



THE GEM STATE PATRIOT



All Around Idaho Inc. Publication
Volume 19 , September 15, 2014
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Knowledge is Power as Silence is Consent. We will
bring you the knowledge so you can rise up and
restore freedom and liberty back to our country.

Welcome to The Gem State Patriot, we are a not-for-profit newsletter.

SPECIAL EDITION
INSIDE INTERVIEWS WITH THREE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN MILLER WINNER OF THE MARCONI AWARD

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INSIDE OF THIS ISSUE

PAGE 3-13	Interviews with three gubernatorial candidates. All three candidates were asked the same six questions on issues facing our state and the next governor. Steve Ackerman and Bob Neugebauer personally interviewed AJ Balukoff and John Bujak. Governor Otter e-mailed his answers to the questions due to his busy schedule. We would like to thank all three candidates for the time they took out of their busy days to offer their honest opinions on these specific issues. We think that our readers will be helped in choosing a candidate on election day because of these interviews.
PAGE 14	We celebrate with Kevin Miller 580 KIDO am radio on his winning the Marconi Award for Best medium personality for 2014. The best talk radio in the Treasure Valley.
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PAGE 26-36	<p style="text-align: center;">UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS</p> <p>Please take a moment to look through our special events announcements and meeting schedules. If you have a special event coming up or an important meeting and would like to get the word out, please feel free to e-mail us a copy of the event flyer or the information about your meeting. bob@gemstatepatriot.com</p>

THE GEM STATE PATRIOT WOULD LIKE TO OFFER ANY STUDENTS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR WORK TO SEND US INFORMATION ON WHO YOU ARE, WHAT GEOGRAPHICAL AREA YOU LIVE IN, WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCE IS, WHAT TYPE OF WORK YOU WOULD LIKE AND THE HOURS YOU WOULD BE AVAILABLE.
EACH ISSUE WE WILL SET SPACE ASIDE FOR YOU TO ADVERTISE IN OUR "FOR HIRE COLUMN" FOR FREE
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AN INTERVIEW WITH A.J BALUKOFF

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

1) The Governor has focused on K-thru-Career and sees a big future in vocational training as one of the drivers. What would you do that is different?

The governor's K-thru-Career is good on the soundbites, but short on the follow-up. That's what we need to concentrate on. We've got to make sure we get our public schools off the bottom in funding, in achievement, as well as increase our students going to college and professional-technical schools. Those need to be the goals.

Both a focus on vocational and going onto college are important. It depends on the students' interests, aptitude, and such. Schools like College of Western Idaho are a great addition to our valley. They've achieved their five-year enrollment and other goals. It is a demonstration of how necessary was that kind of school.

In the Boise School District, we have the dental center that we started 5-6 years ago. Then we partnered with CWI. For smaller school districts, they have a more difficult time doing professional-technical programs. In Canyon County, several school districts got together to form a joint venture along these lines. We also have similar types of programs in Twin Falls and Eastern Idaho.

It's important to remember that we're going to need the skilled trades. We can get this started in our high schools, making it part of the high school program and then transitioning to schools like CWI. Some kids can go right from these programs in high school to good-paying jobs, while others can continue through a CWI-type college.

It's also important that as we talk about STEM education, we don't forget about the skilled trades. But it's not just things like welding and others, it is also in healthcare with nursing, physical therapy, and such. Schools like Idaho State University, at their Meridian campus, show this need. I think one of their goals is to get a Physician's Assistant program set up. That is very needed, especially given where healthcare is going. It will help on costs because not everybody needs to see a doctor for every visit. These PAs and nurses can address some of these problems.

STEM and Common Core: Leading to low-wage jobs? Would you make changes to Common Core or a better solution?

What do you see when it comes to STEM-related jobs?

They have a hard time hiring qualified candidates. This makes it harder for them to expand. They have to go out of state to find people. We need to make sure our education programs graduate students who are qualified to fill those jobs.

There are many goals an education program should be fulfilling. But one of them is ensuring we have a qualified workforce. We need to be aware of where is the demand, as well as to be flexible to change with demand among different industry sectors. That's been one of our problems in the past. We need to understand that our kids are flexible, can learn, and can think. They will be going after jobs that don't exist today.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH A.J BALUKOFF

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I have no problem with STEM education. However, you also need Civics, History, Art, Music, Health, and other areas that are just as important because these are issues in our society today. Just look at things like the obesity epidemic in our country today. How are we going to deal with that effectively if we don't have good physical and health education programs in our schools?

2) You say on your web site that you do not like the SBAC test for Common Core. Would you accept an alternative to Common Core Standards or as they call them now Idaho Core Standards if they were better than the current model?

Our legislature adopted the approach of Common Core. I was a member of the Boise School District for many years, and we took a look at Common Core. Our district put out a whitepaper about a year ago on our approach to the Common Core. We concluded that we're not going to be limited by the Common Core. Instead, our vision is to have our kids be ready for college, career, and citizenship. That's what drives the decisions we make in our district.

The Common Core basically prepares everybody for Algebra II by 12th grade. Our goal is to have as many kids as possible to take Calculus by 12th grade. We recognize that not all kids will meet that goal, so we give them parallel tracks.

We believe in high standards. The standards under the No Child Left Behind program were very low, and did a disservice to students and their parents. Where Common Core offers higher standards, we're fine to accept them, but our focus is on higher standards.

You'll also find problems with the way our state adopted Common Core. We're not in favor of the SBAC test. We're not in favor of using standardized tests as a major component of teacher evaluations. When it comes to the Longitudinal Data System, it comes down to what you collect and then what you do with it. FERPA laws address privacy, but I believe we're collecting way too much data; data we don't need to collect.

When it comes to federal funding, we can adopt the standards of Common Core and as long as we can prove that, then we would qualify for federal money. Idaho has some 115 school districts, ranging from tens of thousands to just a few students. The vast majority of our school districts have less than 1,000 students. So you have all these diverse needs, and dictating from Boise a one-size fits all, I think is folly.

Idaho's Education Department has the responsibility to work with the smaller districts that don't have the economies of scale to write the curriculum to meet the standards of Common Core, the professional development for our teachers, and to identify the textbooks that will work best. Our Department of Education needs to be a resource for the smaller districts to help them, and they haven't done that.

The federal government tends to meddle in state affairs when it comes to education. Superintendent Luna was a big fan of Race to the Top, but most of the school board trustees around the state were not. The more independent we can be of the federal Department of Education, the better off Idaho will be. I believe in local control, especially when it comes to education.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH A.J BALUKOFF

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

3) Too many Idahoans are underemployed in low paying jobs. What would you do to change that and bring higher paying jobs to Idaho?

First and foremost, we need to fix the education system so we are graduating the kinds of students that businesses want to hire and that companies want their children to attend. Until we're turning out students who are qualified to do the high-paying jobs, we're not going to develop our economy.

The second step is to change the focus on the Department of Commerce. If you look at our Commerce Department, much of their focus is to try and attract big companies to come to Idaho. And, we're competing with a lot of other states to do that. So just by the law of averages, you're not going to win a lot of those investment dollars.

80% of new jobs are created by companies that are already here in Idaho. The Department of Commerce would be more effective if they would spend their resources to make better use of Idaho companies in each region of the state. They could better utilize the resources in these regions so that the local companies can thrive and grow, creating more local jobs for the people of our state. I would grow from within, focusing on the companies that are already here.

How about the use of tax credits for economic development?

I'm skeptical of the approach the current administration is taking of simply offering more tax credits. It doesn't look to me like it is working.

We need to spend more time asking these companies what they need and what we can do to help them grow. People talk about the use of tax credits, but it's my guess those companies will offer higher priority suggestions than tax credits.

Workforce Development Funds?: The downside of those funds is that companies take the money, but don't necessarily end up staying. When we started the accounting firm, we eventually created 411 jobs – just on our payroll. I have experience creating jobs.

4) Idaho's technology sector seems to be getting off the ground i.e. the Tech Mall and other initiatives. What would you do to encourage home growth as well as attract companies to our State?

Networks like the Tech Mall that bring entrepreneurs together are probably more effective than relying on tax credits and exemptions. Taxes play an important role in the technology sector and industrial development.

More broadly on the issue of taxes, The legislature has done things with it over the years; they've given this break, changed this rate, and made other changes over the years. We need a comprehensive review of our tax code, asking several questions:

Is it as efficient as it could be? Is it collecting the proper amount of tax? Is it keeping the administrative burden on taxpayers (individuals and businesses) as low as possible? A good example is the tax on Internet sales. Taxpayers are supposed to keep track of their online purchases all year long, and then record and pay them. more efficient and less burdensome administratively on people.

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By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

The grocery tax credit is another example of a burden and an antiquated system. You could put in the exemption right at the register, given the use of the barcode. That would be much more efficient and less burdensome administratively on people.

5) What would you do to modify the makeup of the Land Board to make it less conflicting with its current members and make it more transparent to the eyes of the public?

The Land Board, from time to time, tends to get political. This is not a good thing. The members of the Land Board are trustees who are to manage the assets for the good of the beneficiaries. It would be like you setting up a trust for your children. The bank's obligation is to be responsible in managing the assets for the good of the beneficiaries. That's the way the Land Board needs to be run. I also want to say I appreciated the time Bob Forrey spent with me on the Land Board. His information was very valuable.

The constitutional members have shown that sometimes they get political, failing to keep the interests of the beneficiaries foremost in their minds. To change the membership would require a constitutional amendment, and that would be difficult. Beyond taking the Attorney General off of it, I haven't seen any serious proposals.

There are questions whether you go with a fully appointed board that might awry or whether you keep more of the influence through the governor's office and have it be run by elected officials. I believe there are discussions we need to have, given there have been questions on where they invest some of the money, the maximum return issue. I don't know if I have an answer to it, but I believe discussions should commence.

What about multiple appraisals and better notification of auctions as Representatives John Vander Woude and Grant Burgoyne have proposed?

Those are great points because too much in government is a lack of transparency. We saw the shredding of applicants from the governor's office. I think transparency in government is critical, and that's especially true of the Land Board.

Some of the advertising of cabin lots has been obscure. The advertising should utilize all channels that you would expect. There just need to be better processes in place, and I support that.

6) How will you deal with the Federal Government when it comes to same sex marriage and the fact that in the DOMA decision it says the State defines marriage?

I don't know where the courts are going to fall at the end of the day. However, here are the principles that I think should be followed: We have to follow the U.S. Constitution. We've had some 15 states have their ban on same-sex marriage ruled unconstitutional. I'm not a lawyer, so I could be dead wrong, but my guess is that the (U.S.) Supreme Court is going to find the same way.

To treat same-sex couples differently than we treat opposite-sex couples; they're not showing a rational basis for it. I'm pretty sure that some of those judges have looked for a rational basis, but they haven't found it.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BUJAK

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

1) *The Governor has focused on K-thru-Career and sees a big future in vocational training as one of the drivers. What would you do that is different?*

First, whatever has been in place up to now has not worked. We're just not where we should be when it comes to performance measures of our students.

I think vocational training has a place in education – absolutely. If a kid doesn't want to go on – whether it is a lack of interest or some other reason – then there has to be a place for that kid.

The problem is we're not preparing students at the elementary level to have those choices. Right now, our primary and secondary education schools are not doing enough for that preparation. I can appreciate ideas like K-thru-Career, but it has to be more than a campaign. It has to be done by teachers in the classroom.

The reason our efforts have not been successful is because we've tied the hands of teachers in Idaho. They know what needs to be done to prepare kids to have the choices we're talking about. And, it will be different around the state. What worked for me in McCall will be different for a kid in Boise. Different districts have different industries and different local economies. It can also be the prevalence of post-secondary education of adults in the local community, and the kinds of businesses they have set up. This can influence a child.

You cannot impose some national standard on these diverse districts. I'm against Common Core; I believe it is a terrible idea. You have to have standards to measure performance, but at the same time, we need to do that here in Idaho. Teachers should set the standards and choose the curriculum.

Teachers can have the vision to set the goals for their classes, and that includes the expectations for their students. We also need to reward teachers for good performance.

2) *You say on your web site that you do not like the SBAC test for Common Core. Would you accept an alternative to Common Core Standards or as they call them now Idaho Core Standards if they were better than the current model?*

We need to have measurable standards. I would be very open to hear more from teachers, but some kind of state standard could go far. It will have to be developed from the bottom up, but I do think it is possible. This could rise from the district level to a state standard.

To use a military analogy, if you're going to try and take the hill, I don't care how they do it. I firmly believe teachers know much more about setting standards than some bureaucrat at the top. What is important is that kids are well prepared.

3) *Too many Idahoans are underemployed in low paying jobs. What would you do to change that and bring higher paying jobs to Idaho?*

First of all, service-industry jobs are not the way to go. I can appreciate the idea of trying to attract these service-industry companies, but good production and manufacturing firms are how you're going to make money and drive good economic growth.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BUJAK

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

I see a lot of small businesses around Idaho that have a bright future, and it's because they're making products people want. I've seen innovators like Tony DuPont [of Io DuPont] that harnesses high-tech materials and technologies for bicycles. This includes cabled with very high tensile strengths for use in bicycles.

Economic growth is not going to come by offering tax breaks to outside companies that come to Idaho, but have little loyalty to our people. It's going to come from tending to the garden for the local companies to grow.

The other area where we need to focus is on energy. We have resource opportunities there, along with other areas like timber, mining, and such. You have Governor Otter not doing much on this issue by saying we cannot take back control of our lands. I disagree. I think you can take back land gradually, with Idaho showing how it can be responsible in the management of our land. We know how important, for example, is taking care of our environment in Idaho, so we can achieve this while also growing our economy with better paying jobs. These are industries that make big money and are here locally.

You can talk about low unemployment rates, but the problem is you have low incomes, with both parents working and the kids left alone at home.

If you look at private charity, it does a much better job in areas like healthcare than government does. I've seen a lot of people, especially single mom's, who are working 2-3 jobs to try and make ends meet. We need to provide them with higher paying job opportunities.

4) *Idaho's technology sector seems to be getting off the ground i.e. the Tech Mall and other initiatives. What would you do to encourage home growth as well as attract companies to our State?*
This comes back to supporting the entrepreneurs by giving them an environment geared for growth in technology. You don't do it through subsidies. You do it by creating a proper business environment that is receptive to their ideas, so that they can grow with as little government influence as possible.

The market can basically take care of itself. I don't think it's the job of government to collect taxes to try and promote other businesses. If there is a demand for the product, it's going to sell. It's a natural cycle that some businesses will fail. When they do, other businesses come in, buy the parts, and try to make the new venture successful.

Do we really need seven tax brackets?

As a lawyer, I can tell you that the tax code is too complex. This brings a cost to businesses and individuals alike. I was raised in the Catholic Church, and we would tithe 10%. The Catholic Church and the LDS Church can take a flat 10% and do some incredible things with the money.

If we looked at something like that, the government could predict better what money would come in, it would be harder for people to cheat, and it would lower the cost of compliance. We need to take the burden off small businesses and middle-class taxpayers.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BUJAK

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

These are the people who make up the fabric of our society; they should be able to enjoy the American dream, instead of having to finance everyone else because the cards are stacked against them.

I realize that as a chief executive, I would often only be able to make recommendations and then challenge people by using the “bully pulpit.” However, I sure support changing the tax code to a flat tax, or keep all you earn and just pay on what they spend?

With a lot of these problems, I see little action because everybody believes they must be part of one gang or the other. I bring a more neutral perspective when I show up because I recognize that healthcare is like food – all must have it, but also that the free market can take of pretty much every problem.

There is no leadership now. We need someone who is going to bring these people to the table and challenge them on solutions. Everyone can take credit for it, but it’s not a Democratic solution or a Republican solution. It must be based on data – realistic projectionable outcomes. Whether we call it a summit or a caucus, we ought to be able to get people around the table and find solutions.

When I see no progress on the economy or the acceptance of Ottercare, what I see is the lack of people getting around a table as Idahoans – not Democrats or Republicans. We need to govern the direction of our state moving forward.

5) *What would you do to modify the makeup of the Land Board to make it less conflicting with its current members and make it more transparent to the eyes of the public?*

While they manage the land for education funding, I’ve been concerned that they haven’t done as good a job as I think private enterprise would do. I also don’t like that government is competing with the private sector when the Land Board buys businesses.

Finally, when you read through the minutes of the meetings, it sure seems that [Attorney General] Lawrence Wasden drives the vote an awful lot. It seems to be driven by the lawyer who tells them what they can do, what they can’t do, and what they should do.

First they need to stop competing with the private sector. They could do a better job at generating a profit. Second, they need to speak to more people who are experts in managing land and not have it all driven by the lawyers.

I have to think about whether I would want to see a change in the membership of the Land Board. I don’t have a problem with elected officials managing the lands; I have a problem with the way they’re doing it.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BUJAK

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

6) *How will you deal with the Federal Government when it comes to same sex marriage and the fact that in the DOMA decision it says the State defines marriage?*

I have no personal feeling about what marriage ought to be. We passed a law here in Idaho, and I think that law ought to be respected. I also think the federal courts are going to strike it down as unconstitutional.

No matter what I believe or the majority of people in Idaho believe, I don't think it is government's job to tell people how they should live their lives. I personally don't think marriage should be in the constitution or on the statutes. Government ought to let people live their lives, as long as they're not hurting themselves or others. Government should do a few things, collect the minimum amount of money to accomplish that, and then get out of the way of businesses and people.

Who I marry is my business. What I do in my bedroom is my business. How I raise my kids is my business. I don't need the government to tell me how to do any of that. Am I going to go out and campaign for same-sex marriage? No. Do I have a religious view about marriage? Yes. Should I impose my religious view on you? No.

Do you see any opportunities for some kind of civil union as an alternative?

You hit it right on the head for me. This country was built on the notion of a separation of church and state. My own personal belief is that there is a difference between religious marriage and civil marriage. It is different to me whether I raise my hand and make commitments in front of a judge or in front of a priest or minister to God with my congregation. The government has no business dictating religiously what we do.

If a church says marriage is between a man and a woman and there are two men or two women challenging that, then this is the province of religion. The government has no business to get involved.

I see no difference whether a man and a woman enter into a civil contract that involves commitments and benefits and two men or two women doing the same thing. Maybe the problem is that we're calling it "marriage." Marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic Church. That is fundamentally different from what government chooses to recognize. However, government has no right to dictate what marriage ought to mean in a religion. These are two separate arenas.

The reason I supported the "add the words" idea was to ensure everyone had equal treatment under the law. Whether I like it or don't, they're Idahoans and Americans. They deserve that equal protection.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR OTTER

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

1 – You have said you will focus on K-through-Career and see a big future in vocational training as one of the drivers. What else would you do that is different to improve educational opportunities in our state?

Public education (strictly K-12) represents approximately half our general fund budget and a Constitutional obligation to provide a free uniform and thorough system of education in Idaho. We have established an unprecedented collaboration with the education improvement taskforce that I created almost two years ago. This discussion has been led by educators and business leaders, and informed by best practices and policy makers from around Idaho, the nation, and the world. With such broad agreement and profoundly studied recommendations we simply cannot afford to fail. I am committed to seeing this process through to fruition - improving compensation for teachers, providing useful technological tools for students, continuing to connect rural areas with dedicated broadband to bring opportunity to even the most remote corners of Idaho, instilling greater accountability in our system, addressing literacy in crucial early years, and building more advanced opportunities for our kids. As this consensus driven and sweeping blueprint is turned into reality I look forward to tackling new challenges to make Idaho's public schools, and our collaborative approach to enacting positive change, a model for the country. Beyond public schools, I am a long-time believer in and advocate for charter schools that provide greater flexibility and opportunity for classroom innovation. And I fully support home-school families who provide a great example of parental involvement and leadership in the education of their children.

2 – Would you accept an alternative to Common Core standards or as they call them now Idaho Core Standards if they were better than the current model?

The Idaho Core Standards – standards developed voluntarily by a coalition of states and with Idaho in a leading role – bring greater rigor to our curriculum. This increased rigor, and the ability to better gauge the performance of our students, is available for us as if we had the purchasing power of a much larger state. I believe this added control and rigor sets the right course for our schools. Idaho remains solely in control of our curriculum. If we find we are failing our students and our employers I have no doubt the State Board of Education, our Legislature, and myself or future Governors, will not hesitate to study and improve our curriculum to serve our students.

3 – Too many Idahoans are underemployed in low-paying jobs. What do you see as your vision for bringing higher-paying jobs to Idaho and how would you organically grow those types of jobs with our current businesses?

Idaho's unemployment rate has fallen from almost 9 percent during the Great Recession to under 5 percent today. But we know that far too many Idahoans remain underemployed in low-paying jobs. That's despite the fact that the most recent data shows Idaho has the nation's third-highest growth rate in personal income and the fifth-highest annual economic growth rate. My new economic development strategy – Accelerate Idaho – captures that momentum and focuses our efforts on successfully taking Idaho's economy into the future. The first and highest priority is to advance each individual's ability to earn high wages and provide a meaningful living for their families. That's why education is my highest priority, and we already putting our solutions in place. I will continue advancing the State Board of Education's goal of ensuring at least 60 percent of Idahoans between the ages of 24 and 35 earn post-secondary degrees or professional-technical certifications by 2020. That will require implementing the 20 recommendations of my Education Task Force for improving Idaho public schools. We're sustainably and responsibly investing in local planning, teacher development, classroom technology and better accountability.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR OTTER

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

But just spending more money on education isn't the solution. We have to strategically connect industry to our schools and universities. That is why we are working with employers and educators to engineer the talent pipelines our industries need to grow. And that is why my focus is K-through-Career. We have to make sure our citizens are fully trained for the higher-paying jobs in the global 21st century. We also must elevate our existing industries and enhance their ability to compete. I continue hearing from our businesses that finding enough skilled workers is the biggest restraint on their future growth. My education focus will help address that challenge, but I won't stop there. Our new Tax Reimbursement Incentive program is designed to create new, higher-paying jobs in Idaho. And it can be used by both existing businesses looking to grow as well as new enterprises looking to relocate or expand here. It has only been effective since July 1, and we already have received applications that could result in creation of over 1,500 jobs and \$1.1 billion in new capital investments. I also will continue to advance international trade opportunities for Idaho businesses by leading trade missions that open doors and help Idaho companies succeed in the global economy. And I will keep working to improve the prospects for business growth in Idaho with a jobs-friendly tax and regulatory environment. Idaho recently was ranked second in the nation among America's most small business-friendly states. Both large and small companies benefit when State agencies work collaboratively with employers and help reduce the costs of doing business. When other states are raising taxes, we have reduced both our corporate and individual income tax rates and have eliminated most of the personal property tax burden for small businesses.

4 – Idaho's technology sector seems to be getting off the ground. What would you do to encourage home growth as well as attract companies to our state that you haven't already done?

Commerce Director Sayer and I traveled to Silicon Valley earlier this year to meet with venture capital leaders, the economic development experts at Stanford's Hoover Institution, and Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman and discuss what Idaho needs to help our tech industry reach critical mass. We also meet quarterly with the leadership of the Idaho Technology Council to collaborate on ways to nurture and support this critical industry sector. Workforce is the most important ingredient here as well, and we're working with our colleges and universities to produce more of the talented and well-prepared computer science graduates, programmers and other specialists that the tech industry needs. Two years ago I also launched the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission or IGEM program to create public-private partnerships that bring together business leaders and researchers at Idaho's colleges and universities to leverage business and career opportunities. IGEM funds already have helped build the expansion of the computer science program at Boise State University, paid for equipment that helped Idaho State University receive a Nuclear Regulatory Commission license for manufacturing medical isotopes, and funded research throughout the state on agriculture, medicine and cyber security. IGEM also created permanent funding to support the groundbreaking work at the Idaho National Laboratory's Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). It is my plan to help CAES become a leading partner in a regional alliance that includes Idaho, our neighboring states, and the Canadian provinces. Together we can become a leader in energy innovation and create global energy solutions. Beyond IGEM, our teams are working closely with education and industry partners to support the growth of such new industries as med-tech and ag-tech. All of which are creating new high-paying jobs for Idahoans. And our ability to encourage homegrown growth will be limited unless we address Idaho's infrastructure needs. Infrastructure clearly includes our highways and bridges, but it also includes broadband Internet connectivity and our digital communication capabilities. My early investment in the Idaho Education Network has created a statewide foundation on which we can build and create high-speed capabilities for all Idahoans. In fact, there's no reason why Idaho couldn't become a national leader among states in high-speed Internet access. That level of connectivity already extends to every Idaho high school. We need to expand that to every school in the state, and there's no reason why we can't partner with industry to advance that capacity to every community in the state.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR OTTER

By Steve Ackerman & Bob Neugebauer

5 – Would you modify the makeup of the Land Board to make it less conflicting with its current members and make it more transparent to the eyes of the public?

I would welcome ideas to make the Land Board more transparent and accountable. The public and school children of Idaho deserve nothing less. There has been talk about amending the Idaho Constitution to change the composition of the Land Board. I would carefully weigh the benefits and drawbacks of any proposal before presenting an option for the voters to ultimately determine.

6 – How will you deal with the federal government if we lose the battle on same-sex marriage in Idaho?

The constitutionality of Idaho's definition of marriage ultimately will be determined by the U.S. Supreme Court. I am focused throughout the legal process on defending our Idaho Constitution and the will of the people as expressed during the 2006 election that led to our definition of marriage. I will continue to do so and believe our best course is a vigorous defense. Idaho is and will always be pro-family. That starts in our homes, neighborhoods and communities. That will not change with a court ruling or pressure from Washington, D.C.

Governor Otter was unavailable to meet with us in person but took the time to e-mail back the reply's to our questions.

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SENIORS, GUNS AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

By Alexandria Kincaid

Imagine that you are the court-appointed caretaker (commonly known as a guardian and conservator) for a war veteran who no longer remembers to pay his bills on time or take his medications. The veteran is a gun owner, and you are faced with the task of telling him that you are going to remove his guns from his home.

You have to tell him this, because in 2007, after the Virginia Tech shooting, ATF issued a letter opinion stating that a person who can no longer manage his own affairs, as determined by a court, has been “adjudicated a mental defective.” You can read the entire letter at <https://www.atf.gov/press/releases/2007/05/050907-openletter-state-attorneys-general.html>. In other words, the person is now a “prohibited person” under the federal Gun Control Act. ATF’s letter opinion states that the phrase “adjudicated a mental defective” includes: “A determination by a court . . . that a person, as a result of . . . incompetency, condition, or disease:

1. Is a danger to himself or to others; or
2. Lacks the mental capacity to contract or manage his own affairs.”

The elements of the above test encompass the standard in many states for when a state court can take away a person’s right to make decisions and appoint a guardian or conservator to make decisions for that person. Guardians and conservators are frequently appointed for seniors who are declining mentally or physically and who need the help of a friend, family member, or professional to pay their bills or assist them with other tasks of daily living. When there is such a court order, and the court has made the finding that the person, because of incompetence or condition lacks the mental capacity to manage his or her own affairs, the person can no longer possess firearms under the federal law known as the Gun Control Act.

On top of the already tough situation, the court-appointed caretaker can be held liable if this senior shoots and kills another person or commits suicide.

Last year, I had the honor of speaking to the members of the Idaho Guardian and Fiduciary Association (IGFA). I also had the pleasure of working with top-notch estate professionals, including attorneys, bankers, financial planners, and accountants in a proactive legislative group known as the Trust and Estate Professionals of Idaho. My role before both of these organizations was that of advisor on federal and state gun laws as applicable to seniors and incapacitated adults.

Firearms related issues for aging and incapacitated adults – whether due to declining mental health, physical health or trauma – is an increasing dilemma. Many professionals who work with seniors may have a vague idea of the safety issues and their potential liability if correct policies and procedures are not in place and strictly followed. However, after getting involved locally, it became apparent that the gun laws are as much as mystery to the workers and companies in this field as in any other.

Because this issue is gaining media attention, I have been asked to speak at the IGFA annual event in November to assist the organization in developing educational materials and protocols for caretakers who must make hard decisions for the people they are tasked with protecting.

My goal as advisor on the applicable gun laws is not only to educate, but to help professionals set aside any personal biases or unnecessary fears about firearms to help protect a person’s Second Amendment rights while balancing the protected person’s safety. In addition, I hope to help caretakers of the elderly and incapacitated adults understand the criminal and civil liability that can tag along with their role as the responsible adult.

Continued on page 16

SENIORS, GUNS AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

By Alexandria Kincaid

Caretakers who work with seniors should respect the senior's wishes when possible. Rights, including the right to defend oneself, should only be taken away from individuals when there is no other option to protect them or those around them. The little that has been written on this topic to date is designed to excite emotions on both sides of the topic rather than address the actual issues. One article by Rachael Rettner was posted on Live Science and titled "Are Guns Safe in the Homes of Seniors and the Mentally Ill? Doctors Weigh In".

Lumping seniors into a category with the mentally ill, which is an entirely different topic (see my prior Gun Law Podcast with Clayton E. Cramer for more on the mental illness issues) is misleading and a disservice to senior gun owners. Another article published in the American Journal of Public Health states that more than 17 million people aged 65 years or older own a firearm, that they have the highest rate of suicide by a firearm, and that a disproportionate number in this group apply to carry a concealed weapon. Other titles include "Guns in Frails Hands" and the recent NBC post written by Bill Briggs "From His Cold Dead Hands: When Should Grandpa Give Up His Guns?". Both articles compare taking guns away from seniors to taking away the car keys. But a gun may be the only equalizer in a self-defense situation for an elderly person living alone.

Many of my students and clients are seniors, and I receive many questions from seniors about when they can lawfully use deadly force to defend themselves against younger, stronger people. Again, a firearm can be a great equalizer in a disparity of force situation.

An elderly person's inability to balance their checkbook or remember to pay their bills on time, along with other factors, can be cause for a court to appoint a conservator. It may never cross the caretaker's mind that because a senior needs assistance with daily financial management that they are not allowed to have a gun for personal protection.

The caretaker may also not realize that that possession does not necessarily mean "own". Possession can merely be the right to access under a theory of law known as "constructive possession". If the guns are not locked up such that the protected person cannot get to them, the protected person and anyone who knowingly assists the person to be in possession or constructive possession is violating federal criminal law.

In comparison, if a senior has prepared for incapacity by creating a trust or power of attorney, there may not be a court process when they start to lose the capacity to care for themselves. Instead, their named agent or trustee may be able to begin managing their care and finances for them without the person being "adjudicated a mental defective". However, caution is still necessary to determine if for the safety of the senior and others, the guns must be removed from the home.

Listen to my podcast on this topic for more information, and check out the IGFA website to learn about the upcoming meeting in November.



**It took a lot of hot air
To fill these babies
See the volunteers below
Thanks Governor Otter**



&

REPRESENTATIVES WHO DIDN'T REPRESENT YOU

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Christy Perry R Dist 11

Lance Clow R Dist 24

Douglas A. Hancey R Dist 34

Dell Raybould R Dist 34

Neil A. Anderson R Dist 31

Brandon Hixon R Dist 10

Frank N. Henderson R Dist 3

Gary E. Collins R Dist 13

Fred Wood R Dist 27

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Richard Wills R Dist 23

Stephen Hartgen R Dist 24

Paul Romrell R Dist 35

Scott Bedke R Dist 27

Jeff Thompson R Dist 30

Robert Anderst R Dist 12

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Roy Lacey D Dist 29

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Shawn A Keough R Dist 1

Scotland's Braveheart Moment

By Darr Moon

You may not have heard Scotland is just a simple majority vote away from leaving the United Kingdom amidst all the uproar with the NFL's latest domestic violence turmoil. Was it just a slow news week or evidence of another opportunity for mainstream media to fixate the nation upon salacious issues drummed up to fanatic frenzy so that one might not notice the world ablaze?

A television news junkie might miss the biggest story about to transpire this Thursday, September 18th, with Scotland's bid for freedom. I mention this newsy event as few others will and from deep affection for the land of free thinkers whose shores I spent my first taste of adventure as a young man in the hunt for black gold deep below the frigid North Sea. Although a tad bit difficult to get to know at first, once the ice is broken (best done with a wee dram of Glenlivet over a prime cut of Angus beef) you'll not soon forget the warmth of those feisty spirits. The Scotts have long yearned to be free throughout most of their embattled history. Their spat with the English is only of recent historical concern. You might well know that the thistle, Scotland's national emblem is so because a thistle will strangle out a rose, the English emblem of national pride, in any garden planted. Stay tuned to see if this thistle has fully matured as this week's election looms. Scotts have long fought English army's that have for centuries invaded her blustery North. Fact is many empires have come and gone in the quest for this most rugged of lands. It was the Roman Emperor Hadrian who first built a wall from today's Newcastle to Carlisle in 122 AD to keep the Norsemen at bay. Certainly time has not stifled the independent breed whose legacy of freedom fighters is legendary. William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots may all well resonate with those passionate hearts for independence but independence has not been kind to Scotland. The mighty hand of fate has kept a lid on these peoples brave hearts for many a century.

Our fate too as an economic empire built upon the idea of free economies and free association might well not have come to pass without such revolutionaries as Adam Smith, the renowned Scottish economist who published "The Wealth of Nations" in 1776. Nor would we be so enlightened as to the understanding of unscrupulous political subversion that lead to the advance of socialized power elites in France and the corruption of the Europe Court even as we see it today as written by physicist John Robison's "Proofs of a Conspiracy", in 1797.

These are just a few figures of historic Scottish independent thinking with a new breed of independents rising today to affirm liberties anthem. A new Scotland is upon us forecasting certain signs that socialism is failing miserably in theory as in practice. The United Kingdom has looted North Sea wealth while professing to administer the immediate needs of the poor thus perpetually containing the Scottish people in a prison of promised opportunity with little more to show than continued centralized power from London. Wealth for the people has become a well-practiced sleight of hand tactic of political elites to spread wealth while lining the pockets of bureaucrats and practitioners of progressive policy. All of Europe is falling apart at the seams by such action and now a steady rebellion of disenfranchised light the fires of liberty.

A scent of independence is in the air here in America too. Unsettled in our economic affairs, weary of endless and costly wars and suffering from the heavy hand of centralized, top down government we too look for a Braveheart moment. Should Scotland break from the runaway train of global governance a flood of libertine conscience will overflow the hollowed banks of socialized control and unleash a beastly torrent. I for one and without the aid of televised production will be watching closely as the 18th of September approaches.

LAND BOARD LUP (LAND USE PERMIT)

By Robert Forrey

The members of Idaho's Land Board have devised a new scheme to circumvent the requirement in the Idaho Constitution that requires the disposal of school endowment lands to be done by holding an auction.

The purpose of the auction is two fold. First, it brings the highest monetary return to the school endowment fund and second, it gives every Idaho Citizen an opportunity to obtain a particular parcel of land, not just a select few.

The Board is offering a new "Land Use Permit" (LUP) for cottage site lessees who choose not to renew their 2014 lease. This LUP is offered for a period not to exceed two years. This is essentially a disposal of school endowment land to a selected party without holding an auction.

Following are Idaho Supreme Court rulings concerning the disposal of school endowment lands. Wasden vs. Idaho Land Board 2012.

"The Attorney General contends that Article IX Sec.8 requires a public auction for any "disposal" of endowment land..." (emphasis added)

" The Idaho Constitution specifies the Board's duties in managing State endowment lands.. Art. IX Sec.8, expressly states endowment lands must be held in trust to secure the maximum long term financial return, subject to "disposal" at public auction."

"...the state shall receive the greatest amount for the lease of school lands...and for this reason competitive bidding is made mandatory."

" In addition to "disposal," the Section variously refers to "sale, "rental," or other dispositions of such lands." (emp added)

"The disposal" or "disposition" of public lands obviously includes the sale thereof and just as obviously includes other types of disposal or disposition." (emp. added)

Blacks Law Dictionary defines "disposition" as the act of transferring something to another's care or possession." This would include a Land Use Permit.

A Land Use Permit (LUP) allows the permittee the exclusive use of endowment land by paying an arbitrary fee set by the Land Board without holding an auction. In effect this is a short term lease in which a rightful possessor of real property conveys the right to use and occupy that property in exchange for consideration."

In this case the Land Board has no idea whether or not they are receiving the maximum financial return on endowment land. This is why the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that "...and for this reason competitive bidding is made mandatory." (emp. added)

Robert Forrey (Former Legislator) 888-5451

EDUCATING A SENATOR

By Doug & Paula Davina

U.S. Senator James Risch replied to one of my emails, “I fully support the ongoing TPP negotiations and free trade in general. It’s bad enough that citizens are not getting factually informed but when legislators are not we are destined for dire straits. For instance when U.S. Senators don’t get factual information from news sources, their staff and bias lobbyists (insult intended) they are improperly informed. And if they do know accurate facts and take a position that contrarily would hurt us, God help us.

Dear Senator Risch,

Thank you for your letter of February 27th concerning the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We appreciate your response, but we would like to know where you obtained the information about free trade benefiting our country. We have never seen any documentation that free trade has created any jobs in the United States, and **we would be interested in learning where this has been documented.**

NAFTA has killed hundreds of thousands of jobs in this country. The Peterson Institute for International Economics supported NAFTA. However they were unable to identify any new American jobs during an interview with the Wall Street Journal in 1995. The US government program Trade Adjustment Assistance had, by 2010, certified over 720,000 jobs lost due to NAFTA.

Did we gain jobs? According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) briefing paper Heading South: U.S.-Mexico trade and job displacement after NAFTA, “As of 2010, U.S. trade deficits with Mexico totaling \$97.2 billion had displaced 682,900 U.S. jobs.” (That is net jobs, taking into account jobs gained.)

What is our dollar status as a result of NAFTA? Our exports to Mexico went from a \$1.66 Billion surplus in 1993 (the year before NAFTA) to a \$74.7 billion deficit in 2007. As noted in the paragraph above, the downward shift has continued to grow.

Is this only about NAFTA? NO. In August, 2012 EPI estimated that the US lost 2.7 million jobs as a result of the U.S.-China trade deficit between 2001 and 2011, 2.1 million of them in manufacturing. Aside from job losses, US wages fell due to the competition with cheap Chinese labor costing a typical household with two wage-earners around \$2,500 per year. In one month our country’s humongous trade deficit with China was \$30.1 billion. That translates to a yearly deficit of more than \$360 billion drained straight out of our economy. Yet we shut down our coal-fired plants and ship them our coal.

Is this only about free trade? The limited amount of information available from the White House and the US Trade Representatives (USTR) have not made the content of these documents available to the public. Possibly you could obtain some information from Senator Ron Wyden, who was allowed to see them only after he threatened to pass a measure that would force transparency. Then only he could see the documents. His staff was prohibited from seeing them. Remembering the passage of the Affordable Care Act, it is hard to imagine what is in a document that is being so closely guarded. Do we need to pass it so we will know what is in it?

Why is this information only available to ‘cleared’ trade advisors? What is in there that we shouldn’t know about? Please do not support any legislation that the public can not view. You may be giving away our Constitutional rights under the guise of a treaty.

Respectfully,

Doug and Paula Davina

See Senator Risch’s letter on page 21

JAMES E. RISCH

IDAHO

HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE
SOUTHERN

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1206

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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 27, 2014

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Davina
332 Pebble Beach Ct
Eagle, ID 83616-5150

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Davina:

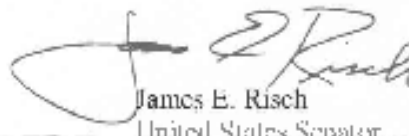
Thank you for contacting me regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). I appreciate hearing from you.

I fully support the ongoing TPP negotiations and free trade in general. Free trade has helped make the United States the largest economy in the world. When negotiated and implemented correctly, free trade benefits everyone involved by expanding export opportunities, creating jobs and providing more options to consumers.

As the TPP negotiations continue, I will be monitoring any developments. Should an agreement be reached and then brought to the Senate for debate and a vote, I will give it full consideration.

I really value your effort to get in touch with me to share your thoughts, as many Idahoans do. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future on this or other issues.

Very Truly Yours,



James E. Risch
United States Senator

JER/dsm

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THE ONE BIG THING

Insight on Killing Business 101 by Rich Loudenback

“Nothing is more sad than the death of an Illusion.” - Arthur Koestler 1905 to 1983 - Disillusioned Stalinist turned Anti-Tolitarian.

The late, not so great Soviet Union’s citizens experienced a life of guarantees for all the necessities of life, meager as it was: Education, Home (make that apartment,) Job, Medical Care & Retirement. Literally everything was decided on and taken care of by government. Missing, however, was one basic ingredient to make it all work. Money. Money that would have come from taxes had government controls not squashed the environment for entrepreneurs and investors to thrive. Government magic was an illusion.

What makes America run is vibrant business in the free marketplace of a capitalist system. Productivity and its subsequent profit are absolutely necessary for our success as a nation. Have you been noticing that our money is going away? ARE WE DEVELOPING ILLUSIONS?

That one BIG thing is FREEDOM. And true freedom is pure capitalism. **Capitalism is the freedom to win at starting a business or investment and cannot and must not provide ‘subsidized’ guarantees for those who attain less.** Failure is a lesson learned well and one moves on, strengthened from the experience. One can strive to achieve all he wants or adjust to what levels of accomplishment he attains. **Businesses creating commerce, accountably making a profit providing jobs are the root sources of all governments’ funding. A growing economy that creates more tax paying employees will bring in more revenue than higher tax rates and new taxes which conversely hurt us.**

YOU DON’T LITERALLY CREATE NEW JOBS!

A business must create enough profit to afford or subsidize ‘new jobs.’

The first purpose of every business is to make a profit and even non-profits must sustain themselves accountably or they too will disappear. Every public employee’s paycheck is derived from that productivity of the private sector NOT from some magic trough in all-encompassing government.

Private sector employees vs. government employees is kind of like one step forward and two steps back, since the paychecks of government employees are solely dependent on the profits’ subsequent taxes of businesses and the employees they can sustain, especially now with all the recent unfettered expansive growth in government jobs with even higher pay, through unionizing, that out scales the private sector. **Unionized government employees? Why?** So the government has been screwing them also? Where have our ‘responsible’ representatives we elected to protect us from such nonsense been on this? Every tax payer should be asking how the ‘Sam Hill,’ as my grandfather used to say, did this happen? Government employees were doing just fine before Unionizing, which was the obvious result of quid pro quo arrangements for campaign donations by unions.

We always will need competent dedicated public employees, of which we are fortunate to have plenty. **Sensible people understand the runaway over-populating of too many bureaucracies through redundancies, poor management, wastes and lack of accountability that leads to the over staffing I’m speaking of.** It’s all been a very big drain on our system financially. Why do our elected representatives who have allowed this on their watch not get it, and start correcting this runaway expansion mentality and the unionizing?

GOVERNMENT NEEDS OUR BUSINESSES FOR FUNDING

Then why is all the business killing going on? Is there a clandestine interest by our leaders for our businesses not doing so well, such as trying to bring us down more in line with the rest of the world for globalization parity? For instance, name one good reason for the new 30 hour work week.

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THE ONE BIG THING

Insight on Killing Business 101 by Rich Loudenback

WHAT'S REALLY 'KILLING' BUSINESSES, ELIMINATING EMPLOYEES AND OUR TAX-PAYING BASE IS EVERY NEW TAX, REGULATION, LEGAL EXPENSE, GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED HEALTH COST AND MINIMUM WAGE HIKE INCURRED BY BUSINESSES ARE LINE ITEM COSTS. BUSINESSES MUST EITHER PASS ON NEW COSTS BY RAISING PRICES (INFLATIONARY) OR ABSORBING THE COSTS (COMPETITIVELY HURTING BUSINESSES) AND POSSIBLY ENDING THEM. AND SO GOES THE LABOR MARKET.

Subsidies, tax loopholes, cronyism bids and similar government influenced outcomes directly or indirectly stifle competitive freedom. Freedom (Capitalism) works. Let it live and breathe freely so it can thrive. **We must have these overburdening laws, regulations and manipulative legal endeavors addressed and corrected; make that abolished.** Period! It's as simple as that. It will be a daunting task that not only must be undertaken but succeeded at if we are to have any hope of continuing as a capitalist nation of successful businesses. **We are eminently close to being fundamentally changed into a 'Puppet Nation' of a world government run by un-elected global elitist. It is hard to fathom, but that is reality. Smell the coffee.**

Quoting from the '*The New American*' magazine story in June 2014: **"Former general and CIA chief David Petraeus** , a key figure in the globalist Council on Foreign Relations and the shadowy Bilderberg network, boasted at a recent conference that the United States of America is set to be merged into the continental regime being erected under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Speaking at the Margaret Thatcher Conference on Liberty last week in London, the ex-commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq essentially celebrated the end of U.S. independence — and by extension, the demise of the Constitution.

"After America comes North America," Petraeus said confidently in answering the question about what comes after the United States, the theme of the panel discussion. "Are we on the threshold of the North American decade, question mark? I threw that away — threw away the question mark — and boldly proclaimed the coming North American decade, says the title now." He also boasted about how **the three economies have been put "together" over the last 20 years as part of the "implementation" of the North American Free Trade Act.**

"The "highly integrated" forces of Canada, the United States, and Mexico, Petraeus continued, will become the world's powerhouse for energy and science. "There are four revolutions that are ongoing at various levels in each of the countries but foremost in the United States," said the former CIA chief, who now serves as chairman of the KKR Global Institute. "The energy revolution is the first of those, which has created the biggest change in geopolitics since the rise of China since 1978." The other "revolutions" include IT, manufacturing, and life sciences, which, "as highly integrated as they are, allow you to argue that after America comes North America," he added."

We've never had a more important election in our history than this coming mid-term. We must elect men and women of valor with the heartbeat of our original patriots that fought for and created America who understand what our Republic is truly about and how we can accomplish greatness once again following the Constitution in a truly free environment.

Continued on page 26

THE ONE BIG THING

Insight on Killing Business 101 by Rich Loudenback

Free Americans know how to create, build, survive and grow. Compulsive politicians need to restrain themselves from their insatiable desire to satisfy pet interests that burden us. Most of these regulation creating bureaucrats as well as many of their regulation creating bureaus need abolishing or their ability to regulate in kind needs believe it or not, regulating by us at the ballot box. I just read that former French President Charles de Gaulle once said, "I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians." - Sounds strange having come from him but certainly fitting for America today.

SENSELESS GOVERNMENT – IT REALLY IS NONSENSE!

So why do we tolerate our representatives (*they do work for us and it is our government*) running and ruining America with their endless efforts to help special interests (called their constituencies, actually, usually their biggest donors) when the end result is an unfair competitive subsidy, bailout, guarantee or outright funding freebie? This government 'help' always sold as 'well intentioned' usually unbalances a perfectly good market with unfair advantages, such as exclusivity, fixed bidding or market control such as the corn to ethanol subsidy or solar and wind technology. One of my big pet peeves is the 'The bringing home the pork mentality' that is part of the problem. Fix it locally! All that pork comes from our tax coffers and is ours collectively. The Federal and State 'coffers' should not be grab bags for special interest politicians.

DEMAND OUR FREEDOM

FREEDOM TO CAPITALIZE ON OUR OPPORTUNITIES IS THE ONE THING THAT CAN GET OUR ECONOMY GOING AGAIN. But like the failure of the former USSR, we too are heading the way of their dismal demise. Our vital lifeblood is being taken away. America is literally being strangled to death. Government needs to get back to its original simple mission and get over itself. And get out of our wonderful entrepreneurs' way. **WE MUST DEMAND THAT OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES MAN UP AND DO THE TOUGH WORK!**

Have no illusions, we can cease to exist just like the former USSR and we probably will see the decline of many more industries and even small business losing to large foreign competitors reaping from big advantages, namely the lack of being burdened by overwhelming regulatory costs, taxes, legal expenses and much higher wages. What a deal for them!

Americans are way down in spirits right now. Our majority citizenry, businesses and groups need to do what we have to vocally and legally to tell these, small minority, as *author Bernard Goldberg* would say, "crazies on the left and wimps on the right," in the courts, universities, media and politics that have been crippling our system to shut up and sit down. Of course, they won't so they must be challenged with facts and Constitutional Law, exposed and subpoenaed when necessary and we must get involved, help inform others and get active before it's over. And over can really happen. It truly is Tea Party 'Prime Time.'

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What's wrong with Sherri Ybarra by Evalyn Bennett

Governor Otter's policy decisions fail to abide by the U.S. Constitution, Idaho's Constitution, Idaho law, and the Idaho Republican Party Platform. I also want to caution Idaho citizens about the policy positions of Sherri Ybarra, the Republican candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI).

I wrote to Mrs. Ybarra on July 25, describing my concerns about her stated policies, but received no reply. I feel I must now ask other citizens to join me in asking her if she will abide by the Idaho Constitution and Republican Party Platform, if elected. I am specifically concerned about her positions on Common Core, SBAC testing, the role of parents and school districts in public K-12 education, and mandatory public pre-school education.

The person elected as SPI has great authority over the direction of public education in our state. The incumbent SPI, Republican Tom Luna, joined Governor Otter in saddling Idaho with federal Common Core education standards, federal SBAC testing, and a national database tracking individual student test scores throughout a student's school years. [Note: "Common Core" has been renamed "Idaho's Core Standards" and the "SBAC" test has been renamed the "ISAT 2.0" to make these more acceptable to Idaho voters, but both remain identical to the federal models.]

I believe it is inconsistent for Sherri Ybarra to state on her campaign palm card and web site that she wants to "Address the Whole Child," yet support Common Core education standards, which only focus on preparing students for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers. These standards do not "address the whole child," or teach students how to be citizens within our Republican form of government, which is the stated purpose of public education under the Idaho Constitution, Article IX, Section 1.

Idaho's Core Standards furthermore erode the authority of parents and local communities to decide the direction of education in their school districts. The Idaho Republican Platform, Article III resists government intrusion into public education, stating, "We believe that successful education is a joint responsibility of the individual, the family, and the community." Our nation's historic roots of public education are at the local level, where families funded a school teacher, built and ran a one-room schoolhouse, and made decisions about courses and curricula. Common Core destroys local control of education by using Department of Education funding and mandates to force local school districts to adopt federal standards under the guise of state standards.

Sherri Ybarra's stated viewpoint on early childhood (preschool) education is also clearly contrary to the Idaho GOP Platform. If elected as a Republican to the position of SPI, it would not be her prerogative to impose the cost, curriculum, personnel, or facilities mandates of preschool education on parents or local taxpayers, either as SPI or as a member of the State Board of Education.

As a teacher or school administrator it might be fine for Mrs. Ybarra to endorse policies counter to the Idaho Republican Platform, but as an elected official representing the Republican Party, she becomes a public servant and a representative of the people who elected her as a Republican. Her policy decisions can no longer be based on her personal viewpoint, but must conform to the Republican Party Platform and the Idaho Constitution.

Although Mrs. Ybarra won the primary election, she received less than 30% of the votes. This is hardly a mandate from Idaho's voters. If she will not campaign and govern to repeal Idaho's Core Standards and SBAC ("ISAT 2.0") testing, and so uphold the Republican platform and the State Constitution, Sherri Ybarra should withdraw as the Republican candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. If she does this, a replacement candidate who supports local control of education can be appointed by the State Republican Central Committee.

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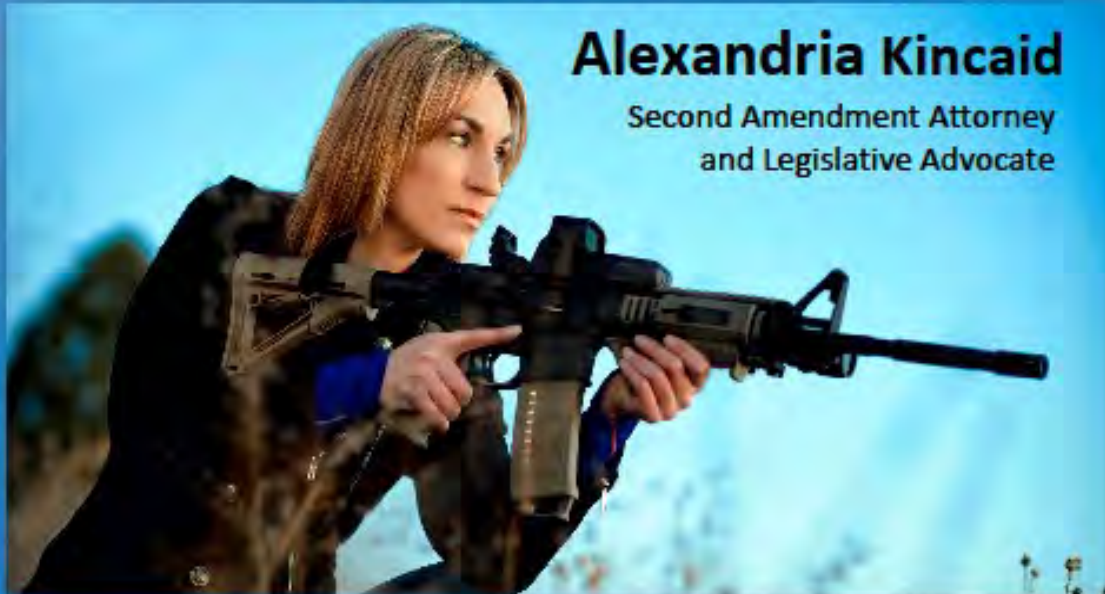
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4TH ANNUAL IDAHO LIBERTY SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 26TH AND 27TH, 2014 COEUR D' ALENE INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER SCHEDULE OF EV ENTS

Friday, 26th.

9:00am Registration
9:00am to 4:00pm Roots of Liberty - KrisAnne Hall (Constitutional Class)
1:00pm to 3:00pm Doyel Shamley - Helping counties control land in their borders.
4:00pm to 6:00pm Leadership meeting
7:00pm to 9:30pm Reception - Finger Foods and Open Bar
7:15pm Matt Shea - Defending Liberty
7:30pm A.G. Wasden & George Wentz using the Equal Footing Doctrine to gain Title to Idaho's lands.

Saturday, 27th

9:00am to 11:00am Doyel Shamley - How Jurisdiction, Coordination and the 10th Amendment Helps counties to control the lands within their borders.
11:00am Break
11:15am Matt Shea - Lessons from Bundy Ranch
12:00pm Lunch with KrisAnne Hall on The importance of the 10th. Amendment.
1:00pm Cornel Rasor - Why our Founders believed that local Government is the Best Government
2:00pm Break
2:15pm Valerie Candelaria - Update on Common Core
2:30pm Steve Ackerman - Just say no to Medicaid Expansion
3:00on Scott Bradley - Why a Con/Con will destroy our Republic

Conference is \$50.00 per person. Cost includes reception and lunch.

Roots of liberty class is \$13.00 per person. Price includes luncheon.

Please send payment to : Pam Stout - Liberty Summit

5820 Deep Creek Loop, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Coeur d' Alene Inn and Conference Center 580 W. Apple Ave. CDA 208-765-3200

Hotel reservations made by Sept. 15th will receive the room discount for \$99 per night.

For more information visit the website below or call Pam at 208-610-4222

<http://idaholibertysummit.com>

SAVE THE DATE
Join us for the inaugural
Idaho NF Walk

Saturday, September 27th, 2014
Kleiner Park, Meridian, Idaho

This year's walk is superhero themed. Dress up as your favorite character or put together a team of superheroes or villains and fight in the battle to END NF!



Savannah and Tessa

Here are just two of the thousands of children affected with Neurofibromatosis (NF)

WHAT IS “NF”

Neurofibromatosis (NF) is a progressive genetic disorder of the nervous system which causes tumors to form on nerves anywhere on the body and can lead to blindness, bone abnormalities, cancer, deafness, disfigurement, and learning disabilities. This disorder affects all races, all ethnic groups and both sexes equally. NF is one of the most common genetic disorders in the United States (one in every 2,500 to 3,000 births). At this time, there is no cure, nor are there any effective treatment options, which is why we are walking

What we are asking today is easy yet critical if we are going to end NF.

Ways you can help

1. Donate to our walk today
<http://www.nfwalk.org/idaho2014>
2. Register to walk
<http://www.nfwalk.org/idaho2014>
3. Encourage at least one other person to do the same

Please go to <http://www.nfwalk.org/idaho2014> to support the Children's Tumor Foundation in any of these three ways.

The Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) is the largest non-government funding source for NF research, and this research is shedding new light on cancer, brain tumors, learning disabilities, and bone abnormalities, which will ultimately benefit the broader community.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Children's Tumor Foundation is a 501(C)(3), not-for-profit organization and recipient of a four-star rating from Charity Navigator

To learn more, please visit www.CTF.org



TREVOR LOUDON

New Zeal blogger and author, Trevor Loudon, will be speaking in the greater Boise area in **October** as part of his U.S. book tour! This is rare opportunity to hear directly from the renowned researcher who has carefully documented the details of the progressive infiltration of the U.S. Congress.

What's Loudon's "The Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and Progressives in the U.S. Congress" All About?

Trevor Loudon's newly released book "[The Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and Progressives in the U.S. Congress](#)" is like no other book written on American politics.

The book is designed to expose, in layman's terms, the comprehensive communist, socialist and extreme progressive infiltration of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

"The Enemies Within" profiles fourteen Senators and more than fifty Representatives and their ties to Communist Party USA, Democratic Socialists of America, Workers World Party, and The Institute for Policy Studies, Council for a Livable World and other radical anti-American organizations.

Ever wondered why the US Congress has moved further and further left over your lifetime, even while much of the electorate has become more and more conservative? Why government regulation and taxes have exponentially increased, even though most Americans still oppose Big Government?

"The Enemies Within" is designed to show American voters exactly how modern communism works and how it impacts on your life, every single day. Just how do the communists win big on things like Obamacare and immigration "reform," which go completely against the wishes of the American people?

"The Enemies Within" names names and takes no prisoners.

Plan now and bring your friends to one of the following **FREE events:**

Monday, October 6th – [evening TBA]

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Visit... <http://www.trevorloudon.com/>

12 N. Pilatus Lane

Nampa, Idaho

Wednesday, October 8th – 7:00pm

American Legion Post 113, VA Building

22 W. Broadway Ave.

Meridian, Idaho

Contact: Valerie Candelaria 794-1250



If you have a local group that would like to host another speaking engagement in the greater Boise area between Oct 9 and Oct 12, contact Valerie at The 9-12 Project of Idaho to learn the minimal requirements!

CHANGE IT OR OBEY IT?

Why the Constitution is the Solution

Tuesday Sept 30th, 2014

Doors open 6:30 pm
Event begins 7:00 pm

Tickets: at the door \$10
in advance \$8

CenterPlace Event Center
2426 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA



For More Information Call:

Judy Crowder 509-238-9430

Bob McBride 208-773-0323

or email:

waketheland.com

Activists across the country are engaged in a race to influence their state legislators to pass applications for an Article V convention in an effort to rein in the federal government. At the same time, liberal and conservative organizations are teaming up to change the Constitution to fit their agendas.



Dr. Scott Bradley

You're invited to attend "Change It or Obey It?" a presentation given by Dr. Scott Bradley through the JBS Speakers Bureau. Learn more about this topic, how it would affect you, and how obedience to the Constitution remains the best solution.

A member of the JBS Speakers Bureau, Dr. Scott Bradley is Founder and Chairman of The Constitution Commemoration Foundation, Inc., a non-profit educational organization which seeks to foster increased understanding of the United States Constitution in the tradition of the founders.



Choose Freedom

STOP A CON-CON
Constitutional Convention

The John Birch Society

JBS.org



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Chooses Life

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Treasure Valley

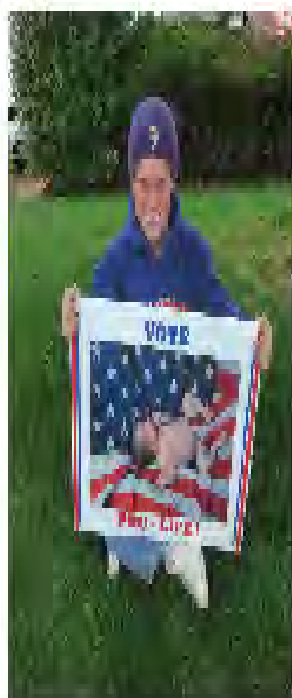
Life Chain

Sunday, October 5

2-4 pm

Meet us at the Red Robin on Milwaukee. We'll provide pro-Life signs. This event gives us a great opportunity to share the pro-Life message with folks coming in and out of the Mall. Similar events

will be happening in over 800 cities across the nation.



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SCHEDULE OF ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS

COMMON CORE COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, September 24th, 7:00pm

American Legion Post 113, VA Bldg.

22 West Broadway Ave.

Meridian, Idaho (upstairs)

Contact:

Valerie Candelaria 794-1250



Sept. 27, 2014 Idaho NF Walk, Place: Kleiner Park Meridian. Come and support this worthy cause that helps thousands of children each year that are affected with Neurofibromatosis. This years event will have a Super Hero Theme. Dress up as your favorite character or put together a team of superheroes or villains and fight in the battle to end NF. Register to walk at www.nfwalk.org/idaho2014

Sept. 26, 27 2014 The 4th Annual Idaho Liberty Summit, to be held in Coeur d' Alene Idaho at The Best Western Coeur d' Alene Inn and Conference Center.

September 26 will be an all day Constitution Class.

September 27, will be guest speakers and a buffet lunch. For further information please contact Pam Stout at pamwbst@aol.com.

The RLC's Liberty Expo and Spirit of 76 awards Banquet will be on Saturday October 25th at the Riverside Hotel. We do not yet have a schedule of events or a complete list of speakers but people can look at the IdahoLibertyExpo.com website for example discussion panel topics from last year's expo

WANTED NEWSLETTER WRITERS

**THE GEM STATE PATRIOT IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS/REPORTERS.
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT IMPORTANT
NEWS ON ISSUES AFFECTING YOUR COMMUNITY.**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR GRASS ROOTS WRITERS THAT CAN HELP
KEEP US INFORMED ON IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES THAT WE CAN PASS ALONG TO OUR READERS.**

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR YOUR OPINION ON ISSUES FACING
OUR STATE AND OUR COUNTRY.**

**IF YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR WRITING PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
SEND US AN ARTICLE OR A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON AN ISSUE
YOU MIGHT BE CONCERNED WITH.**

SEND YOUR STORIES & LETTERS TO bob@gemstatepatriot.com

**PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE AND SIGN THE PETITION TO DEFUND THE
STATE HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE <http://gemstatepatriot.com>**

HERE ARE LINKS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The Idaho Business alliance <http://idahobusinessalliance.com>

The 9-12 Project <http://912projectidaho.com>

The Free Enterprise Pac <http://freeenterprisejac.com>

Idaho Carry Open & Concealed <http://idahocarry.org>

Idaho Freedom Foundation <http://idahofreedom.net>

Idahoans for Local Education <http://idahoansforlocaleducation.com/>

Idaho Chooses Life <http://idahochoosesthe.org/>

**Please take some time to visit the Gem State Patriot website TV section.
<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/category/gem-state-patriot-tv/>**

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