Attorney Ryan Mulkins.

Shawn and Bryan Tucker with Bryan's girlfriend and supporter, Cheyenne

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PROPERTY RIGHTS

Santa Cruz California Code Enforcement -
Red-Tagging Land Owners by Deceit

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Land theft by government is a rapidly growing reality for many property owners across the country. "You didn't pay property taxes," poof, your land is taken. "Your home isn't quite up to code, we're (government) forcing the sale," gone! "The property presents imminent threat to life or limb," taken by government. Eminent Domain... These are just some of the examples used by government to strip a person's right to private property. In Santa Cruz, CA. the right to NOT, *"be safe and secure in your ... houses...,"* just might be the official land-theft blueprint for out of control administrative

Property Owner Roy Kaylor

government agencies across the country. Essentially, the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been stripped by

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Permit No.

Father Stripped of Family
Polk County Injustice?

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Polk County, OR – In December of 2017 59-year-old Matthew McDaniel was charged with 4th degree Assault, Menacing, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Criminal Mistreatment and 2 separate charges of Sexual Assault. His wife Michu was charged with three counts of 2nd Degree Assault (a felony) three counts of 1st Degree Criminal Mistreatment (a felony), one misdemeanor count of assault in the 4th Degree and one count of Tampering with a Witness (a felony).

Since filing these ridiculous, in fact, insane, stacked charges, Polk County District Attorney Aaron Felton has not produced one shred of forensic evidence to back up the states charges. There is no corroborating evidence or testimony. In fact, there is only the word of a troubled daughter, who, according to witnesses, is a pathological liar and thief. A search warrant was issued for alleged illegal photos on phones and electronic devices which the daughter accused. None were found.

The backstory on these charges is just as overwhelming as the corrupt and false charges themselves.

This story begins back in 1989 when Matthew's life took him to Thailand where he found himself fighting corrupted government – government that was abusing the Thai people beyond belief.

During his involvement standing against the Thai abuse, Matthew fell in love with a lady named Michu and they married not long after. Matthew returned to the US in 2006 and brought Michu with him. They ended up starting an "organic" farm in Polk County, Oregon. By this time the couple had four children.


Matthew and Michu McDaniel

One of the children, their eldest daughter (name withheld) began causing trouble within the family. According to family members and friends, this daughter stole items from family members repeatedly and in mid-2015 she was caught stealing $500.00 from vendors at the local market in Independence.

By December 2016, they had three more children. The youngest was a six-month-old baby girl. About that time everyone got the flu. Matthew was the last to get it and came home early. He asked his son to move over on the sofa so that he could sit down. His son did and asked his older sister to move over. The sister had the sleeping baby girl tight to her chest in a baby wrap. To get the baby out you must have someone untie the wrap in back. This is when all hell broke loose. The daughter allegedly got angry and jumped up, walked across the room to the crib and grabbing the sleeping baby by the feet, jerked her down and out of the cloth wrap into the crib, the baby girl screaming in shock. Then the daughter ran out the door. Michu tended to the shocked baby and Matthew ran out the door trying to stop his daughter and ask her what she was thinking. Because of the flu he couldn't stop her, and she ran off down the street to a neighbor's house.


District Attorney Felton

She returned the next day, hung around all day and then suddenly in the evening began crying and saying that her back hurt really bad and she ran off to the neighbor's again.

The sheriff shows up and asks him what happened. Matthew told him about the assault on the baby, but he was not interested, and Matthew was arrested for 4th Degree Assault. The deputy said he was being arrested for throwing his daughter up against the car. The daughter lied to the police and they bought her lies. She even taunted her brother's later saying she could get them in trouble and the police would believe her because she was a girl. She was right.

The false assault charge was dropped in March of 2017, after the daughter recanted to Katie Jones at the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) office. However, Katie Jones allegedly concealed to the court documents that showed the daughter had recanted to her in a private interview at the DHS office before returning home. She allowed the District Attorney to make the accusation that Michu had forced the daughter to recant, thus Michu's "tampering with a witness" charge.

Before Matthew was allowed to return home by the court, his daughter reportedly dropped the baby girl on the tile floor, face down, bruising her face as if her nose had been broken.

A few weeks after Matthew returned home his daughter allegedly dropped the baby on the bathroom floor, knocking her unconscious and bruising her face. Matthew was a block away and came home and rushed the baby to Dallas Hospital for x-rays.

The daughter's trouble continued until Matthew McDaniel decided it was in the family's best interests and to protect the baby from further life-threatening injuries, to remove the older daughter from the household and have her live elsewhere. He tried Catholic Family Services and was reportedly rejected because the local Catholic Service didn't deal with problem children.

An opportunity came up for her to work for local farmers Dan and Caprice Rosato. She worked there all summer. At the end of the summer Matthew was able to have his daughter stay with a man named John Krenkel, a friend of Dan Rosato's, where she could work and attend a school that was separate from his other children. The other children refused to attend the same school with her. To accomplish this, Matthew signed a document naming Krenkel as his daughter's temporary Guardian. According to sources, "this seemed to clear everything up within the family."

Matthew was still meeting with his daughter occasionally and watching over her, but he soon noticed that Krenkel was making odd excuses and becoming increasingly possessive, keeping her away from him. He was thinking of making different arrangements because of the alleged alienation that was occurring.

Krenkel contacted him after he had not seen or heard anything from his daughter for three weeks and told him that he had bought tickets for his daughter to go to Europe and asked that Matthew sign a new notarized guardianship document and a passport application. Matthew refused. Not long after his refusal, his daughter sent him a threatening letter, telling him that if he continued to refuse, that he would pay for it.

Subsequent to Matthew's attempt to protect his daughter, he and his wife were charged with multiple false charges and their six other children were all removed from their home without any evidence of harm to the children. DHS has "circled the wagons" with District Attorney Felton, and Matthew McDaniel has been forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars defending himself.

Judge Norman R. Hill ordered Matthew not to have any contact with his wife Michu, so she had to move elsewhere. She was isolated from his support, lost her transportation, was living in someone else's home who did not speak her language, she did not speak English well and had lost all her children. Their case worker at DHS is Aubrey Haverkost. Michu only sees her babies for one hour per week. After more than four months of being isolated away from her children and husband Michu suffered a complete breakdown.

During a recent hearing, Dr. Stacey Hedlund of Liberty House refused to comply with a legally issued subpoena and Polk County Circuit Court Judge Norman R. Hill failed to do anything about it. Defense Attorney James Leuenberger had subpoenaed Dr. Hedlund to the hearing to prove the daughter didn't have any scars from abuse as the state has alleged. The defense had all their witnesses subpoenaed, at great cost, and Judge Hill simply ignored this fact - Hill canceled the hearing…

Failing to properly vet a proven liar and destroying a wonderful family in the process is going to cost everyone involved in this case dearly at the end of the day!

Editor's Note: The US~Observer is digging deep into this case - some of the evidence we have already uncovered is absolutely devastating. Look to our next edition for an update or visit www.usobserver.com.

Anyone with information of wrongdoing of any nature whatsoever, on Judge Norman Hill, Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton, Deputy Marty Watson, Detective John Williams or anyone else involved in this case is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email to editor@usobserver.com.

All involved in this case would be wise to closely examine their actions and change them immediately. If those in authority in Polk County don't start seeking justice in this case, as opposed to conducting an out and out Witch Hunt, they will find themselves in a very shocking situation. ★★★

2 Exonerated Men File Lawsuit Against Police Alleging They Were Framed

By Patrick Elwood


Roosevelt Glenn Sr. and Darryl Pinkins Sr.

(WGN9) Hammond, IN - Two Indiana men who served decades behind bars for a rape they did not commit, are now suing the Hammond police officers and crime lab scientists who helped convict them, claiming they were framed.

Attorney Elliot Slosar, the lawyer representing Darryl Pinkins Sr. and Roosevelt Glenn Sr., said Detective Solan went "out of his way" to frame them. He said the detective fabricated four false statements for jail house informants.

Pinkins and Glenn spent a combined 42 years in prison for a 1989 rape of a then 26-year-old Hammond woman.

Pinkins and Roosevelt allege they were framed by detectives working for the Hammond Police Department and scientists working for the Indiana State Police Crime Lab.

The suit claims police misconduct and what attorneys call manipulated junk science of DNA evidence at the time and a victim who mistakenly identified the men.

The men were working for the same Indiana steel production company and never been in trouble before.

Both said they are not bitter, but do want the people who sent them to prison held criminally and financially responsible.

"Back then I was working as a family man. I had a good job. No record of any kind at the age of 38. Not even a jaywalking ticket. This all came as a shock. I thank God for the stamina that both of us had while we were in prison," Pinkins said.

"I'm glad to be standing here today because this is truly a nightmare and I thank God for the support system I have. My family who stood by me all the time," Glenn said.

The men are asking authorities to reopen the investigation to find the men who committed the crime.

Police did not comment. ★★★

Continued from page 1 • Josephine County Jury Overrules Bad Law - Bryan Tucker is "Not Guilty"!!!

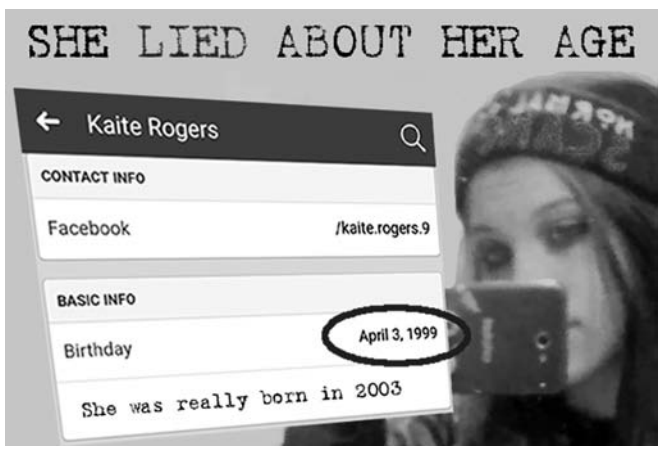
The US~Observer agreed to investigate the Tucker case in October of 2017. What Investigative Reporter Joseph Snook uncovered was shocking. He found that young Bryan Tucker entered a relationship with a young female who literally deceived him about her age. He discovered Obstruction of Justice being committed by local law enforcement and then he discovered that Bryan Tucker couldn't use any of this information during his trial because of a bad Oregon Law – specifically **ORS 163.325 (1)** which states: ***"In any prosecution under ORS 163.355 to 163.445 in which the criminality of conduct depends on a child being under the age of 16 it is no defense that the defendant did not know the child's age or that the defendant reasonably believed the child to be older than the age of 16."***

NOT GUILTY - THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS VERDICT

Bryan's Dad, Shawn Tucker stood by his Son every step of the way and fought hard to assist Joseph Snook with his investigation, even at the risk of his own safety and freedom. Any young person would be very fortunate to have a person with the character and backbone of Shawn Tucker as their Father. Bryan's Mother, Step-Mother and girlfriend, Cheyenne, also stood by Bryan and fought hard to prove his innocence, as did all of Bryan's friends.

At the end of the day, Bryan Tucker's future ended up in the lap of the US~Observer. The US~Observer investigated, published and the rest is history! In most cases the US~Observer vindicates the innocent regardless of what an attorney does or doesn't do. In this case however, Attorney Greg Day of Grants Pass did an exceptional job of fighting for Bryan Tucker at trial with literally both hands tied behind his back. Day greatly enhanced the efforts of the US~Observer and we commend this exceptional Defense Attorney. We also hold the Jury in this case in High Esteem for not allowing the system to control their sense of right and wrong. This group of jurors should sleep very well at night for serving justice.

Now, let's revisit the previously on-line only article that truly won Bryan Tucker his freedom...



The No Defense Law – Locking Up a Young Man in Oregon: The Bryan Tucker Story

The State will tell Jurors they would like for them to be fair and impartial. How can that happen when the State disallows the Jury from seeing the most important evidence associated with the case? Below is the evidence that the Jury will not see at Bryan Tucker's trial. Is this fair? Is this justice? How could anyone determine beyond a moral certainty that Bryan is guilty after seeing all of the evidence below?

By US~Observer Staff

One could write a book about the travesty of justice brought against Bryan Tucker, as the details are abounding. Much will come out at his upcoming trial (May 15 – 17, 2018 at the Josephine County, OR. Courthouse) but the most important evidence won't; cunning lies from the alleged victim, Kaite Rogers, who covered-up her age, will be kept secret. In fact, it is mandated by Oregon law that not knowing the person's age is not a defense. Shockingly it states, "it is no defense that the defendant did not know the child's age…"

Back in the summer of 2015, Bryan Tucker was riding his six-foot-tall unicycle around Grants Pass, Oregon. On one of his many outings, he was approached by two girls. After a short conversation, the group parted ways.

Days later, one of the girls contacted Bryan on social media. According to her multiple profiles on different sites, she was 17-years-old, born on April 3, 1999 (actually 2003) and worked for Dutch Bros. Coffee, an establishment that requires employees to be at least 16-years of age for employment.

Attorney Greg Day

The two became on-line friends before meeting up again – in fact, when they did meet again she asked him to meet her at her high school. This was dishonest as she was in junior high at the time. After meeting, they shared intimacy, but never had sexual intercourse.

In an attempt to build this into a meaningful relationship and be inclusive, Bryan called to invite Kaite to his 18th birthday party. It was Kaite's mother, Beverly Boeh (pronounced BAY), who answered the phone, and she reacted with shock that Bryan was almost 18. Boeh admonished Bryan for being with such a young girl, and she went on to tell him that Kaite was just 12-years-old. For Bryan, it came as an absolute shock. Everything he had seen and been told stated she was much older.

According to Bryan and others who have known her, she carried herself as "older", she even had facial piercings (which in Oregon are illegal to administer to anyone under 18 without consent of a parent) – and to this day tries to pass herself off as older than she is according to witnesses, unless it is in her best interest to feign helplessness.

Needless to say, the "relationship" ended abruptly after Bryan found out Kaite's real age, not to mention her propensity for telling lies. And while he stayed her on-line friend, he reportedly never sought to be intimate with her again.

Almost two years later, Bryan was arrested and charged with 16 felony crimes. Even though he has no previous criminal history, and no history of sex related issues, Bryan has been locked up since August 29, 2017.

Bryan's case is now set for trial on May 15, 2018 and he has just been told his only defense – which is the truth of the matter, that a deceitful Kaite Rogers lied to him and everyone else online – will not be allowed. Seemingly there's no hope that Bryan will be found anything other than guilty of the 16 felonies he faces – stacked charges that don't reflect the nature of the contact. Remember, they never had sexual intercourse, and never even took their clothes off.

WHAT COULD JURORS DO TO HELP SERVE JUSTICE?

Supporters rallied at the Josephine County Courthouse during trial

The only chance Bryan essentially has at trial is that of jury nullification. The jury can decide that the law does not apply for this young man, as it violates his constitutional right to mount any defense. The state has to prove each crime beyond a reasonable doubt. The fact the court is precluding the defense the right to refute the element of Kaite's age would mean that Bryan is being denied due process. Bryan has now been denied the right to enter exculpatory evidence which is unjust. With this being done, it presents a great case for appeal should Bryan be convicted.

Presumably, the jury could simply determine that the laws Bryan is accused of violating do not apply because there is no way for the jurors to know that Bryan and Kaite's "mutually consensual" involvement was illegal. Kaite lied about her age, and because she lied about her age, Bryan never knew he was breaking the law. His state-of-mind was that of someone obeying the law. Because of the amount of times Kaite lied about her age, she cannot be believed. Therefore her testimony should not be believed. The jurors can, and should nullify this unjust law. Regardless of the legality of the law, the government should absolutely allow Bryan the right to enter evidence of Kaite's lies about her age. Unfortunately, that will not be allowed to be seen by the jury.

Kaite did state on social media and reportedly to Bryan that she was born in 1999. Her comment (or her mother's under her profile) clearly states that she did lie about her true age. This evidence was obtained by the US~Observer. Kaite is not an ordinary young girl. Kaite has reportedly been conditioned to be a very cunning liar.

WHY NOW ALMOST 3-YEARS LATER?

Apparently, Kaite's mother had contacted the police after finding out about Kaite's "voluntary" involvement with Bryan. Two years went by without the police pursuing the matter, or ever contacting Bryan, though he lived in Grants Pass and was never hard to find.

One day in early 2017, Bryan was pulled over for a minor traffic violation. To his surprise he was asked to talk with a Detective with the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety. Willingly and without reservation, Bryan sat with Detective John Lohrfink and divulged what he could remember about the short-lived youthful romance from the summer of 2015. Bryan was honest but recalling every detail from nearly two years prior wasn't easy. When this April of 2017 meeting adjourned, Bryan was thanked for his honesty and cooperation and told not to worry. Months later, on August 29, 2017, Grants Pass police arrested him in the early morning hours at his grandmother's, without being given time to dress.

The indictment against Bryan stated that the alleged crimes were committed between June 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015. A large gap in time and convenient for law enforcement, as Bryan turned 18 on August 12, 2015. The State will further allege that Bryan committed more crimes between Oct. 1 and Nov. 6, 2015. This is simply not true according to Bryan, who, "never made physical contact with Kaite after finding out her real age." Kaite was allegedly 12 when the two initially met. She's now 15 (according to police reports).

LIES TOLD TO DETECTIVE JOHN LOHRFINK BY KAITE

Kaite Rogers has met with Detective John Lohrfink on at least three occasions, that the US~Observer is aware of. It's obvious that Lohrfink was trying to build a case against Bryan, and he needed Kaite to provide him with certain facts before he could proceed with criminal charges. He voiced the need for "honesty" multiple times during the meetings. Repeatedly, Lohrfink would reassure Kaite that, "she was not in trouble" and would not get in any trouble for anything she said. Lohrfink purportedly did this because each time Kaite talked with him, it was his opinion that she lied. See, Bryan had already willingly told the detective what happened, because he had been deceived by Kaite and felt horrible about it, and Lohrfink needed Kaite to verify his story. But Kaite kept giving differing accounts as to what happened. Lohrfink methodically led her into changing her narrative of what happened on MULITPLE occasions until her story was enough to support charges.

Kaite's behavior while with Lohrfink appeared to be that of a scared child. Knowing how she acts outside of police presence, Kaite was obviously devious during the meetings with Lohrfink. Each meeting was recorded. Although Kaite told many lies to Lohrfink, she did get one thing right. Kaite stated that Bryan looked like a 13-year-old when they met – even though she knew his real age. She was accurate in her description that Bryan was both physically and socially immature.

Regardless, Kaite's behaviors before and after meeting with Lohrfink were anything but that of a scared child. Her true self was confirmed by evidence the US~Observer obtained on social media.

A PROFANE YOUNG WOMAN?

Kaite posted a message on Facebook about the difference between, "the right guys from the f**k boys." Kaite also had another Facebook page with her profile picture and the caption "HMU. I'm awesome. Let's Netflix and chill (an innuendo for watch movies and have sex)." In fact, Kaite was dating Bryce Anderson off and on during this time frame. As

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In The News

Man Exonerated was Falsely Convicted at 14, for the 1991 Murder of a Correction Officer

By Christina Carrega

John Bunn burst into tears when exonerated
(Jesse Ward/for New York Daily News)

(New York Daily News) - Tears flowed down the face of a newly exonerated Brooklyn man as he railed about the crooked process that stole 17 years of his life.

John Bunn, convicted in an August 1991 killing based on tainted evidence produced by ex-Detective Louis Scarcella, turned angry Tuesday as prosecutors announced they would not retry his case.

"They won't admit I'm an innocent man," said the emotional Bunn, now 41, as he clutched the hands of his lawyers in a Brooklyn courtroom.

"Y'all had the wrong man this whole time and you have (someone) out there running free and y'all had no right to do what you did."

(Jesse Ward/for New York Daily News)

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Shawn'Dya Simpson shared a brief conversation with Bunn and his mother, Maureen, at the bench after prosecutors agreed to dismiss the charges that he murdered a correction officer.

"Move forward," the judge told Bunn. "Keep me posted."

Simpson tossed Bunn's conviction in November 2016 and ordered a new trial after an evidentiary hearing exposed Scarcella's actions.

Bunn was paroled seven years earlier after spending 17 years behind bars. Defense lawyers claim Bunn and a second man were framed for the killing.

"There were problems with this case that were very obvious," said defense lawyer Glenn Garber, standing with Bunn and co-counsel Rebecca Freeman. "There was no probable cause to make an arrest."

Speaking Tuesday, Simpson noted that Bunn was only 14 when he was arrested and jailed in the Crown Heights murder of Rolando Neischer.

"I am more than emotional about this day," said Simpson as her voice cracked. "You were 14 at the time. This shouldn't have ever happened."

Bunn and Rosean Hargrave, then 16, were placed in a photo array created by Scarcella for Robert Crosson — who survived the shooting to become the sole eyewitness, authorities said.

Simpson, during the hearing, made a point of questioning the legal process that convicted Bunn and Hargrave.

"This case was tried . . ., a jury was picked, testimony was given and it concluded all in one day," said Simpson. "I don't consider that justice at all."

Bunn said he was looking forward to going on with his life.

"I don't know how I made it this far, but I believe I am here for a purpose," said Bunn, who founded a nonprofit organization called AVoice4TheUnheard.org.

"I just want to be proven innocent. . . . I didn't want to be in the dark side of the shadows they (the prosecutors) tried to put me," said Bunn.

★★★

Deputy Who Failed Parkland Gets $104,000 Annual Pension for Life

A travesty that sheds light on public retirement costs in Florida and around the country...

By Eric Boehm

(Reason) - Scot Peterson, the Broward County sheriff's deputy who failed to engage the Parkland high school shooter, is eligible to receive an annual pension in excess of six figures.

Scot Peterson, the deputy who never entered Parkland.

The Sun Sentinel obtained records from the Florida Department of Management Services showing that Peterson, who retired in the weeks after the February 14 shooting, is due to collect $8,700 per month. That works out to slightly more than $104,000 a year. Peterson, who is 55 years old, will be able to receive that pension for the rest of his life, and Broward County taxpayers will cover 50 percent of his health insurance premiums.

Peterson earned more than $101,000 during his final year of service, the Sun Sentinel reports. That includes about $75,600 in base salary, with the rest coming from overtime pay and other forms of compensation. As Reason has previously reported, Peterson had been the school resource officer at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School since 2009, and he had been an employee of the Broward County Sheriff's Office since 1985.

That means Peterson put in at least 25 years at the job, an important threshold for accruing pension benefits under state law. The pensions afforded to Florida's sheriffs are based on a calculation that starts with an average of the employee's five highest-paid years. That average is then multiplied by a percentage that varies based on how many years an employee has worked and at what job.

Law enforcement employees and other public employees in so-called "high-risk" positions earn a multiplier of 3 percent for every year worked. (Other public workers earn a lower multiplier, usually 2 percent.) After 25 years of service, a law enforcement employee like Peterson would have earned a pension equal to 75 percent of the average of his five highest-paid years during his final 10 years of employment. Under Florida law, pension payouts are capped at 100 percent of this figure, which is known as a "final annual salary."

This specific situation sheds light on the broader implications of public retirement costs in Florida and around the country. An employee like Peterson, who was by all accounts a typical deputy in the sprawling Broward County Sheriff's Office before his unfortunate rise to national prominence, is afforded a retirement package that kicks in at age 52 and allows him to collect a pension even if he pursues other work after his retirement. It's vastly different from what most private sector workers can expect to receive. The difference is premised on the idea that Peterson put his life on the line in a high-risk profession. Except, of course, that Peterson did not put his life on the line when the moment arose.

But the payouts are virtually guaranteed, regardless of performance in the line of duty. Under Florida law, public pensions can be revoked for felony offenses that "breach the public trust." While Peterson's actions in February may fit the spirit of that law, the letter of the law identifies only a few specific crimes—embezzlement, theft, bribery, and child sexual assault—for which pensions can be revoked.

★★★

Trump: I will sign a prison reform bill

By Ben Kamisar

(The Hill) - President Trump has called on Congress to deliver him a prison reform bill for him to sign.

Speaking at a White House prison reform summit, Trump called for a compromise to "restore the rule of law, keep dangerous criminals off our street, and help inmates get a second chance on life."

The legislation being considered in the House aims to reduce prison recidivism rates. It would allow prisoners to finish their sentences in a halfway house, home confinement or under community supervision if they complete education, job training, drug treatment and other programs while behind bars.

Trump said the "stigma" of being an ex-convict hurts prisoners looking to return to society.

"There is no substitute for personal accountability and there is no tolerance for those who take advantage of society's generosity to prey upon the innocent," Trump said.

"But if we want more prisoners to take charge of their own lives, then we should work to give them the tools to stand on their own two feet," Trump said.

"As we speak, legislation is working through Congress to reform out federal prisons. My administration strongly supports these efforts and I urge the House and Senate to get together ... work out their differences, get a bill to my desk. I will sign it," he said.

"It's going to be strong, it's going to be good. You're all in line, you're all looking for the same thing. So we're going to have ... the finest prison reform you can have anywhere."

Despite the optimistic tone, the White House's prison reform plan faces a tough road in the Senate. While the bill has passed the House Judiciary Committee, top senators on both sides of the aisle want to pair the prison reforms with changes to mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug offenses.

That change would likely face opposition from the administration, particularly from Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The prison reform bill has been a top initiative for White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, who is also the president's son-in-law. ★

"I Love New York" Reality Star Awarded $10 Million After Being Framed For Murder

By Gina Tron

(Oxygen) - Jamal Trulove, 33, has definitely had an eventful life.

In 2007, he was an aspiring rapper who landed a role on the VH1 reality show "I Love New York 2" under the moniker "Milliown." He briefly vied for the affection of Tiffany "New York" Pollard. That very same year, he also became a murder suspect.

On July 23, 2007 at around 11 p.m., Seu Kuka, 28, was shot to death on the street in front of a San Francisco, California public housing project. He had been shot nine times; seven of those shots were fired from a distance, according to the National Registry of Exonerations.

Even though there were about thirty people present on the street when the gunfire erupted, only one witness, who saw the shooting from a second-floor window, came forward. Priscilla Lualemaga told police she saw Kuka chase a man around a car and then knock another man over. When the man got up, he started shooting at Kuka. She later identified Trulove as the possible shooter. In 2008, he was charged with Kuka's death. Lualemaga testified against him in 2010 — according to the San Francisco Gate, her first identification was tentative, but was "affirmed after seeing Trulove three months later as a guest on the reality TV show 'I Love New York 2'." Trulove was sentenced to prison from 50 years to life for murder.

And then the truth came out. Trulove's attorney filed a state petition after finding several witnesses who claimed they saw the gunman, and that he wasn't Trulove. In 2014, the state appeals court decided to hear the case. They decided that the prosecution had committed misconduct for making up that their star witness risked her life by testifying.

Jamal Trulove

During a new trial, a ballistics expert testified that the witness would not have been able to get a good view of who killed Kuka. On March 11, 2015, Trulove was acquitted. In all, Trulove spent six years in prison — 4 of which he spent without family visitation because he was incarcerated in a remote location. A year later, he filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city and the county.

On April 6, a federal jury awarded him $10 million after determining that police framed him for murder. The jury decided that Michael Johnson and Maureen D'Amico, investigators on Kuka's murder case, fabricated evidence against Trulove, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. In a February ruling that allowed the case to go to trial, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers cited evidence that the investigators asked Lualemaga "Are you sure it wasn't Jamal Trulove?" When she said she didn't know, instead of showing her photographs of different people, D'Amico showed her a photo array including Trulove and other people she had already dismissed as being the shooter. There was also evidence of another potential suspect who was never investigated, the Judge said.

Both Johnson and D'Amico are now retired.

"It's about time," said Kate Chatfield, a lawyer for Trulove told the San Francisco Gate. "Justice is not (merely) being acquitted for a crime you did not do. This was finally justice." Trulove, according to his Twitter bio pictured above, is trying to get back into music. And he's also giving back. Chatfield says that he now works at an after-school program for at-risk children in San Francisco.

John Coté, spokesman for City Attorney Dennis Herrera, told the San Francisco Gate that this week's verdict was disappointing. He added that the city is "analyzing the jury's findings and will determine from there how to proceed."

★★★

Mugshots.com Owners Arrested for Extortion

Thomas Keesee and Sahar Sarid

By Lily Hay Newman

(WIRED) - The California attorney general's office charged four people with extortion, money laundering, and identity theft on Wednesday for their alleged involvement with the website Mugshots.com, which posts people's mugshots, but will take them down for a fee. Two of the alleged site owners, Thomas Keesee and Sahar Sarid, were arrested in Florida on Thursday. The other two defendants are Kishore Vidya Bhavnanie and David Usdan. "This pay-for-removal scheme attempts to profit off of someone else's humiliation," California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement. "Those who can't afford to pay into this scheme to have their information removed pay the price when they look for a job, housing, or try to build relationships with others."

Mugshots.com has impacted people's lives for years; some have attempted to sue the site, but have found little recourse. Meanwhile, the site says in a newly prescient "Disclaimer Notice" that, "Published mugshots and/or arrest records are previously published public records. The mugshots and/or arrest records published on Mugshots.com are in no way an indication of guilt and they are not evidence that an actual crime has been committed. Arrest does not imply guilt."

★★★

Settlement Shines Sunlight on Millions Seized by NYPD

By Adam Klasfeld

(CN) Manhattan, NY – Agreeing to share data on millions of dollars it has seized through civil forfeitures, the New York City Police Department reached a settlement Monday, May 14th, that brings transparency to a program shrouded in secrecy.

The nonprofit advocacy group Bronx Defenders fought for nearly four years to wrest this information from the NYPD, spending two of those years in litigation under the state's Freedom of Information Law.

"Until today, the impact of the NYPD's seizure of property and cash has only been seen and felt by the low-income people of color it routinely affects, like our clients in the Bronx," the group's legal director Adam Shoop said in a statement.

"This settlement will change that," he added.

In 2016, the NYPD reported keeping $7.1 million in revenue from seizures, and the department did not report a figure the next year. Police estimated that amount would grow to $8.25 million and that the figure would hold for 2018.

Bronx Defenders credits its litigation for the sliver of transparency over the program so far.

Documents that the group obtained under Freedom of Information Law show that the NYPD retained $6.3 million through so-called "unclaimed" cash and property sales, and only $1,508 through civil forfeiture actions.

"Basically, they've never demonstrated their legal right to hold onto the money," Shoop said in a phone conversation.

Shoop added that, in some cases, the ability to contest the NYPD's possession of that money may have passed because of the passage of time.

"The recourse if you miss those deadlines is extremely limited," the attorney said.

When the Bronx Defenders receives the 160,000 records on vehicles, phones and seized cash, Shoop said, the group will review the possible next steps for their primarily low-income clients.

"Depending on what the data shows, we'll be looking to eliminate what the obstacles and issues are," he said.

Those records will come from the Property and Evidence Tracking System (PETS), a whopping $25 million database highlighted in this lawsuit.

At a hearing late last year, a city lawyer suggested that the pricy PETS software did not have a backup for the information.

"That's insane," Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Arlene Bluth exclaimed in October.

The NYPD now disputes that the information was so precarious.

In addition to proceeds of the NYPD's own forfeitures, an audit by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General found in 2014 that the city received another $14 million through an arrangement called the Equitable Sharing Program that allows federal law enforcement to share seized assets with their local counterparts.

Shoop said that the settlement signals new transparency over this money.

"Our lawsuit grew out of the lack of basic information around the millions of dollars of property that the NYPD seizes during arrests, like how much is being seized, how much is kept as revenue, and how much is being returned," he said. "We are pleased that this settlement will finally help answer those questions and bring New Yorkers the transparency and reform they deserve."

★★★

Many studies' results cannot be reproduced, scholars warn

By Mark Mcgreal - UCLA

(The College Fix) - Don't believe the latest study you read in the headlines, chances are, it could be wrong, according to a new report by the National Association of Scholars that delves into what it calls the "use and abuse of statistics in the sciences."

The report broke down the issue of irreproducibility, or the problem that a lot of scientific research cannot be reproduced. The report took aim at unverifiable climate science, but also critiqued medical studies, behavioral research and other fields.

The 72-page report took the matter a step further in calling the issue a politicization of science.

"Not all irreproducible research is progressive advocacy; not all progressive advocacy is irreproducible; but the intersection between the two is very large. The intersection between the two is a map of much that is wrong with modern science," the report states.

NAS Director of Research David Randall speaks about what the federal government can do in the #reproducibilitycrisis.

Co-authored by David Randall and Christopher Wesler, "The Irreproducibility Crisis of Modern Science: Causes, Consequences, and the Road to Reform" focused on the irreproducibility of recent scientific studies.

It references a study performed by researchers at Amgen in 2012. For this study, researchers tried to reproduce the results of "53 landmark studies in oncology and hematology." Researchers were only able to replicate the results of six studies.

#Irreproducibility co-author Christopher Welser lists a number of examples of irreproducible research & results.

"People have found similar results in psychology and economics. Different fields are affected different amounts," Randall told The College Fix. "As a rule of thumb, fields that use statistics intensively are more likely to have troubles than fields that don't."

The report hypothesized that there are a number of different reasons for irreproducibility that include such things as "flawed statistics, faulty data, deliberate exclusion of data, and political groupthink," among other reasons. "Actual fraud on the part of researchers appears to be a growing problem," the report also states.

"'Stereotype threat' as an explanation for poor academic performance? Didn't reproduce. 'Social priming,' which argues that unnoticed stimuli can significantly change behavior? Didn't reproduce that well … Tests of implicit bias as predictors of discriminatory behavior? The methodology turned out to be dubious, and the test of implicit bias may have been biased itself," the report states.

The report also alludes multiple times to the notion that climate science is on shaky ground.

"Climate science has significant work to do to make its data and its statistical procedures properly reproducible," Randall said.

Randall cited Judith Curry, a world-renowned climatologist, who has warned that the climate science field is heavily affected by groupthink, a collective way of thinking that has been known to stop individuals from questioning widely accepted theories.

Randall said he believes that climate change data needs to be reproducible because it is "more than usually intrusive into the lives of Americans."

To provide the public with accurate statistical information, the report endorses the expansion of the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015 to cut down on irreproducible data used to back public policy.

When asked what the average person could do in order to make sure that the information that is backing public policy is credible, Randall recommended: "Always ask 'has this study been reproduced? Did this study have pre-registered research protocols? Does it support an unpopular belief?' If the answer to any of these is no, suspend judgment. Don't disbelieve blindly, but don't believe blindly either."

★★★

Boy, 14, faces child porn distribution charges; girl, 13, faces lesser charge of sexting

By Robby Soave

A 14-year-old boy from Barrington, Rhode Island, has been charged with distributing child pornography after he shared inappropriate pictures of a 13-year-old female classmate with friends. The girl has also been charged—albeit with the lesser crime of disseminating indecent material.

The two teens swapped nude photos of themselves using Snapchat, according to eastbayRI.com. The boy then saved the images, showed his friends, and even created a fake Snapchat account in the girl's name. One of the girl's classmates saw the account and alerted authorities at Barrington High School, including School Resource Officer Josh Melo. Earlier this month, the police charged the boy with felony distribution of child pornography and cyberstalking, and the girl with the minor offense of "sexting."

What the boy did was very bad, and "cyberstalking" might technically fit the bill here, given the fake account. But it still seems harsh to threaten a 14-year-old with jail time and registry on the sex offender list. What he did was wrong, but it's hard to argue he's a predator, or a danger to other kids.

In an op-ed for The Providence Journal, attorney John Grasso wrote that the police could have charged the boy with sexting instead of child pornography, as they did with the girl.

If convicted, the boy will be a felon and a registered sex offender — everlasting consequences that I suspect this boy was unaware of when he allegedly decided to use cyberspace to pass around sexually explicit photographs of a girl his same age to other kids his age. ...

Sexting exists as an option to law enforcement when the police decide to exercise discretion. Child pornography is a felony that puts jail on the table. Sexting is a status offense. Kids who commit status offenses don't go to jail. Child pornography requires sex offender registration. Sexting specifically does not. Child pornography is the very deep end of the cyberspace quicksand.

The girl is getting off easier, with the sexting charge. But charging her at all seems like a grave mistake. The only real wrong here was the fake account, and the pictures being shared without permission. The boy did that—the girl was just the victim.

Melo, the school resource officer, did not respond to a request for comment, but told eastbayRI.com this:

Officer Melo said there are Barrington Middle School students who have social media accounts and share information with more than 1,000 "friends." He said it is very likely that the local students only know a few hundred of the contacts and could be communicating with other individuals who are dangerous.

"We know sex offenders are using these apps to talk to young kids," said Officer Melo. "People are trying to befriend the kids online."

This notion—that the internet is a particularly dangerous place where sex offenders are constantly targeting and grooming children—is a classic example of a moral panic. The sex offender registry is full of people who didn't actually commit sex-related crimes (like the boy in this story), and sex offenders have lower recidivism rates than just about any other group of criminals. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, "The single age with the greatest number of offenders from the perspective of law enforcement was age 14." That's because there are many kids getting in trouble for having sex with kids, and fewer adults.

Our zeal to punish kids for inappropriate but perfectly normal teen behavior doesn't make them safer from sex offenders—it turns them in to sex offenders. That's something everyone should keep in mind, especially given the public's current enthusiasm for putting more cops in schools as part of a noble but misguided effort to prevent mass shootings. ★★★

The Murder He Didn't Do: Why the Innocent Confess to Guilt

By Julie O'Connor
Star-Ledger Editorial Board

(NJ.com) - The two men spent the bulk of their adult lives in prison for murdering a store clerk in Paterson in 1993, slashing and bludgeoning him for a few bucks, the sort of senseless crime that can leave police, prosecutors and even jurors in a state of fury.

They went to prison mainly because they both confessed. It seemed a straightforward case.

But they didn't do it.

DNA evidence dug up by the Innocence Project proved that it was all a terrible mistake. So in November, they were freed from prison after nearly 25 years.

The big question is this: Why would an innocent man confess to a horrible crime that he didn't commit? How is that possible?

"Most people think, 'I would never confess to something I didn't do unless I was being tortured,' " said Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg, who teaches a class about wrongful convictions at Rutgers. But it happens all the time.

At first, that seems hard to believe. Yet after I sat down earlier this month with these defendants, Eric Kelley and Ralph Lee, it all began to make sense.

The first confession came from Kelley. It turns out he's the perfect mark for a cop who is convinced he has the murderer in the conference room.

He seems eager to please, and psychological tests found him suggestible and compliant. He suffered a traumatic brain injury after his car flipped on Route 80 in 1988. Witnesses saw his body "bouncing along the road," medical records said.

That accident affected his ability to process information and lowered his IQ, says his attorney with the Innocence Project, Vanessa Potkin. When tested for suggestibility, he scored high: more suggestible than 98 percent of the population.

"He is such an incredibly positive, warm-hearted person, in spite of such difficult circumstances that it appears he is not fully appreciating," she says. "He was an easy mark for the state."

Kelley was strikingly warm and affable when I met him. But he doesn't always answer the question that is asked. He gets lost on weird tangents.

Ask how that accident affected his thinking, and he launches into a completely unrelated story of a bar fight he witnessed decades ago in Paterson.

When it's pointed out that this has nothing to do with what we're talking about, he looks a bit taken aback, chastened. He falls silent and lets others do the talking.

At the time of the interrogation, he also had a heroin problem. And police have ways of nudging vulnerable defendants toward a confession, once they personally conclude that the suspect is probably guilty.

Eric Kelley, wrongly convicted in a Paterson murder case, discusses prison and life as a free man. *(George McNish | For NJ Advance Media)*

INVESTIGATORS CAN MISS SIGNS

Even the most conscientious cop can elicit a bad confession. Just ask Jim Trainum, a former homicide detective who was a consultant on this case.

He's now an expert on police interrogation tactics. But he'll never forget the day he realized that a woman he interrogated had confessed falsely to murder.

It was in 1994, a year after Kelley and Lee got arrested. In an interrogation that started at 8 a.m. and went on until 1 a.m. the next day, a 19-year-old told him and other Washington, D.C., cops that, yes, she did help kill a man and use his credit cards.

She was in jail for months before he discovered, incredulously, that she'd signed herself into a homeless shelter at the time of the murder.

First he assumed it couldn't be her handwriting on the sign-in sheet. But when her innocence became irrefutable, they had to let her go. They never caught the real killer.

And only years later, after rewatching her videotaped confession, did he discover his mistake.

He didn't pound his fists on the table or yell in her face. What he did was show her the credit card receipts, hoping she'd admit, "That's my signature."

Later on, she told him what stores she went to, on what roads and about how much she spent. All things, he now realizes, she'd learned from those receipts.

When asked what she bought -- which wasn't listed -- she was unable to get specific: Stuff, she said. Personal things. "That should have been a red flag," he says. "But we were so convinced it was her."

What he recognized were the many subtle ways he was feeding her clues about the case that she picked up on, and used to form a story that she told back to him.

Why? Because she felt trapped; as if her best option was to cooperate if she ever wanted to see her kids again.

"That's the way we painted the picture," Trainum says. "Then she had to figure out how to cooperate."

REASONS FOR BOGUS CLAIMS

The typical thing defendants say is that they falsely confessed because they wanted to go home, according to the University of San Francisco's Richard Leo, a law and psychology professor who studies this phenomenon.

Such defendants expect to be released because interrogators often act like they don't think the crime is such a big deal: Maybe it was impulsive. An accident. Over time, the suspect adopts the less heinous version, believing leniency will follow.

Usually the initial confession is vague. The next step is to get the suspect to divulge details of the crime that only the true perpetrator would know.

When a suspect can't come up with a key detail, police officers often feed it to him. They do this by asking leading questions, expressing doubt when the suspect picks the wrong answer, and steering him to the right answer, or showing crime-scene photos.

And once there is a confession, it corrupts other evidence. Judges and juries uncritically accept confessions, even over DNA testing.

A telltale sign that Kelley and Lee may have been slipped information: Certain details in their confessions exactly matched the crime; others made no sense.

They admitted to stabbing the store clerk, Tito Merino. But they said they did it at the front counter, even though the blood and body were found in the back room.

Kelley gave Merino's exact age, rather than an age range, which matched the age known to police. But he and Lee said this was a blitz attack, contradicting an eyewitness who saw a guy in a green hat browsing, pretending to be a customer.

After police showed Kelley a photo of a green and purple hat found at the crime scene, he said it was his. Yet new DNA evidence discovered in 2014 said the hat didn't belong to him, or to Lee.

The DNA on the hat matched another man who did time for a similar attack -- a guy who isn't mentioned anywhere in their confessions. Why not?

A TIP-OFF POLICE LOOK FOR

The gold standard for an accurate confession is if the suspect can lead police to evidence even they did not know existed, says Steven Drizin, who represented a mentally disabled teenager in a murder case covered in the Netflix documentary series "Making a Murderer."

In Kelley and Lee's case, this would be the knife, bloody clothes or the fruits of the robbery -- something that corroborates their story. But neither man could direct police to any of that.

It was a gruesomely bloody crime scene, yet 20 minutes after the murder occurred, the two men were seen with no blood on them. Imagine, though, how a rambling man with jumbled memories and a drug problem must have looked to an interrogator.

"I'm going to interpret that as him trying to be deceptive," said Trainum, the former cop. "Then I'll start cherry-picking the things he says."

This impulse to pick out information that confirms your existing beliefs is why best practice for police is to construct a timeline, he says.

Take the order in which evidence was discovered, switch it around and ask yourself: If it were found in this new sequence, would we reach the same conclusions?

"If the hat was found to trace back to this other guy before they identified Eric and Ralph as suspects, what would their paths have been?" Trainum muses.

LOSING A BIG PIECE OF LIFE

Kelley and Lee try not to dwell on the what-ifs. They've always coped by keeping busy. Kelley played the bass guitar in a prison band. Lee mopped, took laundry out.

"My whole goal was to make it out of there, not start anything to get me killed," Lee said.

This was a constant possibility. Kelley watched a man get his throat sliced to shreds with a tin can, right in front of him. He saw another get his head bashed with a dumbbell by an inmate who said he owed money.

His own father and aunt passed away, just one day apart, while he was locked up. His family held a double funeral that he couldn't attend.

"I'm so sad they weren't actually able to bear witness to this," he said of his exoneration. His daughter, now in her early 30s, grew up without him.

So did Lee's son, who was about 5 years old when his father went to prison. "I definitely missed my son's whole life," Lee said. "I wanted to know him."

But while Lee remains wary and reserved, Kelley is unflappably positive. Between expressing such deep regrets, he's flashing his new pair of neon-red sneakers, or miming how he peeked in and surprised his granddaughter at school.

He's recounting how he got his first job on the outside: A waitress at a pancake house recognized him from the news, and offered him a position washing dishes.

He readily agrees that this is amazing -- "so amazing." He is beaming, as always. Happy to cooperate. ★★★

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You then rush to an attorney, pay him a huge retainer to cover the usual $200.00 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 prosecuting 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.

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COMMENTARY

The views expressed herein are the author's own.

Your Right to Speak Out

The Age of Petty Tyrannies

By John W. Whitehead

(Rutherford Institute) - We labor today under the weight of countless tyrannies, large and small, carried out in the name of the national good by an elite class of government officials who are largely insulated from the ill effects of their actions, and inflicted on an overregulated, overtaxed, and underrepresented populace.

Consider, for example, that federal and state governments now require on penalty of a fine that individuals apply for permission before they can grow exotic orchids, host elaborate dinner parties, gather friends in one's home for Bible studies, give coffee to the homeless, let their kids manage a lemonade stand, keep chickens as pets, or braid someone's hair, as ludicrous as that may seem.

A current case before the Supreme Court, *Niang v. Tomblinson*, strikes at the heart of this bureaucratic exercise in absurdity that has pushed overregulation and overcriminalization to outrageous limits. This particular case is about whether one needs a government license in order to braid hair.

Image: Steven Depolo

Missouri, like many states across the country, has increasingly adopted as its governing style the authoritarian notion that the government knows best and therefore must control, regulate and dictate almost everything about the citizenry's public, private and professional lives.

In Missouri, anyone wanting to braid African-style hair and charge for it must first acquire a government license, which at a minimum requires the applicant to undertake at least 1500 hours of cosmetology classes costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Tennessee has fined residents nearly $100,000 just for violating its laws against braiding hair without a government license.

In Oregon, the law is so broad that you need a license even if you're planning to braid hair for free. The mere act of touching someone's hair can render you a cosmetologist operating without a license and in violation of the law.

In Iowa, you can be sentenced with up to a year in prison for braiding hair without having attended a year of cosmetology school.

It's not just hair braiding that has become grist for the overregulation mill.

Almost every aspect of American life today—especially if it is work-related—is subject to this kind of heightened scrutiny and ham-fisted control, whether you're talking about aspiring "bakers, braiders, casket makers, florists, veterinary masseuses, tour guides, taxi drivers, eyebrow threaders, teeth whiteners, and more."

For instance, whereas 70 years ago, one out of every 20 U.S. jobs required a state license, today, almost 1 in 3 American occupations requires a license.

The problem of overregulation has become so bad that, as one analyst notes, "getting a license to style hair in Washington takes more instructional time than becoming an emergency medical technicianor a firefighter."

This is what happens when bureaucrats run the show, and the rule of law becomes little more than a cattle prod for forcing the citizenry to march in lockstep with the government.

Overregulation is just the other side of the coin to overcriminalization, that phenomenon in which everything is rendered illegal and everyone becomes a lawbreaker.

This is the mindset that tried to penalize a fisherman with 20 years' jail time for throwing fish that were too small back into the water.

John Yates, a commercial fisherman, was written up in 2007 by a state fish and wildlife officer who noticed that among Yates' haul of red grouper, 72 were apparently under the 20-inch minimum legal minimum. Yates, ordered to bring the fish to shore as evidence of his violation of the federal statute on undersized catches, returned to shore with only 69 grouper in the crate designated for evidence.

A crew member later confessed that, on orders from Yates, the crew had thrown the undersized grouper overboard and replaced them with larger fish. Unfortunately, they were three fish short.

Sensing a bait-and-switch, prosecutors refused to let Yates off the hook quite so easily. Unfortunately, in prosecuting him for the undersized fish under a law aimed at financial crimes, government officials opened up a can of worms. Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court in a rare (and narrow) flash of reason, sided with Yates, ruling that the government had overreached.

That same overcriminalization mindset reared its ugly head again when police arrested a 90-year-old man for violating an ordinance that prohibits feeding the homeless in public.

Arnold Abbott, 90 years old and the founder of a nonprofit that feeds the homeless, faced a fine of $1000 and up to four months in jail for violating a city ordinance that makes it a crime to feed the homeless in public.

Arnold Abbott

Under the city's ordinance, clearly aimed at discouraging the feeding of the homeless in public, organizations seeking to do so must provide portable toilets, be 500 feet away from each other, 500 feet from residential properties, and are limited to having only one group carry out such a function per city block.

Abbott had been feeding the homeless on a public beach in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., every Wednesday evening for 23 years. On November 2, 2014, moments after handing out his third meal of the day, police reportedly approached the nonagenarian and ordered him to "'drop that plate right now,' as if I were carrying a weapon," recalls Abbott. Abbott was arrested and fined. Three days later, Abbott was at it again, and arrested again.

It's no coincidence that both of these incidents—the fishing debacle and the homeless feeding arrest—happened in Florida.

This is also the state that arrested Nicole Gainey for free-range parenting when she let her 7-year-old son walk to the park alone, even though it was just a few blocks from their house. If convicted, Gainey could have been made to serve up to five years in jail.

Despite its pristine beaches and balmy temperatures, Florida is no less immune to the problems plaguing the rest of the nation in terms of overcriminalization, incarceration rates, bureaucracy, corruption, and police misconduct.

In fact, the Sunshine State has become a poster child for how a seemingly idyllic place can be transformed into a police state with very little effort. As such, it is representative of what is happening in every state across the nation, where a steady diet of bread and circuses has given rise to an oblivious, inactive citizenry content to be ruled over by an inflexible and highly bureaucratic regime.

Just a few years back, in fact, Florida officials authorized police raids on barber shops in minority communities, resulting in barbers being handcuffed in front of customers, and their shops searched without warrants. All of this was purportedly done in an effort to make sure that the barbers' licensing paperwork was up to snuff.

As if criminalizing fishing, charity, parenting decisions, and haircuts wasn't bad enough, you could also find yourself passing time in a Florida slammer for such inane activities as singing in a public place while wearing a swimsuit, breaking more than three dishes per day, farting in a public place after 6 pm on a Thursday, and skateboarding without a license.

This transformation of the United States from being a beacon of freedom to a locked down nation illustrates perfectly what songwriter Joni Mitchell was referring to when she wailed, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

Only in our case, sold on the idea that safety, security and material comforts are preferable to freedom, we've allowed the government to pave over the Constitution in order to erect a concentration camp.

The problem with these devil's bargains, however, is that there is always a catch, always a price to pay for whatever it is we valued so highly as to barter away our most precious possessions.

We've bartered away our right to self-governance, self-defense, privacy, autonomy and that most important right of all—the right to tell the government to "leave me the hell alone."

In exchange for the promise of safe streets, safe schools, blight-free neighborhoods, lower taxes, lower crime rates, and readily accessible technology, health care, water, food and power, we've opened the door to militarized police, government surveillance, asset forfeiture, school zero tolerance policies, license plate readers, red light cameras, SWAT team raids, health care mandates, overcriminalization, overregulation and government corruption.

In the end, such bargains always turn sour.

As I make clear in my book *"Battlefield America: The War on the American People,"* this is what happens when the American people get duped, deceived, double-crossed, cheated, lied to, swindled and conned into believing that the government and its army of bureaucrats—the people we appointed to safeguard our freedoms—actually have our best interests at heart.

Yet when all is said and done, who is really to blame when the wool gets pulled over your eyes: you, for believing the con man, or the con man for being true to his nature?

It's time for a bracing dose of reality, America.

Wake up and take a good, hard look around you, and ask yourself if the gussied-up version of America being sold to you—crime free, worry free and devoid of responsibility—is really worth the ticket price: nothing less than your freedoms.

John W. Whitehead is president of The Rutherford Institute. ★★★

The Tyranny of the Administrative State

By Veronique de Rugy

Unelected bureaucrats should not wield legislative power.

(Reason) - The tyranny of the administrative state is real and hard to tame. Americans would be horrified if they knew how much power thousands of unelected bureaucrats employed by federal agencies wield. These members of the "government within the government," as The New York Times' John Tierney describes them, produce one freedom-restricting, economy-hindering rule after another without much oversight. These rules take many forms, and few even realize they're in the making—until, that is, they hit you square in the face.

Take the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rule that effectively banned car dealers from giving auto loan discounts to customers on the claim that they might lead to racial discrimination (a dubious conclusion reached using flawed statistical models). Dodd-Frank, the legislation that created the CFPB, prohibited it from regulating auto dealers – so the CFPB quietly put out a "guidance" document to circumvent due process and congressional oversight.

Thankfully, this time around, someone noticed. In recent weeks, the Senate passed a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act – a streamlined procedure for Congress to repeal regulations issued by various federal government agencies. The House is expected to follow suit soon and send the bill to the president's desk, if it hasn't already by the time you read this.

In a major blow against regulatory overreach, the Government Accountability Office correctly determined that this "guidance" is, in reality, a rule and subject to congressional review. Even though the CFPB never submitted a report to Congress (as required by law for new rules), pretended that this wasn't a new rule, and tried to regulate without any supervision, the rule still fell within the window for congressional review.

Informal regulations are all too common, but they're not the only form of regulatory abuse. Midnight regulations, or the spike of regulatory activity that occurs right before lame-duck administrations leave office, are another scourge. My former colleague Jerry Brito and I documented the sad phenomenon several years ago. We found large regulatory surges with outgoing administrations and smaller – but worth noticing – surges when incumbent presidents were re-elected. We also found that the quality of regulatory analysis for midnight regulations is poorer than average. The review is rushed, and the oversight is light to nonexistent – meaning a lot of rules that shouldn't go through do.

One such rule was issued by the Obama administration a mere week before Donald Trump was sworn in to office. Once fully implemented, it will damage a program that brings foreign investment into the U.S. economy, by arbitrarily raising the cost to participate in the program.

The EB-5 visa program, which currently allocates 10,000 employment-based green cards annually for foreigners who invest and create jobs in the United States, ought to transcend the political controversy surrounding most immigration questions. In brief, it has brought in over $20 billion in foreign investment over the past decade and led to an estimated 174,000 American jobs. Many other nations recognize the value in attracting job creators through these "economic citizenship" programs. The same logic that drove corporate tax reform – recognizing the need to compete with other powerful economies – ought to also drive support for shoring up the EB-5 program.

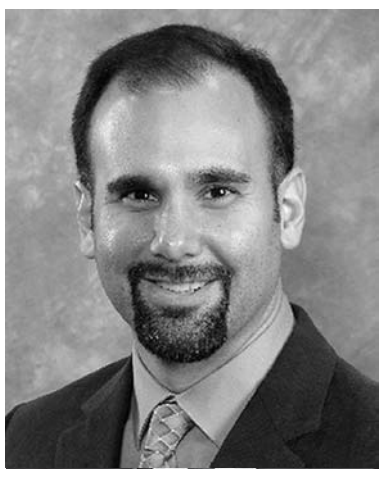
Contributing to the problem is the fact that Congress usually provides only short-term extensions of the program, leaving its future in doubt, rather than tackle long-term reform. Though that's frustrating, it's not a good reason to let regulators assume responsibility for reshaping the program themselves, which they do by pushing new investment requirements when nobody is watching. This dramatically curtails a valuable initiative. By withdrawing this Obama-era rule, the Trump administration could shift the responsibility back to Congress to properly settle the issue.

These are only two examples, though there are hundreds of thousands just like them. In the name of an expedited process, Congress delegated some powers to these unelected bureaucrats to write laws, interpret them, and enforce them in their own courts, with their own judges. But the whole thing has snowballed out of control. As Tierney notes, "in volume and complexity, the edicts from federal agencies exceed the laws passed by Congress by orders of magnitude." So much for the Constitution.

It's time for the legislators we actually elected to reclaim these unchecked powers and do their jobs before the next round of midnight regulations takes more of our freedoms away. ★★★

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." --Martin Luther King, Jr.

COMMENTARY



Jimmy Kimmel Thinks School Attacks Don't Happen Where There Are 'Real, Sensible Gun Laws'

-- *But China And Reality Beg To Differ*

By Scott Morefield

(Townhall) - Before launching into the tired jokes that would normally begin his late-night show on Friday, May 18th, Jimmy Kimmel - or 'America's Conscience' (in his own mind at least), felt the need to give his audience yet another lecture on gun control.

"So [politicians] sit there with their hands in their pockets, pockets that are full of gun money, and they do nothing," said Kimmel. "They just wait for the outrage to pass because it didn't happen to their children. The least you can do is register to vote, right now. Make sure we vote for politicians who will do something."

Since another sadistic maniac had just attacked a school, we've got to "do something," as long as that "something" involves taking away freedoms from law-abiding Americans and not anything that would actually work, of course. But that wasn't even the kicker to Kimmel's rhetoric-filled nonsense. No, the kicker would be this gem:

"These kind of things don't happen in countries with real, sensible gun laws," Kimmel said with a straight face, even managing to cut the crocodile tears this time around.

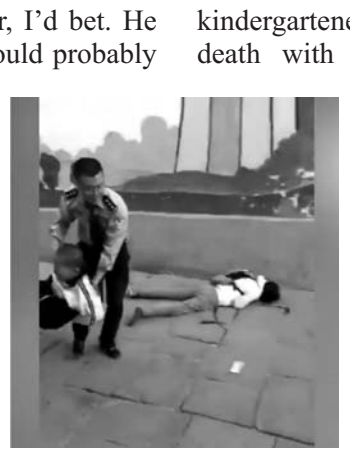
So, what is a "real, sensible" gun law to Jimmy Kimmel? Does Norway have them? He'd probably say so, since they're among the strictest in the Western world. Yet, in 2011, Anders Breivik literally dotted every i and crossed every t as he successfully navigated his country's draconian gun laws to legally obtain a semi-automatic rifle under the pretense of hunting deer and a pistol by proving that he attended a shooting club regularly. Because those are the two ways private citizens are generally allowed to obtain a gun in Norway.

Except, Breivik wasn't hunting animals. He was hunting humans, and given his country's ridiculously strict gun control laws he could pretty well guarantee there wouldn't be an armed response when he attacked a youth summer camp, killing 77 people and injuring hundreds more with a combination of bombs and shooting what tragically amounted to fish in a barrel with the guns he had legally obtained.

What about China? Kimmel would like China even better, I'd bet. He and his fellow libs would probably love enacting some of THOSE "real, sensible" gun control laws, especially since the Red Chinese essentially don't allow gun ownership at all to its citizenry.

And no schools get attacked there, right?

Except, just three weeks ago a man with the surname Zhao attacked a middle school in central China, killing nine children and wounding 10 more... with a knife. "The attack revived fears in China about school safety, a perennial concern among parents," wrote the New York Times. "Knives are a weapon of choice in China, where guns and other weapons are strictly regulated." The Times then unironically quoted a Weibo user who unironically wrote, "I thought campuses were safe without guns."



Dead children look the same whether killed by a maniac with a gun, or a lunatic with a knife.

In fact, guns have little to do with parental concern about school safety in China these days. As the Times notes, a "spate of stabbings prompted the government to tighten security at schools, installing gates and cameras and training security guards to fend off attackers" in 2010. The attacks included a landlord who hacked seven kindergarteners and their teacher to death with a meat cleaver and another who killed eight children with a knife.

But even hardening the schools hasn't entirely prevented the attacks, though they have undoubtedly helped. In December 2012, a villager named Min Yongjun attacked Chenpeng Village Primary School, non-fatally stabbing an elderly woman and 23 children. In September 2011, a mentally ill farmer killed three adults and a young girl on their way to nursery school with an axe. And just last year a man killed seven and injured 65 with a bomb set outside an eastern China kindergarten.

Jimmy Kimmel

Experts blame the attacks on everything from social upheavals to a lack of mental care, but the truth is much simpler. Sadly, no matter what society does there will always be evil people in this world who will find ever more twisted ways to do evil things. The totalitarian Chinese have literally been at war with guns among its populace since they were invented, and yet its evildoers resort to knives to commit their mayhem while the law abiding, having nothing with which to defend themselves, have no choice but to submit to a tyrannical government - a government that, by the way, hasn't hesitated to kill millions to accomplish it ends.

The fact that liberals like Jimmy Kimmel seem to seriously think removing a tool, especially one that is more often used for good, will somehow make the world a safer place is more than a testament to their perpetual ignorance - it could very well be proof of their own nefarious motives.

Which brings us back to Santa Fe, and American liberal efforts to ban or severely control guns as a way to somehow keep schools safer. USA Today got a lot of grief for referring to the weapons used as "less lethal," but they have a small point in that a so-called "assault rifle" wasn't used this time around.

And yet, after Parkland, such rifles were plastered on protest signs everywhere as the scourge of evil. After Santa Fe are we to ban shotguns now? Pistols? Knives?

In truth, there is no law that could have successfully prevented this latest tragedy. If the murderer couldn't have stolen the legally obtained weapons from his father or someone else, does any rational person really think he wouldn't have resorted to knives or bombs or another weapon to exact his twisted revenge? If you do, you probably thought schools were "safe" in China.

There is only one path to preserve liberty and protect our children at the same time, and that is to truly harden our schools.

★★★

Eight Reasons for America's Shameful Number of Wrongful Convictions

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

By John Grisham

(Los Angeles Times) - It is too easy to convict an innocent person.

The rate of wrongful convictions in the United States is estimated to be somewhere between 2% to 10%. That may sound low, but when applied to a prison population of 2.3 million, the numbers become staggering. Can there really be 46,000 to 230,000 innocent people locked away? Those of us who are involved in exoneration work firmly believe so.

Picture: Darrin Klimek/DigitalVision

Millions of defendants are processed through our courts each year. It's nearly impossible to determine how many of them are actually innocent once they've been convicted. There are few resources for examining the cases and backgrounds of those claiming to be wrongfully convicted.

Once an innocent person is convicted, it is next to impossible to get them out of prison. Over the past 25 years, the Innocence Project, where I serve on the board of directors, has secured through DNA testing the release of 349 innocent men and women, 20 of whom had been sent to death row. All told, there have been more than 2,000 exonerations, including 200 from death row, in the U.S. during that same period. But we've only scratched the surface.

Wrongful convictions happen for several reasons. In no particular order, these causes are:

BAD POLICE WORK

Most cops are honest, hard-working professionals. But some have been known to hide, alter or fabricate evidence, lie on the witness stand, cut deals with snitches in return for bogus testimony, intimidate and threaten witnesses, coerce confessions or manipulate eyewitness identifications.

PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT

Most prosecutors are also honest, hard-working professionals. But some have been known to hide exculpatory evidence, encourage witnesses to commit perjury, lie to jurors, judges and defense lawyers, use the testimony of bogus experts or ignore relevant evidence beneficial to the accused.

FALSE CONFESSIONS

Most jurors find it impossible to believe that a suspect would confess to a serious crime he didn't commit. Yet the average citizen, if taken to a basement room and subjected to 10 consecutive hours of abusive interrogation tactics by experienced cops, might be surprised at what they would say. Of the 330 people who were exonerated by DNA evidence between 1989 to 2015, about 25% gave bogus confessions after lengthy interrogations. Almost every one recanted soon after.

FAULTY EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

More often than not, those who witness violent acts have trouble accurately recalling the facts and identifying those involved. Physical and photo lineups may exacerbate the problem because police manipulate them to focus suspicion on favored suspects.

JAILHOUSE SNITCHES

In every jail there is a career criminal staring at a long sentence. For leniency, he can be persuaded to lie to the jury and describe in great detail the confession overheard from the accused, usually a cellmate. If he performs well enough on the stand, the authorities might allow him to walk free.

BAD LAWYERING

Those accused of serious crimes rarely have money. Many are represented by good public defenders, but too many get stuck with court-appointed lawyers with little or no experience. Capital cases are complex, and the stakes are enormous. All too often, the defense lawyers are in over their heads.

SLEEPING JUDGES

Judges are supposed to be impartial referees intent on ensuring fair trials. They should exclude confessions that are inconsistent with the physical evidence and obtained by questionable means; exclude the testimony of career felons with dubious motives; require prosecutors to produce exculpatory evidence; and question the credentials and testimony of all experts outside the presence of the jury. Unfortunately, judges do not always do what they should. The reasons are many and varied, but the fact that many judges are elected doesn't help. They are conscious of their upcoming reelection campaigns and how the decisions they make might affect the results. Of those judges who are appointed rather than elected, the majority are former prosecutors.

JUNK SCIENCE

Over the past five decades, our courtrooms have been flooded with an avalanche of unreliable, even atrocious "science." Experts with qualifications that were dubious at best and fraudulent at worst have peddled — for a fee, of course — all manner of damning theories based on their allegedly scientific analysis of hair, fibers, bite marks, arson, boot prints, blood spatters and ballistics. Of the 330 people exonerated by DNA tests between 1989 and 2015, 71% were convicted based on ***forensic testimony***, ***much of which was flawed, unreliable, exaggerated or sometimes outright fabricated***.

Brandon L. Garrett, a professor of law at University of Virginia, has studied nearly all of the trial transcripts from wrongful convictions later exposed by DNA-based exonerations. "There is a national epidemic of overstated forensic testimony, with a steady stream of criminal convictions being overturned as the shoddiness of decades' worth of physical evidence comes to light," he wrote last year in The Baffler. "The true scope of the problem is only now coming into focus."

An excellent new book by Radley Balko and Tucker Carrington, "The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist," chronicles the story of two of the most brazen experts ever allowed in a courtroom. Steven Hayne was a controversial forensic pathologist who once boasted of performing more than 2,000 autopsies in a single year. His sidekick, Michael West, was a small-town dentist who assumed the role of an expert in many other fields. Together they tag-teamed their way through rape and murder trials in Mississippi and Louisiana, accumulating an impressive string of convictions, several of which have been overturned. Some are still being litigated. Many others, however, seem destined to stand.

It's a maddening indictment of America's broken criminal justice system, in which prosecutors allowed — even encouraged — flawed forensic testimony because it was molded to fit their theories of guilt. Over two decades, elected judges permitted these two professional testifiers to convince unsophisticated jurors that science was on the side of the state.

The atrocities that occurred in Mississippi and Louisiana aren't specific to one time and place. The medical examiners, police officers, prosecutors, judges and others who hold sway over our criminal justice system around the country have largely failed to deliver justice. We must do better.

John Grisham is a writer, attorney, politician and activist best known for his popular legal thrillers. This piece was adapted from the foreword of "The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist." ★★★

Want to Listen to Police Scanners? Cops Say No More

By Zusha Elinson

(WSJ.com) - A report of a suspicious person crackled from John Messner's RadioShack police scanner, one of two he keeps at his home in Knoxville, Tenn.

When an officer was heard yelling "Shots fired!" minutes later, Mr. Messner knew it was time to go. The 52-year-old construction worker and photographer grabbed his two cameras, his portable scanner, jumped in his 1999 Plymouth Voyager minivan, and raced to the scene 3 miles away, where a suspected burglar was shot by police.

"These are government agents working for the taxpayers and I think citizens have the right to know what they're doing"

"When I got there, the guy was still on the ground, they hadn't put him in the ambulance yet," said Mr. Messner of the November incident. "It didn't look like he was dead, but he was definitely hit."

Mr. Messner snapped pictures and posted them on his Knoxville Crime Facebook group, which has 94,000 members in a city of 186,000. They come to see photos, read Mr. Messner's live updates on police chases and burglaries that he gets from the police scanner, and discuss neighborhood crime issues.

Social-media groups like Knoxville Crime are one reason that Knoxville police officials say they will begin encrypting police radio communications beginning in August, making it impossible for the public—and Mr. Messner—to listen in live. The move comes as more police departments around the country are seeking to shield their live radio communications, now easily accessible via smartphone apps. Police say the effort will keep officers safe and bad guys from finding out what they're doing.

"When you're putting out information that only a suspect and a victim and an officer knows, then all of the sudden you have someone put that on social media, that takes your advantage away," said Darrell DeBusk, a Knoxville police spokesman.

Earlier this year, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department encrypted its radio traffic, alleging that bad guys "monitor police radio frequencies in order to better facilitate their crimes and gather intelligence about the whereabouts of police officers." Pueblo, Colo., police blocked their scanner traffic recently, citing suspects using scanner apps to avoid officers.

Local media still has access to the live radio transmissions in Las Vegas—police allow them to purchase their own radios. In Knoxville, the radio traffic will be posted after a one-hour delay, said Mr. DeBusk.

These moves have rankled scanner enthusiasts who range from people curious about police activity in their neighborhood to modern-day Weegees, the New York City freelance photographer known for his raw crime-scene photos. Many scanner buffs are police supporters who want to help solve crimes, making the decision to go dark a difficult one, police officials say.

"It's a tough choice because many of the pro-police people out in the community who support their local police get that way because they listen to their police on these scanners or phone apps," said Richard Myers, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

Some police departments have found a solution by using encrypted channels for more sensitive work, such as a SWAT team readying for a raid, while keeping the more mundane police patrol work on the publicly available channel, he said.

In Colorado, a push to encrypt police radio traffic inspired a bill backed by scanner enthusiasts earlier this year that would have banned encryption, except for sensitive situations. The bill failed with strong opposition from law enforcement.

"These are government agents working for the taxpayers and I think citizens have the right to know what they're doing," said Robert Wareham, an attorney who helped draft the bill.

Mr. Wareham, a former police officer, said he uses his scanner to find out about police activity in his neighborhood or on the roads. "There are six or seven times a year where I avoid a dangerous situations where I know what's going on," he said.

In Knoxville, Mr. DeBusk, the police spokesman, said the prevalence of smartphone apps that broadcast police communications, such as Broadcastify, has made it easier for criminals to listen in.

Photo by Les Stukenberg

"You've always had people that had scanners, but it was not as common as the smartphone apps," said Mr. DeBusk. "We actually have arrested people, they've had the smartphone on them and we could hear our own dispatchers, the sound coming from their smartphone."

Lindsay Blanton, the CEO of Broadcastify's parent company RadioReference.com, called this an "overdone complaint." The approximately 200,000 daily unique listeners tuning in to Broadcastify's 6,600 feeds typically hear police communications on a 45 second to three minute delay and the company bans sensitive content, he said.

"It's providing more an entertainment type perspective than the ability to gain an advantage over law enforcement," said Mr. Blanton said.

People can listen to public safety, aircraft, rail and marine audio streams from across the country on Broadcastify. The company relies on volunteers who send local feeds from their scanners and in some cases police departments who do the same because "there are a lot of agencies that value the general public being more involved," said Mr. Blanton.

Mr. Messner, of the Knoxville Crime Facebook group, said he thinks city officials don't like the pressure that the group puts on them to deal with crime in the city.

Cutting off the scanner will cut off Mr. Messner's access to the subjects of his photographs, some of which have made news themselves. Back in 2014, he went to the scene of unruly college party and photographed a Knox County Sheriff's deputy with his hands around the throat of handcuffed college student. The deputy was fired over the incident, but then allowed to retire.

"I was at the right place at the right time," he said. "I listened to the scanner and I heard things escalating." ★★★

Continued from page 1 • Montana Prosecutor Suzy Boylan Unlawfully Strips War Vet's Property Rights

their relationship. But there was one big problem. Although each of the brother's attorneys "agreed each order would be mutually dropped," Steve reportedly changed his mind. After Louis dismissed his order against Steve, Steve "unfaithfully" left his no contact order intact against Louis, according to court records.

Louis eventually went to Steve's house attempting to quash their dispute, without knowing there was still a no contact order in place. To Louis' dismay, tensions arose and, "Steve attempted to stab Louis with a drill." The police were contacted, and Louis was the only person arrested.

Louis carried a sidearm on his person at that time, which is common in Montana. That fact alone made the police report seemingly biased against Louis. Once the report reached Prosecutor Suzie Boylan's office, the story of what happened grew like Pinocchio's nose. Although Officer Matt Kazinsky stated the firearm was, "not used in the commission of a crime," Louis was still arrested because he had possession of the firearm. This caused Prosecutor Suzy Boylan to, "twist facts into fiction." What ensued led Louis to court facing a wrongful, felony criminal charge brought by an extremely vindictive, "lying prosecutor," Susan "Suzy" Boylan. Louis firearm was eventually returned by the sheriff's department.

Suzy Boylan would eventually lie at a pretrial hearing about the events that took place on the day of Louis' arrest. She claimed Officer Kazinsky made statements that were never made, which further incriminated Louis. The judge bought these lies because Louis' attorney Lance Jasper, wouldn't object to anything according to Louis. Louis stated, "there were so many damn lies that Suzy told that I can't even remember them all. However, I do remember Suzy stating I, 'held Steve and the Officer at gun point for over twenty minutes' which was not true at all. She also said, 'I went there to take Steve out' (kill him) which was a huge lie. She then stated that I, 'had previously been arrested twice' which was another extreme lie. If I had done these things as stated, then why was my firearm returned? Why would my attorney tell me to be quiet in court and allow these untruths to remain?"

Facing several years in prison if convicted, Louis' attorney Lance Jasper, "coerced him into accepting a plea deal to avoid prison." Louis stated, "six months after taking my case, and after relieving me of thousands of dollars, my former attorney Lance Jasper stated, 'I won't go against these people (the prosecutor and judge), I have to live here after this is over.'" Louis was told if he didn't plead guilty he would go to prison for a long time. He was reassured by Jasper that after 18 months of probation he would have his rights fully restored and his record would be completely wiped away. According to Louis, Jasper's statements about his rights being restored were made in the presence of his friends, Clint Derr, Pete Laurenson, and his nephew Jess Polinsky. Upon being told his rights would be restored and he would not go to prison, Louis reluctantly accepted the plea deal.

Furthermore, Louis was promised that if Judge John Larson deviated from the plea deal at sentencing, then Louis would be able to change his plea. Sadly, Judge Larson did just that – he changed the plea at sentencing. He deviated from the deal Louis was promised. Then, when Louis requested to change his plea, "Judge Larson corruptly prevented Louis from doing so."

Louis recalled Jasper stating, "if you don't sign the plea, then you'll have to pay me another $50,000.00," although Louie had already "paid Jasper $20,000.00."

Although there was no prison sentence, Louis, who had never been convicted of a crime in almost eighty-years, was now a felon. He lost many of his rights. His ability to travel to his primary residence was gone. He was ordered to be on probation for six years.

Claiming his innocence, Louis was completely devastated by the outcome of events. The promises that Louis' attorney made that, "everything would be over after 18 months of probation" turned out to be not only a lie but Louis Polinsky's worst nightmare. To top things off, Jasper sent Louie a bill after all this nonsense for, "7 or 8 thousand dollars." Louis wrote him back and told him where to shove it and that was the last Louis ever heard from Jasper.

Steve's wife and daughters also convinced the court to issue them restraining orders. Not only were they issued, the daughter's orders were reportedly effective for life. How could this be? Louis had no clue the orders existed, let alone permanent. Louis stated, "I was never made aware of these orders, and was not able to ever defend myself from them in court." Louis had never been arrested or convicted for causing any harm or threats against his in-laws, according to Louis. Louis again repeated, "I was never notified about any court hearings regarding a lifetime restraining order against me for my two nieces or Steve's wife. How can they have a restraining order against me and I not have the ability to dispute it? How is that lawful? I was told by another Judge that those orders were illegal."

While Louis was on probation, he was only allowed to travel to his property during certain times. Those times were limited to when his in-laws were not at or near the property. If Louis wanted to travel, he had to select dates in advance for pre-approval. Those dates were often, if not always objected to by Steve's family. They usually stated they would be there on the dates chosen by Louis, but they most often were not there during those times. According to Louis' probation officer and a neighbor, Steve's family was simply keeping Louis away out of spite.

Then, in 2017, Louis' brother Steve passed away. Louis' probation officer stated, *"According to the neighbors, they (Steve's family) are very seldom there (a couple of times per year for a few days) and have still not allowed access to the property, even when a special request was made by Louis."* The probation officer continued, *"I feel there was a grave injustice in the sentencing in this case. He (Louis) has been denied any use of his property between the months of June and November for six years, with no regard to whether the victims are using the property or not. They reside in Missoula (almost 70 miles away), have never lived in Maxville. The property has set mostly vacant, unkept, and Louis has put forth much worry and effort in how to remedy the situation. He is in his 80's, has some land, but no cash to hire an attorney. He has sold property to pay for legal fees and I feel with zero result."* Shockingly, this was submitted to the court by Louis' probation officer!

"Our worst sex offenders are not banished from their own property, nor do most of them wear GPS for the duration of their sentences," stated Louis' probation officer.

The probation officer continued, *"The only victims (as purported) listed are Steve and Mary Polinsky. Steve is deceased, Mary has never phoned this office, nor has she made a complaint. I know he (Louis) would like to utilize his property, he's at a loss as to how to do this without getting in trouble with the County Attorney (Suzy Boylan) in Missoula. He (Louis) has been banished from his property for six years."*

Louis Polinsky

CONTRADICTING THE LAW

As the probation officer stated, *"Mr. Polinsky (Louis) was sentenced on 11/21/2011 for criminal endangerment, a felony and was sentenced to six years deferred imposition of sentence. This sentence expired on November 19, 2017. He also had two misdemeanor counts of violating a restraining order, first offense and the court sentenced him to one year, each count to run consecutive to each other and the felony in count 1. We do not supervise misdemeanors, so he is discharged from our supervision."*

Louis' probation officer wrote, *"Louis was required to be on GPS for the duration of his Probation, something we've never seen, at least I have not. Even for sexual or violent offenders. This was later modified. Attempts to get him discharged early were denied, even though he qualified through our policies. His two misdemeanor sentences were each one-year consecutive to each other and his Felony sentence. I believe the maximum should have been 6 months for two counts of first time Restraining order violations which is what he was charged with. Each time he petitioned the court, they imposed more stringent conditions on his visitation to his Maxville property."*

Strangely, the court, by direction of Prosecutor Suzy Boylan, has continued to impose Louis' travel restrictions. According to multiple sources, including Louis' former probation officer, these actions violate Montana law. Specifically, Montana code 15.5-626.

Louis should be allowed to travel freely to and from his property, without being accosted by Suzy Boylan, the courts, or police officers. Since his wrongful conviction, he's been issued a citation for going to his property WITH permission. Fortunately, the citation was dropped and the State declined to prosecute him after his former probation officer wrote the court. Although he wasn't prosecuted, he was advised to stay away for another year, again in violation of Montana law.

If you have any information regarding Suzy Boylan, or anyone named in this article, please contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885. You may also wish to write the Montana State Bar (33 S Last Chance Gulch St Suite 1B, Helena, MT 59601) to complain about the travesty of justice against Louis Polinsky by Prosecutor Suzy Boylan. Additionally, you can also write to the Montana Attorney General (215 N Sanders St, Helena, MT 59601). Or, you can call the Montana Attorney General, Tim Fox, at (408) 444-2026.

If Judge John Larson is any kind of man at all, he will look into the abuse that Louis Polinsky has endured and he will make things right…

The US~Observer asks that our supporters promptly help this 80-year-old war veteran return home!

★★★

Continued from page 1 • Feeding Off Trust Assets ...

him by his parents.

One witness states, "Wayne was pretty much satisfied with his life, however he believed his siblings had animosity towards him, because he stood in the way of them cashing in on their parent's estate." This witness added, "Wayne was specifically afraid of his now deceased brother Lynn's wife, Linda Faulk, who was trying to get Wayne put in a retirement home and off the Farm, so it could be sold."

Jack Dunn and Wayne Faulk

Another witness informed us, "Linda was intent on forcing a Guardianship on Wayne, with an end-goal of selling the Farm in order to cover-up her and her husband's massive theft of trust funds while they acted as trustees - there is more than a half-million-dollars unaccounted for."

Wayne needed help, so he turned to his closest neighbors and friends Jack Dunn and Rose Henley. Reportedly, the Dunn family had been hired by Lynn Faulk to help care for and support Wayne after his parent's passing in 2000.


Rose Henley

After convincing Dunn and Henley that Linda Faulk was "abusing him, stealing from his trust and not providing him with sufficient funds to enjoy his life," Dunn and Henley contacted Adult Protective Services (APS) in Oregon City. They reported Wayne's concerns to APS and "investigator" J.R. Oleyar was appointed to investigate.

According to US~Observer sources, "APS did absolutely nothing regarding the criminal complaint against Linda, but they made matters much worse for Wayne. Linda Faulk, who was fully apprised of Wayne's accusations by Oleyar, allegedly began harassing Wayne and his friends. She enlisted his siblings Van Faulk, Lee Faulk and Janis Faulk Abney to pressure Wayne against making trouble for her. In retaliation, Linda Faulk sold Wayne's 16 pet cows out of spite."

APS and law enforcement eventually began attacking Dunn, Henley and other neighbors, after Henley filed papers with the court accusing Linda of stealing from Wayne and his estate. Those being attacked had already discovered that Oleyar had met with Linda Faulk and her attorney and that Oleyar had conveniently left his "confidential" case file with them, therefore "alerting them to the names of those who were complaining about Linda Faulk."

Dunn, Henley and Sandy Ortega, another friend of Wayne's, subsequently hired Attorney Benjamin Ybarra of Oregon City to represent Wayne against the sudden onslaught by his "family."

After investigating Wayne's complaints, Ybarra voiced these concerns in a letter written to Linda Faulk's attorney, Sylvia Sycamore of Eugene, Oregon on June 11, 2015. Ybarra wrote, *"Ms. Faulk has failed to provide Mr. Faulk with trustee report at any time throughout the administration of the trust… Since becoming aware of Mr. Faulk's legal representation, several family members have visited the Farm for the sole purpose of harassing Mr. Faulk and provoking hostile responses from him. Video and photo cameras were brought along to record Mr. Faulk's reaction to these provocations and document Mr. Faulk's living conditions for later use against him. Mr. Faulk has been intimidated and warned that if he does not 'drop' his legal claims against Ms. Faulk, he will be put in a rest home."*

Ybarra continues, *"Ms. Faulk was at some point designated as Mr. Faulk's social security payee. Mr. Faulk has no recollection of ever permitting this designation. The result has left Mr. Faulk impoverished. During our phone call, you indicated that your office was not aware of any specific disability Mr. Faulk suffers from or any guardianship instituted for his benefit. If this is the case, there is simply no legal basis for Ms. Faulk to be given control over Mr. Faulk's income, and especially against his will… Mr. Faulk should be enjoying the use of his monthly benefits… Instead, Mr. Faulk is given between $15.00 to $25.00 each week to spend on all his necessaries. This is unacceptable. Mr. Faulk demands that Ms. Faulk be removed as his social security payee and allow Mr. Faulk to control his own finances..."*

Ybarra goes on to inform Sycamore that Wayne Faulk believes that Linda Faulk has possession of all his legal documents such as his social security card, birth certificate, etc. and that he wants them returned.

At this point Wayne started insisting that Linda Faulk should be "prosecuted for stealing his income." One witness states, "After reviewing Linda's accounting, prepared by Sylvia Sycamore and Sybille Baer of Cartwright, Baer, Johansson, it was revealed that Wayne's benefits (SSA and SAIF) were attained illegally by Linda. His money was being stolen and the trust was nearly broke because Lynn and Linda had used it as their piggy bank."

A police report was filed regarding Linda' s alleged theft (CCSO – Report #16-25621), wherein it was also disclosed that Linda had written numerous checks to cash, ranging from $800 to $2000 each. The 17 checks were provided to the CCSO on September 20, 2016. It is reported that Wayne's trust paid for Linda's truck, several ATV's, insurance, maintenance and thousands of dollars for fuel.

According to sources, "Wayne's friends Jack and Rose assisted him with managing his bills, etc. They obtained 'power of attorney' and helped Wayne reclaim his monthly benefits from Linda. Wayne began living much better than he had for years, even going on his first vacation ever."


Linda Faulk

Suddenly, Wayne found himself facing the appointment of a court appointed "Guardian". Our sources inform us that Linda Faulk initiated this bogus action with the assistance of attorney's and public employees, who, "she manipulated into believing her, in a desperate attempt to avoid prosecution."

Accusations began whirling towards Jack Dunn and Rose Henley. The two soon found that they were under attack from APS, via their investigator J.R. Oleyar and the CCSO. The fact that neither Oleyar nor the CCSO investigated the original complaint regarding Linda Faulk, but instead, went straight for Dunn and Henley's jugular veins speaks volumes about this obvious corruption. It also shows that the individuals behind the scenes are without question pulling their puppet's strings!

On February 2, 2017, numerous armed officers with the CCSO suddenly appeared at the Dunn/Henley residence where they conducted a reported four-hour search, seizing boxes of records and other items, some of which were not related to the search warrant. Now, Dunn and Henley are attempting to defend themselves with incomplete records. According to Rose Henley, "Thankfully I made duplicates of many receipts, but not everything."


Ann Yela

Wayne was placed in the highly questionable care of Ann Yela of Yela Fiduciary Services (formerly Farley Piazza), when she was appointed Limited Guardian/Conservator.

The happy family Farm that Wayne called home was reportedly logged ($118,000) and allegedly, literally tens of thousands of dollars in trust assets began flowing to Ann Yela (claiming $1,700.00 of his $1,900.00 per month for her fees), her attorney Nathan Rudolph, Linda's attorneys, Sylvia Sycamore and Sybille Baer and Wayne's court appointed attorney Eric Kearney.


Attorney Steven Cade

Yela "secretly" placed Wayne in the Deerfield Nursing Home for seven months prior to logging his property, to allegedly keep him from his advocates. Wayne stated that being forced to live at the Nursing Home was just like being sent to prison. And, the so-called justice system in Clackamas County, Oregon calls this Elder Protection!

Wayne was eventually allowed to return home, however, Ann Yela reportedly prevented him from taking his daily trips to the Redland Market to visit the local community. According to sources, this literally devastated Wayne.

"Neighbor Annette Steiner was arrested on January 29, 2018, at Yela's request, for taking Wayne food shopping." Other neighbors have reported that they are afraid to go to Wayne's home in fear of arrest.

We are informed that Steiner cannot get a copy of the police report to challenge the actions taken against her because formal charges haven't been filed. Other friends and neighbors were also threatened with arrest if they set foot on Wayne's Farm. Wayne's favorite caregiver Chareese Borland was reportedly fired for sticking up for Wayne.

Why are the powers that be taking this strong-arm approach? Wayne did not ask for any of this to happen, he simply wanted Linda Faulk prosecuted for "stealing from him and the Faulk trust."

His two best friends Jack Dunn and Rose Henley are now nearly broke and face criminal prosecution for getting involved and assisting their neighbor and exposing the alleged theft by Linda Faulk.

How in the world has Wayne Faulk benefited from having a guardian "forced on him by his sister-in-law?" The answer is; He hasn't!

Since his Court Appointed Guardian Ann Yela took over, Wayne has lost his freedom, as he can no longer walk to the store to visit the community. According to one witness, "Wayne no longer gets his mail, and his privacy is gone, as his every move is now caught on camera's that were installed by Yela."

According to witnesses, "Wayne's health has declined significantly under her care and Yela is now requesting nearly 90% of his monthly benefits to act as his Guardian. Trust assets are rapidly vanishing, and Wayne Faulk currently faces the potential loss of his family Farm – the only home he has ever known."

Yela recently petitioned the court for an order allowing her to sell the family Farm, the last remaining asset of the trust.

To top it all off – the only thing the local paper can report about this utter tragedy, is what the CCSO provides them regarding the justice systems wild accusations against Rose Henley and Jack Dunn.

Friends of Wayne recently hired Attorney Steven Cade to expose this travesty – it is reported that Cade knows what is really going on and he intends to save Wayne Faulk and his Farm.

Editor's Note: We have just been notified that Ann Yela has been replaced. It appears that Attorney Steven Cade is having a positive effect on this case. The US~Observer will be reporting more on this case as it proceeds.

Anyone with information on any of the participants are urged to contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 or send email to editor@usobserver.com. ★★★

A Thank You from the Redland Community

Thank you - Attorney Steven Cade of Williams Kastner for exposing those culpable for allegedly abusing Wayne Faulk - his "guardian/conservator" Ann Yela (Yela Fiduciary Services, formally known as Farley Piazza) and her attorney Nathan Rudolph of Smith McDonald Vaught. Thank you for stopping these people from selling Wayne's home. His "family" has been scheming for 17 years to do that! Wayne has been saying for years he wants Linda Faulk prosecuted and wonders why that has not happened?

GOD SPEED IN YOU GETTING THOSE PARASITES OUT OF WAYNE'S LIFE FOR GOOD!

Thank you - Jack Dunn and Rose Henley for saving Wayne's life in 2015, when he got sick and fighting so hard for Wayne when he came to you asking for help and putting your selves at risk to make sure Wayne had a voice and for calling out the corruption. You were trying to stop the very thing that is happening to Wayne right now and you have been attacked and lied about for doing so, by the very same people that have done nothing to help Wayne. You guys are heroes! We know the truth and we LOVE and Support you!

Thank you - To all the other heroes that helped Wayne like Annette Steiner who was also wrongfully arrested for helping Wayne; and Chareese Borland, fired for standing up for Wayne. Thank you, Sandy Ortega, Phyllis and Mike Dowery, Bob Blount and all the other members of the Redland Community for donating your time and money to help save Wayne's farm and his freedom. This is what we can do when we ban together and support one another.

THE REDLAND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS YOU, AND WE WILL NOT TOLERATE OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS BEING ATTACKED!

THE CORRUPTION IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY NEEDS TO STOP!!!

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Continued from page 1 • Justice on Trial - July 16th - Okanogan Prosecutor Seeks to Keep Facts From Jury

county into the prosecution.

That was three years ago. In that time, James Faire spent 8 months in jail – the majority without representation; James' bail was finally slashed by the judge and he was released; the Okanogan prosecutor at the time, Karl Sloan, left his post for a lesser position with the state in July of 2017; and, Branden Platter was appointed to the position of Prosecutor.

Moving forward on the Faire case, Platter threw out all of the charges against Angela Nobilis-Faire (James' wife). Platter also tossed the theft and trespass charges against James after he had faced them for two and a half years. Not only was the evidence contrary to the charges, the existence of the charges would allow substantial testimony that would damage his case against Faire on the remaining charges that he also downgraded. From First Degree Murder, Platter is now seeking a conviction for Vehicular Homicide or Manslaughter, and from Assault in the First Degree to Vehicular Assault. Both downgrades offer Platter a substantially lower burden of proof. While the dropping and downgrading of charges seems like Platter is being reasonable he is not, due to the fact that Faire is just as innocent of Vehicular Homicide or Manslaughter as he was of First Degree Murder. Platter is trying to convict James Faire for defending himself and his wife against a violent attack; for not being "reasonable" enough while a group surrounded their vehicle – with one person smashing at him with a lock attached to the end of a heavy chain. In essence, Platter wants us to believe that James Faire should have seen Debra Long in front of his truck, while he was being violently attacked as he was fleeing for his life and that of his wife's.

According to Washington law, there is no duty to withdraw from a confrontation in order to use force, but that was just what James Faire was attempting to do. He was trying to get to safety, without harming anyone, and sadly a woman died in the process. No one is disputing that Debra Long was run over by the vehicle James was driving. The dispute between the prosecution and the defense is if James acted reasonably by trying to get away from a violent mob. In reality, there is no dispute at all, James Faire was acting extremely reasonably, in that he backed his truck up in an attempt to keep from hitting anyone instead of driving straight out, when attacked.

Now, in James Faire's most recent hearing on May 15th Platter submitted a Motion in Limine seeking to exclude a great swath of testimony and evidence from ever reaching the jury in the upcoming trial slotted for July 16th. In it, Platter is seeking to limit the scope of the trial to, in part, exclude the relevant information as to what brought everyone there that day. Platter is banking on the idea that he can get a conviction by disallowing James Faire an adequate defense of showing that he had cause to fear for his life. Platter would rather the jury get a piece of the puzzle, not the whole picture. This is not justice, and it's not fair. Juries should have the right to hear all the evidence.

Here are the 15 points of exclusion and limitations Branden Platter is seeking in the upcoming Faire trial:

1. Exclusion of evidence or argument concerning the penalty defendant is subject to if convicted in this case or any other consequences of conviction.

• Platter doesn't want people to know that James Faire could be imprisoned for life for defending himself.

2. Exclusion of witnesses from the courtroom. This is a standard exclusion.

• It keeps witnesses from being able to tailor their testimony with other witnesses. The funny thing is, the only witness this could potentially impact is Platter's state witness, George Abrantes, the man who was factually committing attempted felony assault with his lock and chain. He is the only one to say that he didn't swing the chain before James ran over Debra Long – all other witnesses, including the state's witnesses have stated that he committed his violent attack prior. Abrantes obviously knows that his actions were the real cause of Long's unfortunate death.

3. Exclusion of prejudicial statements, personal beliefs, and comments on witness credibility.

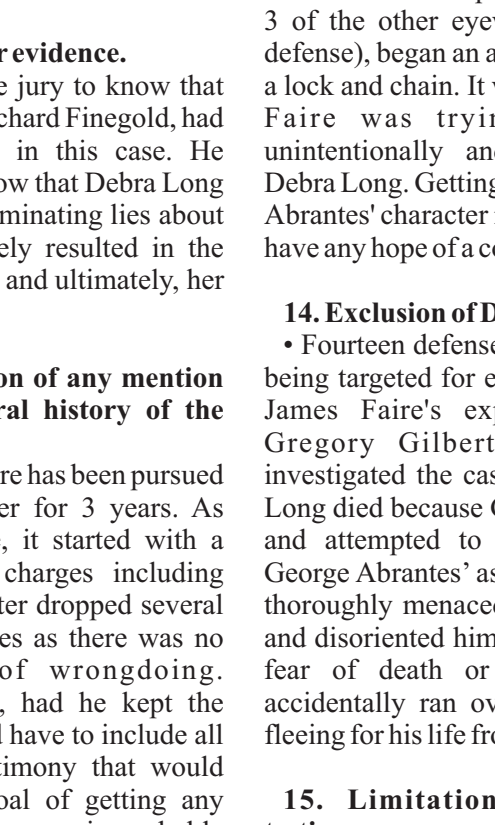
• Platter is trying to keep feelings out of a situation that was driven by emotion. He wants "the facts of the case" which amount to his hand-picked testimony from one individual to be the only thing heard by the jury.

4. Exclusion of examination inviting one witness to comment on another witness' accuracy or credibility.

• Platter knows good and well that his witnesses don't tell the truth *(please see #6 & #8 below)*. He also knows that not all of his witnesses agree.

5. Exclusion of any hearsay, including "self-serving hearsay" by the defendant.

• The problem with doing away with hearsay in this case is that only others can speak about what the decedent had said or done to precipitate the violent confrontation her group initiated with the Faires.



George Abrantes

6. Exclusion of character evidence.

• Platter doesn't want the jury to know that one of his eyewitnesses, Richard Finegold, had filed false police reports in this case. He doesn't want the jury to know that Debra Long had been involved in disseminating lies about the Faires, which ultimately resulted in the gang's attack on the Faires and ultimately, her own death.

James Faire

7. Exclusion of any mention of procedural history of the case.

• James Faire has been pursued in this matter for 3 years. As noted above, it started with a number of charges including murder. Platter dropped several of the charges as there was no evidence of wrongdoing. Furthermore, had he kept the charges, he'd have to include all sorts of testimony that would make his goal of getting any conviction more improbable than it is now.

8. Exclusion of the admission of any police reports.

• This keeps reports that were filed against James and Angela Faire - which have been proven false - from being shown to the jury. It also keeps the jury from hearing about the very real conspiracy that led up to the Faires being violently attacked by those who filed the reports.

Richard Finegold

9. Exclusion of evidence or testimony pertaining to previous theft incident.

• Platter dropped the theft charge when it was discovered that Richard Finegold, one of the main conspirators who made the claim that the Faires took money from a GoFundMe account they set-up to aid a friend dying from cancer, didn't disclose how much the Faires gave him. Finegold is also the individual who filed the false police reports.

10. Exclusion of evidence or testimony pertaining to previous criminal trespass charge.

• Platter dropped the criminal trespass charge. He did this because there is more than enough evidence to substantiate that James Faire had been given permission to be on the Tonasket property. Oddly, this goes against all of the state's witnesses who conspired to have Richard Finegold file a false police report against James Faire. By dropping the charge and moving to exclude it from the jury, Platter is attempting to keep the jury from knowing about what led up to the armed, premeditated attack on James and Angela Faire.

11. Exclusion of witness interview transcripts except for impeachment purposes.

• The eyewitnesses in this case have all been interviewed several times. First by a deputy or a detective, then by the defense attorneys. Now, Platter wants to keep most of what they said out of the hands of the jury, as their statements offer clear context to the conspiracy to confront the Faires. Their statements also conclusively prove that James Faire was acting out of self-defense when Debra Long was run over.

12. Exclusion or limitation of defense offered photos.

• An effort to keep the defense from labeling the photos with pertinent information.

13. Exclusion of evidence pertaining to George Abrantes' reputation for violent or quarrelsome behavior absent proper foundation.

• Abrantes is the person who, according to all 3 of the other eyewitnesses (both state and defense), began an assault on James Faire with a lock and chain. It was this assault that James Faire was trying to flee when he unintentionally and unwittingly ran over Debra Long. Getting rid of any way to impeach Abrantes' character is imperative if Platter is to have any hope of a conviction.

14. Exclusion of Defense Witnesses.

• Fourteen defense witnesses to be exact are being targeted for exclusion. It even includes James Faire's expert witness, Professor Gregory Gilbertson, who thoroughly investigated the case and concluded: "Debra Long died because George Abrantes assaulted and attempted to murder James Faire … George Abrantes' assault upon James Faire so thoroughly menaced, traumatized, distracted, and disoriented him that in his overwhelming fear of death or great bodily harm he accidentally ran over Debra L. Long while fleeing for his life from George Abrantes."

15. Limitation of defense witness testimony.

• That's right, Platter wants to limit what James Faire and his witnesses can say in James' defense.

It is not right what James has been put through the past 3 years, all because a senior county official couldn't conduct an in-depth investigation before opening his mouth publicly. And, it's not right that a prosecutor, having all the evidence before him can't simply drop these undeniably false charges.

Branden Platter is not serving justice or his community by spending tens of thousands of tax-payer's dollars pursuing a false conviction in this case. He isn't honest in his motives, and clearly not in his conclusions as to what the eyewitness statements and evidence show. His only transparency is that he is dedicated to getting convictions at any cost, even if that means putting an innocent man behind bars for the rest of his life. Of this the voters in Okanogan can be sure, if you want real justice, your vote is better served being cast elsewhere.

As for the James Faire trial, you can rest assured the US~Observer will be there offering daily updates on this injustice, while also holding Branden Platter's feet to the fire. Through our investigation, it has always been evident that James Faire acted in self-defense and is innocent. We look forward to watching a jury come to that conclusion themselves.

Editor's Note: Anyone with information about Brandon Platter's involvement in any form of corruption is urged to contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 or email us at editor@usobserver.com.

★★★

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Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor
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Continued from page 1 • Santa Cruz California Code Enforcement - Red-Tagging Land Owners by Deceit

administrative government rules. Planning departments and code-enforcement officers (administrative government), backed by legal counsel, make their own rules, and take property with no accountability whatsoever. Roy Kaylor and others who own land in Santa Cruz can attest to that. Many Santa Cruz Co., CA. residents have horrific stories to tell. Their land is literally being stolen.

"The County wanted property, so they Red-Tagged 'em."
--Former Santa Cruz County Employee

Roy Kaylor still (albeit barely) "owns" roughly 154 acres of prime timberland in Boulder Creek, located within Santa Cruz County. Large pulchritudinous Redwoods grow across his shaded mountain property. Kaylor, a 79-year-old gentleman, says he's a, "Tree hugger" while describing his property. To a layperson, he may seem socially awkward. He's reserved. At a glimpse, he looks rough around the edges. With a long beard, grey colored hair tied into a ponytail, it's easy to judge him. Yet beneath the scruffy beard and all, he's a soft-spoken and kind-hearted gentleman.

Literally, he's more than just that. He's a genius. His list of lifetime accomplishments could easily fill a large textbook. His inventions alone are breathtaking. According to sources, Roy invented the, *"first prototype of the Toyota Prius. He's been building many things throughout his life, yet energy efficient automobiles rank among the top. His inventions even created some havoc for Roy back in the 80's. GMC allegedly had government agencies accost Roy out of spite when an electric car he'd built out-dragged a Corvette during a street race back in 1982. Roy invented and prototyped the main power supplies for the Voyager spacecrafts that have been working for over 40 years. He designed and prototyped a machine to test submarine-launched Polaris ICBMs to avoid blowing up at launch, which some historians have credited with the U.S. winning the Cold War. Another huge accomplishment for Roy was the Chevy Bolt. He, designed, prototyped and tested the motor controller used in the Chevy Bolt, 'Motor Trends care of the year in 2017.'"*

"…Unless you can identify, fix or pay someone else to fix the issues associated with the red-tag, the property isn't worth the hassle" **– Laurie Brenner**

As his inventions produced income, he sought to buy property where he could work, live and store his prize belongings. Ending his search, Roy chose beautiful Santa Cruz County 34 years ago. Little did Roy know; his land wasn't exactly his.

Santa Cruz County reportedly wanted Roy to subdivide his property. Subdividing would create more tax lots, which in turn would create more tax revenue for the county. They even provided Roy with a proposal and developers to do just that. Roy had other plans. He wanted to preserve the land and the nine endangered species on the land. He planted 7,800 Redwood trees. He also wanted to build two large steel buildings to store many of his vehicles, along with other inventions. He was reportedly told by Tony Falcone at the county that he could build two, 2,400 square ft. steel buildings. Then, when he went to obtain the permits to do so, he was denied. Roy was told by Kevin Fitzpatrick, whose scope of work reportedly did not include permit approval, that he could not build - at least not what Roy wanted to build. Instead, Roy recalled Fitzpatrick, a then code-enforcement officer, saying, "you can only build one 600 sq. ft. building, and it must be completed within one year. Everything on the 150+ acre property must be stored inside it." Fitzpatrick, who is now retired, was named by several others who shared similar negative experiences with Santa Cruz County. Being told, "no" by Fitzpatrick was a huge let down for Roy. Roy attempted to build on many other occasions, but the same answer always echoed... "Sorry, you can't."

Former and current county employees were contacted to understand why those in power would attempt to steal private property. Former County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello was mentioned multiple times. One former County employee stated, "she was the 'CEO,' and was for the last 30 years. Even the supervisors wouldn't do anything without talking to her first. She was the God of the county. If she didn't like you or what you were doing, you didn't get to do it." Roy stated that while she worked for the county she was behind many of his problems. Hearing it from other sources helped to better understand Roy's troubles. To some, Mauriello was hailed as an amazing woman. To many whom this writer spoke with, Mauriello truly embodied what was published about her in the Santa Cruz Sentinnel, albeit with a twist. She took the county coffers, "from $178 million to $700 million during her tenure..." The only real difference described was how Mauriello helped get the funds. Many called it, "theft." It was nothing less than "Red-Tagging by deception," to be specific.

"Kevin Fitzpatrick, I watched him get corrupt!"
-- Former Santa Cruz County Employee

"…Unless you can identify, fix or pay someone else to fix the issues associated with the red-tag, the property isn't worth the hassle," according to author Laurie Brenner of the Nest.

Without knowing what to do, Roy stored many personal belongings on his land and began looking for other property outside of the county.

Roy Kaylor assesses the garbage and damage done to his property by vandals who continually trespass on his property

He installed intricate steel gates and fabricated locks to protect his property while he was gone. But that didn't stop the thieves. Over the years, Roy stated his property was robbed and vandalized hundreds of times. Valuable cars were flipped over. Engines were literally ripped from his prized cars. "Over one-million dollars of valued property was destroyed or stolen," according to Roy. Although the police never made one single arrest that led to a conviction in connection with the thefts, dozens of police reports remain on file at the local Sheriff's office. As Roy recalled, the Sheriff's Dept. lost records of over one-hundred theft reports when they moved offices.

Instead of catching the criminals, county code-enforcement officers started fining Roy for the property that was literally scattered across his land by the thieves and, "tweekers." Roy increased his efforts to protect his property, but nothing worked due to his inability to build adequate storage facilities. The fines increased.

As the fines continued without just cause, he started fighting back. And the fight cost him dearly. To date, Roy has been fined, "over $40 Million," which he has not paid. Coupled with attorney fees, and other costs, Roy's out-of-pocket losses stretch closer to, "$1.5 million dollars," according to Roy. Roy said each Red-Tag fine is "$5,000.00 per day," and he's had about, "100 Red-Tags issued to him."

The costs for others involved with Santa Cruz County whom this writer talked to were insanely high as well. Chris Daly, another victim, "spent over $100k defending his property." He, too, mentioned retired code-enforcement officer Kevin Fitzpatrick. As Daly recalled, "Fitzpatrick stonewalled me," several times. When Daly's property got red-tagged it also affected his taxes which is reportedly against the law. "I paid the tax fines to keep my property and they just put them back on the next year." Another former county employee stated, "These fees that they're charging, they aren't legal, man. I've watched two RV parks get stolen (by the county). The county wanted the property, so they red-tagged them."

Another victim of the county, Lowell Webb, had similar accounts about the underhanded tactics used. He spent nearly ten years fighting the county.

Files upon files of people who've been unfairly targeted exist. Names of people who have been let off the hook (no permits or no fines) because of reported connections within the county also exist.

The County sued Roy under the wrong zoning as undeveloped rather than miscellaneous developed land.

Roy's land has now been court-ordered to be sold against his will. He's also been ordered by Judge John Gallagher to stay off his own land. The timber alone on his property is worth at least $500K according to professionals. The land without the timber is worth an estimated "$2 million, minimum." The court is allegedly forcing the sale to a, "nonprofit group called Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for $1 million."

SUING SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The actions against Roy by Santa Cruz County would drive most insane, yet Roy still maintains his composure. He wants to have the ability to build a place to store his belongings and inventions, without being constantly fined. If the property is forcibly sold, Roy wants to sue the county. Several others have already voiced their willingness to pursue a class action lawsuit against the county, which would likely be filed in federal court according to multiple sources.

Editor's Note: Have your property rights been abused in Santa Cruz County? Do you need a voice? The US~Observer can help. Are your problems like Roy's? Without coming together, you stand a great chance of losing. It's time to hold abusive administrative government accountable. If those who have the power to undue the wrong against Roy Kaylor, DO NOT DO SO, then they will be named in upcoming articles, along with more reported victims. That's a promise the US~Observer will keep. Their friends, family, and peers will all know exactly what they're doing, and to whom.

If you have any information regarding anyone named in this article, please contact the US~Observer at editor@usobserver.com, or by calling 541-474-7885.

★★★

Continued from page 1 • Dismissed! Timothy Tignor - Free at Last

Dismiss from his Attorney Per Olson. Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Kathie Steele signed the Order dismissing the Sexual Abuse in The First-Degree case against Tignor on the same day.

Tim immediately called the US~Observer and stated, "Praise Jesus," it's over.

We want to publicly recognize Clackamas County District Attorney John Foote for doing the right thing by serving justice in this case, however, the following information needs to be made public. Why? In case meth-user Dianna Bennett should make false allegations against an innocent person in the future, that person needs to have access to her horrendous history. And, when Deputy District Attorney Sarah Dumont attempts to falsely prosecute an innocent person again, that person needs to know her corrupt history.

METH-PSYCHO PUNCHES DEPUTY IN THE HEAD!

After suffering through two mistrials, coupled with over twenty-four (24) grueling and long months of being accused of a crime he absolutely didn't commit, Executive Chef Timothy Tignor is finally receiving justice, legally and publicly.

In October of 2017, after Clackamas County Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Sarah Dumont's second, failed attempt to prosecute Tignor, the US~Observer began its investigation.

Tignor was charged with 1st Degree Sex Abuse in March of 2016, and what we have discovered throughout the course of our investigation is shocking to say the least.

Tignor's accuser, 48-year-old Dianna Bennett has a history of accusing men of crimes during "Meth-induced psychosis" and/or episodes of drinking alcohol. Clackamas County successfully prosecuted two men in 2017, due to allegations made against them by Bennett. We find that both incidents occurred when Bennett was using methamphetamine and drinking excessively.

DA John Foote

Our investigators have found allegations and confessions of Bennett's severe alcohol and drug use dating back over a decade. Let's list just a few of the examples: A 2009, Clackamas County Sheriff's Report states, "Mr. Bennett (Dianna Bennett's ex-husband) told me [his daughter's] Mother is an alcoholic and has a history of using drugs." Another 2009, Cad Report states, "Domestic Disturbance between Ms. Bennett and her 20-year-old daughter." And yet another 2009, Report states, "Suicide attempt where Ms. Bennett had been drinking and had taken 20 Xanax."

Tignor would have been Bennett's 3rd victim if it weren't for two mistrials, caused by Assistant District Attorney Sarah Dumont's incompetence.

METH-USER DIANNA BENNETT ASSAULTS SHERIFF'S DEPUTY NATE ARIEL

The information above about Bennett pales in comparison to Bennett's Disorderly/Harassment arrest on August 15, 2017, which was the eighth of nine Domestic Violence, Police calls since her false claims against Mr. Tignor in March of 2016. One of those claims was against her then boyfriend, while Timothy was wrongfully incarcerated in the Clackamas County Jail because of Bennett's false allegations against him. Subsequently, Bennett admitted to the officer she lied and made the claim up against her boyfriend because, "I was mad at him." In each instance, Bennett's alcohol abuse and meth-use were alleged and or admitted to.

Bennett giving her statement

Clackamas County Deputy Sheriff Tyler Alexander writes in his report that he and Deputy Nate Ariel were called to Bennett's apartment where a reported "verbal and physical fight" was taking place. Alexander states, "I heard Deputy Ariel say over the radio, Bennett had removed the screen from the back window and was screaming for help."

Deputy Alexander continues, "He (Deputy Ariel) knocked and announced Sheriff's Office. I heard a female voice respond, F_ _ _ you, you aren't coming in here. Deputy Ariel stated she needed to open the door or we would kick it in. Bennett opened the door wearing only a t-shirt which was inside out and backwards. Deputy Ariel asked her where Jarvis (her boyfriend) was and she responded by saying, F_ _ _ you… She immediately spun around and punched Deputy Ariel from behind in the right side of his head near his ear. She punched him with a right closed fist."

Later in Alexander's report he makes the following statements, "I asked her if she understood her rights and she said, You killed my sister, I know… Based on my training and experience she appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamine… On the way to the jail she told me she had used meth the night before… She was placed in a solitary cell and immediately stripped off her clothes and started screaming."

It is hard to understand how a person who obviously drinks in excess, uses meth to the point where she goes into a psychosis, accuses a Sheriff's Deputy of "killing her sister," and falsely accuses a citizen of sex abuse when an eye witness states it didn't happen, can be running around in public – that is, until one realizes that she is being protected by a corrupt prosecutor by the name of Sarah Dumont.

SARAH DUMONT REFUSES TO PROSECUTE BENNETT

The police reports regarding Bennett's Disorderly Conduct and her Felony Assault on a Police Officer were sent to the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office.

Deputy District Attorney Kara A. Brooks sent a letter to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office on September 15, 2017, stating ridiculous and disingenuous reasons for not prosecuting Bennett.

We have concluded that Tignor's prosecutor Sarah Dumont was responsible for sweeping Bennett's Assault on a Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy under the proverbial carpet. Dumont has shown she was hell-bent on not losing the Tignor case and Bennett was her star witness.

According to Dumont, other than the letter from Kara Brooks, the DA's Office didn't even create a file on this incident. Bennett was released from jail shortly after – no arraignment, no charges! This insanity is the very reason there is always a great need to take cases into the court of public opinion, when an innocent person's freedom is at stake.

If prosecutors like Sarah Dumont had their way, the almost unbelievable statements made by Deputy Alexander in his police report would never reach the ears of jurors; the jury would be deceived, and Dumont would simply continue her long record of convictions.

Had Tignor not found the US~Observer he would still be facing his third trial.

MORE DAMNING INFORMATION ON BENNETT'S FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TIGNOR

While processing the Tignor false Sex Abuse case, Milwaukie, Oregon Police Detective Crystal Hill interviewed Dianna Bennett. In the interview (view online at www.usobserver.com) Bennett appears to either be on meth or she has a meth hangover.

Another very telling piece of evidence is the original Bennett call to 911 - which may be listened to online at *usobserver.com*. On the recording you can clearly hear Mr. Tignor ask, "What are you doing? Why are you doing this?" Most people would have said the same thing if some delusional meth-head started yelling at them on the street for no reason.

Considering all the damning evidence in this case against Dianna Bennett, it is evident that Timothy Tignor encountered the same Bennett that Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputies encountered throughout 2017, and before, on the day he was falsely accused by her, then falsely arrested and then falsely prosecuted on two separate occasions by Clackamas County DDA Sarah Dumont.

DUMONT'S SEEMINGLY BENEVOLENT, YET CORRUPT PLEA OFFER

On April 11, 2018, corrupt prosecutor Sarah Dumont, knowing full well that Timothy Tignor was innocent, made the following plea offer to him. She made this offer in an attempt to continue her conviction record, escape liability and for the fact that she doesn't possess a conscience:

"1. Plea to a sexual harassment, 60 days jail with credit for time served, 24 months formal probation, substance abuse and evaluation and treatment per PO, no contact with the victim, fines and fees and restitution. Mr. Tignor does not have to register as a sex offender and the crime could be expunged in the future. Sincerely, Sarah Dumont"

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF CLACKAMAS

STATE OF OREGON, Plaintiff,	Case No. 16CR21319 Control No. JCLA116031488
vs.	MOTION TO DISMISS
TIMOTHY PAUL TIGNOR, Defendant.	DA No. 005280118

COMES NOW the State of Oregon by Sarah J. Dumont, Deputy District Attorney, and moves the Court for an Order dismissing the Indictment dated April 6, 2016 charging the defendant with Sexual Abuse in The First Degree on the grounds and for the reason that it is in the best interest of justice.

DATED 05/17/2018.

JOHN S. FOOTE
District Attorney

By _____
Sarah J. Dumont, OSB # 035419
SarahDum@co.clackamas.or.us
Deputy District Attorney

Timothy Tignor refused Dumont's attempted extortion by declining her offer. Most people would have buckled under the pressure of facing a third trial and the possibility of becoming a registered sex offender for life. Innocent people accept extorted "plea-bargains" every day, from extortionists just like Dumont…

The US~Observer greatly commends Tim for standing up to Dumont's evil. We also commend Clackamas County District Attorney John Foote for stepping in and putting a stop to Sarah Dumont's attempts at destroying Mr. Tignor.

TIMOTHY TIGNOR'S THANK YOU

"I would like to thank Jesus! His mercy, glory, and truth shined through the injustice that was being perpetuated against me in Clackamas County. Thank you, Edward Snook and the US~Observer for helping the people access the truth. To my wife Kasi, who married me in the middle of this vicious case, I love you and thank you for your courage and strength. No man could ask for a more loving and supportive wife. You are my blessing! Thank you to my Mom and brother for your love and standing by me. Our long talks helped me keep my sanity. To all my friends, thank you and love you for all your support. Lastly, to Sandi and Steve Warren, my mother and father in-law, Thank You from the bottom of my heart. Your unwavering support both emotionally and financially proves to the world what family can and should do for their loved ones. I will spend the rest of my life protecting and loving your daughter, right next to her every step of the way, instead of in a prison cell. I will do what I can to repay your kindness and do whatever is needed of me. May Jesus bless you all!" --*Timothy Tignor*

Tim & Kasi

Editor's Note: This false prosecution cost Timothy Tignor and his family over $200,000.00 and it cost Oregon taxpayers just as much. All taxpaying citizens were damaged by having to pay for this attempted false prosecution that Deputy District Attorney Sarah Dumont is solely responsible for.

Anyone with information on any of the participants in this case are urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email at editor@usobserver.com. ★★★

Continued from page 3 • Josephine County Jury Overrules Bad Law ...

One of Kaite's friends telling her on social media that she is not 18-years-old.

of January 13, 2018, Bryce began staying over-night at Kaite's home, reportedly with her mother's knowledge. Kaite's mother had reportedly met with Bryce's mother in person regarding their two children dating each other and having a sexual relationship. According to a witness, Boeh told Bryce Anderson's mother that her daughter was already 15 and that it was okay for them to date – it wasn't statutory rape since there was only two years difference. These statements were not true as Kaite was still 14 at the time.

Recent video obtained when Kaite was 14-years-old shows Bryce (a then 18-year-old male) and her kissing, all while Bryan Tucker was incarcerated. Sadly, this was Kaite's actions after acknowledging to Detective Lohrfink that she understood it was wrong to be intimate with older guys. She even cried during her talks with Lohrfink. The Department of Grants Pass Public Safety was provided this information, along with supporting evidence and they did nothing. In fact, Sgt. Waite, while talking to Bryan's father, reportedly stated, "She's 16 years old…he's 18, there's a three-year defense, leave it alone." The detective obviously doesn't know, or possibly doesn't support the fact, that Kaite was 14-years-old when she was caught kissing the 18-year-old Bryce Anderson. Kaite still isn't 16-years-old.

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE BY DETECTIVE JOHN LOHRFINK?

Detective Lohrfink

Once aware of Kaite's true age, Bryce Anderson's mother reportedly told multiple witnesses that she had discussed her son's actions with her ex (Ziegler-Anderson), who was retired law-enforcement, and the detectives involved in Bryan Tucker's case. According to those witnesses, Bryce's mother clammed-up after initially disclosing damning information (sexual behavior) about Kaite and said there was nothing more to be told. Essentially, her son had done nothing wrong. Her follow up phone call with Bryan's father can be heard by reading this article online. Was Detective Lohrfink and other's obstructing justice to protect Kaite, "their so-called victim?" One could easily assume so. Lohrfink's report of his interview with Anderson was clearly driven toward protecting Kaite and 18-year-old Bryce Anderson. Unfortunately, this is another damning piece of evidence jurors won't likely hear about at trial.

Kaite's own cousin (admittedly) disclosed to the US~Observer that she, *"walked in on Kaite (then 14) having sexual intercourse with Bryce (reportedly 18) several times."*

Kaite has also purportedly had relationships with other older guys. Bryan's father delivered this evidence to District Attorney Ryan Mulkins via Bryan's attorney. DA Ryan Mulkins never sought justice with this information. Instead of conducting a real investigation, Detective Lohrfink guided Boeh and her daughter to file stalking charges against Bryan's father, who discovered Kaite and Bryce being intimate in public. It went to court on April 17, 2018 and the stalking charges were dismissed against Bryan's father. This happened after Kaite and Boeh stormed out of the courtroom and never returned. All reportedly because they felt like it wasn't going their way.

MANIPULATING THE SYSTEM?

Beverly Boeh (pronounced BAY)

Shockingly, Kaite's own mother reportedly stated, "Kaite has had daddy issues since she was younger, you know…all these older men…it doesn't surprise me. I am single, I used to date, but I can't date anymore because of the situation she has me in…" This was in her initial police interview with Officer Artoff in 2015. Boeh also reportedly stated that her daughter is sneaky and secretive, deletes all her texts and history and does not give over her cell phone without clearing it. According to witnesses, Boeh continued by stating that her daughter has many Facebook aliases she uses to reach out to older males, and in fact, she called her, "The Chameleon" in this interview. But now, according to witnesses, Boeh has done a complete 180 and condones her daughter's adult behavior. Yet, she keeps up the facade by crying foul and putting on dramatic and overly emotional displays in court proceedings. Boeh and her daughter were reportedly caught smoking marijuana together outside their home. Boeh is allegedly receiving "victims assistance" payments according to a statement purportedly made by Bryce Anderson's mother. In Oregon, "victims can be paid upwards of $60,000.00 annually" according to sources. Could this be why Kaite is playing the role of a victim, while doing the exact opposite of what she knows to be right?

FURTHER EVIDENCE BRYAN HAD NO INTENT TO COMMIT A CRIME

Although Bryan ended the relationship, the two would occasionally chat on social media. During one chat session, Kaite offered to sell Bryan weed (marijuana). Bryan refused, likely because he knew contact with her was inappropriate. On another occasion, Bryan stated that if the two were older, they could possibly be together, but they could not be because of her age. He wanted to remain friends with Kaite, as he felt bad for her. She'd reportedly attempted suicide, being admitted to the hospital twice after Bryan ended their relationship, and he thought that being supportive of another human being who hurt was the right thing to do.

Kaite continued to reach out to Bryan on Facebook for almost the next two years. When she fought with her mom, she reportedly sought his advice and comfort. She even complained about dating Bryce Anderson and how he wouldn't acknowledge their relationship in public and at school events, such as football games, where he pretended not to know her. At this point Bryce was reportedly only using alias accounts on Facebook to chat with Kaite and arrange dates.

Simply put, Bryan had no intent to commit any crime, whatsoever. He was greatly deceived. He ended the short-lived relationship once he found out about the lies. To this day there has never been any other intimate physical contact between the two – of any kind. Sadly, now, a young 20-year-old Bryan Tucker sits in a jail cell. His fate will be in the hands of jurors who won't even be allowed to know the true story.

Bryan is still just a boy in many ways – a boy facing 16 felony crimes without ever having sexual intercourse with Kaite Rogers. If convicted, and given the full sentence, Bryan could face a total of 200 years in prison. After release (if he's ever granted parole), he will be labeled a sex offender for the rest of his life. He will be shunned from communities, places of employment … seemingly life itself, all because he was deceived and didn't know the age of a girl he liked when he was 17.

And the person who "entrapped" him into a relationship pays no price for her lies. In fact, she reportedly benefits from them. Does that sound like justice? One thing is certain, no law that excludes a defense is a "just law." Furthermore, anyone who faces being convicted of an unjust law is deserving of only one thing – a Not Guilty verdict!

WHAT IF THIS HAPPENED TO YOUR CHILD?

I would ask our readership to stop and think for one moment – what would you do if your child was facing prison without ever intentionally doing anything wrong? Worse yet, what if your child faced life in prison without even being able to offer a defense? One can just imagine what Bryan Tucker's parents are going through right now!

What kind of people would attempt to unjustly prosecute a young man who is just beginning his life? The answer is quite simple – Josephine County's corrupt D.A. Ryan Mulkins with the aid and assistance of Prosecutor Matthew Wojcik and John Lohrfink, Grants Pass' corrupted detective. How could they expect a jury to convict this young man, "beyond a moral certainty?"

★★★

Arian Noma

STANDING STRONG

for Justice, for Family, for You

Arian Noma is not an insider, or a "Good Ol' Boy."

Arian is a hard working legal professional who has been both a prosecutor and a defense attorney in some of the most distinguished offices in the country. He has also maintained a successful private practice.

Arian wants to raise his 2 daughters in a community that mirrors his conservative values, and repsects his fellow man, and he wants to give back in order to be here.

When elected, Arian will ensure the prosecutor's office will work to achieve justice, not just convictions. He will bring honor and due process back to an office that has been mired in controversy and false prosecutions.

Arian's belief in justice means he is tough on criminals and ever supportive of good law enforcement.

Arian Noma will:

- **PROTECT THE INNOCENT**
- **PUNISH THE GUILTY**
- **TARGET VIOLENT OFFENDERS**
- **PROTECT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**
- **DRIVE DOWN RECIDIVISM**
- **INFLUENCE POLICY REFORM**

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Arian Noma

Okanogan County Prosecutor

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