

There is blood on Maggie Hassan's hands

by: Darryl W. Perry

Maggie Hassan has blood on her hands. You might not see it at first, but it's there. Look closely, you'll see it.

On July 23, 2013, New Hampshire became the 19th state to legalize medicinal usage of cannabis. The original version of the therapeutic cannabis bill would have allowed qualifying patients to grow their own medicine if certain criteria were met. However, Maggie threatened to veto the legislation if this provision wasn't removed, despite the fact that she voted FOR a similar provision in 2009. This is a freedom enjoyed by therapeutic cannabis patients in Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and a dozen other states. Now, over one year later, qualifying patients are still not able to legally obtain the medicine they need. The process is so arduous that it may be another 18 months before therapeutic cannabis patients in the Granite State will be able to legally obtain their medicine from one of four alternative treatment centers.

Clayton Holton was one of the therapeutic cannabis patients who has been working for years to convince those in the NH government to allow him the freedom to obtain and use his medicine without threats of violence. Unfortunately, Clayton has become another victim of the drug war, and his blood is on Maggie's hands!

Clayton suffered from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a genetic disorder characterized by degeneration of muscle tissue. In May of last year, when the therapeutic cannabis legislation was working its way through the NH Legislature, Clayton wrote "[The removal of the home grow provision] means patients will continue to suffer without legal access to marijuana. Frankly, I do not expect

to live another two years, so for me, this may as well be a death sentence."

Clayton passed away earlier this week because of the "death sentence" handed down to him by Maggie Hassan. Matt Simon, Political Director for the Marijuana Policy Project, sent out an alert on Wednesday, reading, "It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Clayton Holton, the courageous young activist who had been asking New Hampshire to pass a medical marijuana law since 2007..."

Clayton earned national recognition in 2007 when he confronted then-presidential candidate Mitt Romney at a campaign appearance. The resulting video was shared widely, and it resulted in countless viewers becoming educated about the issue."

Simon added, "Sadly, Clayton never got to realize his dream of seeing New Hampshire patients receive protection from arrest. In 2013, after meeting with Clayton and other patients, Governor Hassan told the Senate she would veto the medical marijuana bill if it provided Clayton and other patients with the immediate legal protections and home cultivation provision they were asking for."

Some may accuse me of politicizing Clayton's death, to them I say nothing could be further from the truth. Maggie decided to take a position that she found politically expedient, and the result cost this man his life. Maggie made this a political issue when she told Clayton that he doesn't have a right to grow his own medicine, I'm simply pointing out the blood on her hands.

Free Staters Win Primaries Statewide Despite Attacks

by: Ian Freeman

Despite various all-out-attacks against them, several Free State Project participants won both Democrat and Republican primaries statewide. One day prior to Tuesday's primary election, Miscellany Blue published a handy list of several FSP participants whose election contests were being "watched".

Of the seven races they were watching, four were wins for the liberty activists, including two democrat incumbents, Tim O'Flaherty and Michael Garcia. In his race for Manchester state rep for Wards 4-7, incumbent democrat Tim O'Flaherty received a solid third place out of five contenders. The first and second placed opponents only got 26% each compared to O'Flaherty's 24%. O'Flaherty says that local haters spent a fair amount of money to mail flyers to all registered dems, promoting three other candidates. However, O'Flaherty says that what happened to him was nothing compared to the all-out-attack on

Michael Garcia.

Michael Garcia (no relation to Congressional candidate Marilinda Garcia) is a Keeniac-moved-to-Nashua, who, like O'Flaherty won his state rep seat originally in 2012 in Nashua's Ward 7. Local haters were caught by surprise in 2012 and this year mobilized against him with large signs calling the democrat liberty activist who moved several years ago from Florida, a "phony". Plus, they were distributing an attack flier at the polling site. Despite the desperate push against him, Garcia prevailed, beating the last place contender by 30 votes. Garcia received 16% putting him in third place out of four, with the fourth place person receiving 12%.

The other races that Miscellany Blue were watching included Elizabeth Edwards who received a solid first place finish in Manchester's Ward 4! She scored 41% of

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Community Calendars RECURRING EVENTS

CONCORD

Second Saturday of the month – Concord Porcupines: The Corner View Restaurant – Noon-1:30pm.

DOVER

Last Tuesday of the month – The Dover Liberty Book Club: Kaleo Coffeehouse, 83 Main St. – 7:00pm

DOVER / EXETER / PORTSMOUTH

Thursday – NH Seacoast Liberty Meetup: rotates weekly between Dover, Exeter & Portsmouth – 7:00pm
<http://www.meetup.com/nhseacoastliberty>

KEENE

Every Sunday – Social Sunday: McCue's Billiards & Sports, 12 Emerald St. – 6:00pm

LEBANON

Last Tuesday of the month – Upper Valley Porcupines: Lebanon Village Pizza, 45 Hanover St. #1 – 6:00-8:00pm

MANCHESTER

First Saturday of the month – Merrimack Valley Porcupines: (location varies, check facebook) – 11:00am

MANCHESTER

Tuesday – Taproom Tuesday: The Quill, Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St. – 5:00-7:00pm

MANCHESTER

Sunday – Shire Bitcoin Meetup: Murphy's Diner, 516 Elm St. – 6:00-9:00pm

NASHUA

Wednesdays – Freedom Forum discussion: Barnes & Noble, 235 Daniel Webster Highway – 7:00-9:00pm

NASHUA

Sunday – Nashua Liberty Meetup: Martha's Exchange, 185 Main St. – 6:00-8:00pm

WEARE

First and Third Thursday of the month – FreeWeare: Weare Town Grille, 840 S Stark Hwy – 6:30-8:30pm

Submit your events to editor@fpp.cc – please send event information by the final Sunday of each month.

More events can be found online at ShireCalendar.FPP.cc

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Support real school choice

by: Darryl W. Perry

Now that school is back in session, the question of school choice has once again been raised. On the surface, it seems like an obvious question: should parents be allowed to choose which school their children attends? On the surface, it seems like the answer is obvious: YES!

A recent study by Troy University seems to confirm this. Highlights from the School Choice works! Research shows that:

- Increasing the number and types of K-12 schools, and empowering parents to decide which is best for their children will lead to better academic outcomes...
- A one-size-fits-all approach fails to provide the necessary flexibility to encourage experimentation and to meet the diverse educational goals of parents and students.
- Evidence from school choice programs across the nation shows that even small doses of school choice boost school system performance.

The minutia comes about when the details of how school choice is implemented. The New Hampshire Supreme Court recently upheld a tax credit scholarship program that helps provide scholarships to children of low-income parents. The Franklin Center reports, "In New Hampshire, Business Tax Credits offer businesses a partial tax credit (85%) for donations made to organizations which provide scholarships to low-income families (defined as income less than 300% of the federal poverty line). It is then up to these families to determine what is best for them: tuition-charging public schools in nearby districts, homeschool, or tuition at a private school, including those which have religious affiliations and instruction."

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Yahoo, PRISM and short-term memories

by: Darryl W. Perry

In early September, it was revealed that Yahoo had been threatened with a fine of \$250,000 per day for failing to hand over information to the federal government. Details of the threat became public after 1,500 pages worth of documents were unsealed in the case, stemming from a 2007 order from the FISA Court. Wired reports, “Yahoo applied to appeal the [FISA] decision and requested a stay in the data collection pending the appeal. But the FISA Court refused the stay, and beginning in March 2008, Yahoo was forced to comply with the request for data in the meantime ‘under threat of civil contempt.’

Five months later, in August 2008, the FISA Court of Review found that the data request, undertaken for national security reasons, qualified for an exception to the warrant requirement under the Fourth Amendment and upheld the original court’s order to comply.”

This order was part of the NSA’s PRISM program, which became public knowledge after Edward Snowden blew the whistle on widespread spying by the NSA. After those revelations, a poll from Pew Research found 56% of surveyed Americans “say that federal courts fail to provide adequate limits on the telephone and internet data the government is collecting as part of its anti-terrorism efforts,” and 70% believe “that the government uses this data for purposes other than investigating terrorism.” That

poll also found “47% say their greater concern about government anti-terrorism policies is that they have gone too far in restricting the average person’s civil liberties, while 35%” said they were more concerned that policies have not gone far enough.

These poll results were from barely one year ago (July 2013). A new study, also from Pew, shows a roughly 12 point swing in those numbers. Now, only 35% think the federal government has gone too far, while half of those polled believe the government hasn’t gone far enough in violating rights in an effort to find a suspected terrorist.

One flaw that I find with this survey is that the term “terrorist” is not defined. Additionally, the answer choice given asks if the government has “gone too far in restricting the average person’s civil liberties” instead of asking if the government has “gone too far in violating the rights of the average person.” I don’t know if a wording change in the answer choice would show a significant change one way or the other; though I do know that wording of questions, and answers, does have an impact on the outcome of surveys.

Regardless of the wording, it is disturbing to me how quickly people seem to have forgotten about the NSA spying programs that caused an uproar when they were

first revealed. It is also disturbing how quickly people forget that the US government was recently arming the Syrian rebels they now want to bomb. It is disturbing to me that people who claim to not like the two major parties, end up supporting the candidates of those parties. It is disturbing to me that there will always be people who want to control others, and deny their basic human rights!

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Free Staters Win Primaries Statewide Despite Attacks

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the vote compared to the second place finisher’s 34%. Manchester’s Amanda Bouldin (the founder of Shire Sharing) also made it through in a close race for state rep in Ward 5 where she finished second with 25% – the runner-up had 22%.

In Keene, despite valiant efforts, James “Robin Hood” Cleaveland lost his race for state rep to political newcomer William Pearson, who in a Keene Sentinel interview claimed to be a “real democrat”, whatever that means. Pearson received 102 votes in Keene’s Ward 1 compared to Cleaveland’s 30 votes (23%). The good news out of this race is that turnout in Ward 1 was down from 9% in 2012 to 7% in 2014, meaning that either Cleaveland’s opposition did nothing to try to stop him, or if they did, any efforts they made to try to turn out the vote were total failures.

Also in Keene, Conan Salada was eliminated from the race for the two at-large state rep seats. Despite not campaigning at all, Salada received 140 votes (9%) compared to elected state rep and longtime politician Kris Roberts’ 906 votes (57%) and elected state rep Larry Phillips’ 533 votes (34%). Finally, in Grafton, Tom Ploszaj drew 86 votes (26%) to his opponent’s 246 (74%) in a state rep race.

Thank you to Miscellany Blue for bringing those races to my attention – what wonderful news! Plus, there were even more republican Free State Project participants (at least fifteen) who also made it through the primary and will, with their democrat brothers and sisters bring the message of liberty to the general election on November 4th.

Do you care about liberty in your lifetime? Are liberty-minded people winning elections where you currently are? If not, there are 101 reasons to move to New Hampshire, and their winnable political system is one of them. Please join the Free State Project and make the move ASAP! (As of this writing over 16,000 have joined the FSP and over 1,600 are already here.)

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Freeman was a candidate in the Democratic Gubernatorial Party Primary. He received 4.1% against incumbent Governor Maggie Hassan’s 94.3% and Clecia Terrio’s 1.7%

Secessionist movements should declare independence from politics

by: Darryl W. Perry

On September 18, more than 3.6 million Scots cast a ballot answering the question: “Should Scotland be an independent country?” In the weeks leading up to the vote, the leaders of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Parties vowed to cede some powers from the UK government to the Scottish Parliament if a majority of Scottish voters rejected independence. The Telegraph reports the leaders of the 3 main parties “argued it would provide ‘certainty’ for Scottish voters that further devolution would follow a No vote and contrasted this with the doubts over a separate Scotland’s finances, currency and public spending.” The legislation for devolution has yet to be written, however the plan is to give “the Scottish Parliament more control over income tax and housing benefit.”

On the morning of September 19, it was announced that 55.3% of Scottish voters cast a ballot opposing Scottish independence. Reuters reports, British Prime Minister David Cameron promised “not only to fulfill the pledge to Scotland but also to make it part of an overhaul of the balance of powers across the rest of the United Kingdom, within the same timeframe of a few months.” This was not part of the pre-vote plan, and does not seem to have the support of the Labour Party. Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party, says that such changes would need to be approved by British voters next fall.

The Guardian reports Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, is now accusing “the leaders of the three main UK parties of tricking hundreds of thousands of voters into rejecting Scotland’s independence by reneging

on a last-minute vow of more devolution.” An exit poll by Lord Ascroft Polls revealed that at least a quarter of “no” voters seem to have been tricked, telling a pollster “A NO vote would still mean extra powers for the Scottish Parliament together with the security of remaining part of the United Kingdom, giving the best of both worlds.” That quarter of no voters equals about half a million votes, which was more than enough to sway the outcome of the election.

Despite the rejection of independence, at this vote, there is no doubt that a large percentage of Scots are not happy with the union they’re in. It is yet to be decided if Scots will get a chance to vote on independence in the future. However, if devolution is delayed or is deemed insufficient, it seems likely that the independence movement will continue to grow.

Here in the US, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found that nearly 1 in 4 Americans are open to the idea of secession in some sense. The poll found 23.9% said they strongly supported or tended to support the idea of their state leaving the US. That poll did not ask if people supported other states withdrawing from the US, and seemed to indicate that support for secession seems to be directly tied to the party affiliation of the President.

As a supporter of self-determination, I support all people who seek to declare independence. I also have hope that within the next few years secessionist movements in the United States will be independent of national politics, and that within my lifetime the US federal government will no longer exist!

Advanced Placement US history curriculum raises questions

by: Darryl W. Perry

In late September, hundreds of high school students in Denver walked out of their Advanced Placement US History class in protest over what is being called “conservative censorship” of the curriculum. The student walk-out followed a teacher sick-out the previous week. On September 22, some of the protesting students drove to the Jefferson County School Administration Building to deliver a letter to Superintendent Dan McMinimee stating, “I want honesty in my classroom. Teachers want honesty in the classroom.”

However, not everyone wants honesty in the classroom. The Raw Story reports, “Tensions have run high in Jefferson County schools since three conservative candidates were elected to the school board.” The conservative board members suggested a rewrite of the way history is taught to students, wanting students to learn nationalism, respect for authority and reverence for free markets. They also want teachers to avoid teaching any historical events or acts that promote “civil disorder, social strife or disregard of the law.”

Retired teacher Larry Kreiger told Newsweek, in August, that he felt it was his duty, as a high school history teacher for more than 40 years, to teach his students what made America great. Kreiger says that he got upset after reading the framework for the AP curriculum, saying, “As I read through the document, I saw a consistently negative view of American history that highlights oppressors and exploiters.”

The curriculum which aims to promote “critical thinking skills for the study of history” doesn’t please Krieger when it comes to teaching students about World War II. Kreiger, and other conservatives, want students to be told about the “heroism of American soldiers” Instead, the curriculum teaches students about “Wartime experiences such as the internment of Japanese Americans, challenges to civil liberties, debates over race and segregation, and the decision to drop the atomic bomb [which] raised questions about American values.”

After a cursory glance of the framework, what I find most disturbing is the claim that nullification was used to defend slavery. The fact is that before the passage of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, slavery was legal in the United States of America. Nullification is not the defense of something that is statutorily legal, rather nullification is the action of a state attempting to prevent the enforcement of an unconstitutional federal law. One such example of nullification would be the nullification, in Wisconsin, of the Fugitive Slave Act. The AP framework mentions, “Northern resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law in the Compromise of 1850” yet does not mention the nullification of the law.

At the end of the day, there is one major question in this debate over the AP curriculum that isn’t being asked: Who should be responsible for what your children learn? If you believe that education decisions should be made by bureaucrats, whether elected or not, don’t be surprised when decisions are made that you don’t like!

Support real school choice

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In other states, the money comes directly from the state or local government in the form of vouchers. Along with the voucher comes strings. Meaning that once a private school, whether religious or not, receives the tax-payer money, the schools are then put further under the control of a government. Many people will look no deeper than these attached strings, and decide at that point whether or not to support school choice. Some will look only at the fact that tax-payer money is possibly being transferred to religious private schools, and decide to oppose school choice.

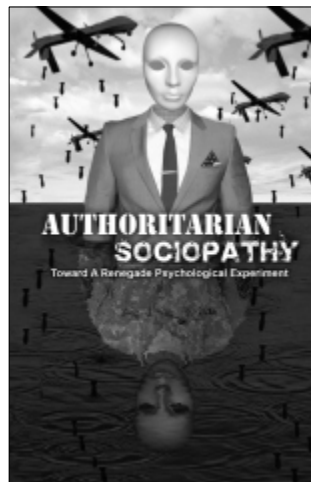
Few people look at the fact that government-run schooling is a wealth redistribution program. The National Center for Education Statistics estimates the current per student expenditure to be \$12,281 for the 2014–15 school year. The source of this funding varies from state-to-state, though most states will use property, income and/or sales taxes to fund government-run schools. Government-run schools, as with all things government-run, require that (almost) everyone pay for a program that not (almost) everyone uses. The only sure-fire way to have real school choice, is to remove government from the equation. As long as people are being forced to pay for schools they don’t want to use, there is no real choice!

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Keene City Council missed opportunity with the Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter-Attack Truck

By: Darryl W. Perry

The Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter-Attack Truck has come up again as a topic of discussion in Keene. The City Council recently voted to table a proposal by Terry Clark to return the BEARCAT. The following letter was published by the Keene Sentinel as a letter to the editor, and submitted to the City Council as an official correspondence. It was on the agenda for the September 18 Council meeting, and was taken as informational.

To the Mayor and City Council,
In the wake of the protests in Ferguson, Mo., the federal government has begun reconsidering the programs that give away military equipment to local law-enforcement. Sen. Claire McCaskill said police responses like that in Ferguson have “become the problem instead of the solution.”

Meanwhile, Rep. Hank Johnson said he will introduce federal legislation to reverse police militarization, and Sen. Carl Levin said the Senate Armed Services Committee will review the program to determine if the Defense Department’s surplus equipment is being used as intended.

I am greatly disappointed in the Keene City Council. On Sept. 4, the council had the opportunity to join Davis, Calif., in returning militarized equipment. Last week, the City Council of Davis voted to return a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle it received from the Pentagon as part of the 1033 program.

Terry Clark, who had been vocally opposed to Keene’s acceptance of the Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter-Attack Truck, wrote a correspondence to the mayor and council asking “the City of Keene (to) withdraw from the Homeland Security Grant” and return the “BearCat, to the appropriate government agency.”

Keene’s BearCat, which is painted in military colors, has only been used on a handful of occasions by Keene’s police, who now dress in black. None of these uses has been in line with the reasons listed in the application for this military equipment.

During the council meeting, Mayor Kendall Lane suggested that the council take the correspondence as informational. A vote to override this motion was only supported by Councilors Chadbourne, Clark and Hague. The council had a chance to do the right thing, however 12 of the councilors chose to follow the recommendation of the mayor.

Darryl W. Perry