

The Patriots' Truth

Flint Hills TEA Party News

See us at McALISTER'S DELI, EVERY WED after 5:30pm — *Join the Working Group. Next meeting April — 9:30AM, Manhattan City Library Auditorium. The Special Speaker will be: TBA. Bring Your Important issues to be discussed. The Working Group meets at McAlisters, 5-6 Wed. evening. We MUST keep God in our Hearts. See you at the Library Sat., March 8 or McAlisters Wed evenings. GOD be with you and yours!!*

Frankly Speaking by Frank F. Clark

The other day, I listened to a broadcast by Ravi Zacharias concerning the effect of globalization on our lives. He started out by quoting a secular sociologist by the name of Daniel Bell. Daniel wrote, "Culture is an effort to provide a coherent set of answers to the existential situations that confront all human beings in the passage of their lives...In the west we are witnessing a genuine cultural revolution. A genuine cultural revolution is one that makes a decisive break from the shared meanings of the past, particularly those related to the deepest questions of the purpose meaning of life."

Existential questions are those that seek the meaning of life and deep questions of the longings of life.

What we are witnessing is the breaking apart those foundations which brought our culture together. This is especially true of those questions dealing with what life actually means and what our destiny is. We are also witnessing the redefining of the words we use. An obvious example is the word "gay". It used to mean one who was jovial and happy. Today it means one who engages in homosexual activity.

We have witnessed a change in the moral standards of society. Many of us have seen the comparison between the discipline problems in schools in the 1950's with today's. The most notable example of this is the increase in mass shootings at schools by students. Even as late as the 1970's this was virtually unheard of.

The first two mass shootings that I personally remember are Pearl High School in Pearl, Mississippi and Heath High School in Paducah, Kentucky. In the Pearl High shooting, the shooters had ties with Satanism. Paducah is notable, because all of the victims were Christian students at a prayer meeting before school when they were shot. The Christian high school students where I was principal at the time wanted to do something to help one of the wounded Paducah victims who became a paraplegic as a result of the shooting. We invited that girl and her father to visit our school. Our students blessed her with some needed ambulatory equipment. It was a very moving experience for everyone.

Since then the shootings have occurred on an ever increasing basis. It's not the guns, folks. It is the moral rift that has developed in our society, because we have left our Judeo-Christian founding principles behind. As Ravi stated in his comments, that rift has become so wide that someone today can walk into a church for the first time and say, "My goodness, what was that all about?"

The younger generation has been separated in language, morals and history from our nations' roots. Our public education system is helping this process further along with the introduction of Common Core. The result is that our culture is coming unglued with increasing speed. This is catastrophic! As 1 Corinthians 3:19 says, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness..."

Can we reverse this? Absolutely! However, we did not get this way over night. It will take time to get out of it, as well. 1 Peter 4:1-2 says: "Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God." Are we willing to do this for the long haul? Our nation's survival depends on it.

The Manhattan Mercury on Friday, February 28, 2014

Letters to the Editor: It's True; I'm Heterosexual!!

To The Editor:

I have thought about this for a long time and don't want to put it off any longer. I have decided it is finally time to go public.

Well, here goes... I want to announce that I am heterosexual!

I have felt this way since childhood, and I am very comfortable being heterosexual. I have always been attached to the opposite sex, and even in grade school, I had my eye on a particular girl.

My family is fine with my situation, and hopefully, my close friends are too. I just hope I will not be treated any differently now that people know.

Gary W. Beck

P.O. Box 206

Clay Center

WOW, a heterosexual got a word in edgewise. Did anyone notice? No, that takes being homosexual. Where's Fairness? There are those that need the meaning of "fairness" explained to them. Are any of you listening?

Patriot Action Network's Grassfire Update:

Dear Patriot, President Obama has done it again. For the 20th time, America's "Radical-in-Chief" has changed his signature legislation, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), to once again suit his political needs. On Wednesday, the Obama administration announced that insurers can now wait until 2017 -- after the next presidential election -- before canceling non-ACA compliant insurance plans.

According to the Galen Institute, a not-for-profit health and tax policy research organization: "This extension will prevent a wave (of) cancellation notices from going out before the 2014 midterm elections."

Last week's announcement is just the latest example of the President and his minions re-writing the ACA for purely political reasons. Whatever doesn't bolster Democrats' chances in this year's midterm elections or the 2016 elections is simply changed or delayed without congressional approval and without fixing the real problems of ObamaCare. **++ Obama Again Fails To Fulfill Oath Of Office** The Galen Institute also notes that "more than 37 significant changes already have been made to ObamaCare: at least 20 that President Obama has made unilaterally, 15 that Congress has passed and the president has signed, and two by the Supreme Court." This latest "unilateral" ObamaCare change is simply more proof that America's 44th president consistently fails to fulfill his oath of office to "faithfully ... preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." We are a nation of laws, and as explained in Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." The president doesn't have the power to change laws or choose not to enforce them, yet Obama does both anyway. **++ Should President Obama Be Impeached?** Grassfire has launched an important survey for our team members. We want to know if you think President Obama should be impeached. After learning last week that 118 House Republicans have co-signed a *Stop This Overreaching Presidency* resolution (H. Res. 442), we wondered if Grassfire Nation wants those lawmakers to go even further. Should Congress draft articles of impeachment against President Obama?

[If you support removing our "Radical-in-Chief" from office, go here now to sign the national petition calling on Congress to impeach Barack Obama: www.grassfire.com/2014/01/impeach-obama](#) It's clear that a groundswell of support for impeachment is growing among conservatives. But it's not one or two comments or actions that make the case to remove the President from office. Rather, it's his litany of scandals and "long train of abuses" of presidential power. Again, more than half of the Republican members of the House have already signed the *Stop This Overreaching Presidency* resolution. If you want Congress to do more to stop this "runaway president," [click here to add your name to the petition to impeach Barack Obama](#). Thank you, in advance, for taking action. The Grassfire and Patriot Action Network Teams

P.S. This week, the President Obama again changed ObamaCare to suit his political agenda. It's the latest in our "Radical-in-Chief's" long train of abuses against the Constitution and the American people.

Yet Another Obamacare Change

On Wednesday, the Obama Administration announced yet another change to the Affordable Care Act. This time, the Administration, again without seeking any congressional authorization, will allow insurers to sell health plans that do not meet Obamacare's requirements into 2017. This change is a two-year extension of an earlier decision by the Administration to allow individuals to keep their noncompliant health plans through 2014.

It is not surprising that President Obama and congressional Democrats continue to go to great lengths to try to hide the devastating consequences of Obamacare on families and workers. When promoting the Affordable Care Act

to the country, they made repeated promises they knew they could not keep. They promised “If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it.” Now, as this law is fully implemented, reality is bringing these broken promises to light. It is time to stop pursuing political damage control over policy solutions while millions of Americans have lost their preferred health insurance due to Obamacare. Despite his political objectives, the President cannot snap his fingers and make all the problems with this law go away.

Rick Perry Shares Another Side President Obama Hides From The Public...

And Threatens State Governors Posted by RAMJR on March 10, 2014 at 3:00pm [View Blog](#)

The Governors of America, at least some, took part in their own summit...and shared why states rights are going to be the next tactic to infiltrate Socialistic values upon individual states.

Gov. Rick Perry shared a bit of the value that President Obama told him he would, and would not do.

I hope someone actually taped this, but for now, this is all that is being released...

Rick Perry Shaken Up By Obama's Disturbing Threat To Governors In Meeting

By [Michael Dorstewitz](#)

Texas Gov. **Rick Perry** revealed a disturbing threat coming from the White House directed at several governors — Republican and Democrat alike.

“I was a bit troubled today by the tone of the **president**,” he began, speaking at the **Republican Governors Association** Feb. 24.

Perry was describing a meeting at the White House earlier that day between several governors and President Obama.

“When you have governors, and we all compete against each other — we are the laboratories of innovation — and for the President of the United States to look Democrat and Republican governors in the eye and say, ‘I do not trust you to make decisions in your state about issues of education, about transportation infrastructure,’ — and that is really troubling,” he said. Perry expressed his own fears regarding Environmental Protection Agency restrictions choking off America’s energy production and a possible reduction in his state’s national guard.

“As a matter of fact, he [Obama] said at that meeting, he said, ‘If I hear any of you pushing back, making statements about Washington spends too much money, you’ll hear from me,’” he said, adding, “I’m highly offended by that.”

From Rep. Tim Huelskamp Newsletter of March 14, 2014

Dear Friend,

Last week I sent you an email talking about the how IRS employee Lois Lerner refuses to testify and tell the truth about who authorized her to target and harass and manipulate conservative groups. It came to a head in a committee hearing where Democrats whined and cried because my colleague Darrell Issa and members of his Oversight Committee are investigating the problem. It was a horrible spectacle. **Disgraceful really.**

What is Barack Obama hiding? Well, if the allegations are proven, this is the most stunning abuse of power by any President since Richard Nixon used the IRS to target his political enemies. And by the way, you don't plead the Fifth when you've got nothing to hide.

On the floor of the House yesterday, Democrats pushed a resolution calling on Chairman Issa to apologize. Apologize for what? Seeking the truth? They ranted and raved on the floor and made a spectacle of themselves. That wouldn't be the first time Democrats tried to hide the truth. Can anyone say, *"We have to pass the bill to see what's in it"?*

This disgraceful hissy-fit yesterday was truly embarrassing. The problem is quite real, and Barack Obama and the Democrats know they got caught doing wrong.

With nearly 500 conservative organizations and people targeted for audits and other scare-tactics, do any of us really doubt that Barack Obama is using his big government to target his political enemies? I don't. He will use any means at his disposal to destroy his political opponents. But the American people aren't fooled.

The failure of Barack Obama becomes clear every day. He can't answer for 24 million workers looking for a full time job; millions of families losing their health insurance; and a massive \$17.5 trillion debt. So he attacks his opponents hoping to distract Americans who are working hard to survive every day

Well, the troubles like these we face aren't going away, because Barack Obama is a failure. Worse, he wants this failure to continue so he can blame his opponents and convince the American people -- if he can -- that Republicans are at fault.

Obama is a failure. Let's just call it what it is. Failure in so many areas. But, he is succeeding in one area. He has taken the

most exceptional, free country human history has ever known and made her weaker.

Our ability to fight for our principles freely in elections and the times in-between is fundamental to liberty. We cannot survive as a nation if the Washington elites have their way and shut down any political opposition. This is a basic freedom Barack Obama despises. And that's why he has attacked so many.

I strongly applaud, support and encourage these investigations into Obama wrongdoings. I will not stand by idly while he attacks our Constitution. No less than our very freedom is at stake.

G.K Chesterton said, ". . .sound historians know that most tyrannies have been possible because men moved too late. It is often essential to resist a tyranny before it exists." May God protect us from waiting too long to take back our nation.

In Liberty,

Tim Huelskamp

Member of Congress

P.S. These investigations are absolutely necessary to secure our freedom. Democrats want to take more of those freedoms away. This is a battle we must engage in. And I believe the American people are ready to have this fight this year. If we are successful, we may be able to maintain the hope of future generations.

Those of you who attended the FHTP meeting 3-15-14 met and heard these people speak. The rest of you should read these articles and everyone must give the topic serious consideration. This IS being discussed in Kansas Legislature NOW – You need to let your Legislative Representative and Senator know your feelings. This is very important and as the articles illustrate, can be life threatening. As citizens WE MUST TAKE ACTION BY giving our opinions to our Legislators. They DO NOT/CANNOT know what we want/expect of them if we don't tell them. Frankly, it scared the bejebbers out of me. I have always questioned IF we had the right to have such a law – now I know we DO NOT have that right. God be with us all and God Bless this man.

HB 2389 Could Threaten Innocent Life

Let Legislative House Speaker Know Your Concerns!

The Kansas Senate recently passed Senate Substitute for House Bill 2389, which could come before the full House. This bill is a dangerous proposal that raises the risk of executing an innocent person.

This bill: (1) gives priority to capital cases and forces other criminal cases to languish in the courts, delaying justice to victims; (2) makes the burden for proving innocence unreasonably high; (3) limits key safeguards in capital cases; and (4) increases the cost of an already expensive death penalty. ***Call Speaker Ray Merrick to urge him NOT to advance HB 2389, especially not until the House has fully debated the bill!!***

Speaker Merrick: 785-296-2302, ray.merrick@house.ks.gov

Contact the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty for questions and more ways to get involved:

785-235-2237 www.ksabolition.org

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing January 16, 2014

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 257

Dear Chairman King and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Curtis McCarty, and I am here to testify in opposition to SB 257, which attempts to reform the death penalty by placing limits on appeals in capital cases. I come to you as someone who spent 22 years on death row in Oklahoma for a crime I didn't commit. I went through the death penalty appeals process, and my life hung in the balance depending on the outcome of these appeals. Most of the judgments in these appeals got it wrong and kept me locked up for a crime I did not commit. It took the Innocence Project, the FBI and a DNA test to finally prove I was factually innocent. Because of my experience, I strongly oppose the reforms proposed in this bill. There is the perception that capital cases lead to a number of frivolous appeals, which we can limit without any serious repercussions. This view, however, fails to understand all the different ways in which the criminal justice system can go wrong. There are so many different causes of wrongful convictions, including eyewitness mistakes, forensic science mistakes or junk science, false confessions coming from bad interrogation techniques, and informants who lie to get an advantage in their own case. Several of these happened in my case, and they could happen in any criminal charge. Often it takes years or even decades until mistakes are discovered, if they are uncovered at all. In my case, a police chemist, Joyce Gilchrist, lied about evidence at the crime scene. She said that biological evidence left near the victim was likely mine. It was only when Gilchrist came under investigation for misconduct in other cases in 2000—keep in mind, that's 14 years after my original conviction—that there was any real hope that I might be exonerated. Subsequent DNA tests finally cleared my name and led to my release. In total, 21 years passed after my conviction before I finally proved my innocence. Unfortunately,

my case is not unique. Nationwide, DNA evidence has led to the exoneration of 312 men and women. There have been 143 people sentenced to death in the US since 1973 and later exonerated. Wrongful convictions are a serious problem, and we cannot ignore this problem when making changes to the appeals process. When there are tight limits on appeals, like in the proposed the law, the results can be catastrophic. An execution could go forward before evidence emerged showing an inmate's innocence. If this law goes forward, you will not see the result immediately, but years later it could put an innocent life in danger. That prospect should scare all of us, and is reason enough to vote down this bill.

The problem is that, when the penalty is death, there is no way to undo the mistake. This is why the death penalty is fundamentally flawed: the system is made of humans and therefore mistakes will continue to occur. Given this reality, it is important to be realistic about the limits of the criminal justice system. For those of us who have been wrongfully convicted and later exonerated, we weren't examples of the system finally working. We all were lucky to have escaped, and we did so *despite* the system. In most of these cases, it's not the criminal justice system that identifies the problem. Instead, it's private nonprofits like the Innocence Project or journalists or law students who finally bring the case forward. As my own experience makes abundantly clear, the criminal justice system is anything but perfect. The system doesn't always work, and we need to do everything possible to prevent more innocent people from being locked up, especially when they face the irrevocable punishment of death. SB 257 does not protect innocent life but puts it at risk.

CURTIS McCARTY
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Conservatives Concerned: About the Death Penalty A Project of EJUSA

An unacceptable probability of executing innocent people

- One person has been exonerated for every ten who've been executed.
- Many others have been executed while serious doubts have been raised regarding their verdict.
- DNA is only available in 10% of criminal cases. Even then, it's only as good as the people running the tests. Despite the best intentions, human beings aren't perfect. We simply can't be right 100% of the time.

A wasteful and expensive government program

- Studies have show that the death penalty is up to *20 times more* expensive than a system of life without the possibility of parole. Yet shortcuts and cost-cutting could mean an irreversible mistake.
- The State of California has spent over 4 billion dollars to maintain the death penalty program.
- Jasper County, Texas was forced to raise property taxes by 7% to pay for one death penalty trial.

A failed policy for victims' families

- The death penalty prolongs pain for victims' families, dragging them through an agonizing, decades- long process as courts repeat trials and hearings trying to get it right. Most cases result in a life sentence in the end anyway – but only after the family has suffered years of uncertainty.
- The death penalty showers resources and attention on a few cherry-picked cases, telling families that some lives are more important than others.

Arbitrarily and unfairly administered by the government

- The death penalty is a lottery of geography. Most U.S. counties don't use it at all, and many states have a large percentage of death sentences originate from just one or two counties.
- People on death row have had lawyers who were drunk, asleep, later disbarred, or completely inexperienced. That's not the fair day in court our justice system is built on.
- People who do not support the death penalty are excluded from serving on capital juries. That means even people who oppose it for religious or pro-life reasons may not participate in this important civic duty.

It doesn't make the public safer

- In the name of helping law enforcement, the death penalty concentrates enormous state resources on chasing a small handful of executions while thousands of cases go unsolved.
- No credible study has found any evidence that the death penalty deters violent crime. Police chiefs know this from experience: they rank the death penalty last among effective ways to reduce crime. www.conservativesconcerned.org
info@conservativesconcerned.org @CCATDP /CCATDP /in/CCATDP

Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty is a national network of conservatives questioning the alignment of capital punishment with conservative principles.

We came together to shatter the myth that conservatives blindly support the death penalty, as well as to create a forum to network and to speak collectively about the need to re-examine capital punishment from a conservative perspective.

Conservatives across the board are increasingly concerned that the death penalty is a broken system.

What Conservatives Are Saying

- “Conservatives should question how the death penalty actually works in order to stay true to small government, reduction in wasteful spending, and respect for human life.” – *Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice*
- “Since we believe each person has a soul, and is capable of achieving salvation, life in prison is now an alternative to the death penalty.” – *Brent Bozell III, Founder & President, Media Research Center*
- “Conservatives have every reason to believe the death penalty system is no different from any politicized, costly, inefficient, bureaucratic, government-run operation, which we conservatives know are rife with injustice. But here the end result is the end of someone’s life. In other words, it’s a government system that kills people.” – *Richard Viguerie*
- **See many more quotes from conservative leaders at conservativesconcerned.org**

Taken from **MALLARD FILLMORE** by Bruce Tinsley

“I don’t CARE that your’re a “DEVOUT MUSLIM”!! The GOVERNMENT says you HAVE to bake me a Pig-Shaped Birthday cake with Bourbon Icing!!”

The Future Of Liberty

March 11, 2014

By [KrisAnne Hall](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

See more at: <http://krisannehall.com/future-liberty/#sthash.5kLd4NQ4.dpuf>

Here’s what I hear from the “older people”. “Our young people today are lost.” Our young people today just don’t care.” “Our young people today are brainwashed.” Yet, consider this:

In 2013 I taught the Constitution 265 times. Of those 265 times, I had the privilege of teaching 21 groups of middle, high school and college students. The younger students are my greatest challenge but also my greatest reward.

I teach these future leaders of America a history they do not hear in the classrooms or read in their textbooks. Sometimes, I even teach them historical truth that corrects the historical revisions in their lessons.

I have learned that our students are hungry for truth. They do not begin their academic day with the thought, “Let me see how many lies I can learn today!” They learn things that are not true, because their textbooks present falsehoods as truth. Our youth love knowledge. They feel empowered by it. And, as our naturally rebellious nature would have it, they love learning things that their “overlords” don’t know. They love being able to correct their textbooks with facts. It is liberating for them. But that is what truth is all about. Being free from lies is Liberty! Jefferson wrote a letter to Charles Yancey, January 8, 1816 in which he remarked, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”

There is another fallacy about our youth. We believe our students naturally hate history. Why wouldn’t they, we hated it too, it’s just a part of being young. Our youth do not hate history, they hate being bored. They have been conditioned to believe history is nothing but a boring and tedious ritual of memorizing names, dates, and places in history that they cannot relate to and that have no particular relevance to their lives. But I KNOW that method of teaching history is part of the progressive design to hide history and the lessons it teaches. I not only KNOW this in my heart, I KNOW this through my experience. Because the history I teach is NOT boring. It is NOT irrelevant. It is about real lives, real people, real drama, and real adventure. Our young people get excited when they meet Kings who are not presented as 700 year old corpses, but living, breathing people. They meet kings who are evil bullies. They meet the people who are brave, who stand up to the bullies in the name of Liberty. This history is just as exciting, if not more so, than Real Drama T.V.

They get to see, with their minds and imaginations, exciting events. Like William I taking control of a kingdom by force. Or, perhaps, Henry I killing his own brother to become king and then hiding the truth with lies and propaganda. Then there is King John, who was murdering people in the name of taxes and Robin Hood standing against John, the most evil king Great Britain would know. That is just the beginning of a drama that spans 700 years and unfolds right in front of their eyes. It is exciting, it is adventurous. I don’t talk about history. I put them right in the middle of it. I make them not only observers but participants. They love it and more importantly, they get it.

I know they get it because they ask me questions about the Constitution that proves they are paying

attention; not just to me but to the world around them. They ask me more challenging and relevant questions than many of the adults I teach. My high school students ask me questions like:

“The NSA reading our emails and listening to our phones, that can’t be right, can it?”

“Can the federal government tell gay people they can’t get married?”

“Can the federal government make marijuana illegal?”

Yes! These are the questions I hear the most. You think the only thing they do is send text messages, tweet, play on FaceBook or video games? You are wrong. They are paying attention and they want to know the truth. They are not lost, lazy, and apathetic. They are not thoroughly brainwashed. They care. They are interested and they are paying attention. When they see the truth they recognize it and want more.

I get my greatest encouragement from these young people. They come to me after the lessons excited about history, wanting to know how they can find more truth. I had one high school boy come to me and say, “Mrs. Hall you gave me goose bumps! Why can’t I learn history like that in school?” Another young man said to me, “Mrs. Hall, I want to be president one day. After what you taught me today, I won’t ever let anyone take my rights from me.” I’m sure you can imagine how amazing it is to look into their eyes and hear these words from them in person. Invigorating! But what one middle school girl said to me the other day literally brought me to tears.

Whitney came to me after teaching at a government school in Southeast Texas. She asked me, “Mrs. Hall, how can you be so dedicated about what you teach?” I was confused by her use of the word dedicated, but I responded, “Whitney, I am a Christian. I believe Liberty is a gift from God. I also believe that God has given me this history to teach so others can know it, too.” She replied, “We have people who come and talk to us and they stand up there and talk to us like they are just doing their job. But you’re not like that. You’re just so dedicated, how do you do that?” I realize then that she is using the word “dedicated” to mean “passionate”. I said, “Well, Whitney, I believe the truth I am teaching you. But I also know that what I am teaching you is important to protect our Liberty. I want you to know that, too, so you can protect Liberty one day. I’m a mom. My son is almost 8 years old. And one day he will need YOU to stand up for him. I really believe in my heart that this is important. So it’s not a job for me. For me it’s more like love.” She said, “Well, thank you Mrs. Hall. I really enjoyed it!” At this point I am trying really hard to not cry in front of her. No such luck as soon as I get in my car!

Let us not underestimate our youth. Let us not teach them lies and then criticize them for believing them. They are the future of this country. They are the future of Liberty. They are ready to bring greatness back to America. Let’s help them do just that.

Note: If you want to schedule KrisAnne to teach your group, please visit her website, www.KrisAnneHall.com or download our Android Mobile App <http://bit.ly/N3NoFf>

- - See more at: <http://krisannehall.com/future-liberty/#sthash.5kLd4NQ4.dpuf>

Today's Common Sense Quote:

"A liberal paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive healthcare, free education, free food, free housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. And believe it or not, such a place does, indeed, it exists: **It's called prison.**"

~Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Maricopa County Arizona Sheriff's Office

Teas Party Patriots Newsletter 100% GRASSROOTS, 100% of the time 3/21/14

Dear Patriot,

This week in Washington, it was revealed that Obamacare will cause premiums to skyrocket in areas of the country with high elderly and sick populations and the cost of transplant medications are expected to triple. Here are some things you need to know this week.

Affordable Care Act isn't so affordable after all

It seems the Obama Administration forgot about the “affordable” part of the Affordable Care Act. A new report from The Hill reveals that health industry insiders are warning that Obamacare-related premiums will skyrocket in most parts of the country throughout this year. [1] According to the report, areas of the country that will be hit hardest will be those with older, sicker, or smaller populations.

However, one insurance official from a “populous swing state” told The Hill reporter that his company expects to

triple rates next year on the Obamacare exchange. Most insurance officials also are sure to point out that any premium hikes will be due to changes or more delays in the Obamacare rollout.

The more we experience the implementation of Obamacare – the supposed grand fix for our health care industry – the more we find out just how much it's going to cost Americans and small businesses. When President Obama sold health care reform, he promised (among other things) that it would save America a lot of money. While we knew this to be false, it didn't stop him, his administration, and the Democratic Party from championing reform as a way to lower health care costs and take money from greedy insurance companies and return it to our pockets.

Those claims were repeated so often and so far and wide, that many probably started to believe them – which is why the premium hikes this year will be even harder to swallow. Obamacare is not only a threat to freedom and free markets, but it's also a threat to our financial stability. Americans should have then freedom to choose if and when they should or shouldn't purchase health insurance. Handing down fines for not buying insurance is a threat to that liberty. So is forcing Americans into a health care system that, at the end of the day, drastically raises costs.

But none of this comes as a surprise. Obamacare, and the empty promises that support it, are crumbling. It's time for Washington to repeal Obamacare, so Americans don't continue to suffer.

Wyoming welder faces \$75,000 a day in EPA fines for building pond on his propertyBy

Barnini ChakrabortyPublished March 14, 2014FoxNews.com

All Andy Johnson wanted to do was build a stock pond on his sprawling eight-acre Wyoming farm. He and his wife Katie spent hours constructing it, filling it with crystal-clear water, and bringing in brook and brown trout, ducks and geese. It was a place where his horses could drink and graze, and a private playground for his three children.

But instead of enjoying the fruits of his labor, the Wyoming welder says he was harangued by the federal government, stuck in what he calls a petty power play by the Environmental Protection Agency. He claims the agency is now threatening him with civil and criminal penalties – including the threat of a \$75,000-a-day fine.

“I have not paid them a dime nor will I,” a defiant Johnson told FoxNews.com. “I will go bankrupt if I have to fighting it. My wife and I built [the pond] together. We put our blood, sweat and tears into it. It was our dream.”

But Johnson may be in for a rude awakening.

The government says he violated the Clean Water Act by building a dam on a creek without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Further, the EPA claims that material from his pond is being discharged into other waterways. Johnson says he built a stock pond -- a man-made pond meant to attract wildlife -- which is exempt from Clean Water Act regulations.

The property owner says he followed the state rules for a stock pond when he built it in 2012 and has an April 4-dated letter from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office to prove it.

“Said permit is in good standing and is entitled to be exercised exactly as permitted,” the state agency letter to Johnson said.

But the EPA isn't backing down and argues they have final say over the issue. They also say Johnson needs to restore the land or face the fines.

Johnson plans to fight. “This goes a lot further than a pond,” he said. “It's about a person's rights. I have three little kids. I am not going to roll over and let [the government] tell me what I can do on my land. I followed the rules.”

Johnson says he was “bombarded by hopelessness” when he first received the administrative order from the EPA. He then turned to state lawmakers who fast-tracked his pleas to Wyoming's two U.S. senators, John Barrasso and Mike Enzi, and Louisiana Sen. David Vitter.

The Republican lawmakers sent a March 12 letter to Nancy Stoner, the EPA's acting assistant administration for water, saying they were “troubled” by Johnson's case and demanding the EPA withdraw the compliance order.

“Rather than a sober administration of the Clean Water Act, the Compliance Order reads like a draconian edict of a heavy-handed bureaucracy,” the letter states.

The EPA order on Jan. 30 gave Johnson 30 days to hire a consultant and have him or her assess the impact of the supposed unauthorized discharges. The report was also supposed to include a restoration proposal to be approved by the EPA as well as contain a schedule requiring all work be completed within 60 days of the plan's approval.

If Johnson doesn't comply -- and he hasn't so far -- he's subject to \$37,500 per day in civil penalties as well as another \$37,500 per day in fines for statutory violations.

The senators' letter questioned the argument that Johnson built a dam and not a stock pond.

"Fairness and due process require the EPA base its compliance order on more than an assumption," they wrote. "Instead of treating Mr. Johnson as guilty until he proves his innocence by demonstrating his entitlement to the Clean Water Act section 404 (f)(1)(C) stock pond exemption, EPA should make its case that a dam was built and that the Section 404 exemption does not apply."

The EPA told FoxNews.com that it is reviewing the senators' letter. "We will carefully evaluate any additional information received, and all of the facts regarding this case," a spokeswoman for the agency said.

The authority of the EPA has recently been called into question over proposed rule changes that would redefine what bodies of water the government agency will oversee under the Clean Water Act.

The proposed changes would give the agency a say in ponds, lakes, wetlands and any stream -- natural or manmade -- that would have an effect on downstream navigable waters on both public land and private property. "If the compliance order stands as an example of how EPA intends to operate after completing its current 'waters of the United States' rulemaking, it should give pause to each and every landowner throughout the country," the letter states.

For now, the matter remains unresolved. Johnson says he's not budging and there's been no indication from the EPA they will withdraw the compliance order.

Regardless of the outcome, Johnson says his legal fight with the government agency is a teachable moment for his kids

"This is showing them that they shouldn't back down," Johnson said. "If you need to stand up and fight, you do it." **Have to admire his guts. I talk big, but not sure I could actually stand up & really do what would be needed.**

Canadian Editorial Humor Directed at the US ...

This is Canada 's Top Ten List of America 's Stupidity ... Canada 's version of David Letterman's "Top 10"

10. Only in America Could politicians talk about the greed of the rich at a \$35,000.00 a plate campaign fund-raising event.

9. Only in America Could people claim that the government still discriminates against black Americans when they have a black President, a black Attorney General and roughly 39% of the federal workforce is black while only 14% of the population is black. 45+% of all federal entitlements goes to black Americans 3X the rate that go to whites, 5X the rate that go to Hispanics!

8. Only in America Could they have had the two people most responsible for our tax code, Timothy Geithner (the head of the Treasury Department) and Charles Rangel (who once ran the Ways and Means Committee), BOTH turn out to be tax cheats who are in favor of higher taxes.

7. Only in America Can they have terrorists kill people in the name of Allah and have the media primarily react by fretting that Muslims might be harmed by the backlash.

6. Only in America Would they make people who want to legally become American citizens wait for years in their home countries and pay tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege, while they discuss letting anyone who sneaks into the country illegally just 'magically' become American citizens.

5. Only in America Could the people who believe in balancing the budget and sticking by the country's Constitution be thought of as "extremists."

4. Only in America Could you need to present a driver's license to cash a check or buy alcohol, but not to vote.

3. Only in America Could people demand the government investigate whether oil companies are gouging the public because the price of gas went up when the return on equity invested in a major U.S. Oil company (Marathon Oil) is less than half of a company making tennis shoes (Nike).

2. Only in America Could the government collect more tax dollars from the people than any nation in recorded history, still spend a Trillion dollars more than it has per year - for total spending of \$7 Million PER MINUTE, and complain that it doesn't have nearly enough money.

1. Only in America Could the rich people - who pay 86% of all income taxes - be accused of not paying their "fair share" by people who don't pay any income taxes at all.

"If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert , in five years there would be a

shortage of sand."

Nobel prize-winning economist Milton Friedman

Take These Steps Today To Survive An International Crisis by Brandon Smith at Alt-Maket.com

With the Crimea referendum passed and Russia ready to annex the region, the United States and the European Union have threatened sanctions. The full extent of these sanctions is not yet known, and announcements are pending for the end of March. If these measures are concrete, they will of course be followed inevitably by economic warfare, including a reduction of natural gas exports to the EU and the eventually full dump of the U.S. dollar by Russia and China. As I have discussed in recent articles, the result of these actions will be disastrous.

For those of us in the liberty movement, it is now impossible to ignore the potential threat to our economy. No longer can people claim that "perhaps" there will be a crisis someday, that perhaps "five or 10 years" down the road we will have to face the music. No, the threat is here now, and it is very real.

The loss of the dollar's world reserve status will destroy the only thread holding up its value, namely, investor faith. There are only two possible outcomes from that point onward:

A) The U.S. will be forced to default because no nation will purchase our Treasury bonds and support our debt spending, causing the dollar's value to implode.

B) The Fed will choose to restart and expand quantitative easing measures, confiscate pension funds, raid bank accounts or issue new taxes in order to keep the system afloat; this will also end in the eventual collapse of dollar value and hyperinflation.

The consequences will lead to an explosion in prices - first in commodities and necessities like petroleum, imported raw materials, food, electricity, etc. and then in all other goods and services. Austerity measures will be instituted by Federal and State governments. Cuts to social welfare programs, including food stamps, are probable. Civil infrastructure will suffer. The cost effectiveness of maintaining public utilities could become unrealistic. Anyone relying on such services may find themselves cut off for days, weeks or indefinitely. Public suffering will invariably rise, along with public crime.

If events like Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans are any indication, the Federal government's response will be inadequate, to say the least. The Federal Emergency Management Agency clearly cannot be relied upon to provide food, shelter, medical care or protection for communities. In fact, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Feds did far more harm than good, corralling people into camps where death was rampant and disarming outlying neighborhoods so that they could not defend themselves. Tens of millions of dollars in donated and Federally purchased necessities were never delivered to aid survivors. Trucks were turned away, and help from civilian sources was denied.

The point is, if you find yourself in the midst of a national or international catastrophe, you should assume that you will be on your own with whatever preparations you made beforehand. To assume otherwise would be foolish, given our government's track record.

There are some people who will argue that during an international crisis, such as an economic war or a world war, there is no purpose to preparedness. They will argue that there is nothing an individual or family can do to weather the storm or fight back, because the scale of the threat would be "too great." There is no place for such defeatism in the life of the liberty-minded. The scale of the threat is irrelevant, and only cowards give up a fight before it even begins. Survival and freedom require an unwavering conviction. Nihilists will fulfill their own prophecies, suffering a fate exactly as they imagine for the rest of us; living in fear, slavery, and obscurity.

That said, it is also important to acknowledge the truth that the majority of Americans today are utterly unready for a minor localized disaster, let alone a national or global crisis. This problem, though, could be easily remedied with a few simple beginning steps. I find that most people are not averse to the idea of preparedness, but many have trouble taking the first steps in the right direction. For longtime preparedness champions, the information listed here might seem like old-hat. However, I challenge each liberty movement member to approach at least one friend or family member who could benefit from the steps below. Prepping appears daunting to the uninitiated; show them how simple it can actually be.

Below is a list of goals that every liberty movement member and American can easily achieve starting today and continuing over the course of the next month. If enough citizens were to take the initiative to do these things, all threats - no matter how imposing - could be overcome.

Buy Three Months Of Food Stock

Food supply is the greatest Achilles' heel of the American populace. Most homes store less than one week's worth of food items at any given time. The average person needs between 2,000 and 3,000 calories per day to maintain sufficient energy for survival. It takes around four to six weeks for a person to die of starvation and malnutrition. In a collapse scenario, most deaths will likely occur within the first few months, either by weakness and illness, or by looting and violence. The idea is to at least get through this first catastrophic phase without becoming a villain, or falling victim to one. One person removed from starvation is one possible threat removed from the equation.

Three months of supply is not ideal by any means, but it will buy you precious time. Start with 2,000 calories per day per person. Bulk foods can be purchased cheaply (for now) and can at the very least provide sustenance during emergencies. A 20-pound bag of rice, for instance, can be had for less than \$15 and provides about 30,000 calories, or 2,000 calories per day for 15 days for one person. Supplement with beans, canned vegetables and meats, honey for sugar, or freeze-dried goods, and you will be living more comfortably than 90 percent of the population.

Food stockpiling is one of the easiest and most vital measures a person could take. Yet, sadly, it is one of the last preparations on people's minds.

Buy A Water Filter

Do not count on city water to remain functional. Even during a drawn-out economic downturn rather than an immediate crisis, there is a good chance that some utilities will be sporadic and unreliable. This means you will have to focus on rainwater collection, as well as water from unclean sources. Boiling the water will kill any bacteria, but it will not kill the taste of sediments and other materials floating around. A high-grade survival filter is the best way to get clean water that tastes good.

The average person needs about a gallon of water per day to remain healthy and hydrated. I highly recommend the Sawyer Mini Water Filter, which is a compact washable filter that can cleanse up to 100,000 gallons of water. It uses no moving parts, making it harder to break; and it costs only \$20.

Buy A Small Solar Kit

Try going a week or two without electricity, and you may find how dismal life can truly be. The very absence of light at night reduces one's productivity time drastically, and using fuel for lanterns is not practical in the long term. Solar power is truly the way to go for a grid-collapse scenario.

I've heard much whining about the cost of solar power, but small systems that will serve most electrical needs can be set up for less than \$1,000. Two 100-watt panels, a power inverter, charge controller and four to six 12-volt deep-cycle batteries are enough to deal with most electrical needs in a survival situation; and all these items can be contained in a portable foot locker for minimal cost. New solar panels are much more effective in low-light conditions and winter weather as well, making solar a must-have prep item.

Store A Fuel Source

Twenty gallons of gasoline treated with fuel saver is not expensive to purchase today, but in the midst of hyperinflation, it may be impossible to obtain tomorrow. Kerosene is useful for heating and cooking. Propane can be stored for decades and runs numerous appliances. If you live in a forested area, dried wood can be had for free, and can keep you warm throughout the winter months (keep in mind the your local danger factor when using fire). It is vital to have a means to stay warm and fed during the most difficult seasonal changes, especially during a grid down scenario.

Find Alternative Shelter

There are no guarantees during a full-spectrum disaster. Having all your eggs in one basket is not only stupid, but unnecessary. Always have a plan B. That means scouting an alternative location for you and your family in the event that your current shelter comes under threat. This location should be far enough away from large population centers but still within a practical range for you to reach them. It should also

have a nearby water source, and be defensible. Establishing supply caches near this site is imperative. Do not assume that you will be able to take all of your survival supplies with you from your home. Expect that surprises of a frightening variety will arise.

Buy One Semi-Automatic Rifle

At this point I really don't care what model of rifle people purchase, as long as they have one, preferably in high capacity and semi-automatic. AR-15, AK-47, Saiga, SKS, M1A: just get one! Every American should be armed with a military-grade rifle. If you are not, you are not only negligent in your duty as a free citizen, but you are also at a distinct disadvantage against the kind of opponents you are likely to face in a collapse situation.

Buy 1,000 Rounds Of Ammunition

Again, this is by no means an ideal stockpile, but it is enough to get you through a couple rough patches if you train furiously. Cheap AK-47 ammo can be had for \$5 for a box of 20 rounds. Get what you can while you can, because the prices are only going to skyrocket in the near term.

Approach One Friend Or Neighbor

Community is what will make the difference between life and death during a SHTF collapse. I challenge everyone in the liberty movement to find at least ONE other person to work with in the event of disaster. Lone-wolf operations may be strategically practical for short periods of time; but everyone needs rest, and everyone needs someone else to watch his back. Do not fall into the delusion that you will be able to handle everything on your own.

Learn One Barter Skill

Learn how to fix one vital thing or provide one vital service. Try emergency medical training, gunsmithing or metal working, as long as it is an ability that people will value. You have to be able to produce something that people want in order to sustain yourself beyond the point at which your survival stockpile runs out. Be sure that you are seen as indispensable to those around you.

Grow A Garden

Spring is upon us, and now is the perfect opportunity to grow your own food supply. If you have even a small yard, use that space to grow produce. Focus on high-protein and high-vitamin foods. Buy a dehydrator or canning supplies and save everything. Use heirloom seeds so that you can collect new seed from each crop to replant in the future. If every American had a garden in his backyard, I wouldn't be half as worried about our survival as I am today.

Prepare Your Mind For Calamity

The most valuable resource you will ever have is your own mind. The information held within it and the speed at which you adapt will determine your survival, whether you have massive preparations or minimal preparations. Most people are not trained psychologically to handle severe stress, and this is why they die. Panic equals extinction. Calm readiness equals greater success.

The state of our financial system is one of perpetual tension. The structure is so weak that any catalyst or trigger event could send it tumbling into the abyss. Make no mistake; time is running out. We may witness a terrifying breakdown tomorrow, in a year, or if we are lucky, a little longer. The path, though, has been set and there is no turning back. All of the items above can be undertaken with minimal cash flow. If you receive a regular paycheck, you can establish a survival supply for yourself and your family. There are no excuses.

Take the steps above seriously. Set your goals for the next four weeks and see how many of them you can accomplish. Do what you can today, or curse yourself tomorrow. What's it going to be?

If you would like to forward this Newsletter as is on to others – be my guest.

If you would like to send comments (just a sentence or two) to the editor – be my guest.

If you have an editorial to submit – be my guest.

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