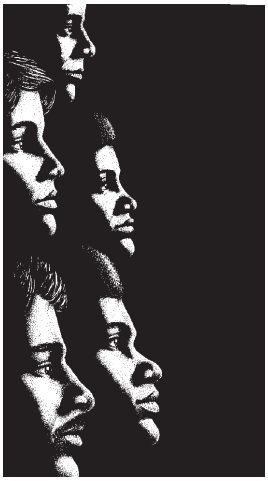

HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NEWS

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KALISPELL'S "PIONEER LITTLE EUROPE:" A "CONSCIOUS WHITE COMMUNITY" IN MONTANA

In September 2008, well-known Montana white supremacist April Gaede made a formal invitation to her peers. She asked that they join her in Montana as part of an effort to create a white community called "Pioneer Little Europe" (PLE). On Stormfront, a popular white supremacist website, Gaede wrote:

> Hello friends,
>
> I am formally making your [sic] an invitation to "come home" to the Pacific Northest [sic]. For many years the Northest [sic] Imperative or Northwest migration movement has existed in the hearts and minds of many of our people. Over 20 years ago some of the first White Nationalist pioneers started moving to this area. The numbers are not clear but we are slowly but surely gaining ground. By the creation of PLE areas or towns, those of us who have already made the move will try to help and advise those who wish to do so as well.

Since the initial posting, Gaede maintains a frequently updated thread on Stormfront advertising various jobs available in the Kalispell area. She also posts about the white demographics of both the Flathead area and Montana and gives examples of affordable housing options.

The Kalispell PLE is also called "Stormfront of the Streets," and it is the latest incarnation of the Northwest Territorial Imperative which was supported by Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler. During the 1970s, Butler moved his group to northern Idaho from California and set up his compound. Some families moved with him. He and other supporters of the Imperative envisioned carving out an Aryan homeland in the Pacific Northwest. Over the years, the idea has been known by numerous names. The overall result has been that moving to Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon has become a central part of white supremacist myth and lore. While many racists have dreamed about it, occasionally some actually do relocate. If it were up to Gaede, Kalispell's PLE would be just one of many around the world.

As for Kalispell, it is difficult to tell exactly how many people are currently living and involved in the

*(**PLE**, continued on page 2)*

photo from National Vanguard website

April Gaede

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*(**PLE**, from page 1)*
Kalispell PLE. However, evidence suggests that there is a growing movement as a result of Gaede's encouragement. The Network has confirmed that Brian Gray and Dana Arnold have moved to Montana to be part of the PLE. Brian Gray moved from Pennsylvania to the Flathead in December 2008.

Dana Arnold previously lived in Arizona and has been in Montana since at least November 2008. He lived with the Gaede family for a short time and has been pictured online with Lamb and Lynx Gaede, April's twin daughters who form the white power music group Prussian Blue.

By tracking online discussion, the Network believes that between five and nine additional people have recently moved to the Kalispell area and are engaged in the Kalispell PLE.

Beyond simply encouraging white supremacists to move to the area and creating a community, activists like Gaede have used the recruitment efforts to network with instate and out-of-state sympathizers.

This photo, posted on Stormfront, features Dana Arnold with Lamb and Lynx Gaede.

Kalispell's Kaitlyn Bolliger, for example, has sparked a friendship with Gaede, in part, because of PLE organizing. Bolliger has lived in Kalispell since 2000, and she organized a white supremacist rally in October 2009 that was attended by Brian Gray and three others (for more on the rally, see the November 2009 edition of *Network News*). Gaede hasn't just communicated with white supremacists moving to the Flathead. She's also been in contact with Bozeman's Keith Sones, the local contact for The Creativity Movement, before he moved to Montana from Texas. They've stayed in contact now that he is here.

In December 2008, Gaede stated online of PLE: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." But, by July 2009, trouble and infighting had already begun within the community. Dana Arnold admitted he had been kicked out of the PLE because, "L&L are mean," a reference to the Gaede twins. After that comment, he was also kicked off of Stormfront. Arnold, a musician who also goes by the moniker Nobel Son, spent some of the summer of 2009 living and working in Helena. He moved back to the Kalispell area this fall.

Arnold's history with the white supremacist movement began before his move to Montana. In 2007, he organized a rally on behalf of National Vanguard, an offshoot of the National Alliance and an organization in which Gaede has claimed membership. The National Alliance, a national white supremacist group, was formed by the late William Pierce in the 1970s. Regarding a 2007 rally organized by Arnold in front of an Asian restaurant in Scottsdale, AZ, the *East Valley Tribune* wrote:

> "Arnold said the group is not preaching hate, but Whites should be allowed to celebrate their culture the same as Blacks or Mexicans, and ideally have their own land 'to evolve and prosper.'"
>
> "I believe if there were no white people in America it would be total chaos," Arnold said. "White people are the backbone of the country."

Arnold's statements fit right in with the goals outlined in the *PLE Prospectus* compiled by H. Michael Barrett. Barrett was an organizer for David Duke in the 1970s and a supporter of the British National Party, a neo-fascist group in Great Britain. In the *Prospectus*, Barrett defined a PLE as a:

> "conscious White community – initially possessing greatly contrasting views among its residents – which comes to dominate a geographical area. . . A Pioneer/Little Europe is a generic term for any local community where Whites live in close proximity to businesses which offer cultural facilities and services, most of whom openly support

*(**PLE**, continued on page 3)*

*(**PLE**, from page 2)*

> their political revival . . . [they] are based on a study of the organizing principles shared among the more modern political communities that continue to dismember Whites geographically, culturally, and politically."

Why a PLE in Montana and why in Kalispell? Some supporters of the idea cite the presence of anti-government "patriot" groups in the state. As one Stormfront member put it:

> "I am sure Montana is a great state for PLE the Militia of montana [sic] is very active and the freeman are there not exactly in line with WN [white nationalism] but the general goals are the same. I would venture to say the ZOG [Zionist Occupied Government] will have more hell with that state more than any other, or they will hit it the hardest."

Dana Arnold, aka Noble Son, with his guitar.

According to Gaede, one benefit of living in Kalispell is that it is 95% white. She has also cited the area's conservative Christian beliefs and a strong Constitution Party of Montana. She has written:

> "The atmosphere of the area has a distinct 'Montana' feel and attitude. That attitude is to leave others alone and allow them to have their own beliefs and choices. There is a strong pro gun and pro hunting population and one of the strongest Constitution parties that I have seen yet. There is still a strong Christian attitude and people practice what the [sic] preach, trying to do what is right. Our Christmas parade still goes by that name and we have a nativity scene in our public square with a Baby Jesus."

While the number of people moving to the Flathead is not large at this time, it is disturbing that Gaede and supporters of the PLE are having some success. However, while Gaede may believe that a Montana attitude includes having no reaction to her white supremacist beliefs, history is not on her side.

When Gaede moved to Kalispell, the community sprang into action. In 2006, her neighbors began distributing fliers with background information on the Gaedes. One side featured a letter to neighbors, and the other side was a sign reading "NO HATE HERE." The neighbors made it very clear that the information was not meant to intimidate the Gaedes. Instead, the letter was to demonstrate that their neighborhood was diverse and discrimination was unacceptable. The letter asked people to post the "NO HATE HERE" signs in their homes and vehicles.

"Communities all across Montana have a history of standing up and opposing the efforts of white supremacist groups," says the Human Rights Network' s Travis McAdam. "The state also has a strong progressive political history that is built on the contributions from all Montanans, including American Indians and immigrants. Gaede and the PLE need to understand that the overwhelming majority of Montanans have no interest in the state serving as an Aryan homeland." ❐

2009 MONTANA LEGISLATURE VOTING RECORD

The Montana Human Rights Network has published its voting record for the 2009 Montana Legislature. As a multi-issue progressive organization, the Network carefully tracks many different pieces of legislation each session. This multi-issue work is reflected in the voting record, which covers the Network' s pro-active and reactive work. The record will be available on the Network's website soon or by sending an e-mail request to network@mhrn.org.

THE "PERSONHOOD" PEOPLE RETURN: CI-102 IS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO BAN ABORTION

After failing last election cycle, right-wing ideologues who want their religious views inserted into the Montana Constitution are back with another proposed constitutional amendment, CI-102. While the amendment is another attempt to ban abortion in Montana, it would also likely have a negative impact on other medical decisions, including in-vitro fertilization and access to contraception.

Former Rep. Rick Jore (C-Ronan) and his Constitution Party of Montana led the charge last election cycle. He returns this year with a new right-wing entity , the Montana Pro-Life Coalition. The group announced its formation in January 2009, and it pledged "aggressive legislative, political and educational advocacy on behalf of the unborn."

Two of the founding board members, Lewistown pastor Robert Snyder and former Rep. Roger Koopman (R-Bozeman), previously served on the board of Right to Life of Montana. Pro-Life Coalition activists have framed Right to Life of Montana as being too moderate when it comes to anti-choice work. The Coalition actively lobbied for anti-choice legislation during the 2009 Montana Legislature.

The Coalition's CI-102 defines life as beginning at fertilization and grants a fertilized egg due process rights that are separate from those of the pregnant woman. This sets up the scenario where a pregnant woman could be sitting in court with her attorney, while legal counsel for the fertilized egg in her womb sat at an opposing table. The Coalition and its allies have until mid-June 2010 to gather the signatures of nearly 50,000 Montana voters to qualify the measure for the General Election ballot in November 2010.

The right-wing nature of CI-102 isn't surprising considering the activists behind it. Jore sits on the Coalition's board and also leads the Constitution Party of Montana. His party likes to wrap itself in God, country, and flag while framing itself as the pillar of conservatism. His party's brand of conservatism seeks to base civil law on ultra-conservative biblical doctrine and panders to the militia movement's hatred of established government (see the Network's report *The Constitution Party of Montana* for more on Jore and the party).

Former state representatives Rick Jore (left) and Roger Koopman (right) are board members of the Montana Pro-Life Coalition.

On the floor of the Montana House in 2007, Jore said measures like CI-102 would be used to launch criminal investigations of women who experienced miscarriages. Other board members of the Coalition also represent extreme definitions of "conservative."

During his time in the Montana Legislature, Roger Koopman sponsored legislation that supported teaching biblical creationism in public schools and mandating death certificates be filed after abortion procedures.

He once claimed on the House floor that funding family planning aided "in the extermination of unborn babies," despite regulations that specifically prohibit this funding from covering abortion.

While always part of the ultra-conservative faction of the Montana Republican Party , Koopman declared war on his own party in 2008. His "Liberty Project" focused on defeating incumbent Republican legislators he called "socialists." This elicited public condemnations by other Republicans, and Koopman did not run for re-election. He is the Coalition's secretary.

Another board member for the Coalition is Trevis Butcher , best known as the leader of Montanans in Action. The group spearheaded three citizen initiatives in 2006 that were bankrolled primarily by out-of-

*(**CI-102**, continued on page 5)*

Dr. Annie Bukacek is president of the Montana Pro-Life Coalition. In this picture from the group's website, she is pictured with some of the plastic fetuses she uses during public presentations.

***(CI-102**, from page 4)*

state money. The practices of the campaign led to all three measures being thrown off the ballot because of widespread fraud during the signature-gathering process. Butcher has also been active in the Religious Right's home school movement in Montana.

Finally, there is Dr. Annie Bukacek who serves as the Coalition's president. She is a notorious letter-to-the-editor writer in the Flathead whose diatribes generally reflect the Religious Right's hatred of reproductive freedom, gays and lesbians, and public schools. She's stated that gays and lesbians engage in "sexually deviant behavior" and claimed that equality under the law "threatens the foundation and stability of our nation."

She has also complained that public schools have "duped" most Americans into believing "deceptive philosophies" that support the separation of church and state.

Bukacek has been a spokesperson for the Coalition for Protecting Patient's Rights during the current debate over federal reform of healthcare. In July, the group sent her to Washington DC to lobby against healthcare reform. In one interview, she claimed that the amount of people who need health coverage and can't afford it is blown out of proportion.

In early November, it was reported that Bukacek is being investigated for fraud in regards to her Medicaid billing practices for her private practice. She submitted Medicaid reimbursements for time she spent praying with patients.

With this type of leadership, it's not surprising some organizations that would seem to be allies in support of CI-102 are refusing to help. The Montana Catholic Conference, Montana Family Foundation, and Right to Life of Montana have wished the Coalition luck, but have told the press they will not engage in the CI-102 campaign.

In mid-October, the Coalition held "personhood" conferences in Great Falls, Missoula, and Helena. The events featured representatives from national anti-choice organizations, including the American Life League and Personhood USA.

The group cited the following Montana legislators as supporters of the conferences: Rep. Wendy Warburton (R-Havre), Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D-Box Elder), and Sen. Dan McGee (R-Laurel).

CI-102 reveals inconsistencies within Coalition activists' own political framework. While they promote the sanctity of fertilized eggs, they also want the government to have an intrusive role in every decision pregnant women make.

This goes against their stance on nearly every other issue. Bukacek has lobbied to keep the government out of any reform to healthcare. As legislators, Jore and Koopman continuously supported dismantling large sections of the government. These right-wing activists want little-to-no government involvement in anything, except when it comes to telling pregnant women what they can and can't do.

The supporters of CI-102 have indicated they will continue to run initiatives until they are successful.

The Network would like to know if the Pro-Life Coalition is gathering signatures in your community. While the group has been focusing mostly on churches, the Network has received reports that activists have been gathering signatures for CI-102 around Missoula.

If you come across signature gatherers for CI-102, please let us know by sending an e-mail to network@mhrn.org. ❐

FEDERAL HEALTHCARE REFORM: FAILING TO LIVE UP TO HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

"*I don't sleep well, I am struggling with this issue very hard, trying to sort out what is positive in this bill, what is negative in the bill, what it means for our country if there is no health insurance legislation, when we will come back to it. And I have to combine that with the fact that I absolutely know that the insurance companies and the drug companies will be laughing all the way to the bank the day after this is passed." - US Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT),* New York Times*, Dec. 17, 2009.*

As *Network News* went to press in mid-December, the US Senate continued to debate the nation's healthcare reform proposal. It seems that the Senate will pass a bill before they adjourn for the year. On December 20, the chamber gathered the 60 votes it needed to end debate on the bill, although there are still some procedural hurdles.

Many people in Montana and across the country who have worked to guarantee access to quality healthcare for everyone are grappling with the issues that Sen. Sanders articulated in the above *New York Times* quote. What ought to be done on this issue? Does this compromised legislation deserve support?

The current bill mandates that everyone who is not eligible for a public healthcare program purchase private insurance. Hundreds of billions of tax dollars will be funneled to private insurance companies in the form of "premium assistance." There are real questions about whether the new federal regulations of private insurance companies will be strong enough to make these companies truly accountable to the public. It is not easy to sort out the costs and benefits of the legislation in its current form.

Two things are quite clear. One, the current legislation does not meet basic human rights principles. And two, whatever passes at the federal level will leave individual states with quite a bit of say over how reform is implemented on the ground. Things will no doubt change after *Network News* goes to print, but it is almost certain that these two issues will remain true.

Human Rights Principles and Federal Healthcare Reform

The federal healthcare reform bill is not designed to protect people's health and guarantee equal access to comprehensive healthcare. It does not entitle people to receive the healthcare they need. Under the proposal, healthcare continues to be treated as a commodity which people must buy through private insurance companies unless they are eligible for a public program.

It is estimated that the reform proposal passed by the US House of Representatives would result in 96% of all legal residents being covered by health insurance. As of December 17, the US Senate's reform proposal would result in coverage for 5 million fewer people than the House bill.

Under either proposal, people would not be able to get healthcare according to their health needs. Instead, factors such as income, age, and immigration status would continue to determine access to healthcare. Additionally, access to health insurance does not translate into access to healthcare. Deductibles, copays, provider networks, and allowable health services can all prove to be barriers to accessing healthcare even for those who have health insurance.

While the federal reform bill passed by the US House contains some positive components, such as expanding access for poor people through the public Medicaid program and regulating private insurance companies to prevent the most egregious forms of discrimination (pre-existing conditions and policy termination for those who get sick), the overall reform approach continues to treat healthcare as a commodity. It sells access to healthcare based on a person's ability to pay rather than their health needs.

The proposal is not equitable or universal, and it does not treat healthcare as a public good for which everyone should share in the cost and the benefit. The proposal falls far short of basic human rights standards.

The Role of States in Implementation of Federal Reform

If and when federal healthcare reform does pass the Congress and is signed by President Obama, states will have a major role in implementing the reform proposal and making it work on the ground. Although the proposal has been framed as federal

(***Reform**, continued on page 7)*

*(**Reform**, from page 6)*
reform, changes to healthcare are going to vary greatly depending in which state a person lives.

For example, the reform proposal includes the largest expansion to Medicaid in 40 years. Medicaid is a public program that is currently run and funded jointly by state and federal governments. States have a great deal of latitude in running the program. Under the reform proposal, an expansion is mandated but state legislatures would control how the expansion is administered while meeting minimum federal standards. This Medicaid expansion creates an opportunity for states to dramatically increase access to comprehensive healthcare for poor and working poor adults.


U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Although details will be worked out between the House and Senate versions of healthcare reform early next year, states will have key roles to play if healthcare reform is to succeed. The National Academy for S tate Health Policy identifies a number of areas where states will play a crucial role in implementation:

1. Connecting People to Services – States will have the responsibility of developing a plan that turns the new "financial access" created by the federal government into "real" access to healthcare.
2. Promoting Coordination and Integration – Federal initiatives will provide support, but states will have the primary responsibility of integrating the disparate parts of the existing healthcare system.
3. Improve Care for Populations with Complex Needs – This includes things like coordination between Medicaid and Medicare and addressing barriers to improvements like addressing infrastructure problems that prevent the easy spread of best practices once they've been identified.
4. Orient the Health System Toward Results – States will have the opportunity to use federal tools that will allow for payment reforms in the private, Medicaid, and CHIP arenas. Payment reform measures must be implemented effectively if reform is to improve the overall health of communities.
5. Increase Health System Efficiencies – States will play a role in aligning a number of initiatives meant to make the healthcare system more efficient. These initiatives include comparative effectiveness and prevention-based approaches.

While the final details of healthcare reform, and the political leadership in Montana, will have a great deal to do with how healthcare reform is implemented, activists in Montana will have a voice in this process as well. Healthcare advocates in the state must be ready to work toward the best possible implementation of reform.

Alternatively there is movement from both the political right and left to organize for nullification of federal reform. In Arizona, the state legislature has voted to put the issue of federal healthcare reform on the ballot for a vote. The "Arizona Health Care Freedom Act (H.C.R. 2014)" passed the Arizona Legislature and will be on the November 2010 General Election ballot. The proposal would constitutionally override any law, rule, or regulation requiring individuals or employers to participate in any particular healthcare system. A similar proposal has already failed once on the ballot in Arizona.

The conservative American Legislative Exchange Council has been pushing model nullification legislation called the "Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act," which has been filed or pre-filed in 13 other states. Legislators in an additional 10 states, including Montana, have stated that they will introduce the bill.

US Sen. Sanders' frustration with the current healthcare reform proposal is something shared by many people who care about and have worked toward ensuring that the human right to healthcare is recognized, respected, and protected by our government. Montanans must work together to make sure that efforts in the state include everyone and, to the greatest extent possible, increase access to healthcare based on a person' s need, not their ability to pay. ❐

CELEBRATING CONSERVATISM BY PROMOTING EXTREMISM

In December 2009, Celebrating Conservatism celebrated a year of advocating right-wing beliefs and practices in Montana' s Bitterroot Valley. Armed with well-known militia speakers, anti-Semitic tax protestors, and their guns, the burgeoning group made its ideology very clear during 2009.

Celebrating Conservatism began as a small group of disgruntled Republicans and anti-zoning activists. Its founder, Mona Docteur , got involved in the Ravalli County Republican Women's Club a few years ago when, as she told the *Missoula Independent*, she "felt really ignorant about politics."

Docteur, a Southern California transplant, claims that Celebrating Conservatism's intent is "merely to educate the public on what it means to be conservative." The Network believes Celebrating Conservatism's definition obliterates the mainstream's notion of what constitutes conservatism.

When the group formed in 2008, there were plenty of issues on which its organizers could focus. The national economy was declining. The Bitterroot Valley had endured summers with forest fires. The Republican Party had experienced big losses both nationally and in Montana. The incoming president of the United States was not only a Democrat, but a person of color . Also, zoning continued to be contentious in Ravalli County as homes were built both in the river's floodplain and in the forested hillsides.

All of these developments provided the necessary fear and resentment to help get Celebrating Conservatism off the ground by framing the Republican Party as a failure.

Docteur and fellow organizer Dan Cox resigned from the local Republican Central Committee in 2009, in part, because of concerns that "fake" Republicans had taken over the local group, and the GOP did not support the values they promoted. Celebrating Conservatism began pushing back against the traditional GOP and claiming it was out of touch with the people.

Like Docteur, Cox isn' t native to Montana. He moved to Montana from Utah in 2002. Cox, currently living Conner, MT, was the initiator of the successful 2008 effort to repeal the planning and growth policy for Ravalli County . He told the *Ravalli Republic* ,

> "I believe our country gave us three things: life, liberty and the right of property...The most important thing you can pass to your children is freedom, and when I look at the direction of the Bitterroot Valley that these socialist-environmentalist groups want us to go in, it's a lethal combination to destroy those foundations we hold dear."

Along with scapegoating environmentalists and socialists, Cox has accused the Network' s local affiliate, the Bitterroot Human Rights Alliance, of being an unconstitutional United Nations front group for promoting the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* .

Docteur, Cox, and Celebrating Conservatism began picking from a pool of well-known anti-government "patriots," many of them popular during the 1980s and 1990s, to fill their speakers' podium.

In addition to presentations by group leaders like Cox and Docteur, Celebrating Conservatism has brought speakers from around the area, including Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman and former state Rep. Rick Jore of the Constitution Party of Montana.

Jore talked about his on-going efforts to change the Montana Constitution to include defining life as beginning at conception (see related article on page 4). In June 2009, Celebrating Conservatism brought Chuck Baldwin, the 2008 Constitution Party presidential candidate, to speak.

Docteur claimed these were examples of how the group welcomes speakers from all political backgrounds. Docteur said she "thought, 'This is a good thing. Let' s bring somebody in from another party to really screw up the minds of the Republicans,' which it did. It created a lot of stir , because there' s a lot of Party loyalists that can't quite get off of that no matter what."

Back to the Future: Old "Patriots" Surface

In July, the group brought ex-Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack to speak. Mack became a rising star in the "patriot" movement during the 1990s when he sued the federal government over the Brady Bill, a gun control measure. He began speaking on the "patriot" circuit in the early

*(**Conservatism**, cont. on page 9)*

*(**Conservatism**, from page 8)*
1990s and never stopped.

In Arizona, Mack was elected Graham County Sheriff in 1992. After filing his lawsuit, it was consolidated with a similar one by a sheriff in Montana, Ravalli County Sheriff Jay Printz. The US Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of the sheriffs who said it was unconstitutional for Congress to compel local law enforcement to conduct background checks on potential gun buyers. However, Mack's lawsuit and speaking time on the "patriot" circuit became central issues during his 1996 re-election bid, and he lost in the primary.

He is touring the country and trying to get sheriffs to read his new book, *The County Sheriff: America's Last Hope,* and to adopt his brand of county supremacy. Mack's version of county supremacy follows the tradition of the white supremacist Posse Comitatus. The Posse viewed the sheriff as the highest legitimate law officer in the land. It believed citizens were not subject to state or federal authorities. For the Posse, it was up to the sheriff to use force, if necessary, to prevent federal agencies from seizing property to pay taxes and to oppose any perceived encroachment by federal institutions.

In 1995 following the Oklahoma City bombing perpetrated by militia adherent Timothy McVeigh, Mack said, "People get all upset when they hear about militias, but what's wrong with it? I wouldn't hesitate for a minute to call out my posse against the federal government if it gets out of hand." In 2004, he edited a book by Randy Weaver. Weaver's standoff at Ruby Ridge, ID, was a seminal moment for the "patriot" movement of the 1990s.

Docteur and other Celebrating Conservatism activists defended Mack and said he is unfairly linked to extremist groups, and they support his views on state sovereignty. While at the same time apologizing for militia groups, Docteur said Mack,

> "has nothing to do with the militia, and if someone reads the Constitution, the militia is in the Constitution. It's been demonized as something negative. Now I'm not saying that there aren't groups that have used it negatively, but it is something that is real and it is part of the Constitution."

In August, the group invited another former law officer, Jack McLamb, to the Bitterroot. Back in the 1990s, one watchdog group called McLamb the "self-appointed ambassador and evangelist from the Christian Patriot Movement to the law enforcement community." His militia recruiting efforts led to him being fired on multiple occasions from law enforcement jobs.

At Ron Paul's March on Washington DC in July 2008, McLamb peddled his most recent one-world government conspiracy theory. He said there are red and blue dots being put on mailboxes by the government. This is being done to facilitate "foreign troops" that will be brought into America once "martial law" is declared. He claimed a red dot means "they take you out immediately and shoot you right in the head." He said a blue dot means you would be taken to one of the "concentration camps" being built by Halliburton that will house "50 million Americans." He said, if a pink dot is placed on your mailbox, it means they think you'll be a "good slave" and "serve our international anti-Christ masters."

The Network was successful at getting critical press concerning McLamb's scheduled appearance before Celebrating Conservatism. McLamb arrived in Hamilton, but didn't speak to the group. Until they spoke in person, Docteur claimed she had no idea,

> "how deep the rabbit hole went. When he came, we had a two-hour conversation over breakfast. In the second hour of the conversation, things were coming out and I thought, 'Whoa, this is going to be a little too heavy for this group.'"

While Docteur told the press that was why Celebrating Conservatism canceled McLamb's appearance, what happened the night of the event was different. A speaker for the group said that McLamb had "many enemies," and it was decided it would be better if he didn't speak that night.

Celebrating Conservatism didn't keep their better judgment for long. In September, the group featured anti-Semitic tax protestor Martin "Red" Beckman. Beckman has achieved the status of a patriarch in the "patriot" movement. He was a pioneer of the anti-tax movement who lost everything for refusing to pay his income taxes, which he claims is voluntary. He not only spouts anti-Semitic views, but he also has spoken at events sponsored by anti-Semitic organizations. All of this has made him a favorite speaker on the "patriot" circuit for decades.

In his book *The Church Deceived*, Beckman wrote:

*(**Conservatism**, continued on page 10)*

UPDATE FROM THE EQUALITY PROJECT:
LOCAL NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE CAMPAIGN IN MISSOULA

By Jamee Greer

Just six weeks into my new position as organizer with the Human Rights Network, we felt this would be a good time for me to introduce myself and to share what I'll be working on in the coming months.

First, a little about me: I've lived in Missoula the last five years where I attended The University of Montana and worked as a community organizer on everything from political campaigns to transportation access, healthcare reform to HIV testing and prevention.

I've been particularly passionate about equality for members of the lesbian, gay , bisexual and transgender community. I believe that we must first be free from violence, discrimination, and fear before we can really achieve our best as people.

A major focus for the Network during every legislative session since 1991 has been to include sexual orientation and gender identity into the state's primary non-discrimination law, The Montana Human Rights Act. Using employment discrimination as an example, Montana is one of 29 states that do not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and one of 38 that does not protect members of the transgender community. While federal law (The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA) is continuing to make headway in Washington DC, it will only protect members of the LGBT community employed at businesses with over 15 employees.

Data from the Montana Department of Industry and Labor shows that there are 29,831 small businesses with fewer than 15 employees in Montana, leaving a large number of Montanans in the cold, unprotected from discrimination. And employment is not the only human right on the table for LGBT Montanans.

Recognizing this need, the Montana Human Rights Network' s Equality Project is working with small businesses, members of the faith community, and other community partners, on the passage of a local non-discrimination ordinance in Missoula, the first of its kind in the state. The ordinance would provide protections to LGBT Missoulians that give everyone meaningful, concise, and clear redress when faced with discrimination.

Essentially this is a stamp upon the City of Missoula, called for by its people and affirmed by our elected officials, saying that existing protections provided by the Montana Human Rights Act should be extended to all people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

It's a stamp upon the community that shows we are welcoming to everyone, and that we will not stand for discrimination of any kind. And it fills a dangerous gap in the current anti-discrimination law , at least until its statewide counterpart is amended by the legislature, that leaves members of our community vulnerable to being fired, denied housing, or denied the same access to public accommodations as it provides to everyone else.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination in housing, public accommodation or employment because of your real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, please contact the Network at 406-442-5506 ext. 12, or by e-mail at equality@mhrn.org. ❐

*(**Conservatism**, from page 9)*

> "They talk about the terrible holocaust of Hitler's Nazi Germany. Was that not a judgment upon a people who believe Satan is their god? It was judgment, not holocaust….The true and almighty God used the evil Nazi government to perform judgment upon the evilAnti-Christ religion of those who had crucified the Christ."

In May 1994, Beckman was evicted from his property near Billings, MT, after a 20-year battle with the Internal Revenue Service for not paying his income taxes. Throughout the process, Beckman claimed the judicial system did not have jurisdiction over him. His personal property was sold at auction and his home was bulldozed to the ground.

In the lead up to his eviction, Beckman praised anti-government allies who threatened to kidnap the officials who were foreclosing on his farm. He told the press, "This [the

*(**Conservatism**, cont. on page 1 1)*

*(**Conservatism**, from page 10)*

eviction] isn't going to go the way they [law enforcement] plan. There's going to be enough guns here to make sure of that." Beckman told a Montana radio talk show host that he has more respect for a terrorist "who might plant a bomb somewhere" than for the Internal Revenue Service.

Taxes and the court system were the main topics of his presentation to Celebrating Conservatism, during which his remarks were his standard stump speech. He was greeted with frequent applause and cheering from those in attendance.

"Anti-government activists are trying to mobilize fear and resentment in our communities due to the current financial crisis and a new presidential administration," said the Network's Travis McAdam. "Celebrating Conservatism is one such entity . We have repeatedly seen extremists hide behind erroneous interpretations of the Constitution and issue shallow calls to patriotism. They've given us the Montana Freemen and the Oklahoma City bombing. Montana communities should not be fooled again." ❒

*(**Cobell**, from page 12)*

said they are owed for leases that have been administered by the Interior Department since 1887.

President Barack Obama said settlement of *Cobell* was important for reconciling decades of acrimony between Indian tribes and the federal government.

"As a candidate, I heard from many in Indian Country that the *Cobell* suit remained a stain on the nation-to-nation relationship I value so much," Obama said in a written statement. "I pledged my commitment to resolving this issue, and I am proud that my administration has taken this step today ."

The settlement does not include a formal apology for any mismanagement by the US government. However, it does acknowledge a "breach of trust" on Indian land issues. An apology "would have been nice," Cobell said, but was less important than settling the dispute. "Actions are more important to me than apologies," she said.

To read more about the settlement, check out the lawsuit's website at: http://www.cobellsettlement.com/ ❒

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SETTLEMENT REACHED IN *COBELL* INDIAN TRUST CASE

In early December , the Department of the Interior proposed spending over $3 billion to settle a long-standing lawsuit over federal mismanagement of the Individual Indian Money Trust, which held extractive-industry royalties generated from Indian land since 1887. Elouise Cobell, a member of Montana' s Blackfeet Tribe, initially filed the lawsuit in 1996. It sought to force the government to account for billions of dollars that belong to Native Americans.

Elouise Cobell

After more than a decade of litigation, both sides agreed on the terms of the settlement. Under the agreement, the Interior Department would distribute $1.4 billion to more than 300,000 Indian tribal members to compensate them for historical accounting claims and to resolve future claims. The settlement would give every tribal member with an Interior Department account an immediate check for $1,000. Additional payments would be determined later under a formula that takes into account numerous factors.

The government would also spend $2 billion to buy back and consolidate tribal land broken up in previous generations. The program would allow individual tribal members to obtain cash payments for land interests divided among numerous family members and return the land to tribal control.

The settlement also would create the Indian Education Scholarship account of up to $60 million for tribal members to attend college or vocational school. The settlement is believed to be the largest ever against the federal government.

"We have achieved a measure of justice and financial compensation for individual Indians whose trust accounts were mismanaged by our government," said Cobell of the settlement. "Indians did not receive the full financial settlement they deserved, but we achieved the best settlement we could. This is a bittersweet victory, at best, but it will mean a great deal to the tens of thousands of impoverished Indians entitled to share in its financial fruits, as well as to the Indian youth whose dreams for a better life including the possibility of one day attending college can now be realized."

The proposed settlement now must be approved by Congress and a federal judge. Last year, a federal judge ruled that the *Cobell* plaintiffs were entitled to $455 million, a fraction of the $47 billion or more the tribes have

*(**Cobell**, continued on page 1 1)*

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