

California State Misfeasance - The Courtland Docks Saga

By Kelly Stone
Investigative Reporter

Sacramento, CA – According to Black's Law Dictionary misfeasance simply means "a lawful act performed in a wrongful manner." This is exactly what the California State Lands Commission (CSL) is attempting regarding issues surrounding the Courtland Docks and Marina located on the Sacramento River.

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Beware the Black Widow in Jackson County



Judith K. Johnson

Story on page 4

The Lariat "Fraud" Group Where Have Our Responsible Law Enforcement Gone?

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Two editions ago we published an article titled, "The Lariat Group, Another Debt Elimination Scam." This article garnered quick attention from the absolutely

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ODFW and US F&WS Dupe the Public Lying about Lion

By Bud Sonnentag
US~Observer Exclusive

My dad and the men I spent my life working with taught me priceless lessons about human nature. One of these being: it is not so much what people say that you need to keep an eye on, but more... what it is they won't or don't say. What people know but surreptitiously hide or refuse to tell you about a subject can be revealing—and lethal. They feel they are under no ethical obligation to divulge certain information especially if it jeopardizes their employment, career or retirement. Up pops the state and federal diploma carrying biologists from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to manipulate the emotions and minds of the uneducated and unwary citizens about how they as experts think mountain lions should be managed. No one - no matter who you are or how much field experience you may have attained about the mountain lion through life's experiences and



Oregon's Mountain Lion; coming to a backyard near you soon!

commonsense will ever equal the biologist's university diploma. Our nation has glorified education beyond any reproach and has all but "murdered" common sense which comes down from our fore-fathers through hands on experience and not necessarily text books.

Oregon's state and federal

wildlife agencies manage mountain lions by deliberately playing on the emotions and sentiments of 96% of Oregonians for the sole purpose of their job security. This is at the expense of 4% of the hunter sportsmen who pay for it through the Pittman Robertson funds.

I've made some powerful

statements now let's back them up. I've listed a few topics below that biologically indoctrinated fish and game agents won't discuss publicly for fear of losing their careers and retirements through "in-house" censoring or out-right losing "control" over public sentiment.

1. **Why is 3,000 a perfect number of lions in Oregon?**
2. **What are protected off limit areas for mountain lion hunting?**
3. **Is extirpation, annihilation or extermination of mountain lions possible?**
4. **Litter size of lions and ratio of tom to female.**
5. **Correct nomenclature for mountain lion species.**
6. **Oregon's success story, but what about Texas?**

1) Anyone who has read the Oregon Cougar Management

Read more about the "Cougar Controversy" page 12 and the lawsuit filed, page 13

Continued on page 12

Gold Hill Recall On-Track Rogue Councilors Deserve Being Recalled

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Gold Hill, Oregon – On January 31, 2006 a recall was launched against three rogue, and more than deserving, Gold Hill City Councilors. Councilors Gus Wolf, Donna Silva and Jan Fish were first asked to resign at a regularly scheduled Gold Hill City Council held on January 9, 2006. All three refused, resulting in the filing of a recall by Gold Hill resident Scott Baker.

The reasons given for the recall were continuous unethical



Councilwoman Donna Silva



Council Members Gus Wolf (left) and Jan Fish (right)

behavior, lying, and placing the city in a libelous position, however the controversies and dissensions involving the three run much deeper (see related stories and background at www.usobserver.com).

From our in-depth investigation we have found that a majority of the community wants their own police department as opposed to

having the Jackson County Sheriff's Office handle law enforcement in Gold Hill. All three councilors targeted for recall will state publicly that they support the police, but their actions prove otherwise. They have constantly, over the past year looked for anything and everything on the police department and Chief Dean

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Club 71 Continues Violating Law - OLCC Slow to Act

By US~Observer
Investigative Reporter
Edward Snook

Sunny Valley, Oregon – On Sunday February 26, 2006 shortly after 2:00 a.m. 23-year old Michael Conrad Depuglia was pulled over by Oregon State Police (OSP) due to his inability to stay in his lane. The OSP observed the vehicle swerving on the freeway.

According to OSP Officer Holsworth, Depuglia was driving while suspended. Depuglia was driving because his passenger, 20-year-old Nicolause Xavier Orozco was too intoxicated to drive. He reportedly couldn't spell his name correctly and gave the officer an incorrect date of birth. Orozco was cited for Minor in Possession of Alcohol and Providing False Information.

Holsworth reported the two left Club 71 in Sunny Valley

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The Grange

137 Years of Service to Rural America!

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

professional staff administers policies established annually by democratic Grange processes at local county, and state levels. National Grange Headquarters Building • 1616 H St. NW • Washington, DC 20006. Built in 1957 - The original headquarters was located on Lafayette Park. Each year, a listing of more than 1,400 issues of concern is published and distributed by the National Grange.

Grange Resolutions

The US~Observer will be publishing a series of resolutions that have been adopted by the Oregon State Grange. Starting with "The right of the people to keep and bear arms (below). Unlike many organizations that compromise and sell out their original intentions and goals to special interests, politics and green-backs, the Grange has remained true to its roots. Since 1956 William "Bill" Waggoner has been a member of the Grange. The following resolution was drafted by William Waggoner, "Master" and adopted by Deer Creek Grange #371 at its regular meeting held on April 12, 2004. It was subsequently adopted by the Oregon State Grange at its 131st annual session held on June 21-25 at Joseph, Oregon.

Subject: The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.
Whereas: A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed (U.S. Constitution – 2nd Amendment).
Whereas: The National Guard of each state isn't the militia. The National Guard is bought and paid for by the U.S. government and is on loan to the states during times of peace. The militia is under the control of the State Governor and consists of the people of the state. The reason for the use of the militia in each state was to prevent the establishment of a standing army.
Whereas: "I ask sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials." – George Mason
Whereas: Per the U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Paragraph 2, the President, with advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, appoints Judges of the Supreme Court and etc. Article III,

section 1, states: the Judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior.
Whereas: On December 5th 2002, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, by a three-judge panel's vote ruled that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee individuals the right to bear arms.
Whereas: This anti-gun ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would place the American citizens at the mercy of terrorists, common criminals, invading foreign powers, Police State and a tyrannical government.
Whereas: The historical records of 200-plus years pertaining to the forming of U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights prove that Amendments 1 thru 10 are sovereign rights that belong to the American people.
Whereas: The following listed states had arms-rights provisions in their state constitutions for their people prior to adoption of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights: Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Vermont, Massachusettes, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island.
Whereas: "The constitutions of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property and of the press." - Thomas Jefferson
Whereas: "The constitution shall never be construed...to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms." – Samuel Adams
Whereas: "The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed." – Alexander Hamilton
Whereas: "The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able may have a gun." – Patrick Henry
Whereas: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. A well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country..." – James Madison
Whereas: "Our safety, our liberty depends upon preserving the Constitution of the United States as our

fathers made it inviolate. The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution." – Abraham Lincoln
Whereas: "On every question of construction (of the Constitution) let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed." – Thomas Jefferson
Whereas: "To consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions is a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy." – Thomas Jefferson
Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. In view of the historical facts, our forefathers stated the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Two judges of the 9th Circuit Court have put themselves above the U.S. Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land for which they took an oath to support. We therefore ask the United States Congress to start impeachment proceedings on these judges per Article II Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution for the violation of Article III, Section 1, for bad behavior, and Article VI, Sections 2 and 3, for violation of their oath of office per their court ruling to overthrow the people's 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. This court ruling is a usurpation of the sovereignty of the people, and if not stopped, could bring about judicial dictatorship.
This document was signed by William D. Waggoner, Master and Delaine Sherman, Secretary.
Editor's Note: Next edition we will publish the Grange's resolution on (NAFTA) North American Free Trade Agreement, (CAFTA) Central America Free Trade Agreement, and (FTAA) Free Trade Area of the America's.
Contact William D. Waggoner, Deer Creek Grange Master #371 at 1920 Thompson Creek Road, Selma, Oregon 97538. ■■



Grange Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Civil War to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. Over the past 137 years, it has evolved to include non-farm rural families and communities. The Grange is also a fraternal order known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, hence the "P of H" on the organization's logo. Founding members determined that a fraternal organization would be best able to combine loyalty and democratic ideals to provide service to others. The National Grange was one of the first formal groups to admit women to membership on the basis of equality with men. It remains so today. The 11-story landmark National Grange headquarters building in Washington, D.C. was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and is the only private edifice in a federal block across from the White House. It serves as a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families. A

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The US~Observer is constantly contacted by individuals and groups who have been wronged and/or falsely accused of crimes. In the majority of cases we are their last recourse for aid in their vindication of these malicious allegations.

Our operating expenses during an investigation are such that we can not help all of those who aren't able to afford our services.

These people need your assistance and through your generous donations we can provide a place of refuge where the innocent aren't prosecuted and the guilty are exposed. For more information call 541-474-7885 or simply send a check to:

Victim's Assistance, 233 Rogue River Hwy. PMB 387, Grants Pass, OR 97527



"The Common Sense Gun Lobby"

CCRKBA

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE
RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In civil cases the scenario is the same except for the incarceration part. Don’t go broke trusting someone who is only concerned with your pocket book!

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The Lariat Group ...

fraudulent directors of this criminal enterprise. They were quick to send the US~Observer a “demand for retraction” letter which we publisher in our last edition (all articles on The Lariat Group can be viewed at www.usobserver.com). Obviously we **denied** their demand letter. The director’s names are Robert Chamberlain (the King-Pin), Gary Douglas Holmes and Butch McIntyre.

The US~Observer is continuing to receive complaints from victims of the Lariat Group’s fraud. Generally they are women, some of whom report to have been financially destroyed by this trio who claim they are in the Lord’s service as they convince people they can eliminate the debt they have accrued. In other words and according to these deceitful individuals, people can simply wipe out debt that they have agreed to pay in return for mortgages, credit cards, etc. My bible states that Satan is the father of all lies, so it is an easy chore to conclude that they are simply lying about serving God in order to more easily infiltrate their victim’s pocketbooks and bank accounts, all for their own gain.

In February, 2006 the US~Observer was informed that the Lariat Group had decided to stop their programs due to the bad publicity provided by the US~Observer. We went to their web-site and found the following:

“From The Director’s Desk

The Directors regret to inform our members, that the Lariat Group is going to phase out of operation.

This is primarily due to circumstances brought about by egregious privacy violations, malicious and unfounded accusations. Our continuing desire is for our members’ success, but at this point, it has been decided that it’s in the best interests of all the members for the ministry of the Lariat Group to come to a close.”

First off, the Lariat Group’s only “ministry” is to deceive people into a state of mind where they are able to openly steal from them. Amazingly we were informed in March, 2006 that the Lariat Group was actually continuing their fraudulent solicitations of seemingly unwary people. The following email was sent to Lariat Group members on March 3, 2006 by the same Directors that stated (above) they were going to cease operations:

*Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 6:22AM
Subject: Mortgage Release Program update from Gary Holmes*

Happy Friday Everyone!

Here is the latest update regarding the Mortgage Release Program from the Dorean Group. This only needs to be reviewed if you are a participant or a referring member to assist a participant. The contact information to reach Dr

Fred, Scott and Kurt is enclosed with this update for your convenience and use. We are prayerful of a successful conclusion and judgment in favor of all the participants, please continue to be positive and pray for the same result as it will not be too much longer before we here the news. Great success in all that we do!

In His service,

Gary

We were sent another email dated March 8, 2006 from Lariat Group Director Gary Holmes to Lariat Group members regarding affiliate program (fraud) “Mortgage Alternatives.” The head of this group states, “As I had indicated in the previous update letter, we had “guardedly” hoped that something would have been in place by February but that will not be the case.” Here we go again, it’s always next month, in the near future, pray about it, let’s hope something happens soon, etc. Wake up people (future victims of fraudulent scams); if something sounds too good to be true...it is, 99% of the time. All you are buying into when you associate yourself with scam artists is a program wherein you will hear excuse after excuse after excuse and then you will realize they have stolen your hard earned money.

Please note that the Lariat Group has attempted to disguise themselves by

claiming they are just brokers attempting to direct people to debt elimination programs. Make no mistake; they are making untold thousands of dollars off their end of the scams they present their customers! In every program that scam artists get people to buy into, there is one common denominator: the programs never work and when debt is scheduled to be eliminated or money is due it never happens. Then the fraud promoters begin their long line of excuses. We see this in the above emails sent by Lariat Group Director Gary Holmes: “We are prayerful of a successful conclusion and judgment in favor of all participants.” See what I mean? And what about, “it will not be too much longer before we hear the news.” The truth is all participants have been literally screwed. They bought into a scam and now they are told to “be positive and pray.”

The US~Observer has been exposing similar scams for years and it’s time that law enforcement gets with the program and prevents the Lariat Group’s number of victims from escalating. Attorney General Hardy Myers office was notified months ago, as was the IRS and FBI. All have apparently been too busy chasing their tails to stop this illegal activity. With each new victim the listed agencies must share in the culpability. Please go to our “Letters to the Editor” section of this edition and hear what the public has to say about the “godly” Lariat Group. ■■

Beware the Black Widow in Jackson County

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

The following article comes from an in-depth investigation regarding severe accusations made against Judith Johnson, a 56 year old resident of Medford, Oregon.

The complaints and accusations contained herein have been verified by the US~Observer as legit and the truthfulness of the following allegations are undeniable. The publication of this article is simply the US~Observer’s (and three damaged husbands) way of stopping a bad individual from continuing her destructive behavior and to stop the further victimization of innocent individuals. The following statements were taken directly from statements made by three of Judith Johnson’s past husbands, all of whom are concerned that she not continue her practice of victimizing in the future.

Medford, Oregon – If you are an available male and you see this woman, walk away. Better yet, run away. Judith Johnson is definitely not who she appears to be. On the surface she comes across as a caring Christian lady. Most people never see the person she really is. She has reportedly told a family member that her goal in life is to take advantage of as many men as she possibly can, and try to ruin them in the process. We are aware of at least three men she has taken advantage of.

They say everyone should be good at something. According to her ex-husbands she is an accomplished liar. Once you have caught her at it, she reportedly justifies it by saying “everyone lies.” She can be very convincing. According to eye witnesses, she will say and do whatever it takes to convince a man (victim) that she truly cares about him (even loves him). This is part of her plan. Once she convinces

him that she would like to spend the rest of her life with him, he is headed for the worst nightmare of his life. From the moment she says, “I do,” she is planning how she is going to take over. To her the marriage license is a license to steal. Once married, she no longer has to lie about caring for him. She does all she can to drain him financially and emotionally. She treats him like he is not worthy of her.

When she left her first husband, she took virtually everything. He came home to a house that was nearly empty. She left little too nothing behind. She even took things that had been in his family for generations. When he checked, he found out she had removed every cent from his bank accounts. This had a long term effect on his credit, and his ability to make a living. She tried to ruin him.

Her second victim was a widower with two young boys. Before they were married she told him he was a wonderful man and a very good father. After the marriage, he was not worthy of her and he did not discipline his children harshly enough. He tried to do everything he could to make her happy. When they combined households, he had to get rid of any items he had in order to make room (in his home) for her stuff. He should have realized there was something wrong with her when she demanded he remove some photo albums of his children and his former wife (she had died). Not many people are so insecure they are intimidated by someone who is dead. She immediately took over his checkbook.

Not long after they were married he came home to find all of his things had been moved into the spare bedroom. This was his room for the remainder of the marriage.

For almost three years she made him jump through hoops to try to make the marriage work. All the while she was

planning to leave. Before she left, she got him to buy her a new car and make the down-payment on a new home. Once again, when she left she took not only her stuff, but some of his stuff, including the photo albums she demanded he remove from the house. He thought he had them well hidden in the rafters of the garage. Obviously she took some items just to hurt him.

With her most recent and 3rd victim, the pattern continued. She not only pretended to care about him, she went out of her way to be nice to his friends. Before they were married, she threw a surprise birthday party and invited all of his friends. She not only led him to believe that she was a kind, caring, Christian lady, she mislead his friends into thinking she was something she is not. She even pretended to be interested in his hobby (golf) until the knot was tied. She pretended to care right up until they were married. From that day on she treated him like he was not worthy to be in the same room with her. After the marriage he was not allowed to invite his friends over to visit. Birthdays and anniversaries were no longer occasions to be celebrated.

Ironically he told her that the most important thing to him was that people are honest with each other. She said being honest was important to her as well....

According to a highly credible source, she informed a family member that the only reason she married him was because she knew he had some money and she was going to get it before she left. When they merged households he had to get rid of his refrigerator, dinning room set, bedroom set, living room furniture, washer and dryer, and many other items (dishes, kitchen items, etc.) because she demanded that her stuff be kept.

She told a friend that she was upset that he golfed because it took away time

when he should be working to make more money to spend on her.

She would act like everything was fine when they were out in public and visiting with his friends. Once they were back at home, she would put down his friends. He paid all the bills while she tucked her cash away in preparation for the profitable upcoming divorce. The only thing they shared was the space in the house.

Not long into the marriage she moved all her stuff into the spare bedroom and she spent most of her time there, unlike her practice of cuddling in the same bed prior to marriage. In spite of spending nearly all his money on her, she was never happy. After nearly three years she informed him she was leaving. She said she had never loved him. She admitted she had only said she loved him to get him to marry her. She had been planning on leaving him since before they were married. She wanted to know how much money he was going to give her to leave. He asked her why she stayed as long as she did if she did not love him. She said she had to in order to make her plan work. She moved out while he was at work. She took all of her stuff and many of his things. Some of the things included items that had been in his family for generations.

She had been working and supporting herself before they were ever married. In the divorce, she filed for alimony and because this victim’s attorney did not do his job properly she got it. She had been a hair dresser for 36 years. Her normal work schedule was 3 ½ days each week. In her business, most of her clients pay her in cash. It is highly doubtful she ever reports all of her income.

In court, under oath, she swore (before God) she was working 6 days a week and making less money than when she was working 3 ½ days a week. She admitted she had not lost any clients and

Continued on page 11

Judicial Corruption Arrogance – Part Two

The Eugene Forte Story

By R.S. Errol
US~Observer

Monterey County, California - Corruption doesn't always start out with malice towards all. Sometimes a mistake is innocent in nature but for some unknown reason the errant person rationalizes that the advantages out measure the risks. Then again on other occasions the perpetrator feels that they are privileged or superior to their victim(s) or they are of a divine right to conduct business to their advantage regardless of the rules and regulations that are established to restrain this behavior. After reading volumes of evidence consisting of court transcripts, letters to and from court and government officials I am of the opinion that the arrogance that permeates the venue that Gene Forte finds himself in is of the deliberate with malice, toward a select target(s) type of venue.

The scene of this story changes from the attorneys' offices to the courtroom that most reasonable people think is awash in truth, integrity and justice. That impression will fade from the readers' minds when they become exposed to the duplicitous conduct of the Monterey County Superior Court judges. Thomas Jefferson once asked, "Where is the check on the judiciary?" I think that is the number one question that is on Forte's mind during these trying times. It is my desire that the readers will be asking the same question at the end of this story.

The first incursion into the Monterey Superior Court by Forte sets the tone for what is to follow over the next five years. Gene Forte is sued by his former attorney Loretta Loop in small claims court for fees rendered in the beginning of the Forte vs. Powell case in 1999. You may recall from last months column Forte paid Loop a retainer and when their relationship ended Eugene discovered that Loop never answered interrogatories from the Horan Law Firm thereby causing sanctions to be filed against Forte, causing him to be fined \$700 by Judge Richard Silver for impeding discovery. Loop had the unmitigated gall to bill Forte an additional fee when she never completed the task at hand with the interrogatories. So Loop vs. Forte commences in early 2001. Forte responds by filing a lawsuit Forte vs. Loop in Superior Court charging malpractice against Loop. The case is assigned to Commissioner Richard Rutledge who you will recall was the person who ruled against Gene in the small claims action in 1997. In that case Rutledge ruled in favor of the plaintiff who did not appear at the trial. Due to this absurd ruling Forte had the presence of mind to file a Challenge for Cause since it was obvious that Rutledge was prejudice against Forte. Attached to the Challenge were several exhibits including a letter Forte had written to several Monterey Judicial Officers alleging that Commissioner Rutledge and Judge Robert Moody had violated the law in 1997. Rutledge disqualified himself due to his involvement in Loop vs. Forte, a good thing, most people would agree, for Forte.

Entering into this melodrama would be Judge Robert O'Farrell the supervising judge for Superior court to disprove that notion. As supervising judge, Judge O'Farrell is responsible for

managing the master civil calendar for civil matters. This is an important note to remember as the story unfolds because O'Farrell assigns the judges to hear particular cases before the court. O'Farrell, prior to commencing the trial would be privy to the Challenge for Cause with its attachments. Somehow Forte gets the feeling that O'Farrell took exception to a citizen taking umbrage with the judiciary. Could it be that judges think themselves to be of a higher echelon since they sit in judgment of the common man?

Normally, when there is a small claims action in conjunction with a cross complaint in a higher court the small claim is adjoined to the complaint. Not so in O'Farrell's domain. O'Farrell ruled for Loop in the small claims action then treated the complaint as an appeal instead of a stand alone case, thereby prejudicing Forte for the first time.

Forte, staying true to form asks the court to reconsider O'Farrell's decision and Judge Richard Silver reversed the order and consolidated the two cases together. Assuming O'Farrell did indeed review the Challenge of Cause and the supporting documents was this the reason O'Farrell tried to deny Forte the right to present Loop's alleged malpractice as his defense to Loop's claims for additional fees? A reasonable person would surely agree to this analysis. Apparently Judge Richard Silver did. Judge O'Farrell, reacting in 2002, launched the case into a black hole by taking it off the calendar.

Larry Lichtenegger has been Forte's attorney of record in this case since March of 2000, and has become totally immersed in it. Forte informs him prior to the trial that the one judge he did not want to hear the case was Judge Terrance Duncan. Judge O'Farrell assigns the case, by some rare coincidence, to Judge Terrance Duncan the same judge who began the investigation into Commissioner Rutledge's and Judge Moody's bazaar rulings against Forte in the Packwood vs. Forte small claims action a few years earlier. Duncan discovered that Packwood was his next door neighbor three weeks into his investigation. In any event Duncan knew about Forte's judicial activism prior to his selection as the presiding judge. In addition, Duncan was a judge in the Monterey Criminal department and did not hear civil cases, with some exceptions that are becoming obvious.

While Lichtenegger represented Forte he voluntarily revealed some of the dirty secrets concerning the Monterey Superior court regarding "manipulating trial dates and sabotaging motions" during a phone conversation that Forte legally recorded. Thereby, Lichtenegger unceremoniously exposed the corruption and arrogance that Forte had intuitively known all along. Little did Gene suspect, from the onset, the sabotage that Lichtenegger was undertaking against his client in a well orchestrated conspiracy with other attorneys to drain Forte of his assets as Forte now alleges due to hindsight. In early 2001, Lichtenegger attempted to withdraw as Forte's attorney stating that Judge Richard Silver was seething at Lichtenegger because he was representing Forte. Gene opposed the motion and revealed to Silver the true motives and statements by Lichtenegger. Fighting fire with fire is both a defensive and offensive strategy

that sometimes must be employed. Judge Silver immediately recused himself and actually scheduled O'Farrell to hear the motion in five days time. He did this in such a fashion that it was transparent that he and O'Farrell had preplanned this continuance. Forte is very much aware of O'Farrell's bias toward him and was waiting for the other shoe to drop.

The next week O'Farrell, as if on cue, allows Lichtenegger out of the case, one month prior to the commencement of the damage portion of the Forte vs. Powell case, without addressing any of the scandalous allegations made by Lichtenegger to Forte as they were related by Forte to Silver. This thread of conduct connects the dots of the puzzle and reveals the onset of alleged criminal activity. O'Farrell actions from here on out are baffling to even the most naïve court observer. A week later in a mid March 2001, hearing of Forte vs. Powell, Judge O'Farrell allows the defense counsel James Cook of the Horan Law Firm to launch a scurrilous attack on Forte in court, denies Forte the right to respond to conflicting statements by Cook, states that he sees no reason why he, O'Farrell, should recuse himself simply because he, O'Farrell is a friend of the defendants (waves to the Powell's from the bench) and literally tries to extort Forte by offering a continuance of the trial, in order for Forte to find another attorney, if Gene agrees to release a "lis pendens" from Powell's property (Lis pendens according to Black's Law 6th Ed., "Jurisdiction, power, of control which courts acquire over property in litigation pending action and until final judgment."). The rhetorical question begging to be asked is what was O'Farrell's reasoning for pressuring

Forte to release the property? O'Farrell also informs Forte that he did not issue subpoenas as per Forte's request because O'Farrell thought Gene "may be harassing people." Wouldn't a reasonable person consider this behavior to be another prejudgment by the judge? Once Lichtenegger is released as attorney of record Gene proceeds to prosecute the litigation in Propria Persona (Black's Law 6th Ed: "In one's own proper person").

O'Farrell's modus operandi (he wasn't the judge assigned to this hearing of Forte vs. Crabb, Forte vs. Powell in late March 2001) is to stifle Forte's discovery in both cases at every turn. Forte's deposition of the Powell's is limited to 45 minutes each, he is ordered to pay for a Special Master and the cost of a videographer for this deposition because James Cook thought it would be unpleasant for the Powell's and (nota bene) Forte was not an attorney. How do you spell d-i-s-i-n-g-e-n-u-o-u-s and c-o-n-d-e-s-c-e-n-d-i-n-g? Then again Forte is not a member of the exclusive club administering justice. Is this yet another example of O'Farrell's prejudice toward Forte?

In the next episode I will relay to you Judge Robert O'Farrell's continuing persecution of Gene Forte and set the stage for what may be the next coming of Operation Greylord, a FBI sting in the 1980's that uncovered over 92 public officials in judicial corruption. Again, stay tuned. You are encouraged to read some of the transcripts and evidence on Gene Forte's website: www.attorneybusters.com.

You can write R.S. Errol at rserrol@usobserver.com.

Editor's Note: Read part 1 of this continuing saga at usobserver.com.

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Oregon News

The Sheriff Debate Begins

Four Candidates Answer Illinois Valley Concerns

By Ron Lee
US~Observer
Investigative Reporter

Illinois Valley, OR - On March 8, 2005 in the Josephine County building in Cave Junction, Oregon, candidates for county sheriff met with local residents to state their qualifications and answer questions from the audience. The event sponsored by the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce drew a significant crowd who listened intently to each candidate. Those running are Brian Anderson, of Merlin; Donald L. Fasching, of Selma; Gil Gilbertson, of Grants Pass; and William "Spike" Kelly, of Williams.

Of the four men who addressed the public, "Spike" Kelly and Gil Gilbertson won the most applause and the general consensus was that they seemed to be the one's to watch. Several Illinois Valley residents commented that Gilbertson seemed to be the most qualified, but that Kelly won the crowd with his natural demeanor. According to these residents both Fasching and Anderson seemed to lag in appeal as their choice for sheriff. One attendee offered his commentary and stated, "Spike came across as a 'good friend' and Gilbertson as the most experienced and even though Don (Fasching) had a



Sheriff candidates (listed from left to right) Gil Gilbertson, Don Fasching, "Spike" Kelly, and Brian Anderson

great presence, he admitted that he didn't know anything about running a jail. I think that hurt him. And what was the deal with (Brian) Anderson? He looked like his head was going to explode, was stoic, and came across like he didn't want to be here ... he kept looking at his watch."

The four men were asked a myriad of questions by the audience ranging from how they would combat the poor morale

of the deputies to their feelings on a public review board and how they would handle the growing transient population in the local park.

All of the candidates and their positions were fairly consistent with one another with few exceptions. Being one of the main issues of the evening, however, was opinion on a public review board and the members varied in their responses. Both Fasching and

Anderson were not in favor of public review boards while Kelly and Gilbertson were, in varied forms.

The primary to be held May 18th will determine if one candidate is the overall winner and next sheriff, or if there is not a majority vote for one particular candidate, the top two will run off in the general election held this November.

Editor's Note: Next edition; the candidates. ■■■

Oil companies explore Oregon

Energy firms buy rights on BLM land in east end of state

PORTLAND (AP)— The price of oil and gas has gotten high enough to get energy companies prospecting in places they once passed up, such as Oregon.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management offered 224,516 acres in Eastern Oregon for oil and gas exploration at an auction Thursday and sold rights to much of it, bringing in a total of \$3.3 million. That's the largest amount put up for sale in Oregon in many years.

The Oregon Department of State Lands last week received its first application since 1982 to lease state holdings for oil and gas exploration, said assistant director Steve Purchase.

Bob Houston, a geologist at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, said he has fielded calls from landowners in Eastern Oregon who have been approached about leasing their property for its oil and gas potential.

Most of the interest is in eastern Malheur County, near Vale and the Idaho border, and in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

"For Oregon's experience at least, it's a boom," Houston said. "In comparison to other states, maybe not."

Oregon has seen scattered drilling but holds just one developed gas field — the Mist Field in Columbia County, now on the decline. Of the 12 westernmost states, Oregon ranks last for the amount of lands currently producing oil and gas, according to an analysis by the Environmental Working Group.

Oil and gas reserves are often found within rock formations left behind by ancient seas. Such formations in the Northwest are commonly covered by thick layers of hard volcanic rock, said Eric Hoffman, acting section chief for

the BLM's minerals division in Oregon and Washington.

Along with rising prices to spur exploration, new technology now gives geologists a better view beneath the surface, and improved drilling methods make it more economical to punch through the volcanic rock, Hoffman said.

South-central Washington has seen increasing energy exploration in recent years, and that's now spilling over into Oregon, he said.

The BLM has often offered parcels in Oregon for auction that went unsold.

For the auction Thursday, companies expressed interest in 167 parcels ranging in size from less than 50 acres to more than 2,500 acres, with nearly 90 percent in Malheur County and the rest in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

The auction also includes 55,181 acres in Washington.

Of the total of almost 280,000 acres, the BLM auctioned exploration rights to more than 227,000. The minimum bid was \$2 per acre, and the highest bid was \$230, although that was in Washington state, where the energy play has been hotter.

The bids represent a one-year bonus amount. After the first year of a lease, the exploration company pays \$2 per acre for the right to continue drilling. If a company strikes oil or hits gas, it pays a 12.5 percent royalty on the production. Half of the federal revenues are returned to the state.

Many leases include conditions to protect wildlife, such as seasonal restrictions to avoid disturbing big-game winter range.

Bill Marlett of the Oregon Natural Desert Association in Bend said he does not see the leasing as a major concern because Oregon is not known for major energy reservoirs. ■■■

For Immediate Release Josephine Co. Commissioner Candidates Forum:

The Grants Pass chapter of the John Birch Society will be sponsoring a forum with all of the candidates running for Josephine County Commissioner position 1 expected to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for the voters to quiz the candidates and find out where they stand on the tough issues facing our county. The forum will be moderated, and any one in attendance can ask questions. The forum is scheduled to last 2 hours.

The forum will be held on **Tuesday April 4th** , from 6:00PM - 8:00PM at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass. **For more information call Damon Mancuso at 866-2783.**

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JoCo Jail “Cap” Figures That Don’t Add Up

Oregon News

By Gil Gilbertson
Josephine County Sheriff Candidate

Out of 36 counties in Oregon, we are the only one to restrict the number of prisoners incarcerated at a number less than full capacity. We are filling only 120 beds of our 262-bed jail and releasing up to 75 felons each month. The Board of Commissioners, under direction of the Sheriff, proclaimed a ratio of 1 deputy to 5 inmates as an absolute. Using this logic, we could have saved ourselves a lot of money by not building the new jail.

In 2003, a recommendation presented to our “then” county commissioners proposed a limit on the number of inmates incarcerated in our jail. The Board of Commissioners adopted the recommendations made by the Sheriff, agreed upon by the District Attorney, and Legal Counsel in compliance with Oregon law. See Oregon Revised Statute 169.042 thru 046, and JOCO Court ORDER No. 2003-023.

In reviewing the minutes of that meeting, it became apparent the “stated” premise of the ratio of 1 deputy per 5 inmates was based on square footage of jail space in the antiquated jail located in the basement of the county court house. This same formula was applied to our new state-of-the-art jail without consideration of all the safety features included.

How does one determine the number of deputies required to operate our jail? A member of the National Sheriff Association Executive Board recently told me, “There is no magic formula because every jail is different.”

Based on my experience and carefully researching the issue I believe we need to re-examine the logic behind imposing such a limit and the need of our current “emergency release” program. Releasing criminals back into our community is certainly depressing – not to mention putting our citizens’ safety and well-being at risk. What deterrent remains to abate further criminal activity? Unfortunately, recent studies cited by the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office Resource Analysis Unit show that it is evident an increase in crimes closely parallels the early release of inmates.

I cast absolutely no aspersions on the dedicated and professional correction deputies working hard to maintain safety in our community – but rather, identify a problem within the control of our current sheriff administration, and offer additional information for their reconsideration on this issue.

The safety of our inmates and deputies is extremely important. With this in mind, special features were included in the design of our modern jail. Our facility was compartmentalized with smaller rooms (called “pods”)

separating the number of inmates into smaller, more manageable groups. In addition, other security features such as cameras, electronically controlled doors and controlled movement of personnel are utilized.

With proper supervision, protocols, training, rehearsed emergency drills, and better use of available resources, crisis encounters are diminished, if not eliminated. If overcrowding ever becomes problematic within a common room in the facility, one could employ a simple time-sharing schedule.

In my opinion, the preceding conditions should determine the number of positions (posts) required to staff a jail. Further, multiply the number of positions by the shifts – add a standard formula to determine labor relief and you identify the number of personnel needed.

Understandably, the sheriff does not wish to see a reduction in the work force – nor should the residents of this county. The citizens of JOCO should demand more, not less, full-time professional deputies for obvious reasons. However, until we can afford them, there are other temporary resources available, but

seemingly, the current sheriff’s administration refuses to engage them.

Yamhill County (Oregon) is a classic example of what an efficient and professionally managed jail can do. Although this county is 55% smaller in area than Josephine, with a population of approximately 10,000 more citizens, and has a budget comparable to ours, Sheriff Crabtree has two fewer corrections deputies, yet continually fills his older, less efficient 250-bed jail to full capacity. Why can we not do better with our state-of-the-art facility?

I submit the following for review – Commissioners: (1) review the need for having a “cap” using the criteria prescribed by law, (2) since the county is self-insured, determine what impact this may have, if any, on our liability, and (3) require a realistic assessment of the situation, and (4) Adjust accordingly. In addition, the Sheriff’s office should, (1) develop a strategy whereby Josephine County can manage their inmates similar to what the other 35 counties do – emulate the demonstrated successes throughout the state, (2) better utilize available resources, and (3) use prudent judgment relative to early release of

inmates back into our community. I believe we can resolve this “self-imposed” dilemma. Solutions are as plain as day – with proper management this issue can be turned around and our community will be safer for doing so. After all, of the 36 counties in Oregon, why are we the only one that cannot get it right – we certainly are not the only county concerned with “safety, or the only county dealing with reduced available dollars.”

Editor’s Note: Gil Gilbertson may be reached at:
541-955-4697
117NW GSt., Grants Pass
or gil@gilgilbertson.com

Gil Gilbertson (pictured below)



The Anatomy of a Bad Politician

By John Taft
Investigative Reporter

A county commissioner abruptly reversed the direction of his broom and swept a beaten public employee union back into the courthouse. He then applied mouth to mouth resuscitation, breathing the breath of life back into this wobbly union.

Many voters were shocked when Commissioner Dwight Ellis allowed the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to resume business as usual. Ellis purposely blocked a checkmate on the union by Commissioner Jim Raffenburg. Ellis allowed the union back into the courthouse with minor injuries to its demands and none to its strategic local and national political goals. These were discussed in another article titled Unions Are Dangerous to Business and Taxpayers (view at www.usobserver.com). The union had made a strategic mistake in striking, and they knew it, as did Commissioner Jim Raffenburg. The question is, why did Ellis reverse his original position of standing up to the union, then do an about face? Some of the answers to this question are contained in the following statements made by Ellis on a local radio station.

In this article we will take a look at the man Dwight Ellis and find out in his own words what makes him tick and what the taxpayers can expect from him in the future in the way of aiding and abetting new property taxes and his outrageous affair with the county unions.

Radio station KAJO in Grants Pass invites the county commissioners to a monthly hour long talk show with listener call-ins. On January 31st, moderator Carl Wilson along with the three county commissioners Dwight Ellis, Jim Riddle, and Jim Raffenburg discussed the recent AFSCME contract along with other hot political subjects in a revealing show.

The following dialog will show why Ellis is putting the taxpayers at risk financially and why he gave in to the

AFSCME when it could have been taken to the mat.

Here is what one caller had to say in regards to Ellis’ stance on the union issue. During Ellis’ response to the caller he appeared humbled and apologetic as we shall read. But more likely this was a phony response and put out for PR purposes.

“I Appreciate Her Comments”

Caller, “How can we believe you any more about even the O & C crisis? (O&C funds have been paid to timber counties by the Feds in lieu of timber sale receipts and are being rapidly reduced and withdrawn) Your actions betray ... your commitment to fiscal responsibility. You have voted to increase the debt of us the taxpayers ... have absolutely ruined it for us the taxpayers.”

Ellis’ response to her was, “I just want to say that I appreciate her comments and if I have let her and any other voters out there down I apologize for that. I’m doing the best job that I know how to do to try to keep this county together. To try to save this county from falling apart and in my mind going to bankruptcy ... If you feel that I have let you down I apologize for that.”

Ellis Refuses to Acknowledge US~Observer Reporter’s Calls

Ellis has chosen to ignore three messages this reporter has left on his courthouse voice mail. These messages were in regards to the union contract Ellis signed. An editor with newswithviews.com recently asked Ellis why he didn’t return these calls. Ellis reportedly replied that he didn’t like the comments made. I can assure the reader that the comments were straightforward and critical of Ellis’ giveaway of public funds and concessions to the AFSCME. Comparing Ellis’ comment of appreciating the KAJO caller and then telling the newswithviews.com editor he didn’t like the comments this reporter left on his voice mail makes a strong statement that Ellis’ comment on the

radio was quite disingenuous. After all, Ellis did run on the platform of, “Maintains open door for all citizens,” in a campaign brochure. That is unless the citizen fails to stroke Ellis’ ego. It seems that Ellis does have a pride problem and woe to those who injure this delicate appendage.

Ellis Fearful Strike Could Explode into Violence

During his radio interview Ellis cites some reasons why he agreed to the AFSCME contract.

Comm. Ellis, “I want to tell you that there were several factors that came into play on that fourth day of that strike. The longer the strike went the more it had a chance to explode into something that I didn’t want to see happen. And so in my mind after praying a lot and stuff (what stuff?), I was asking myself, we can hold this a lot longer but at what cost? When the people do come back to work what cost is it going to be in the work place? How are they going to feel about coming back to work, you know, for a county they feel has betrayed them, basically, you know, and all these factors came

Continued on page 15



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COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out

Christianity in Crisis

By Carl Pierce

Is America drowning in a cesspool of immorality promoted by the socialist one world planners whose goal is to create a secular humanistic society that is anti-Christ, without any moral absolutes? The answer is yes, and sadly they are succeeding, because the churches in America in large part have been silenced.

The founding fathers of America were not Christians in word only, many of them gave their lives, fortunes and sacred homes to prove their dedication to what they believed.

Strong courageous leadership in the churches of early America was the spark that ignited the fires of courage among the people to fight against the tyranny of England, and create the most free, prosperous and blessed nation on earth. To say you are a Christian means you believe in the truth, values and principals revealed in the Holy Bible. To refuse to proclaim and defend those truths and values is either a complete lack of understanding of true Christianity or a counterfeit worthless faith devoid of any works.

In today's America the fires of moral conviction and family values are slowly being extinguished by the anti-God secular humanist agenda, while most churches are silent. In order to receive tax exempt status a church must agree to obey the rules of a 501 C-3 tax code. A 501 C-3 church can not actively participate in political activities or they will lose their tax exempt status. This is the reason there is a deafening silence coming from most of the churches that refuse to speak out or participate in opposing the many immoral and ungodly practices that are slowly destroying the American way of life.

It has been said that an organization or group of people seldom rise above the

level of their leadership. America achieved greatness because America had great Christian leaders who would not compromise their beliefs and were unafraid to confront the evils of their day. In January or February of 2005, a man opened a strip club in the rural community of Sunny Valley, Oregon. At that time a group of concerned citizens formed a coalition to picket the business called Club 71. After many months of picketing the frustrated club owner filed a lawsuit against the picketers. Ed Snook from the US~Observer agreed to try to settle the issue. The county charter was not able to prohibit the clubs activities because of first amendment rights of freedom of expression, a free speech issue. Many people including Snook have spent countless hours, determined to stop the existence of smut in Sunny Valley. The fruit of everyone's efforts are beginning to pay dividends as the pressure mounts on Richard Larry Lacey's strip joint.

Sometime after this the American Family Association (A.F.A.) offered their services pro bono and successfully defended the Sunny Valley citizens First Amendment rights to picket Club 71. Another law suit was filed against the picketers by a friend of the club owner and will be defended by the A.F.A. in the near future.

In the beginning, when the Sunny Valley citizens organized to oppose Club 71, Jerry Franklin contacted many churches in the surrounding areas and asked them if they would sign a simple certificate of support for good community values. Others in the group also called churches to try to get support in opposing Club 71. None of the churches that were asked to please return the call ever did so. Those that were spoken to had many different answers as to why they could not be involved. "The pastor isn't in," "we

"Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare but only those specifically enumerated. ... A wise and frugal government...shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned." --Thomas Jefferson

don't want to get involved, we will pray about it," etc., etc., were some of the lame excuses. My favorite was, "God has not spoken to me about it, but if He does I will help you!" Why not just be honest about it and say I don't care and am not interested, get lost!

Some of the faithful picketers of Club 71 are not professing Christians but they had the courage of their convictions in the values of America to stand strong several nights a week for many months, rain or shine to support their neighbors and friends.

On the other hand, not one church has ever contacted our group to offer moral and/or financial help. Many non-Christians have a poor opinion of Christianity. I wonder why?

Without the wonderful assistance of two great lawyers from A.M.A. a Christian Legal foundation who came all the way from Mississippi, pro bono, the faithful citizens of Sunny Valley would have had to stand alone to defend themselves in the costly lawsuits.

The most serious issues that confront America are moral. The Christian church is supposed to be the foundation and voice of morality in America. If that voice is silenced America will destroy itself in a cesspool of immorality, crime and wickedness and join all the great world empires that promoted perversion and immorality. Edmond Burke stated; All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights grew out of a markedly Christian, Protestant early America. This was a spiritual, cultural, ethical, social, educational, legal and political environment. This was obviously the product of the faith, knowledge and understanding of the word of God in every facet of its teachings relating to mans obligations and relationship with mankind and God. If the foundation that America is built upon is destroyed, America will implode and fall like a house of cards. "If the foundation be destroyed, what can the

righteous do" (Psalms 11:3)?

Jesus called His people sheep and sheep need a shepherd to protect, feed and nurture them. Jesus said: I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep (John 10:11-13). All pastors and church leaders are under the authority and mandates of the great shepherd Jesus Christ to feed, keep and protect His sheep. If the church leaders of America refuse to take a bold stand and speak out against the evils of our day because they are afraid of losing their tax exempt status, then they are obeying the government in preference to Jesus Christ.

The Supreme Court has ruled that live sex shows are constitutional but the display of the Ten Commandments is illegal because the youth might tend to believe them, in violation of the non-existent, yet fully enforced separation of church and state position. For those who would use Romans chapter 13 as an excuse that we are to always obey the government, that is what the Nazi's all said at the Nuremburg trials; I was just obeying orders. Our founding fathers were Christians and they disobeyed their government and King because it was tyrannical and unjust. Their cry was no King but Jesus and disobedience to tyrants is obedience to God. Civil disobedience against unjust and unlawful acts by public servants is the duty of all free Americans, especially those who name the name of Christ.

For anyone who may be offended by the preceding observation, my answer is the following. Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? May the god of Mammon in many Christian churches be replaced with the backbone of a true servant of Christ. ■■

How Stupid is This President?



By Frosty Wooldridge
NewsWithViews.com

Recently, Congress and President Bush invited 7,000 Russian Muslim immigrants, without inspection of any

kind, into our country with a lifetime promise of unlimited welfare. Was this a hoax? Was this a madcap moment? Who got high on paint fumes wafting through the halls of Congress? Why didn't

someone protest adding 7,000 members of a religious sect that bomb their way into the 21st century and whose Koran espouses death to all Christians and Jews?

As Brigitte Gabriel, author of "March Against the West" said, "If you want to understand the nature of the enemy we face, visualize a tapestry of snakes. They slither and they hiss, and they would eat each other alive, but they will unite in a hideous mass to achieve their common goal of imposing Islam on the world. This is the ugly face of the enemy we are fighting." With that reality facing our country, George Bush injects us with 7,000 more Muslims. Isn't Detroit, Michigan's turning into an Islamic city within our borders scary enough? Those people do weird things like female genital mutilation, stone their women, make women wear total body covers and implement 'honor killings'.

The harsh and glaring reality of the insanity of Islam manifested itself last month when millions rioted over

cartoons. Those riots show that Muslims and Sharia Law remain incompatible with free speech and democracy. Mohammed was an illiterate thug who beheaded his enemies and 1,400 years later, his followers repeat his deeds. It manifested itself on March 3rd as an American Muslim drove his car, with intent to kill, into nine Americans at a North Carolina college—to avenge Muslims around the world. It shows you how whacked out this religion and its followers are! But of course, Muhammad would be proud! He trained them via the Koran to be like him.

Bush not only invited 7,000 Muslims, he backed signing over 22 ports to United Arab Emirates. These people fund the deadly terrorist group Hamas which is bent on killing every Jew in the world. The UAE served up two of the 9/11 terrorists that killed 3,000 Americans. UAE launders terror-

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More COMMENTARY

Verbal Assassination
My Grandfather
1914 - 2006

By Ron Lee
The Verbal Assassin

Bill Lee, my grandfather, was a great man. To have known him has been an honor which transcends the bond of blood relation and he will be missed.

Over the years I grew to see a strength of character in him unrivaled by most men of my era who run from their responsibilities and/or engage in life as if it were a material possession game.

Some might call him a "simple" man, but there was nothing simple about his life. Every day he worked as hard, if not harder than the day before. He rose to meet the challenge of providing for his family through toiling in the desert farming community of Fallon, Nevada. Balancing work on the family ranch with other jobs, he and his wife raised their five sons instilling in them the same quality of character and virtue with which he lived by - that anything worth having needs to be worked for, with all of your effort, and with an unwavering commitment to doing what is right. Because of this my uncles and father are all great men who, I am sure, my grandfather took much pride in.

While he rarely wore his emotions on his sleeve you could just tell that his family meant the world to him. Oftentimes it's the things that are not said that are the most powerfully profound.

While many misunderstand men whose emotional support comes in the form of intensive labor, his wife of 68 years, Josephine, knows, too, the labors of family and life, and is the epitome of the old adage, "behind every great man, is a great woman."

Her smile, loving way, strength and her own hard work lit up my grandfather's life (as well as everyone she meets) and I am sure she was the sparkle in my grandfather's eyes.

My grandfather was a man whose "simple" life should be a lesson to us all, for it's not the things you attain in life, but how you live it and ultimately how you will be remembered.

I, for one, will remember him as the great man that he was.

Nevada Pioneer Award
Recipient Passes Away

By Margaret Lee

William Alfred Lee, born in 1914 in Fallon, Nevada, died March 10, 2006 almost reaching the age of 92. He had been married to Josephine Blanchard



Bill Lee

Lee for 68 years. During Churchill County's Millennium Moments Celebration, Bill received the Fallon Pioneer Award as the Continuous Oldest County Resident. Jo remains on the family farm where they lived for 62 years, since 1944.

Bill leaves behind five sons, 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Sons Delvan, Rich and Snick Lee live in Fallon, NV, Bob Lee in Troy, MT, and Ron Lee in Reno, NV.

Bill's life spanned an interesting period in history. He saw the evolution of the automobile and the airplane. At 14 he was pitching hay behind a team of horses and doing ranch work. At 38 he bought his first tractor, a 1952 Case model VAC.

Growing up in the 20's was difficult and education was a challenge living way out of town near the small community of Fallon. He had to wait to start high school until he was 16 and old enough to drive the school bus, because he needed a job and a way to get to school. A highlight of his school years was attending the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention in Kansas City as a Star State Farmer where he was given the American Farmer award. It was the first time he saw a skyscraper. He said he could have gotten the roof of his mouth sunburned because he went around looking up with his mouth open. He was 21 when he graduated.

As a high school graduate and hard

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ADD: Absent Dad Disorder

Coach Dave Daubenmire
NewsWithViews.com

American public education is always looking for an excuse.

The NEA says schools are failing because of money. Some pundits say they are failing because of student/teacher ratios. Others say it is the influx of immigrants, or (ahem) discrimination.

One of the latest scapegoats is the rise of ADD. For those who may not be aware, Attention Deficit Disorder is the latest "learning disability" to swamp America's school children, having been "discovered" in the latter part of the 20th century. Some "experts" estimate that as many as 20% of fifth grade white boys are receiving some type of "medication" (drug) for the disorder. While the jury is out on the impact that it is having on American young boys' ability to learn, I believe that this disability, real or imagined, is more environmental than biological.

We could save a lot of time and money if we would merely acknowledge the real cause of what was once called "hyper-activity."

ADD can best be defined as Absent Dad Disorder.

Our public schools are a mess. We don't want to admit it, because of the consequences of such an admission. For a generation we have been told that the education system would show improvement if only we would pour in more money. President Bush's answer has been the federal over-reach of No Dollar Left Behind. It sort of reminds me of what a friend told me about his fishing boat. It is great when it works, but most times it is just a hole in the water into which he pours his money. Sound familiar?

Can the schools be fixed? I don't even want to dive into that debate, but I can tell you that the present system, with Humanism as its god, moral relativism as its foundation, and tolerance as its goal, has doomed America unless some drastic changes are made. If you don't mind my bias, after 28 years of working within the system, I think there is one glaring weakness that needs to be pointed out.

America is in dire need of men.

I walked away from education 5 years ago after a 2-year battle with the ACLU, but I still substitute teach now and then. It is a great way to stay informed on what the enemy is doing. Because I am no longer dependant on the system for a livelihood, my perspective has changed. I visit different schools, different classes, and different kids. Without exception, I have yet to see a school that wouldn't benefit from a fresh influx of

testosterone. Women, for the most part, operate on emotions. They believe in fairness, being nice, and genuinely ache when they see a young child's feelings hurt. It is the way they are made.

Men hurt too, but are more analytical. They realize that a little bit of pain is a good thing, that life isn't always fair, and that sometimes a kid deserves to be smacked in the mouth. Women worry their sons may be bullied. Men worry their sons might become wimps.

"You wait until your Father gets home." Why was it that my mom knew I would react differently to my father, but today's PC sociologists don't? The problem is, some fathers never come home.

I can only imagine how living without a daddy would have made me behave when I was six. I assure you, Ritalin would have been named after me! America's kids need Dad, not doped.

Recently I spent a day as a sub in K-2 physical education class. I didn't get much done because I spent most of the time peeling kids off of my legs. Man-starved little urchins swamped over me, hugging my legs, pulling on my arms, aching for the missing man-in-their-life. Like a nicotine addict on a smoke break, they sucked the maleness right out of me.

"Yipee!" squealed one little 6-year old girl as she entered the gym, "a boy teacher."

We are a nation of broken families. Family trees now resemble a shrub. Over half of our children no longer live with Dad. Some studies show that nearly 7 out of 10 black children are born into a home without a father.

Boys are confused. A national epidemic of single family homes has deprived America's children of a solid, consistent, male role model. Some turn to gangs, some to drugs, some turn to homosexuality.

Girls are abused. Promiscuity continues to skyrocket among the Britney Spears generation as the young prosti-tots display their wares. Navels in school are now more common than navel oranges in Florida. The daily headlines reveal the latest sex-capades at the hands of public school teachers, the fruit of young girls striving to find that male connection.

Women dominate the lives of our young kids. Even in homes where there is a dad, he is usually so consumed with "earning a living," that he neglects the home fires. Raising kids is women's work. Real men earn money.

So how do we respond to America's dearth of dads?

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**Message from Executive
Director Kevin Starrett**

OFF has one overriding principle, the belief that citizens of Oregon and the United States have the right to own and carry the firearm of their choice for any reason other than to commit a crime.

To that end we have worked to ensure that the rights of gun owners are not compromised by elected officials, anti-gun activists or those who masquerade as gun-rights supporters while they work behind the scenes to erode your liberties.

We oppose any attempt to chip away at your God-given, Constitutionally-guaranteed right to defend yourself and your family.

It is our sincere belief that **any** compromise on these rights will only lead to more attacks on liberty in the future. We believe in personal accountability and responsible gun ownership and we believe those goals are achieved by individuals, not by bureaucratic mandates.

Furthermore we believe that change is effected by grassroots activists and the pressure they can put on elected officials, not by back room deals cut by lobbyists who have no real interest in the issue, only their next paycheck.

As a result of our positions we have angered many politicians who would like people to believe that they support gun rights even when they vote against them, but we are far more concerned with votes than popularity.

As a result of the actions of OFF supporters we have demonstrated that grassroots activism works. "Willamette Week", Portland's "alternative" newspaper said *"...the members of OFF are reputed to be particularly venomous and intimidating. When Starrett told his members that state Senator Veral Tarno was wavering on the original gun show bill, the senator received messages so vile and vicious that he blew up at Starrett during a committee hearing. Ultimately however Tarno voted AGAINST THE BILL....."*

Vile? Vicious? I doubt it, but there is no question that OFF supporters are committed and passionate. It is that passion and commitment that we rely on to alter the course of legislation in this state.

If you would like to be a part of Oregon's only no compromise gun lobby, we welcome you.

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**Continued from page 1
Gold Hill Recall ...**

Muchow to not only intimidate this fine officer, but to make him look bad to the public as well. They have failed miserably to find one credible issue where Muchow isn't above reproach.

Recently, Gus Wolf was forced to admit in a public forum that he had commissioned City Recorder Mary Goddard to contact police union rep. Wayne Botta to inquire what the payoff would be to fire both Sgt Hobart and Chief Muchow and disband the police department, only to reform it 30 days later with officer Hanson as head officer. Wolf sat red-faced as he was trapped into admitting to his back-room dealings and Goddard was stunned, unable to speak, when asked if this had occurred.

Wolf, Silva and Fish have utilized very well the services of Medford Mail Tribune political activist and lap-dog reporter Sanne Specht, who has been "stalking" Muchow, using the Tribune in her (and others) attempt to demonize him. However, her lies and those of the three rogue councilors have totally backfired on them. Numerous people have commented both in private and publicly that you can't believe anything Specht reports on (which is a fact) and those same people have commented that they are "sick and tired of the three councilors constantly stirring the pot, especially Gus Wolf." The Observer's position on Specht is that she has worked closely with the squabbling councilors and even closer with Mary Goddard. Specht has factually lied in her articles regarding Chief Muchow and

therefore, as our complainant's observe, she should not be believed or trusted.

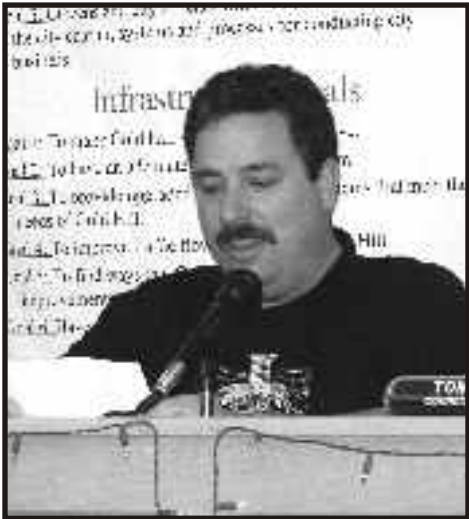
The following information on each of the main players in Gold Hill should be taken to heart as it was compiled only after months of investigations.



Mayor Sherry Young – We find Mayor Young to be a devoted and studious Mayor. Young has attempted on numerous occasions to bring the city council together, but has run into a brick wall, comprised of (3) bad councilors. Young even went so far as to obtain an attorney from the League of Oregon Cities to advise the council about proper public meetings and ethics, but Wolf, Silva and Fish tended to ignore the facts. Young should be considered an asset to the city and void of those who envy her position and therefore constantly cause turmoil; she will just get better with time.

Councilor Donna Silva (pictured front page) – We have tagged Silva as a

bad councilor who is constantly performing her "dirty work" behind the scenes in Gold Hill. We have been informed from more than one source that Silva worked closely with Christine Alford, a past city councilor who was successfully recalled, to oust former Chief of Police Rod Countryman. Countryman reportedly got fed up with wrongful attacks and resigned in February of 2004. Silva has stated that she only supports a police department because the citizens of Gold Hill do. She added during a council meeting that she personally does not support a local police department. True double-talk! Silva is oh, so deserving of being recalled.



Councilor Mike Hicks – Hicks is a smart and innovative councilor, who is obviously and visibly (at city council meetings) taken back with all the unwarranted controversy. Mike is slow to act and seems to insist on being very

thorough before making any decision. Hicks will "go to the source" to get the real information and did so with respect to the police budget, which resulted in opening his eyes to the fact that there was no wrongdoing. Mike is without question an asset to the City of Gold Hill. Our only constructive criticism of Hicks is that he needs to "put his foot down" when faced with the constant deluge of hatred and division promoted by those being recalled...



Councilor Kathleen Price – During our investigation of the Gold Hill City Council Ms. Price has quickly evolved into a strong, competent and dedicated council woman. Price was recently appointed "police liaison" by Mayor Young and she wasted no time learning rules and calling rogue councilors to accountability. When confronted with lies and flowery, empty statements, she not only realizes them for what they are,

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California State Misfeasance ...

“Lawful,” because the CSL controls this area of law for the State of California and “wrongful” in that the CSL, for reasons unknown at this time, has placed certain individuals above their law.

The case at hand evolved due to the fact that the CSL has failed for over 20 years to protect California’s sovereign lands and to collect the public’s money

installing additional docks all without the authority given by or compensation to the Commission on behalf of the State. Please remove your boat from the premises until the Commission has approved a lease to you of the premises. Consequently, you are directed to stop living aboard your boat or to move it to another location where residential use is permitted or there is no State ownership interest. Lastly, it is our understanding

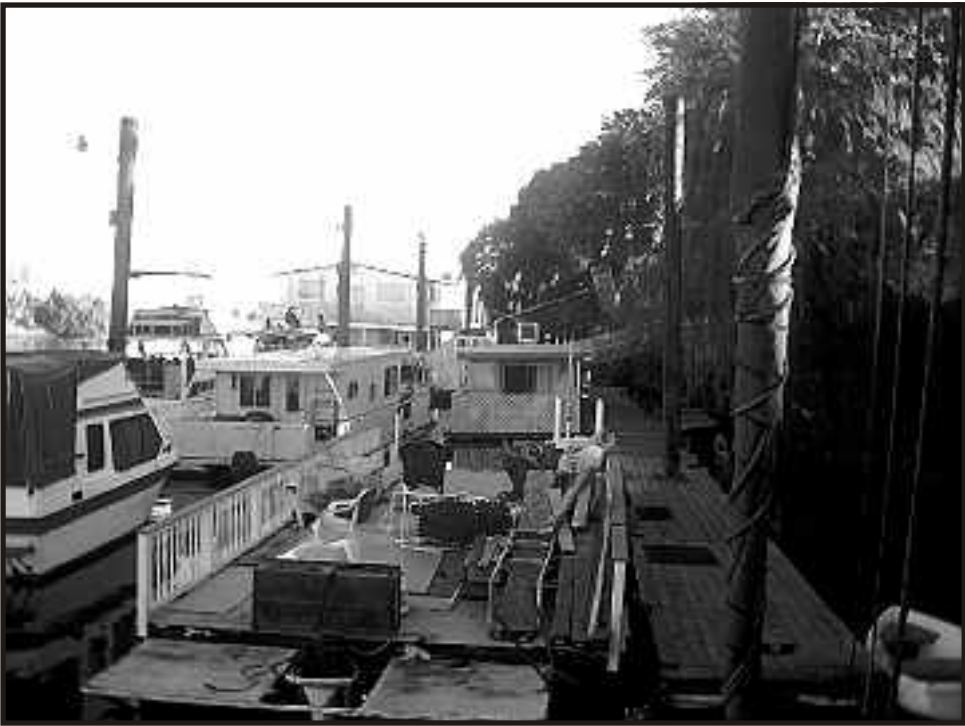


Courtland Docks and Marina, Sacramento, California

from the operation of the Courtland Docks and Marina in Sacramento County – right in Governor Schwarzenegger’s back yard. No wonder the state is in dire financial straights.

On August 3, 2005 Michael Vaentine, Chief of the Land Management Division of the California State Lands Commission sent the following letter (in part) to Shawn Berrigan and Diane House who are the current owners of the

that you are renting out some of these docks to third parties. Such businesses may only be conducted on State lands after the State has entered into a lease with the business owner. In this instance there is no lease between you and the Commission and the Commission has not authorized you to conduct marina activities on its lands. In short, you are in occupancy of State property without authority and without payment of any rent to the State and you are charging



Another View of Courtland Docks and Marina

Courtland Docks and Marina: “In addition it appears that you are engaging in activities that have not been authorized by the State Lands Commission. First, you have occupied State sovereign lands adjacent to your property in Courtland by occupying docks previously placed there and by

third parties for the use of State property. Therefore, you are directed to stop engaging in such an activity immediately.” According to the CSL Berrigan/House have been violating the law, so why hasn’t the CSL taken any action against them over the past year

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Beware the Black Widow ...

could not explain why she was making less money than when she was working 3 ½ days a week. Based on her claims, she was making less than \$10 per hour. Based on her lies, she is currently receiving \$400.00 per-month alimony.

She is now reportedly trying to get ½ the value of his house and ½ of his retirement. In this marriage Judith insisted that her newest victim sign a prenuptial agreement. We are told that her father is elderly and wealthy and she didn’t want her current husband to be able to obtain any of the father’s assets in case her father died. Well, father is still alive as this divorce is in its final stages, a ruling has been made that the prenuptial agreement was invalid (due to time restraints), so what would a bad person do? Obviously go after any assets within sight, even though the marriage (31/2 years) was absolutely a “short term marriage” under Oregon law. In a short term marriage both people are to leave the marriage with the assets they brought into the marriage, which would mean that any attempt by Judith or her attorney to pull off this deceptive move should fall under Oregon’s “frivolous lawsuit” statutes.

The house was his before the marriage. He offered to let her put some money into the house to change the registration, she refused and said what money she had was hers alone which she planned to set aside “in case the marriage did not work” so she would have money for a down payment on a home. She lived in the home for less than three years without paying anything to live there.

She spends or “rat-holes” all the

money she makes. She gets ahead in life by taking advantage of men and taking as much as she can from them. Although it is a fact that Oregon is a “no fault divorce state,” no fault does not give anyone the license to commit fraud.

Webster defines fraud as: Intentional deception to cause a person to give up something of value or to surrender a legal right. A person who deceives or is not what they pretend to be.

Judith Johnson has obviously committed fraud against these men by intentionally deceiving them in order to “take property” from them. She has also committed fraud against the courts in order to “take property” in the form of support.

Her first husband is willing to testify as to her pattern of behavior. Her second husband is willing to testify as well. Several others have volunteered to testify and possibly close family members will lend damning testimony should the need arise.

This obvious “Two Legged Black Widow” should not be allowed to continue ruining the lives of decent hard working men who have been naïve enough to fall into her web. She should change her ways, apologize and start being the “Christian” lady she portrays, part of the time.

Anyone with further information on Judith Johnson should contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885. Stay tuned; if Judith continues her pattern of deceit and abuse, and/or she tries to refute these facts, we will have plenty more to write about, and much more at our disposal to disclose...

■ ■ ■

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Continued from page 1
ODFW and US F&WS Dupe ...

Plan cannot help but wonder how ODFW came up with their “magic” number of 3,000 mountain lions being the perfect number for the State of Oregon. You don’t need to be a biologist or a rocket scientist to see that not only do the 2,101 surplus mountain lions in Oregon kill wildlife, so do the remaining 3,000 mountain lions the ODFW wants to protect. They need about 3,000 lions in order to justify all their jobs and future studies... simply said. Of course a few more billions bled out of the sportsmen and taxpayers would sure be appreciated by these mountain lion magicians. Do these ODFW biologists think that the protected 3,000 lions eat less red meat every day than the 2,101 they plan to kill? There is no sane biological reason to protect 3,000 lions when they have the ability to “kill” (not necessarily eat) 250,000 deer and/or elk a year in Oregon. I draw attention to the other articles in this newspaper to support what I’m getting at. Three thousand lions are an arbitrary number to appease the anti’s and attempt to quiet the hunter sportsmen with the ODFW making themselves referees using P.R. sportsmen funds to do it. ODFW’s moral high ground propaganda approach to the public is rapidly becoming their swamp as America becomes educated to their 50 year mountain lion mismanagement ruse.

2. and 3. Biologists have a word for areas that are off limits to all hunting including state and federal lion hunters. They call these areas reservoirs but I refer to them as sensitive protected areas. They can also include wilderness areas so vast that it’s impossible for the hunter to penetrate them on foot. Take out any recent Road Atlas and examine how many thousands of square miles of land Oregon and the western states have set aside with no hunting protected areas. These include military lands, National Parks & Monuments, Indian reservations, Wildlife refuges and of course Wilderness areas. What the state and federal biologists don’t want you to know is that these areas are no hunting sanctuaries for mountain lions which will forever remain untouchable by man. Nevada alone has in excess of 8,000 square miles of these protected areas; Utah is close behind and Oregon’s doing their damndest to catch up. Even as biologists have learned where that unseen line is drawn between the anti’s and hunters and exploit it to the maximum for their monetary survival, so does the mountain lion quickly learn the unseen line that makes up the border of these sensitive protected areas for their survival. Yes... it is physically impossible to annihilate mountain lions from any state just because of these vast areas, even if an all out effort was

attempted to exterminate them. The key word here is impossible. The ODFW does not want you to know that mountain lions can cover over 20 miles as easily as you can on a Saturday jog. Woe betides the cattlemen or wildlife that live anywhere within 20 miles of these protected areas when these lions come out at night to feed and learn how to return back before day light. Concerning lions that have been tagged - ODFW and US F&WS do not want you to know mountain lions can travel 700 miles from the place where they were first tagged. Though this is a record I can prove by witness, the lions range is easily 200 miles in a very short time if the “need” arises. Extermination of this carnivorous cat is virtually impossible. The US has at its disposal the most sophisticated equipment in the world and yet cannot capture Osama Bin Ladin. How are lowly biologists or hunters in Oregon going to kill 2,101 mountain lions when they aren’t allowed on these protected lands and face insurmountable Oregon weather and terrain? The fact is... they can’t. They have a problem and won’t admit “they” have caused it and can’t control it. Biologists won’t admit they can’t kill lions as fast as they breed and reproduce due to this lion population explosion they have allowed to occur. They want you to believe other wise.

4. and 5. The ODFW and US F&WS don’t want you to know that mountain lion litters favor females to toms by 2 to 1. Oregon biologist’s documented this in their own management plan on page 26 with “14 toms / 24 females” and contradict themselves on page 5 by saying “sex ratio of cubs at birth is normally equal.” Nevada Jim Ornellas, a world class houndsman and mountain lion specialist in his own right has verified this positive sex ratio of more females than toms by dissecting hundreds of dead, pregnant females over his 60 year career in Nevada. Here comes the biologist of today to convince the world that the female needs “special” protection when nature has already stacked the deck in the lions favor. The biologists deserve the title of wildlife eco-terrorists. Now do you see where I’m coming from? There is no biological reason to protect the female. The ODFW and US F&WS propaganda is designed to stir up the emotions of the uneducated masses against the hunter sportsmen and to give these agencies leverage against both groups to better their positions. When all else fails you can count on ODFW to bring out their trump cards in the news media—don’t kill the females—call their young “kittens” and not the proper name cubs - scare the hell out of the public with extermination of mountain lions by over exploitation - throw their snare of “habitat destruction” over the

COUGAR CONTROVERSY



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Delusion

Oregon is bordered by Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California and the Pacific Ocean. Because cougars know no borders, it’s a fact that ODFW will be killing many more lions than 2,101 (stated in their plan) in Oregon.

They will not accomplish it in one year when these cougars start washing into Oregon from these other states. The only absolute in this equation is ... They won’t wash in from the Pacific.

This makes it a Western States problem Oregon! Your lions are our lions ... Our lions are your lions.

What a Sweetheart deal, ODFW has created job security for years to come. Do you see it?

Paid for by contributions from Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California and Oregon hunters.

unsuspecting public. And here’s one for the road, lions were nearly extinct in 1961. Can the public trust the ODFW anymore?

6. Anyone who would truly like to see a remarkable mountain lion success story needs to look at Texas and not Oregon as an example of basic “cougar management 101” to see how it’s done. This will never happen by Oregon biologists because Oregon is 53% federally owned whereas Texas is 98% privately owned land. There are few feds in Texas...get it? The feds hold the money bag. Where there is no federal influence there is no problem. Isn’t that the way it should be in Oregon sportsmen? Having watched the senseless sacrificial predatory destruction and decline of our precious game animals most of my life as a hunter sportsman I offer this suggestion to bring it to an end. I call the hunter sportsmen of the western states to consider bringing a massive class action law suit against all the western states fish and game agencies (except Texas)

and to list the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a defendant. I suggest the sportsmen of this nation move to take all game animals and their natural predators away from the US F&WS and all the animals that are left over can be managed by the feds to do whatever they----well please. The state fish and game agencies will be restructured to facilitate conservationist hunter sportsmen, game animals and the Pittman Robertson act of 1937 as it was originally intended. This is not wishful thinking...but rather basic cougar management 101. This is a must if we are to keep our hunting heritage and our guns. Let’s send them a message - we either care or we don’t, if we do then let’s join hands and get started.

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Oregon’s Mountain Lion Danger

ODFW; It is time for you to act, but you won’t...

Lawsuit is on its way

By Cecil Fredi
US~Observer Exclusive

If you have cancer, taking an aspirin is not the cure. But this is how Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would attempt to cure the mountain lion problem. This is why I make that statement. ODFW finally realizes they have too many mountain lions in the state. The big controversy is over who should pay the feds to remove some of them, sportsmen or the taxpayers. ODFW thinks removing 40 percent of the estimated number of lions is going to be the cure for their lion problem.

ODFW is not even close to solving this problem

A decision on this controversy is scheduled in Salem, Oregon on April 13. Oregon, like most western states, has a serious predator problem. The real problem is that those in charge will never admit there is a problem and thus there is no need for a cure. This is a serious dilemma that all western states are facing. The question is, how did these states get into such a mess?

To answer that question, one must realize that the Golden Rule applies here. He who has the gold makes the rules. Most state fish and wildlife departments get pretty close to their entire budgets from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and tags. Federal taxes on guns, ammunition, etc. allow the government to return money to the states’ fish and wildlife agencies. This money is usually returned at a 3 to 1 ratio by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF & WS). It is the USF & WS who has the gold or in this case, the dollars to distribute to the states’ fish and wildlife agencies. This money assures that they make the rules.

In the early 1960’s, USF & WS decided to discontinue the bounty system on mountain lions. It was at that time that the feds put the pressure on the western states using the lie that it would

produce more revenue to the fish and game agencies by making the lion a (falsely classified) big game animal. What state fish and wildlife agencies failed to realize is that the miniscule amount of money made on the sale of lion tags will be lost tenfold by the decline in deer, sheep and elk numbers. Another giant lie was stated on May 26, 1965 by director Frank Groves at the Nevada Fish and Game Commission meeting, “Placing the cougar on the big game list was done to afford some control and protection over the animal which is included as one of the U.S.’s endangered species.”

What a whopper!

It takes years of studies and a massive amount of proof to place an animal on the Federal Endangered Species list. Where are all those years of documentation? I’m saying that they don’t exist and it is impossible to make the mountain lion endangered. Here is why. There are many hundreds of thousands of protected acres like national parks, military installations, private property and other lands where hunting is not allowed. This provides numerous sanctuaries for the mountain lions. Want more proof that you cannot make the lion extinct? Texas refused to make the lion a big game animal keeping it as predator status. In other words, you see it, you can shoot it. Texas still has an abundance of mountain lions. Oh, by the way, mountain lions do not recognize state borders so Oregon lions can go to California where they are totally protected.

ODFW, like most western states, needs to get back to basic game management 101. Start off by asking the obvious: what is hunting? The answer: hunting is the humane way to harvest surplus game birds and animals. If there were no surplus, do we need hunters or hunting? The answer is no. How do you insure that there is no surplus? Why just protect predators and let them remove the surplus. Wake up ODFW; it is the sportsmen who fund your agency with dollars, not the anti’s with their emotions. California was the first state

to completely protect a non-endangered big game animal from any type of hunting. Was it a deer, sheep or elk? No, it was the predatory mountain lion. The only thing increasing mountain lion numbers did, other than destroy deer, sheep and elk and create financial havoc for fish and game agencies, was to give biologists solid employment and insure their retirement for years. The biologists can study the lions for decades, assuring years of job security.

The ODFW Cougar Management Plan makes the following statement, “Cougars are an Oregon success story. After being nearly eliminated by the mid-1960s, today they have a healthy

somebody just spent \$1,680,000 at the very least. Of course, there will be two groups not happy: the anti’s will be one group and it will either be the sportsmen or taxpayers who will fund this fiasco and they will be the other unhappy ones. Now at last the problem is solved. But is it really?

Quite often when a tom cat meets a female cat in the hills, the end result is a litter of cubs. So the cycle of increasing mountain lion numbers continues. At the very best, what ODFW is proposing is only temporary. Mountain lions can have litters at any time of the year and for some unknown reason, more cubs born are females than males by a two to one ratio.

When is ODFW going to wake up? In 1986, there were 36 complaints



population. The current cougar population in Oregon is estimated to be “5,100.” Let’s study this ridiculous statement. What the hell do you call success? If you call reducing deer, sheep and elk numbers which produce millions in revenue to increase mountain lion numbers which produce almost no revenue a success, then keep patting yourself on the back. Where is the proof that they were nearly eliminated in the mid-1960s? For the most part, it takes a lion hunter with dogs to capture or kill a lion. Oregon would have had to be overrun with houndsmen to accomplish this feat. Your estimate is 5,100. I realize the key word here is “estimate,” but if someone were to say that there were 10,000 lions in your state, how would you prove or disprove it? The fact is that because of the nature of the lion, you don’t know their numbers.

ODFW wants to reduce the mountain lion population from 5,100 to 3,000 or kill 2,100 lions. This will be accomplished using hounds and snares. I have conferred with numerous houndsmen who say that in Oregon if a houndsman averaged taking one lion a week, it would be extremely good. The rain on the western coast would make that a very difficult feat. But let’s assume that it can be done.

Now it is time to put a pencil to this project. Removing 2,100 lions divided by 52 (weeks in a year) means 42 houndsmen would be required to complete this task. What will it cost per houndsman? Let’s put a \$40,000 per year fee on their services. They have to feed many dogs year round and procure vehicles, expend fuel, etc. Hooray,

concerning mountain lions in Oregon. In 2003, there were 697. This should be a warning, but it won’t be because it will fall on deaf ears. At some point, there will be some children killed by mountain lions. How many will it be before the agency reacts? Why must any child ever die because of ODFW’s failure to act? Whatever that number becomes, should ODFW be facing a class action lawsuit for failing to protect humans? ODFW needs to do the right thing. First, get a copy of the Mountain Lion Workshop, January 13 and 14, 1976. Upon reading it thoroughly, you will see how the western states were duped by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Mountain lions are not endangered nor will they ever be. Then put them back on the predator list where they belong, allowing for the use of private trackers and their hounds to hunt them. Many agencies have studied mountain lions for fifty years and learned very little. What these agencies should have learned is that what they are doing is not working. Let’s clean up this mess and end it once and for all Oregon! It can be done if the western states in unity make the necessary changes. This is what ODFW should be doing, but they won’t.

Cecil Fredi is president of HUNTER’S ALERT, a Nevada sportsmen’s organization dedicated to keeping the sportsmen informed. He can be reached at:
HUNTER’S ALERT
1736 E. Charleston, #240
Las Vegas, NV 89104
To learn more about mountain lions. Log on to www.huntersalert.org. ■■

Mountain Lion Lawsuit

Oregon – Oregon Rural Citizens Against Subterfuge (ORCAS) is preparing a lawsuit intended to end the dangerous results of Oregon’s Measure 18. According to chief promoter Wil Clow, “we will file our lawsuit for Declaratory Judgment on April 3, 2006 in Salem, Oregon.

Measure 18 took affect on December 8, 1994 and its goal was to stop the use of bait and the chasing and treeing of cougars and bears in Oregon by those using hounds and bait to hunt them. Its results have been a dangerous increase in the most indiscriminate stalking predator currently existing in the western states. As cougar numbers have escalated the elk, deer, sheep and other game animals have greatly declined. Urban sightings of cougars as well as attacks on humans and livestock by cougars have steadily increased since the passage of Measure 18.

Clow’s lawsuit will challenge the constitutionality of Measure 18. Clow claims that Measure 18 violates Article I, section 18, and Article I, section 20, of the Oregon State Constitution. Wil Clow informs us that this is a rural vs. urban issue.

To learn more about ORCAS and this lawsuit go to: <http://orcas7.tripod.com>. To contribute to this worthy cause, send your contributions to 2701 Coed Place, Grants Pass, Oregon or call 541-472-8457 to contact ORCAS’s Director Wil Clow. ORCAS is a registered non-profit corporation.

Important Up-Coming Meetings:

- **ORCAS Cougar Meeting - At JJ North’s Buffet, Grants Pass, OR. On April 3, 2006, starting at 6:00 p.m.**
- **ODFW Cougar Meeting - At ODFW Headquarters at 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR. in the commissioner’s chamber room. On April 13, 2006, starting at 1:00 p.m.**

Mountain Lions – Time to Speak Out

By “Nevada” Jim Ornellas

Attention, Oregon residents, sportsman, lion, bear, cat, and other experienced houndsmen of the forthcoming conspiracy that is spilling over into your state from Nevada. There is a proposal by your Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Wildlife agencies that are pursuing access to your state budget for the revenue to pay the salaries of a hired staff of state lion hunters that will indiscriminately be using trained hounds to deliberately set out to hunt down and kill over 2,000 mountain lions in order to reduce the present, protected, unmanaged, and out of control populations estimated to be over 5,000. They will do this rather than to utilize the gratis services of Oregon’s many conservationist houndsmen that have been providing the best practical and successful means and methods essential in the hunting and control of the mountain lion, bear, and all other treeing species of predators, as opposed to the use of traps and poison.

Your houndsmen’s valuable and successful years of lifetime services and skills at predator control, has played a major role in the control of these predators. This is being rejected by the ODFW in favor of the proposed hiring of state hunters, a deliberate conspiracy

to be accepted and considered lion management.

Here in Nevada, the reclassification of the lion into a false game animal, allowed our game department to place severe restrictions on the public and houndsmen, of a license, tag, season limits and management area quotas, that provided protection of this nation’s most destructive, 100 to 200 pound predatory cat, that was rightfully listed on the top of the animal food chain, next to man, the past 100 years. The proof is that back in 1965, Nevada started with their scientific count of 375-475 lions when they started their lion management program and they adamantly managed this original population, which they have admitted in several press releases to now be 3,200 to over 5,000, resulting in many more lions and many less mule deer to manage. This is to be considered the educated experts wild life management. This action is directly responsible for the great decline of all of the other western states famous mule deer herds. The other states followed Nevada’s unscrupulous example to reclassify the lion into a false game status. Note: The lion’s main diet is freshly killed deer meat.

Thanks to the US~Observer some of you are already familiar with my own history and dilemma here in Nevada, as a victim of the system during my 57



“Nevada” Jim Ornellas

years as an independent lion hunter. Here are a few lion facts for those who may be unfamiliar, interested or concerned, that you will not find in the 123 page, 2006, Oregon draft Cougar management plan and the 238 page, 8th mountain lion workshop book.

The American mountain lion has been labeled by our scientists as the “perfect killing machine.” This description adds credence to my own description, that the mountain lion is an inherently born killing machine. This cat is equipped, not only with its 100-200 pound muscular size, but also 1 ½ inch claws and canines making it capable of killing any warm blooded bird, or animal from the size of a sparrow, to a turkey, or even a Moose. This would include skunks, porcupines, and man.

Having adapted, via man’s protection, the cougar has lost its once natural fear of man, that once forced and kept them nocturnal. It was this unwarranted protection of this unique and large predatory cat that caused serious changes in its behavior and habits. In losing its fear the cat, not having any natural enemy, has proliferated out of control.

The American mountain lion like its domestic cousin the house cat is the only predator that does not have a breeding season like the wolf, coyote, fox and bobcats have, substantiating the fact that female lions are found with unborn fetuses and cubs of all ages during any week or month of the calendar year.

Female lions bear litters of from 1-5 offspring annually, with 60% being female. This is no different than our own felines and is nature’s way of preserving any species. There is record of two known instances of two pair of different lions, in captivity, producing two litters of four cubs each within 12-14 months.

This is a good example of the proliferation potential of un-controlled lions that can kill any animal.

Contrary to our educated biologists theories (that have been watching too many Discovery shows on T.V. regarding the African lion who lives in an entirely different environment and continent) the American lions cannot be followed and photographed all day and in darkness by vehicle, which makes them capable of raising 99% of all new born successfully, by strategically isolating their dens, etc.

In 1992 a T.V. special on arts and entertainment entitled, “Carnivores Wild Life Mysteries,” it was stated, “the big cats prevail over all other animals.”

In every western state that supports deer and lion populations the lack of controlling the lion population will result in automatic deer, elk, and other ungulate (hooved) declines. This will be added to other publicized mortalities of our disappearing deer herds, due to the encroachment of civilization, meaning death from starvation, parasites and disease due to loss of habitat.

Like Nevada, your State of Oregon’s ODFW has now resorted to the use of a double standard in the handling of this least known about and destructive predatory cat.

Nevada’s watch-dog publication, “Hunters Alert” is offering its support, as we will all seriously lose once this rapidly approaching precedent by ODFW occurs. We must unite together on this serious matter!

Editor’s Note: Please log on to www.huntersalert.org for detailed information and watch for upcoming articles on the cougar issue, as well as other ODFWdebacles.

■■■

Continued from page 1 Club 71 Continues ...

shortly before they were pulled over. Holsworth’s report was forwarded to the Oregon Licquor Control Commission (OLCC) in Milwaukie, Oregon. Orozco is a minor and should not have been served by the club or even allowed inside.

What will OLCC do about it?

Many complaints have been sent to the OLCC over the past year concerning Club 71 violating the law by serving excess alcohol to patrons, for disturbances at the strip joint and for criminal allegations against strip-club owner Richard Larry Lacey. OLCC has been slow to act regarding Lacey and his strip-joint, however in a recent phone interview with an OLCC investigator the US~Observer was informed that they have quite a file on Lacey and that they are preparing their case... It is clear to this writer that any action by OLCC is long overdue in light of the following.

On April 22, 2005 Timothy Little was involved in a near fatal accident on I-5

after leaving Club 71. According to witnesses, Little arrived at the strip-joint sober, however after his accident his blood alcohol level was .22, nearly three times the legal limit. At this juncture Club 71 had already been the recipient of numerous complaints and OLCC should have revoked Lacey’s license.

On September 2, 2005 three Rogue River men arrived at Club 71 to celebrate a 21st birthday. The three reportedly became highly intoxicated at the strip-joint and were forced to leave by Lacey. Shortly thereafter Jason Giampa who was driving the three back to Rogue River wrecked his vehicle. One occupant had a serious head injury and just recently underwent surgery. According to witnesses, Giampa was literally wiped-out upon leaving the strip-joint. He was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and two counts of assault in the fourth degree. Lacey wasn’t charged with anything for getting the individuals drunk (serving in excess) at his strip-bar, and even though OLCC was again informed of yet another episode at Club 71, they failed to act.

Our question for OLCC is; will it take someone getting killed after drinking in excess at Club 71 before you act?

■■■



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Continued from page 9
ADD: Absent Dad Disorder

We send them to institutions run by women.

Think I’m wrong? Look around. How many female superintendents do you see? How many principals are women? Even the men have become sissified. Most male teachers, feeling insecure because of their own inadequacies, relish the power they have over children, and the safety from the dog-eat-dog business world where they would be chewed up and spit out by testosterone-laced executives demanding results for the money they were being paid. Most have traded their manhood for a promotion, afraid to be scorned by the touchy-feely, make-every-one-feel-important, self-esteem-promoting, policy-making, gurus.

In a nation where 50% of our children don’t live with Dad, the discipline in the home falls to mom. It takes a strong woman to handle a rebellious boy. So how do we respond? We hire female principals in our schools. When a kid gets in trouble and is sent to the office, what does he find at the end of the hall? Another woman.

Take it from a man. A fire breathing man scares a young boy more than another visit with a get-in-touch-with-your-anger female. Can anyone imagine

Donald Trump as a high school principal? “You’re Fired, punk”!

Think I’m sexist? Maybe, but it is still the truth.

Education was one of the first places that women were able to gain equal status with men, a place where they had real input into the decision making process. Now they run it. According to the NEA www.nea.org only 9% of America’s elementary school teachers are male. Even fewer are men.

Yes, America's schools need men. Not males. Men.

Our young children need to face men who are gruff, men who are tough, men who will teach a boy how to be a man. Men who will say "suck it up, get over it, quit being such a baby." Men who will explain that life isn't always fair, that not everyone will tolerate childish behavior, and that sometimes you have to fight for your turf.. Yes, we need real men who will teach our kids to get in touch with reality rather than with their feelings.

"Hey Junior, quit whining and get to work. Stop acting like a girl." (You do remember when men and women were different, don’t you?)

There are rough days ahead for America and today’s metro-sexual man won’t cut the mustard. Unsuccessful at getting the average woman to behave like a man, the feminist agenda instead

focused on getting the average man to think like women. Tolerance, diversity, and fairness have become women-speak for lack of spine.

Call me old-fashioned, a Neanderthal, or whatever demeaning adjective you want to use to distract from the message. No amount of name-calling will change the facts. Manhood is in serious trouble in America.

Brokeback Mountain, blatant homosexual propaganda, has been all over the news. Disguised as a movie, it is nothing more than a commercial to try and normalize deviancy. If the makers of this movie were really honest, the “cowboys” in the story would have been that sissy little man on Will and Grace and Elton John. Instead, they try to sell us John Wayne and Hoss Cartwright in a pup tent.

I often think back to a segment on the The Tonight Show when Johnny Carson was the host. He used to love to have Burt Reynolds on. I think he enjoyed the roughness that macho-Burt exuded, a real man’s man, if you know what I mean. In one particular segment I could sense Johnny probing to find out what made Burt so, well, manly.

“So tell me Burt," Johnny queried, “How does a man know when he is a man?”

Expecting Burt to give some deep

insight into his woman-conquering prowess, Johnny simply stared at the profundity of Burt Reynolds’ curt reply.

“Johnny,” his dark, deeply-set eyes sparkling, “You ain’t a man until your daddy says you’re a man.”

Where are today’s men? Probably sitting dutifully in a diversity class at his local place of employment, while his local woman-dominated public school teaches his son how to be more tolerant.

“Hey Dad. Can I get my ear pierced? Mr. Stevens, my Health teacher, has two of them.”

“Go ask your Mom.”

We need a return to the Burt Reynolds America. Pass the testosterone!

Don't miss Coach Dave's recently released book "A Season Ordered By the Lord." For more information visit www.ptsalt.com/season.

Editor’s Note: What an absolutely factual article by someone who knows children as opposed to all those “social experts” who call bad behavior, “ADD” and then prescribe a harmful, unhealthy narcotic as a supposed cure all. The pills never have and they never will cure anything, in fact if you want more school shootings where factual evidence shows the shooters to have been users of ADD drugs, such as Ritalin - keep pumping the pills.

■ ■ ■

Continued from page 7
Anatomy of a Bad ...

into light? Then there were a couple of incidents like bomb threats and one physical incident that happened, you know, I thought this can really get out of hand fast.”

Ellis’ comments clearly show that since he was willing to end a strike that was winnable for the taxpayers, he can be and was intimidated by the threat of potential violence which he appeared to believe was coming from the AFSCME. Ellis failed to stand up for the taxpayers, and he let the AFSCME off the hook. When an individual doesn’t stand for principle he stands for nothing and becomes a puppet manipulated by the puppeteer. Ellis also appeared to be very concerned about how the AFSCME employees would, “feel coming back to work for a county they feel betrayed them.” He made no reference to how the taxpayers would feel about his betraying them. It seems that the puppeteer (AFSCME) has their man in place in the commissioner’s office. Many county residents are very disappointed in Comm. Dwight Ellis.

Sheriff Daniel to Union: Commissioners Bullies and Thugs, Take the County Back

Moderator Carl Wilson asks the panel this question, “You had the sheriff in civilian clothes on a vacation day and this is according to the paper calling you guys (Commissioners) bullies and thugs and according to the quote in the paper (Daily Courier), It’s time to take this county back from the bullies and the thugs (The sheriff was addressing the AFSCME strikers on the first day of the picketing). Let me ask you the panel, was that helpful or not?” Commissioner Riddle can be heard laughing in the back ground.

Ellis Appears to Support Provocative Words Spewed by County Sheriff

Dwight Ellis, “You know, as far as I’m concerned, you know, he’s a citizen of these free United States, he can get out there and say anything he wants to, in my mind, you know, he was making a political statement, and he’s running for

county commissioner. You know, he’s got an audience out there, you know, in my mind it didn’t bother me personally that he said those things. I think he hurt himself by saying those things.”

The threat of violence is what appears to have caused Ellis to fold. This is when he should have stood firm instead of cowering against the tyrannical threats and events he mentions. These include the bomb threat at the courthouse, a physical occurrence, white knuckle time, and things getting out of control. These seem to be the things that caused Ellis to buckle. Then he supports the sheriff in his name calling against the county commissioners. On the one hand Ellis appears to give in to the threat of violence and on the other he supports the sheriff encouraging the AFSCME union members to possible violence. Both Commissioner Riddle and Raffenburg understand that the sheriff used angry words that could ignite the flame of violence.

Riddle Blasts Sheriff Takes on Ellis

Jim Riddle, “Sorry for laughing, Carl, I wasn’t quite sure of the curve of your question if it helped or not? I disagree with Dwight in the sense that I believe the sheriff is the sheriff 24/7, as are the commissioners. And when you’re out in front of a crowd that is already agitated, and you’re agitating them further and making statements like they are thugs and bullies you should take over the courthouse basically, that’s not right. I don’t care who you are. I don’t care if it’s your day off or you’re wearing a purple shirt, it’s not right because they know you as the sheriff they don’t know him as Dave Daniel, it’s hard to separate the two.”

Commissioner Raffenburg, “It was Behavior that was Totally Unacceptable.”

Commissioner Raffenburg, “I have to agree with Jim Riddle the chief law enforcement officer (Sheriff Dave Daniel) of the county out there agitating a group of citizens, in this case county employees, who are already very emotionally agitated was just beyond anything that I think anybody should anticipate their law enforcement should

do. It was behavior that was totally unacceptable.”

Carl Wilson says, “This was a Significant Event.”

Moderator Carl Wilson, “Well, the only reason I bring that up is Dwight (Ellis) brought up the issue it was getting to be white knuckle time and Jim Riddle as you’re mentioning incidents were beginning to happen that always tend to happen around job actions, like this, but this was a significant event.”

Jim Raffenburg, “Carl, this was the first day and the first few hours of the strike. So you have to ask yourself, did the actions of the sheriff contribute to anything that happened later on? I don’t think you can separate out anything that happened after that speech of his (Dave Daniel) and say he didn’t have some type of impact on it.”

Sheriff Dave Daniel is running for the office of county commissioner along with several other individuals. Daniel has made a lousy showing as sheriff for the past eight years and would be an even worse commissioner judging by his past record. Daniel has supported several property tax measures since he was sheriff and cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra expenses that should not have been. Daniel’s track record indicates that as a county commissioner he would continue to push for more property taxes. And this is reason enough without considering his other baggage for the voters to deny him the position of commissioner. Neither is Commissioner Dwight Ellis a paragon of virtue in regards to property taxes. In the last election he supported an unpopular library property tax that was defeated, but he was nonetheless elected commissioner.

What Ellis Had to Say About Property Taxes

Prior to being elected a county commissioner here is what Ellis had to say about property taxes that he is helping force to the forefront by failing to deal appropriately with the AFSCME when he had the opportunity.

Carl Wilson, talk show host on KAJO asked Dwight Ellis prior to his being elected commissioner, "We have a

number of people in our community on fixed incomes and so they are very, very sensitive about having their property taxes increased. Knowing that, how do you approach the future as a county commissioner?"

Ellis, “Well, the property tax issue is ah is ah a huge issue on fixed income and ah it is not my desire to ah tax ah people who own property, tax people on fixed income, tax them so that they lose their homes ah that is ah absolutely a last resort if we are going down the tubes and we have to declare bankruptcy and the state has to ah send troops in here and stuff you know then ah then that's a last resort that we will have to turn to and ask the voters you know if they would be able to pony up some more, some more money.” Talk show host Carl Wilson mercifully took him to another subject at this point in time.

Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

If Dwight Ellis has not formed a negative opinion of an individual, he appears to be intelligent and of pleasant Christian demeanor. However, if anyone injures his fragile ego, another personality appears that is angry and with ready profanity. This darker side of Ellis is never or seldom seen by his friends who obviously don’t annoy him by criticizing his decisions as a commissioner. Thus Mr. Hyde stays hidden from them.

Ellis received thousands of dollars in campaign contribution funds from the local courthouse union. This doesn’t mean the union necessarily owns Ellis, but in this case that money appears to have been an excellent investment. Ellis was AFSCME’s savior. Ellis failed the homeowner, renter, and businessman throughout this county whom he didn’t represent when he chose to let the AFSCME back into the courthouse. A public employee cannot have two masters. Ellis has chosen the county unions as his master at this time. An old joke aptly applies here. Ellis gave the taxpayers the shaft, and the AFSCME got the mine. Commissioner Dwight Ellis is quickly learning to be a “bad politician.”

■ ■ ■

Articles and
Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged – they must be typed, a maximum of 1,000 words or less in length. Please submit photographs or artwork. Contact Editor for permission to submit in-depth articles up to 1,750 words, plus graphics. Opposition opinions are welcome.

Always provide a computer disk or E-mail address. Accepted 3.5, or CD, PC or Mac format. Please save all text files in *text only* format.

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

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

On the Internet:
www.usobserver.com



Letters to the Editor

"Greedy People"

Dear Editor,

As an acquaintance of one of the Sunny Valley, OR, strip joint picketers, I have learned that the lawsuit served against the picketers by the owner of the club was thrown out of court because it was a frivolous lawsuit served in an effort to make them stop picketing. I also learned that a similar lawsuit, filed by a patron named Greg Staten, is going forward.

Greg had no knowledge of the defendants he is suing. All information in the lawsuit was given to Greg by either attorney Claude Ingram, or Larry Lacey the owner of the club. It seems that Greg and his wife were lured into this lawsuit by the promise of a fast buck. From what I have been told the protesters are planning to counter sue Greg for filing a frivolous lawsuit against them. The First Amendment Right, which is the basis for the protesters' defense, has been upheld in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Claude Ingram has a very poor track record, having been disciplined by the State of Oregon for unethical conduct. He has a reputation for stealing innocent people's property on sham proceedings. He lost a case against the U.S. Observer and Larry Lacey's case against the protesters. If Ingram were a competent attorney he would have advised Greg to drop the case. I personally believe the greedy people in this case need to get their just reward.

John Bertrand
Sunny Valley, Oregon

Lariat Letter

Dear Edward Snook,

After reading your recent article in the US~Observer “Letters to the Editor” I felt compelled to write in response to the “Demand for Retraction letter” you received from the acting Members and Directors of the Lariat Group.

I am outraged and disgusted by the audacity of the men in this Lariat Group, who continually act as though they are here doing God’s work, and find it quite appalling that they would ever reference themselves as having anything to do with Christian Charity. I’d like to ask Mr. Bob Chamberlain, alias John Hanson if it’s all in the name of Christian Charity that he is pursuing a lawsuit right now, trying to take his recently deceased brother’s house away from his wife and children? This is a house his dead brother and wife and kids have lived in and called home for over 13 years, also a house I might add that at one time was used as collateral for the purchase of Mr. Bob Chamberlain’s

own home. The fact is that just a couple weeks after Bob talked his brother into bringing his whole family to Grants Pass from Portland for alternative cancer treatments, his brother died in his care. Then, within just a few short weeks of his brother’s death, Bob then underhandedly entered his widow’s house, changed the locks, packed up her and her children’s things and lied to police officers who were called to the scene, stating that his brother’s wife was a renter and that he was the landlord who was serving an eviction notice for non-payment of rent (all lies and is a matter of public record as a police report was made). The Christianity in this “Good Deed” goes on to shine through with the fact that Bob, secretly, already had their house sold to a buyer paying well under market value. Imagine the buyer’s surprise when he came to the door to find the occupant stating that she was in fact the homeowner, not Bob Chamberlain and that she had no intention of moving out of her home of 13 years. Needless to say, the sale fell through as the buyer pulled out of the deal; however this has not stopped Mr. Bob Chamberlain in his pursuit of obtaining this property in the slightest.

You might also find it interesting that Bob Chamberlain is using a “trust” where he is the trustee as he attempts to acquire this home out from under the wife of his dead brother. Make no mistake; In my opinion if this man is capable of doing this to his own family members, he is capable of so much more than is alleged in any US~Observer article you’ve ever written.

I welcome any Christian explanation from any acting Director of the Lariat Group, as they were all there and involved in what happened, and/or any Christian response at all from Mr. Bob Chamberlain himself. Shame on you Bob, for your selfishness, greed and sin will surely be your ruin. I only hope you reap what you sow and get what you truly deserve from God Himself, as you are a disgrace when you use God’s name and connect yourself to Him in any way.

Sincerely,

A citizen not involved in any way, shape, or form with the Lariat Group, its members, Directors or any of its affiliates. So tell us Bob, where is the motive here?

Portland, Oregon

Social Security
Stability

To the Editor:

This letter is for all concerned with Social Security and the future of it in light of all the remarks regarding its future failure and the need to cut back benefits in Medicare and Medicaide.

In 1958, I paid into the social security system for the first time. This week, March 2006, social security will be taken out of my paycheck. During that time I have seen the rate go from 3% or so to almost 8%! No problem; that was what was needed to support the system. For current and future needs we simply need to raise the contributory percent by 1/8 of 1% for now. If it needs to be raised 1/8 of 1% next year so be it. If it was alright to raise it before, why is there any objection to raising it now? The law should incorporate one stipulation! NO RAIDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY COFFERS EVER AGAIN! The answer is so simple. Why does everyone make it a complex issue? Simple - 1/8% percent this year and 1/8 % next year, if needed! Do it! Now! Pay the people who paid into the system for 40 years plus.

Mark Christianson

Gilbertson or
Anderson for
Sheriff?

Dear Editor:

Short & Sweet! If you are HAPPY with the Josephine County Sheriffs Department’s poor attitude, bad morale, shift the blame to the commissioners, waste, we can’t get it done conduct, lets go chase Speckles and then sue, so the tax payers of Josephine County can pay huge legal bills then vote for under-sheriff Brian Anderson in the up-coming primary election! Remember, Brian Anderson was Dave Daniel’s right-hand man, he was right there to assist with all the blunders of one of the most incompetent terms of office for any Sheriff in Josephine County history. At a recent forum in Cave Junction Brian Anderson was asked to explain the reason for the bad moral within the Sheriff’s Department. He stated point blank that it was due to a lack of funding. Do you want another four years of listening to a Sheriff snivel, lie and constantly threaten the public with no law enforcement if they won’t agree to huge tax increases in order to fund a dysfunctional department? If you do then vote for Brian Anderson...

However, if you are ready for change - go hear Gil Gilbertson, candidate for Sheriff!

Jan Caprio
Josephine County, Oregon

Editor’s Note: The US~Observer will be looking into all candidates in our next issue.

Continued on page 17



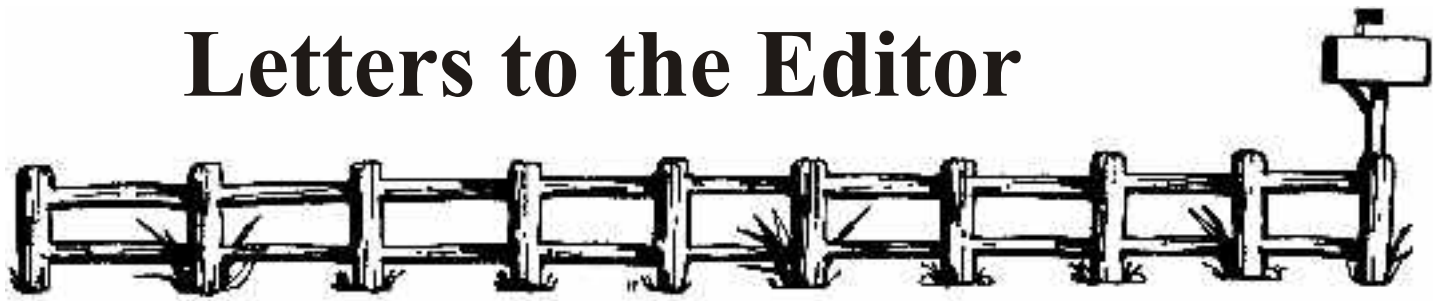
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Letters to the Editor



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Cougars, Guns and Hunting

To the Editor

Many people reading the mountain lion articles in this publication may find these controversial issues hard to believe or the authors of their articles incredulous. Consider this if you will.

The ODFW's "Cougar Management Plan" is available on their website: (dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/cougar) or just punch in ODFW cougar management plan. I would like to draw your attention to pages 9-12. If you can read these pages written by the ODFW and come away still doubting Nevada Jim Ornellas, Cecil Fredi, et al ... Then scope your eye on page 45- "Assumptions and Rationale." Comparing these pages will freak you out. I guarantee it. For those who choose not to read the pages and articles are those who make up a significant segment of our country. (Here goes.) Yawh! I know all about those lions. I've seen hundreds of 'em. They're fuzzy and got long tails, 4 legs and are damn near extinct!. What else is there to know? Unless we become a bit more educated than the (facetiously stated) Budweiser graduate we are "going" to lose our hard fought for and rightly earned heritage of hunting; and right behind it, our guns.

I receive solicitations for money from N.R.A. 3 times a week just like you do, to save our second amendment right to bear arms. What about saving our hunting? When will N.R.A. wake up and realize I have no use for guns except to hunt with, like 90% of all hunters (with the exception for protection)?

It's time for N.R.A. and other national organizations and magazines to get involved in this mountain lion, wildlife predator issue to help change the future of hunting. For them to steer clear of it

sends a message that they choose to stay up there on the political moral high ground while we fight our own battles. But then - just keep sending us money, hunters.

Hey guys, I feel just like you do, so you're not alone! Am I wrong?

**Bud Sonnentag
Gabbs, Nevada**

Rules will hurt small farmers

Editor;

You buy a license for your dog, but what about a license for your horse or sheep or even your chicken?! Sounds unheard of, but it is something we will be hearing more about in the not-so-distant future. The USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is taking steps to put its animal identification plan in full force by January 2008, and "animal tracking" would become mandatory in January 2009 - if there are no advances or delays.

The NAIS would require:

- 1) premises registration;
- 2) individual animal identification.

Every person who owns a horse, cow, pig, sheep, chicken, pigeon or just about any livestock animal will be required to register their home and be keyed to the Global Positioning System coordinates in a federal database. Animal owners must also obtain a 15-digit ID number for any animal that ever leaves the place of its birth. So, if you want to raise animals for your own food, the animals must be individually identified. Even if you enjoy taking your horse out on the trails or to horse shows, you will need an individual ID.

The NAIS would require animal owners to report the birth date of an animal, the application of every animal's

ID tag, every time an animal leaves or enters the property, every time an animal loses a tag, every time a tag is replaced, the slaughter or death of an animal, or if any animal is missing. The previous would have to be reported within 24 hours. The USDA has not yet specified the "enforcement" it will include for noncompliance. Fines and/or seizure of animals?

Who will pay for all these new regulations? The animal owners, of course. Who will be affected by these new regulations? The small farmers, of course. Large-scale producers will be allowed to register large groups of animals, while owners raising animals for their own use will under most circumstances have to identify each individual animal. Who will benefit from these new regulations? The big companies in the meat production industry and the manufacturers of the animal ID equipment.

Are there any benefits of the NAIS to the small farmers who want to raise their own food? No. The USDA claims the NAIS will enhance export markets for U.S. livestock products and allow trace back to farms of animals which are diseased. Small farmers, raising animals for their own use, don't profit from export markets. As far as disease is concerned, most small farmers raise their animals in more healthy conditions than the large meat producing companies. The animals on a small farm are usually raised in large areas or pastures where the animals can eat more natural food, have more exercise, and more area for dispersal of waste, resulting in less chance for disease or bacterial contamination.

Please visit www.usda.gov/nais to learn more about this plan. Please pass this information on to other farmers. There is still time to oppose the NAIS. Opponents can write their federal and state legislatures. (Go to www.vote-smart.org or www.firstgov.gov.)

When you hear that the public

comment period on a NAIS rule is open, please submit an individual comment. There is a planned issuance of a NAIS rule for public comment coming up in July. Please visit www.usda.gov/nais to read the entire Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Program Standards.

**Michelle Czygan
Rapid River, Michigan**

Community Involvement

If you are enjoying your lifestyle and feel you are having a decent life and things are good, perhaps it is time you gave back to your community !

When is the last time you helped a neighbor build a barn - attended a meeting to identify the candidates for sheriffs office or county commissioner - or helped a movement with its fight against evil such as strip clubs - helped an aging friend with senior moments and senior difficulties !

We all owe to our communities as our part in making it a better, safer, more drug free place to live !

Do not call yourself Christian and refuse to make the commitment to better your community !!!

Think about it - get off your butt and:

1. Help thy neighbor
2. Fight a good fight against evil; "It's the right thing to do !"
3. Be kind to your senior friends or neighbors - you will be there one day !
4. I personally know a lot of non-professing Christians who endeavor every day to better the Sunny Valley/Wolf Creek area - shouldn't all professing Christians do at least as much!
5. Please, **look in the mirror!!!**

Jerry Parrish

...

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False Conviction and Perjury in Umatilla County

By US~Observer Staff

Umatilla County, Oregon - A man who is guilty of a crime learns to accept his punishment and move on with his life. On the other hand, an innocent man who has been wrongly convicted can never escape the need to clear his name. And so it is with David White whom you have read about in this publication before. David was recently released from prison after serving 2 ½ years for arson, even though it was the oil furnace in his Columbia River-front home that destroyed his house and uninsured real estate business.

As we printed in our January 2004 issue Mr. White returned home from spending the night in the Tri Cities to find fireman fighting the blaze that destroyed his home. Two days later the insurance company requested that clean up begin and that David make a list of all personal property. After 6 months and 8 days, during which the structure was cleaned out and made ready for new trusses, a secret grand jury indictment led to David’s arrest. Mr. White and his family hired a local attorney who in turn hired three investigators, all with impressive credentials. Steve Streker, a mechanical engineer for 33 years with experience investigating mechanically started fires and extensive knowledge of the inner workings of oil furnaces. Jim Smith, retired from ATF after serving 32 years as an arson investigator and with experience in oil furnace fires. And David Mull, a furnace technician who has spent over 40 years working with oil burning furnaces.

Before the trial began Mr. White was offered a deal by State Police arson investigator Eldon Alexander which involved dropping the charges to a misdemeanor, two years probation, and no jail time. The detective indicated Mr. White could get 20 years in prison if he went to trial. When Mr. White told him he would not plead guilty to something he did not do Alexander reportedly replied, “We can prove anything we want.”

The trial began eighteen months after the fire. The state mainly relied on Alexander who had been an arson investigator for just 5 years, along with three witnesses provided by Sublimity Insurance, David’s insurance carrier. Without any proof placing Mr. White at the scene, the state’s case was built solely on circumstantial evidence such as finding the windows in his car (in the garage) rolled down. The jury was told that David was behind in monthly payments and that he was less than 30 minutes from the scene when the fire broke out--neither of which was true. Their main “story” was that flammables had been poured in the upstairs of the home. Thomas Barnes from the Oregon State Police forensic laboratory testified that all samples submitted by Alexander tested negative for accelerants. Furthermore, samples sent to another lab by Ken Janes, fire-cause investigator for the insurance company, also tested negative for accelerants. Mr. Janes testified that the master bedroom window had been blown out by heat, which was not true. Mr. White was present when firemen broke that window. Janes continued to be untruthful when claiming he had not spoken with insurance adjuster Mike Hensley. Hensley and Janes were together with White at the scene two days after the fire. In one of his inconsistent statements Janes accurately testified the top of the dresser in Mr.

White’s bedroom was heavily damaged by fire while the bottom of the dresser sustained only minimal damage. Shortly thereafter Janes contradicted himself stating the fire had started on the floor in that room. All experts testifying for the state admitted to knowing nothing about the workings of an oil furnace, nor did any of them call in a furnace expert to determine whether it could have been the source of the fire.

When the state rested their case Mr. White’s attorney called for acquittal due to the lack of physical evidence. It was denied.

For the defense, Steve Streker explained that the fire started due to a “blow-back” in the furnace and that the only breaker tripped in the fuse box was the one to the furnace. Streker continued that once the blow-back occurred the fire burned through the living room floor above. Jim Smith testified that the fire came from the basement and burned upward; burn patterns were identical to other oil furnace fires he had investigated. Regrettably Smith was not allowed to discuss the furnace because the state claimed he was not an “expert” in that area. Smith showed that the hole in the living room floor was the same shape as the furnace room directly below, and explained how charring and other evidence left behind was proof that the furnace was the cause of the fire. Finally David Mull, who had dismantled the furnace for the trial, took the jury through his findings. The chimney was 75% blocked and secondary heat exchangers were 80-85% blocked (where the heated gasses escape to the chimney). Mr. Mull also noticed the spring on the glass inspection cover had been damaged when blown open and exposed to heat upwards of 1500 degrees. He noted where these flames had hit the furnace cover door and melted the aluminum off the fan motor before escaping through a thick fixed screen on the bottom of the furnace. This in turn ignited items stored in cardboard boxes on the shelves in the furnace/storage room. Also testifying was Mrs. White who said the furnace had been “acting funny” and seemed very hot as well as neighbors who had, in the weeks prior to the fire, noticed a rumbling sound when the furnace started up. When questioned by police on the day of the fire Mr. White told of an oil smell coming from the heat registers the previous week and of his plans to make an appointment for the furnace to be serviced.

Eldon Alexander was dishonest both in his original testimony and when called back as a rebuttal witness. It should be pointed out that he was allowed to sit with the District Attorney throughout the trial even though no other witnesses were in the courtroom except when testifying. Alexander, in answering questions asked by members of the jury, claimed the furnace had a two-piece door, even after Mr. Mull—the recognized furnace expert—said that the door was one-piece. Alexander continued by saying that when he arrived on the scene the glass inspection port was uncovered, there was no fixed screen on the bottom of the motor, and that the burn marks/damage on the fan motor had been caused by falling debris. He obviously wanted to discredit Mr. Mull and make the jury believe that damage to the fan motor was caused by the falling debris rather than by the actual blow-back. Alexander continued to lie to the jury by telling them the furnace room wall was only sheet

rocked on one side. He did this in order to make them believe that had the furnace caused the fire there would have been more extensive damage to the basement. It is evident in photographs Alexander himself took that there was sheetrock on both sides of the furnace room wall. The sheetrock helped contain the fire to the furnace room until it burned through the basement ceiling and gathered the oxygen it needed to engulf the upstairs. Alexander also claimed that deep charring had occurred into the sub-flooring upstairs in Mr. White’s bedroom in order to lead jurors to believe his fabricated theory that flammables had been poured there. Again, photographs can show otherwise. It amounts to perjury, plain and simple.

After the trial the two jurors who voted not guilty wrote letters to the local East Oregonian newspaper telling of conversations they heard among some jurors verbalizing their dislike for Mr. White’s attorney and, further against the court’s instructions, discussing their belief that David must be guilty because he was indicted.

A motion was filed for a retrial but was denied since it was not done within ten days of the end of the trial.

The US~Observer has obtained copies of photographs taken by Eldon Alexander. In them the lies told by the detective and others can be clearly seen. In addition these photos have been matched up with black and white Xerox-type copies that were part of the original “discovery.” 37 color photos are missing and were evidently never provided to Mr. White’s attorney. No pictures of the



David White

upstairs of the home (where the state claims the fire started) were included in the photos given to the defense. It has also come to light that the 50 plus photographs taken by Ken Janes (Sublimity Insurance) were never duplicated for the defense. Mr. White is currently requesting all missing photos.

Mr. White recently attempted to file perjury charges against Alexander with the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office. He was told they were not interested in pursuing this matter since it does not involve one of their own officers. They told Mr. White to take up the matter with the state attorney general. . How many innocent men have been or are currently behind bars because of lying cops? Does anyone care? The US~Observer is confident that there are individuals with information that can help in some way with this case. We are asking that you come forward and in clearing your own conscience you can also clear the name of an innocent man. Please call 541-474-7885 with your information. All calls are strictly confidential. ■■

Continued from page 9 Nevada Pioneer Award ...

worker raising a family, Bill held several jobs over the years besides working his own farm – cattle, milk cows, pigs, and garden. From age 21-25, Bill hauled freight and ore from Rawhide to Gabbs and to the now “ghost towns” of Fairview and Wonder. Later he became Foreman for the Fallon Flour Mill and at the same time was a Churchill County Game Warden. Doing roadwork for Dodge Construction on Hwy 50, he injured his knee requiring surgery in December of 1956. Without income, his teenage sons trapped and sold muskrats while he was laid up. They made more money than their Dad would have while working. In 1961 he found a home working for Builder’s Supply Company and retired from there 27 years later.

There was no time before retirement for long vacations, but Bill loved the outdoors and hunting (deer, upland game, and fish - which provided food for the family), as do his sons, and he looked forward to every hunting season. The yearly family outings were spent every

4th of July fishing at Reese River and deer hunting in the Fall. At 76 Bill went to Colorado and got his first Bull Elk. Two years later, he downed a second – both 5 x 5.

“Anytime hunting with our Dad was a fun time,” said Rich. “He worked hard at making it a good experience for us.”

Bill and Jo especially enjoyed Blanchard Family Reunions and trips to watch grandchildren participate in several National High School Rodeo Finals. They also took memorable trips to Alaska and Branson, MO.

Over the years Bill had been a Charter Member of the Greenhead Hunting Club, member of Oddfellows and Elks, and Life Member of the North American Hunting Club. He was a Churchill County Commissioner for 8 years. According to son Ron, “Dad was an upfront and very honest man. Any hot issues Dad stood for or against as a commissioner, he did what he thought was right or needed by the county as a whole.”

Bill Lee was a hard working American who loved his family and the tradition of hunting. He will be missed. ■■

Get involved & send
YOUR comments or
concerns to the Editor

editor@
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Continued from page 11
California State Misfeasance ...

and a half? The CSL claimed they didn't have the funding to prosecute the matter, however their excuse is simply an excuse. They could have and should have prosecuted the matter to obtain funds due to the State of California especially in light of the severe financial problems existing there. On September 28, 2005 the CSL sent Berrigan/House a second cease and desist order through their attorney Neil Houston ordering them to vacate state lands. Again, the duo of Berrigan/House apparently thumbed their noses at the order.

The US~Observer has received numerous allegations that Berrigan gets away with just about anything because his father is a wealthy and well connected attorney in the Sacramento area. This would appear to be a valid allegation given the fact that the CSL clearly goes after violations every day of the week and they have done absolutely nothing about the Berrigan/House

matter. We are informed that Berrigan is currently involved in 7-8 lawsuits. Witnessing the failure of the State of California to act Alan "Pete" Brush filed suit on January 6, 2006 against Shawn Berrigan, Diane House, Does 1 through 20 and has included the California State Lands Commission (Does 21-40) as Real Parties in Interest. Brush's Causes of Action include: Trespass; ejectment; declaratory relief; violations of Harbors & Navigation Code § 780 (discharge of sewage in navigable waters); nuisance; injunctive relief and common count (unjust enrichment) to recover public monies that Berrigan/House have allegedly pocketed from 10/22/04 thru the present for the operation of their marina and fair market value of their occupation (i.e. rent) of sovereign lands where Berrigan/House have never paid anything to the CSL. Brush has also sued Jay Coakley for unjust enrichment to public monies that Coakley pocketed from 03/19/98 thru 10/21/04 from the operation of Courtland Docks and

Marina where Jay Coakley (prior owner of Courtland Docks and Marina) never paid anything to the CSL.

To top things off the CSL is now siding with Berrigan regarding the Pete Brush lawsuit and they are rapidly processing a lease for Berrigan/House. Timothy Lipscomb, a "Public Land Management Specialist" with the CSL recently filed a "Declaration in Support of State Lands Commission's Opposition to Motion for Preliminary Injunction" which was filed by Brush. Amazing, the CSL and State of California represented by Attorney General for the State of California Bill Lockyer will now spend thousands of hard earned tax dollars fighting a citizen who stands up for all taxpayers who are reportedly being cheated out of money the state is obviously owed by past and present owners of the Courtland Docks and Marina. This is government at its best...ass backwards.

The US~Observer will soon be contacting Governor Schwarzenegger for an explanation about the CSL actions

and lack thereof. According to Pete Brush, Coakley "pocketed approximately \$400,000.00 and paid nothing to the state." The CSL is fully aware of this as an Appraisal Request regarding this issue was assigned to Scott McFarlin of CSL on March 11, 2004. CSL has done absolutely nothing to date. The list of incompetence, favoritism and/or possible conspiracy's go on and on showing the CSL to be a totally unaccountable and out of control agency, creating huge losses of revenue for the State of California. Sounds much like the electric power corruption in California of years gone by, doesn't it?

Anyone with information regarding Shawn Berrigan, Diane House, Robert Bruce Berrigan (Shawn Berrigan's father) or any others involved in the Courtland Docks and Marina, please contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885.

In our last edition we published an article titled "Sacramento Conspiracy" (read at www.usobserver.com) which is closely related to this present article. ■■

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Immigration

By Sierra Times

In preparation for a debate in the Senate on immigration policy, Senator Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico) has introduced legislation that would grant amnesty to an estimated 12 million people now living illegally in the U.S. and admit an additional 500,000 new guest workers plus dependant family members every year. Under the Domenici legislation, known as the Welcoming Immigrants to a Secure Homeland (WISH) of 2006 bill, all of the "guest workers" would eventually be allowed to become permanent residents. In addition to creating a new guest worker visa, the WISH Act would vastly expand existing guest worker programs. Under the Domenici bill, limits on H-1B high tech workers would be virtually eliminated, and foreign student visas

Domenici Introduces Amnesty/Guest Worker Bill That Would Decimate American Workers

would be almost automatically convertible to permanent residency. "There is virtually no American job, educational opportunity, or community that would not be undermined by this disastrous piece of legislation," said Dan Stein, president of FAIR. "Under the WISH Act, millions of illegal aliens would be rewarded with amnesty, and business interests would be granted access to unlimited numbers of guest workers who will never have to leave. For ordinary Americans, the legislation holds the promise of downwardly spiraling wages, massive population growth and the collapse of vital social institutions. "The vast majority of the American public is demanding that our nation's immigration laws be enforced," Stein continued. "Under the Domenici bill,

our nation's immigration laws would simply be eliminated. Americans would have no greater claim to the right to live and work in the United States than anyone, anywhere on the face of the planet." The levels of future immigration to the United States that would result from passage of the WISH Act would be staggering. Under our current legal immigration policy, the United States admits nearly one million people annually, the overwhelming majority coming to reunite with extended family members in this country. The Domenici amnesty would not only allow the estimated 12 million illegal aliens now here to become permanent residents, but would also entitle them to petition for their extended families to join them here. On top of that, if each of the

500,000 new permanent guest workers created annually by the WISH Act brought just two dependants, that would result in 1.5 million more immigrants arriving every year. Added to that figure would be an unlimited number of H-1B workers and foreign college graduates who convert student visas into permanent residency visas. "The damage that the Domenici bill would do every aspect of life in America would be incalculable," said Stein. "In very short order, America would become a vastly overpopulated nation devoid of a middle class. The United States Senate owes it to the American public to reject this and similar amnesty and guest worker bills and focus on protecting our borders and the survival of the American middle class," concluded Stein. ■■

Uncommon Weapon in Immigration Fight County Uses Racketeering Law Against Employers Who Hire Illegals

By Nicole Gaouette
LA Times Staff Writer

CALDWELL, Idaho — Like many communities, this fast-growing agricultural pocket of southwestern Idaho is paying a high tab for illegal immigration. When an illegal worker gave birth to a premature baby, Canyon County wound up with a \$174,000 hospital bill. County officials say the jail spent thousands to house another illegal immigrant at a motel, after his tuberculosis threatened to infect fellow inmates. But where others have merely chafed at paying costs like these, officials in Canyon County are trying a novel approach: The all-Republican county commission has filed a racketeering lawsuit against four big businesses in the area, charging that they deliberately hire illegal workers. The spectacle of the county's political leaders taking its businesses to court has touched off a bitter local debate. But it has also put Canyon County, a largely Republican community of about 160,000, at the forefront of an emerging national effort to use racketeering laws to crack down on illegal immigration by seeking damages from employers. So far, a handful of workers and businesses around the country have filed civil lawsuits under the RICO statute, known formally as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The targets are companies that, the lawsuits say, have unfairly used illegal labor to cut wage levels or prices. In Washington state, workers who filed a civil suit against their employer, a fruit company, won a \$1.3-million settlement in January. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear another of the immigration-related RICO cases this year. But Canyon County is the first municipality to bring a suit of this kind against employers. The lawsuit was dismissed by a federal district court but has been appealed to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. If it succeeds, it could touch off similar actions, says the county's lawyer, Howard Foster. "There are other county officials who are looking at this, who have called me," said Foster, an advocate of tougher immigration controls, who is behind most of the other RICO lawsuits.



In Canyon County, where working farms sit cheek-by-jowl against new residential developments, locals have traditionally welcomed the Latino immigrants who moved in seasonally to take agricultural jobs. But since the early 1990s, many immigrants have been finding year-round work in other industries, leaving some long-time residents struggling to adjust to permanent neighbors with different customs. Even though the Senate aims to pass immigration legislation by early next month and the House has already produced an enforcement-only bill, people here are angry that the federal government has not done more to stop the influx. Yet even some who want an immigration crackdown say the county commissioners stepped over the line when they went to court against two local seed companies, a meatpacker and large cheese-making operation. "I think they should shut down the border and end services" to illegal immigrants, said Joel Bettancourt, a grocery store owner in Caldwell, Idaho, who described himself as Mexican American. "But to do the RICO Act — that's too far. Who knows who they're going to go after next?" But some people say they are so fed up with changes they attribute to immigration — increasing gang violence, competition for manual labor jobs, and more services devoted to immigrants — that they hope the lawsuit succeeds. Letters to the local paper appear to be running slightly in favor of the commissioners. "We have young guys, white and Hispanic, in here legally who want [construction] jobs — but companies give them to people who they can pay

half the going wage," said Joyce Yelm, who grew up pulling beets alongside migrant farm laborers but has hardened after watching her old neighborhood become, in her words, a largely Spanish-speaking "shanty town." Much of the controversy also centers on the man who has been the primary force behind the lawsuit — County Commissioner Robert Vasquez. A former radio commentator and veteran who was wounded in Vietnam, Vasquez, 57, has long been a provocative force in the immigration debate. The grandson of legal Mexican immigrants, Vasquez was elected to the county commission in 2002 and soon after sent the Mexican government a \$2-million bill for services he said his county had provided to illegal immigrants. He has asked Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne to declare the county a disaster area because of illegal immigration and to grant it emergency funds. And he has proposed unsuccessful state legislation that would have denied welfare payments to illegal immigrants. "For every dollar for an illegal alien, it's one less dollar in my constituents' pocket," said Vasquez, who is running for Congress. In 2005, Vasquez heard about Howard Foster. The Chicago lawyer has largely spearheaded the use of RICO statutes as a tool against illegal immigration. A member of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a group that advocates immigration restrictions, Foster took note when Congress toughened immigration laws in 1996 and amended the RICO statute to make knowing employment of illegal immigrants a violation. "For the first time ever in the country, it became possible for a person to bring a private lawsuit against an employer ... for violating immigration laws," Foster said. RICO targets a person or group for crimes committed systematically as part of an ongoing enterprise. It carries tough criminal penalties. Its civil component, which the immigration suits fall under,

allows plaintiffs to sue for triple damages. In four RICO suits since 1998, Foster has alleged that companies have knowingly and repeatedly conspired with labor contractors over a period of years to hire illegal immigrants. His first case, in 2000, was on behalf of a Connecticut cleaning company that sued a competitor for hiring illegal immigrants. That case settled. His other cases have been on behalf of employees, alleging that companies have kept wages low by hiring illegal workers. In 2001, he sued the Washington state fruit company, leading to the \$1.3-million settlement. A suit he brought against Tyson Foods Inc. is scheduled to be heard next year. In 2004, he filed suit against Mohawk Industries Inc., based in Calhoun, Ga., the country's second largest carpet maker. That case will be heard by the Supreme Court in April, potentially shaping the use of RICO as a weapon in the immigration wars. Other lawyers besides Foster are also trying the RICO strategy. In 2003, the RICO statute was used to file suit on behalf of contract janitors against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. A court dismissed the RICO portion of the case, but that is now under appeal. In Canyon County, after speaking with Foster, Vasquez and the two other commissioners filed suit in July, charging that Syngenta Seeds Inc., a Swiss company, and Harris Moran Seed Co., of Hayward, Calif., knowingly hired illegal immigrants for many years through a local farm labor contractor, Roberto Corral. The suit alleges that the seed companies knew most of Corral's recruits were illegal immigrants, but they used the contractor as a "front company" to distance themselves from their criminal activity. "Many of these illegal immigrants have committed crimes resulting in criminal justice expenses to the county. Others have become public charges by seeking medical services, which the county has had to pay," the lawsuit

Continued on page 21

Immigration Proposals Include Arizona Fence

By Nicole Gaouette
LA Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday approved proposals to erect double- and triple-layered fencing near Arizona border cities and to sharply boost the number of agents working along the Mexican border as lawmakers worked to overhaul U.S. immigration policy.

While those measures received wide bipartisan support, the panel has yet to deal with contentious issues such as whether to create a guest-worker program, whether to make being in the U.S. illegally a criminal offense and whether some immigration enforcement laws should be applied retroactively.

The House produced immigration legislation in December that concentrated on enforcement, tough penalties for immigration infractions and new security measures.

Thursday's hearing indicated that the Senate was thinking along the same lines. But in a reflection of the debate's complexity, after the hearing senators were unable to agree on how many Border Patrol agents they had decided to add every year or for how many years the increases would continue.

Judiciary Committee staffers said the lawmakers were awaiting transcripts of Thursday's meeting to see what had been settled.

"The general agreement is that there was an increase in agents, over 10,000," said committee spokesman Blain Rethmeier. The Border Patrol currently has more than 11,000 agents.

Facing a March 27 deadline set by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), the committee has to resolve those questions and others as it works through a 305-page bill that covers border, interior and workplace enforcement; visa reform; a guest-worker program and the status of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country.

After failing to vote on any proposals Wednesday for lack of a quorum, the committee passed a dozen amendments Thursday — its third session to consider the legislation.

Senators approved a measure by Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) that would prohibit municipalities from requiring companies to set up day-labor sites as a condition of conducting or expanding their businesses.

Sessions said municipalities should not ask businesses to "set aside private property and spend private capital abetting illegal activity."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) backed the measure, saying that she was concerned about liability issues in operating such centers. "I don't know where liability lies," Feinstein said, calling a mandated requirement for such centers "a dangerous practice. At the very least, it bends the law and possibly breaks it."

The lone dissenting vote on that proposal came from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who argued that day-labor centers helped communities concentrate workers in one place and that it was not the federal government's business to dictate local matters. "Why can't local communities make the decisions?" he asked.

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) sponsored the measure for layered fencing running along the border near the cities of Douglas, Nogales, Lukeville and Naco and extending 25 miles beyond Naco into the desert. It passed with one dissenting vote.

In extensive debate over the fence on Wednesday, Kyl had defended his proposal against charges that such barriers were outmoded. He said it would involve at least 150 miles of vehicle barriers and all-weather roads. "This old 19th century technology does a nice job when you put it in 20th century materials," he said.

When Feinstein challenged him to prove that the new fencing would not



increase the number of immigrants trying to cross into California, Kyl told her he could not assure her of that.

But he did remind Feinstein — who ended up supporting the proposal — that he helped write the legislation for a fence along the border in San Diego. Construction of that double barrier was credited with sharply reducing the number of illegal border crossers into San Diego County — and driving them eastward into Arizona.

"Arizona is still apprehending over half of all illegal aliens," Kyl said.

Another measure, sponsored by Kennedy — to study the effectiveness of additional fencing on border cities and the impact that might have on relations with the Mexican government and the environment — passed with one dissenting vote, from Sessions. The Alabama senator — whose proposal for a 700-mile wall in the most heavily trafficked border areas had failed — made clear during discussions Wednesday that he disapproved of commissioning a study instead of simply acting.

"The American people have a right to be dubious of what we do here," he said.

Other amendments approved Thursday included Feinstein's measure to exempt asylum-seekers from being prosecuted for forged documents if they could prove a credible fear of persecution in their home country, and a measure by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) that would order the deportation of illegal immigrants being held in federal and state prisons.

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English ... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

--Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

...

Continued from page 20 Uncommon Weapon in ...

states. It does not detail what those costs have been.

The lawsuit made similar claims against meatpacker Swift & Co., of Greeley, Colo., and Sorrento Lactalis Inc., a cheese company based in Buffalo, N.Y.

In December, a federal district court in Idaho dismissed the case on a legal principle that prohibits municipalities from suing to recoup the cost of services they provide in the normal course of business. The case is now before the 9th Circuit, where Foster successfully settled his case against the Washington fruit company.

A Syngenta representative dismissed the lawsuit as "baseless." At Swift, spokesman Sean McHugh said: "We believe the suit is without merit." Spokesmen for Sorrento Lactalis and Harris Moran declined to comment, citing the ongoing lawsuit.

Thomas G. Walker, a lawyer for the labor contractor Corral, said his client "didn't do anything wrong. He fulfills all of the requirements under the immigration statutes."

About a month after the suit was filed, Swift told its 408 Canyon County workers that the local facility, in

operation since 1916, would be shut down. It said the closure was due to restrictions on Canadian beef imports. But many residents see the lawsuit as the last straw for the company.

"It's a horrible lawsuit," said Maurice Clements, a former state legislator and farmer. "Swift closed their plant, the other three companies — God, I hope they don't leave. They provide a huge market for farmers in this area."

The companies named in the suit generate almost \$700,000 a year in tax revenue for the county and pay millions to local growers, according to the Canyon County Farm Bureau.

Syngenta has been in Idaho for 90 years and produces one-third of the world's sweet corn seed there. "Those four companies are a huge part of our agricultural base and therefore our economic base," said Terri Ottens, the farm bureau's executive secretary.

The commissioners counter by citing the costs of illegal immigration. Idaho law mandates that the county cover hospital fees for anyone who has lived there for more than six months and is unable to pay. That leads to bills such as the \$1.25-million tab to care for an illegal immigrant who was left a quadriplegic because of a car accident.

Vasquez said also that a recently

completed welfare analysis showed that from 1999 to 2005, claims by illegal immigrants totaled \$1.2 million.

But Ottens, of the farm bureau, is skeptical of the commissioners' claims. Her group says much of the cost of jailing illegal immigrants is often reimbursed by the state.

"We found the amount of money the county pays out is minimal compared to what these companies [being sued] pay in property tax," Ottens said.

Yet many residents are deeply grateful

to Vasquez for taking a stand against illegal immigration.

Construction company owner Brad Tracy, who says he refuses to hire under the table, said it was almost impossible to compete against businesses that use illegal labor.

"I've got to pay workman's comp, health insurance, fuel costs, property tax," he said. "Then I've got to compete against people who say they have no employees, just contract labor at \$10 an hour."

...



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Continued from page 8
How Stupid is This ...

sponsoring money throughout the world. At the United Nations, United Arab Emirates votes against the U.S. 70 percent of the time.

Does Bush not understand the consequences of the latest “Waterloo” last fall in Paris, France? Amsterdam, Holland? London, England? Sydney, Australia? Did he not understand that French Muslim ghettos exploded into flames and 10,000 cars suffered fire bombings? Total anarchy reigned in the streets for three weeks!

What about the bald faced lie of weapons of mass destruction that has killed or maimed 17,000 of our nation’s finest soldiers in Iraq? Bush defends this war waged against terror while our southern borders stand open and unguarded to terrorists 24 hours per day. What a charade on the American people! Worse, we buy it!

While Bush builds Iraq with \$300 billion of our tax dollars, he lets New Orleans rot without hope. Why rebuild Iraq at the expense of Americans? Better yet, why not leave the rest of the world’s countries to their own responsibilities? To manifest their own choices? You can’t expect to bring democratic reforms to countries where Sharia Law dominates their core culture when that Islamic Law stands in direct contradiction to democratic governance. How stupid is this

president?

What about our own elected Congress and president supporting H-1B, H-2B and L-1 visas that have stolen jobs from 1,000,000 Americans? How about all the outsourcing, insourcing and offshoring of our jobs? It’s unconscionable!

Why hasn’t he done something about the \$700 billion trade deficit? What’s he waiting for? We owe China over \$280 billion in trade deficit from last year alone!

We’ve got 14 million unemployed American workers and Bush hasn’t created jobs for them, but he wants to legalize 20 million illegal aliens to work those jobs at slave wages. How completely stupid is that?

How much does he want to swamp this country with foreigners? Another 10 million Mexicans? That’s right; we’ve got 10 million Mexicans and if Bush has his way, we’ll have another 10 million. So when does the need for ‘cheap labor’ end and the rights of American citizens begin?

As our national language vanishes into a Tower of Babel, why hasn’t Bush rescinded Bill Clinton’s insane E.O. 13166 that forces us to give all immigrants documents in their own language instead of them learning English? It’s a national nightmare we may not survive as we balkanize ourselves into city states where language separates us from ourselves.

How stupid is this president?

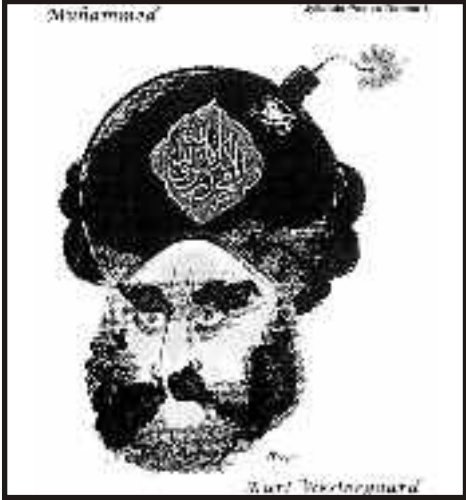
What about illegal Mexicans colonizing us from the south? Bush pushes a guest worker program that will give us millions upon millions of legalized illegal aliens with a promise of more to come! He does it in spite of the fact that they are not working the “jobs that Americans won’t do” but taking jobs in all sectors that Americans have always worked—for a living wage. Bush forces our working poor into welfare lines while we pay food stamp and unemployment costs.

While illegals don’t pay into our income tax (half work off the books), school and medical systems but use them, they send \$20 billion back home to Mexico annually. Bush supports that horrific financial drain out of our states. How stupid is this president?

Does Bush have any inkling as to ‘carrying capacity’ and the lack of water in the West that’s already screaming for water that isn’t available?

Do any of our members of Congress have a single ounce of common sense or reasoned thought? What drives their madness? How stupid can they be? How stupid are we for electing them? In November, 2006, we must toss 33 senators and 435 House members out on their ears if they don’t address and solve America’s problems instead of the rest of the world’s!

How stupid is this president? How is his stupidity affecting you? Let me hear



One of the Muhammad caricatures run by a Danish newspaper that has caused insane world-wide violence by Muslims

your ideas!

As this battle escalates, please call two senators that stand up for America: Senator Sessions at 1-202-224-4124 and Senator Grassley at 1-202-224-3744. Give their offices a quick call and thank them for stopping the guest worker program. Tell them that you want the borders secured and illegal immigration stopped. You want legal immigration reduced back to the 1964 levels of 100,000 per year. No amnesty for 20 million illegals! Call Congressman J.D. Hayworth’s office and thank him and Tom Tancredo for their standing up against this invasion: 1-877-762-8762. These statesmen need all the support you can give them. ■■■

Continued from page 10
Gold Hill Recall ...

she confronts them. There is no question whatsoever that the voters in Gold Hill should retain this gem for as long as she is willing to serve.

Councilor Gus Wolf (pictured front page) – Wolf is well deserving of the recall. Gus is the main promoter of all the needless controversy regarding the city council. Gus has a well hidden “God syndrome,” he thrives on control and can be found gossiping and stirring the pot in Gold Hill whenever the opportunity arises. He has personally been conducting a campaign to abolish the police department, while pretending to support the department in council meetings. Gus is also an avid hypocrite. In a recent communication he sent out, Gus stated, “We were a positive and constructive board last administration, we didn’t always agree, but never had all this bickering, gossiping and wasted resources. Let’s get together or get out.” Wow, talk about the kettle calling the pot black! Gus must have been looking square in the mirror as he wrote his short, hypocritical brief. Gus Wolf, who has created a bad image on many occasions for the city and has caused divisions on the council for years, needs to be recalled. As Gus states it, “or get out.” The City of Gold Hill will be a far better place, minus this deceitful individual. Wolf should be recalled.



Councilor Tom Daly – Daly is definitely methodical – maybe too slow to react – maybe not. Much like

Councilor Hicks, Tom Daly is slow to act, thinking issues out at length. The Observer is well acquainted with Councilor Daly and confident that he will make decisions that are in the best interests of Gold Hill residents. Tom clearly has no hidden agendas and he has the smarts for his position. Tom Daly, much like Councilor Hicks, is not a confrontational person, however at some point, given the severe trouble-making being conducted by rogue councilors Wolf, Fish and Silva, Mr. Daly and Mr. Hicks must move to stop the underhanded actions of Gold Hill’s rogue trio before city liability, etc. becomes irreparable.

Councilor Jan Fish (pictured front page) – Ms. Fish is at the hub of false allegations and dissention regarding issues facing the council. Jan Fish would love to “run” the Gold Hill Police Dept., --right into the ground. Jan Fish has made numerous false allegations aimed at Chief Muchow and has publicly lied at council meetings by stating that she supports the police department. Fish has lied in public by stating that Chief Muchow cannot manage his budget well. In other words she is saying that Muchow is squandering the public’s money when nothing could be further from the truth. She has tried to convince other councilors behind the scenes of this falsehood. On March 6, 2006, Chris Dye of Purkepile & Johannsen (the firm conducting the recent audit in Gold Hill) stated that “Dean (Muchow) and Royal (Gasso) have done an excellent job managing their budgets.” We are informed that a Risk Management (for Gold Hill’s insurance carrier) auditor will be conducting an audit of the police department next month, as well as the departments interactions with other departments within the city and its council. We expect the auditor to find that the police department has acted professionally and at a very low risk factor and they will find that Fish and her (2) cohorts have placed the City of Gold Hill in high risk regarding liability. Fish is not competent enough to serve as

a councilor and should definitely be recalled.



City Recorder Mary Goddard – The jury is still out on Gold Hill’s Recorder. Although Mary Goddard is right in the middle of the goings-on in Gold Hill it hasn’t been completely determined if she is part of the problem or if she has simply been pawned by Wolf, Fish and Silva. Goddard has been an instant source for lap-dog reporter Sanne Specht, however we have no absolute proof that she has instigated the ludicrous problems, falsehoods and stalking attempts that surround her. Stay tuned regarding Mary Goddard.



Police Chief Dean Muchow – The Observer has looked at Muchow more

closely than any others due to the fact that everything regarding this Chief turns up 100% in his favor. We have concluded that Muchow, even though overwhelmingly supported by the public, has been the recipient of baseless lies, false allegations and laughable innuendos. Muchow has handled these attacks like a professional and gentleman. Few officers would put up with the absolute garbage that this cop has endured. In a recent interview with Chief Muchow he stated, “I have to realize the source when I receive false allegations. I work for the citizens of Gold Hill and I swore an oath when they hired me. I fully intend to uphold my oath and serve to the best of my ability.” The City of Gold Hill, Oregon should be very proud of this officer, they should realize that he has operated a highly successful police department on a shoestring and they should act to stop those who are attacking him. We conclude that Muchow will most likely always have to put up with wrongful attacks because he refuses to be anyone’s puppet. We also conclude that he has plenty of backbone and integrity, which will allow him to withstand the same.

In closing, the recall attempt appears to be a success at this juncture. Petition gatherers have collected over 50 signatures on each rogue councilor to date and they have until the end of April to garner the required 61. Petition gatherers expect to collect at least 100 signatures on each councilor being recalled. If you are a registered voter living within the Gold Hill City limits you have an obligation and duty to take part in your government. We have taken the time to bring you the facts; now you take the time to sign a recall petition and then make sure you mark your ballot to get rid of Gus Wolf, Jan Fish and Donna Silva. Clean up Gold Hill government and in so-doing you will save yourselves much liability and embarrassment.

To sign or circulate a petition call: Scott Baker at 541-855-0352. ■■■

Health

Study Shows Drug Reverses Heart Disease

By Marilyn Marchione
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA - High doses of a powerful cholesterol-lowering drug seemed to actually reverse heart disease — not just keep it from getting worse — new research showed.

People in the study got their "bad cholesterol" to the lowest levels ever achieved and saw blockages in their blood vessels shrink as a result. It's too soon to tell whether the shrinkage of artery deposits will mean fewer heart attacks, but doctors were excited by the possibility.

"The holy grail has always been to try to reverse the disease," and this shows a way, said Dr. Steven Nissen, the Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who led the nationwide experiment and reported results at a meeting of heart doctors Monday.

"This is a paper to take seriously. It's another chapter in the story, a proof of principle," said Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Two-thirds of the 349 study participants had regression of heart artery buildups when they took the maximum dose of Crestor, the strongest of the cholesterol-lowering statin drugs on the market and one under fire by the consumer group Public Citizen, which contends it has more side effects than its competitors.

The group said Monday that the study "does not alter our assessment that

Crestor has unique risks without evidence of unique benefits" and should not be prescribed, especially at the doses used in this study unless lower doses and other drugs failed to help.

The study was paid for by AstraZeneca PLC, the maker of Crestor. Some reports have linked it to higher rates of serious muscle problems and kidney damage, especially among Asians, and the Food and Drug Administration last year required a warning on its label.

No big safety issues emerged in the new study, but doctors said it was too small to detect rare side effects and was not designed for that purpose.

The aim was to see whether people who already had heart disease, not just high cholesterol, could turn back the clock.

Clots in arteries are the main cause of heart attacks. Big ones are treated with angioplasty to flatten them or surgery to bypass them, but doctors have long sought a less drastic solution that also treats small buildups that can slowly worsen until they squeeze a vessel shut.

Statins such as Lipitor, Zocor and Pravachol have become the world's top-selling drugs by dramatically lowering LDL or "bad cholesterol," a culprit in clot formation.

In the study, Crestor not only dropped average LDL levels from 130 milligrams per deciliter of blood at the start to around 60, but also raised HDL or "good cholesterol" from 43 to 49.

Doctors think this dual effect may be what caused blockages to shrink, as

documented by ultrasound measurements before and two years after treatment.

The volume of each patient's main blockage decreased a modest 1 percent. The amount of buildup in the most clogged artery decreased 9 percent, and in the entire length of the vessel, 7 percent, on average.

"The results are very, very exciting and break new ground," said Dr. David Williams of Rhode Island Cardiology Center, who had no role in the study.

It would have been better if it had tested Crestor against a lower dose of another statin, Dr. Roger Blumenthal of Johns Hopkins University wrote in an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The journal will publish the study in its April 5 issue.

The maximum dose for Crestor is 40 milligrams a day; it is 80 milligrams for the other, less powerful statins. Insurers already are restricting use of specific brands, something likely to escalate in the next few months as Pravachol and Zocor lose patent protection and cheaper generics become available.

The study also renews debate about how low LDL should go. Federal guidelines recommend aiming for 70 in people at high risk of heart disease, but Nissen said the benefits seen when it is pushed to 60 suggest that "as low as we can go might make more sense."

"The body needs about 40 LDL, so we're getting pretty close to what the body needs for general repair," said Dr.

Christopher O'Connor, a Duke University cardiologist who had no role in the research.

Also at the conference:

- A hoped-for cure for migraine headaches — putting a patch over a hole in the heart like the one Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has — failed to work in its first major test. Only three of the 74 patients whose holes were plugged had no more migraines six months later, the same cure rate as the 71 people who got a sham procedure to make them think their hearts were being repaired, said study leader Dr. Peter Wilmschurst of Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in England.

However, more people whose hearts were patched had a significant reduction in their number of headaches — a result that gives hope to the device's maker, Boston-based NMT Medical Inc., which has commissioned a larger study of it in the United States.

- Doctors reported encouraging early results with the first totally absorbable stent, a tiny mesh scaffold used to prop open an artery. No deaths, heart attacks or blood clots in the first 63 patients to get the experimental device, made by Berlin, Germany-based Biotronik, said Dr. Raimund Erbel of University Clinic in Essen, Germany.

If further studies prove the stent safe and successful, it could become the first one usable in children, who can't use current metal and drug-coated plastic stents because the devices don't grow as they do.

Java running neck-and-neck with soft drinks in US: report

NEW YORK (Reuters) - More Americans are drinking a cup of coffee every day, putting Java virtually neck-and-neck with such soft drinks as cola, according to an industry report released on Saturday.

Preliminary data from the National Coffee Association of USA's "2006 National Coffee Drinking Trends" showed the percent of U.S. consumers who drink coffee each day rose to 56 percent in 2006 from 53 percent in 2005 and 49 percent in 2004.

"With increases in coffee consumption from 53 percent to 56 percent, accompanied by a decline in soft-drink consumption over the last year to 57 percent, daily coffee drinkers are now statistically equal to daily soft-drink consumers," NCA said in a statement.

The report, based on a nationwide random-telephone survey, found that most of the daily consumption of coffee was driven by adults 25 to 39 years of age. Daily coffee intake from that group rose to 47 percent in 2006 from 41 percent a year ago.

Meanwhile, the survey showed 82 percent of all American adults drink

coffee either daily or weekly. That's up from 80 percent in 2005.

"Americans are making coffee a bigger part of their lives, expanding attitudes and behaviors that are driving new levels of consumption," Robert Nelson, president and chief executive of NCA, said in the statement.

The United States, the world's top coffee importing nation, has seen the highest intake of brew in the Northeast, with daily consumption in that region rising to 61 percent in 2006 from 58 percent in 2004.

Editor's Note: Coffee has been an exploding industry over the years and we are proud to give kudos to our very own, Grants Pass, Oregon, based Dutch Bros.

Their commitment to fine coffee and excellent service rates them at the top of our list of places to go for a cup of joe.

Through Dutch Bros. expansion they are bringing an all needed industry into our area which supports many local charities and provides needed jobs, thereby helping our local economy.

Keep up the good work!

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- TAXES -

Realizing it's tax time we thought we'd share with you some of the taxes that you pay on a regular basis:

- Accounts Receivable tax
- Building Permit tax
- Capital Gains tax
- CDL license tax
- Cigarette tax
- Corporate Income tax
- Dog License tax
- Federal Income tax
- Federal Unemployment tax
- Fishing License tax
- Food License tax
- Fuel permit tax
- Gasoline tax (42 cents per gallon)
- Hunting License tax
- Inheritance tax
- Interest Earned tax
- Inventory tax
- IRS Interest Charges
- IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax)
- Liquor tax
- Local Income tax
- Luxury taxes
- Marriage License tax
- Medicare tax
- Property tax
- Real Estate tax
- Septic Permit tax
- Service Charge taxes
- Social Security tax
- Road Usage taxes (Truckers)
- Sales taxes
- Recreational Vehicle tax
- Road Toll Booth taxes
- School tax
- State Income tax
- State Unemployment tax
- Federal Excise tax (telephone)
- Federal Universal Service Fee tax (telephone)
- Federal, State and Local Surcharge taxes (telephone)
- Minimum Usage Surcharge tax (telephone)
- Recurring and Non-recurring Charges tax (telephone)
- State and Local tax (telephone)
- Telephone Usage Charge tax
- Toll Bridge taxes
- Toll Tunnel taxes
- Trailer Registration tax
- Utility taxes
- Vehicle License Registration tax
- Vehicle Sales tax
- Watercraft Registration tax
- Well Permit tax
- Workers Compensation tax
- Import / Export tariffs (tax)

With all this tax, it's hard to believe that people can make it at all.

■■■

Scalia critical of what he calls the “judge-moralist”



BOSTON (AP)—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia railed against the era of the "judge-moralist," saying judges are no better qualified than "Joe Sixpack" to decide moral questions such as abortion and gay marriage.

"Anyone who thinks the country's most prominent lawyers reflect the views of the people needs a reality

check," he said during a speech to New England School of Law students and faculty at a Law Day banquet on Wednesday night.

The 70-year-old justice said the public, through elected Legislatures -- not the courts -- should decide watershed questions such as the legality of abortion.

Scalia decried his own court's recent overturning of a state anti-sodomy law, joking that he personally believes "sexual orgies eliminate tension and ought to be encouraged," but said a panel of judges is not inherently qualified to determine the morality of such behavior.

He pointed to the granting of voting rights to women in 1920 through a constitutional amendment as the proper way for a democracy to fundamentally change its laws.

"Judicial hegemony" has replaced the public's right to decide important moral questions, he said. Instead, he said, politics has been injected in large doses to the process of nominating and confirming federal judges.

Noting that the Senate confirmed his high court nomination by a 98-0 vote, Scalia said, "You could not get a judge with my views confirmed to the Court of Appeals today."

He said code words such as "mainstream" and "moderate" are now used to describe liberal judicial nominees.

"What is a moderate interpretation of (the Constitution)? Halfway between what it says and halfway between what you want it to say?" he said.

Scalia, a well known as a strict "constructionist" in his interpretation of the Constitution, opened his remarks by saying, "I brought three speeches, and I decided to give the most provocative one, because this seems to be too happy a crowd."

Margaret Marshall, chief justice of the state Supreme Judicial Court, and author of the controversial decision that legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts, was scheduled to sit at the head table with Scalia, but was absent due to illness.

■■■

White House pushes schools to drug-test students

By Andy Sullivan

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Student athletes, musicians and others who participate in after school activities could increasingly be subject to random drug testing under a program promoted by the Bush administration.

White House officials say drug testing is an effective way to keep students away from harmful substances like marijuana and crystal methamphetamine, and have held seminars across the country to promote the practice to local school officials.

But some parents, educators and school officials call it a heavy-handed, ineffective way to discourage drug use that undermines trust and invades students' privacy.

"Our money should be going toward educating young people, not putting them under these surveillance programs," said Jennifer Kern, a research associate at the Drug Policy Alliance, a non-profit group that has frequently criticized U.S. drug policy.

Requiring students to produce a urine sample or hair sample for laboratory testing is a relatively recent tactic in the United States' decades-long "war on drugs," along with surveillance cameras and drug-sniffing dogs in school hallways.

Adults in the military and many workplaces have long been subject to testing, but U.S. courts have ruled that public schools cannot impose random tests on an entire student body.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that schools can randomly test student athletes who are not suspected of drug use, and in 2002 ruled that all students who participate in voluntary activities,

like cheerleading, band or debate, could be subjected to random tests.

Since then, the Bush administration has spent \$8 million to help schools pay for drug testing programs. The White House hopes to spend \$15 million on drug-testing grants in the next fiscal year.

Roughly 600 school districts now use drug tests out of about 15,000 nationwide, according to officials from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

White House officials liken drug testing to programs that screen for tuberculosis or other diseases, and said students who test positive don't face criminal charges.

The threat of a drug test also helps students resist peer pressure, said John Horton, an associate deputy director at the drug-control office.

Just Say 'No I Can't'

"If I'm at a party and somebody says, 'Hey, do you want a hit of dope?' if I can look at that person and say, 'No, I can't,' then that's one more tool to say no," Horton said at a recent drug-testing conference in Virginia.

Critics say the White House's emphasis on testing comes at the expense of counseling, treatment and education programs.

Studies are mixed on the programs' effectiveness. Several individual schools reported declines in student drug use after implementing random testing, and a survey of 65 Indiana principals found drug use decreased at

more than half of the schools where testing occurred.

But a 2003 national survey of 76,000 students found no difference in drug use between schools that test students and those that don't.

Illicit drug use remained steady among high school students between 1997 and 2004, with roughly half of high school seniors saying they had tried illicit drugs at some point, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Several school administrators said the White House presentation had persuaded them of the benefits of random testing. But Baltimore social worker Karen Harris-Waites said many in her school district would probably see a mandatory program as too intrusive.

That's happened in other school districts. Williamsburg, Virginia, decided to adopt a voluntary testing program earlier this month instead of a mandatory program.

And Roanoke County, Virginia, rejected a mandatory program in 2004. "It just seems to be very intrusive," said Roanoke County parent Larry Morgan. "Just because they say you can do something doesn't mean it's good policy."

Editor's Note: While drug testing is obviously intrusive, is it wrong to use with our vulnerable youth, who are all too often trapped and sucked into the world of drugs after sampling them?

Many student athletes, musician's and the like have suffered years of pain and physical damage from the direct results of drug use and addiction. Realizing that many parents are too busy to teach their children, what's the answer? Write to the US~Observer and tell us what you think.

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