

Will Iran nuclear deal prevent future war?

by: Darryl W. Perry

After what the Washington Post reports as “nearly two years of intense, and largely secret, negotiations,” a deal from the P5+1 was reached last week. Congress now has 60 days to review the deal. Since the negotiations were secret, and details are scant, there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding or outright misinformation about the deal. In saying the deal is the best proposal on the table, Reason.com reports, “[security hawks will] say that [the deal] won’t prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon — and they’ll be right. They’ll say that it’ll help Iran build its conventional weapons program — and they’ll be right. They’ll say that Iran will never fully honor its word — even as the West lifts sanctions against it, and they’ll probably be right about that too.”

Is Reason.com correct that the deal won’t prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon? Yes and no. According to various sources:

- Iran will give up about 14,000 of its 20,000 centrifuges.
- Iran will give up 97% of its enriched uranium; it will hold on to only 300 kilograms’ worth.
- Iran will be forbidden from enriching uranium beyond energy-grade fuel, or 3.67% enrichment. (Weapons-grade uranium is 90% enriched.)
- Iran will destroy or export the core of its plutonium plant at Arak, and replace it with a

new core that cannot produce weapons-grade plutonium. It will ship out all spent nuclear fuel.

- After 15 years of restraint on its nuclear activities mandated by the agreement, Iran will no longer be subject to international inspections.
- If Iran violates any aspect of the deal, sanctions from the US, EU & UN will be automatically re-imposed.

It’s theoretically possible that after fifteen years of producing 3.67% energy-grade uranium, that Iran will suddenly begin enriching uranium to 90% and produce a nuclear weapon, however, it seems unlikely. It’s also theoretically possible that a Republican President could decide that the P5+1 deal is not harsh enough on Iran and re-institute sanctions, or simply invade based on the Bush Doctrine, which seems more plausible given the fact that most of the GOP Presidential hopefuls have come out against the deal.

Without seeing the full details of the deal, I reluctantly support it because it lifts sanctions which only serve to harm the people of a country, not the government. In regards to the claim that the deal allows Iran to build nuclear weapons, I ask: since the US is the only country to ever use a nuclear weapon in war; why should the US government get to decide who is allowed to own such a weapon?

Probate Judges and County Clerks respond to SCOTUS ruling on marriage rights

by: Darryl W. Perry

When the Supreme Court recently ruled that marriage was a fundamental right that could not be denied, I doubt the five Justice majority imagined the fall-out that would occur. Just three days after the ruling, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued an opinion stating “the Court weakened itself and weakened the rule of law, but did nothing to weaken our resolve to protect religious liberty and return to democratic self-government in the face of judicial activists attempting to tell us how to live.” Adding, “County clerks and their employees retain religious freedoms that may allow accommodation of their religious objections to issuing same-sex marriage licenses. The strength of any such claim depends on the particular facts of each case.”

Paxton also warned clerks that refusing to issue marriage licenses may get them sued. That is exactly what happened to a Kentucky County Clerk who is refusing to issue any marriage license. The lawsuit filed by the ACLU on behalf of 4 couples cites the policy of Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis to not issue any marriage licenses. The lawsuit states “Davis declared that the policy was adopted because of ‘deep religious convictions’ which would not ‘allow’ her to

issue same-sex marriage licenses.” However, unlike Texas, all “executive branch agencies” in Kentucky were instructed “to make operational changes that will be necessary to implement the Supreme Court decision.”

By contrast, in Alabama, one Probate Judge is citing not only deep religious belief but also state law as justification for refusing to issue any marriage licenses. Pike County Probate Judge Wes Allen says State law says Probate Judges “may” issue such licenses, and are not required to do so.

Sam Marcossan, a constitutional law professor at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, said officials who refuse to issue marriage licenses have two options: resign or go to jail. “If it means that you simply cannot fulfill your duties because of your religious beliefs, what is required of you is that you can no longer hold that office.” Adding that clerks or judge who refuses to issue a license to a two-person couple could be jailed for contempt.

One man in Montana however is attempting to remove the

continued on page 4

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KEENE

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Third Saturday of the month – Lakes Region Porcupine Meeting: New Hong Kong Buffet 12 Old State Rd Unit 3, Belmont – 12:00-2:00pm

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MANCHESTER

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MANCHESTER

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(location varies, check ShireCalendar.FPP.cc)

NASHUA

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

NASHUA

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

NEWMARKET

Last Sunday of every month – Freecoast Bitcoin Meet Up: Burrito Liberation, 170 Main St – 3:00-5:00pm

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by: Darryl W. Perry

President Obama recently made headlines for commuting the sentences of 46 federal drug offenders. That represents less than one half of one percent of the total number of drug offenders in federal prison. During the ceremony Obama said, “in some cases, the punishment required by law far exceeded the offense.”

However, a little known policy change may end up releasing nearly 46,000 federal offenders before their sentences are complete. The Marshall Project reports the change known as “drugs minus two,” was an amendment to the U.S. Sentencing Commission’s guidelines adopted last year. “Federal drug sentences are computed with a dizzying arithmetic. Judges assign the defendant an ‘offense level’ based on the quantity of drugs sold. The judge then places that person in a ‘criminal history category,’ based on his criminal record, and plugs both data points into a table to arrive at a final sentence... This year’s ‘drugs minus two’ amendment lowers all drug

“Drugs minus two” is not good enough

crimes by another two offense levels. So far, the average sentencing reductions are modest: just under two years.”

Even with this policy change, not everyone will be eligible for a sentence reduction, “including those serving mandatory minimum sentences and those convicted of a ‘third strike’ — even if all three strikes were nonviolent drug convictions.”

One of the first people to be released early under this new policy was David Mosby. In 1991, Mosby was sentenced to 40 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamines. He began using methamphetamines to stay awake during his night shift, and started selling to fund his habit. With good time credit, he was initially slated to a 2025 release date. The new “drugs minus two” policy reduced 10 years off his sentence, and Mosby was released in March of this year.

An appellate judge reviewing Mosby’s case wrote, “Under

the sentencing guidelines scheme now in vogue, a judge can exercise little, if any, judgment on these matters.” Adding, “While I am obligated to affirm the sentences, I need not and will not put my stamp of approval upon them. These sentences defy reason, but as I have already noted—such is our system.”

I could not say it any better, “These sentences defy reason”! These sentences determined by charts not judicial discretion date back to 1984 when the U.S. Sentencing Commission designed tables to help eliminate sentencing disparities that were then commonplace. Not only did sentences become more uniform, the prison population boomed. Even with the “drugs minus two” policy, the Drug War will continue to be waged, and non-violent offenders will still be incarcerated for decades. The only real way to reduce the prison population is to end the insane War on Drugs, and get rid of mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

by: Darryl W. Perry

Government officials often tout the line “if you’ve nothing to hide, you’ve nothing to fear” in response to news about one government spy program or another. However, many of these same officials will do everything in their power, including filing lawsuits, to prevent you from knowing what the government is doing. The Columbia Journalism Review reports in March of this year “Harry Scheeler Jr. sent a request to Hamilton Township [NJ] for surveillance footage of the town-hall and police-department buildings, making the request under the state Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the state common law right of access to public records. A few weeks later, instead of responding to the request, the township sued Scheeler and asked a local court for relief from any obligation to respond, then or in the future. The township also asked for attorney’s fees.”

Scheeler narrowed his request, however the lawsuit wasn’t dropped. CJR adds “a judge did, temporarily, relieve the township from any obligation to respond. Scheeler countered that only the requester, not the government, could initiate a public-records lawsuit.” The case moved to a different judge who ruled, “A government ... lawsuit against ... requestors [sic] subjects them to involuntary litigation with all of its.. financial, temporal, and emotional trimmings. A public policy that gives a government agency the right to sue a person who asks for a government document is the antithesis of the [public records law

Officials want to close your access to open records

providing] citizens with a means of access to public information to keep government activities open and hold the government accountable.” Scheeler was also encouraged by the court to seek attorney’s fees, though the court did not specifically order the municipality to respond to Scheeler’s public records request.

Meanwhile in Sacramento, Mayor Kevin Johnson — who apparently failed to get the memo from New Jersey that it’s not proper to file a lawsuit against a public records requester — has filed a lawsuit against not only the journalists who filed the request but also his own city. News10 in Sacramento reports, “Johnson said that the emails he sent while he was involved with the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) were private. According to news reports, while Johnson was president of the NCBM, members challenged whether his election was valid, some claimed he used his position to promote a business operated by his wife Michelle Rhee. Johnson wants to keep emails between him and the NCBM’s attorneys private.”

TechDirt reports that Johnson is claiming the emails are not public record “and maintains it has nothing to do with his highly-disputed, exceedingly brief tenure as the president of the [NCBM]. This assertion would carry a bit more weight if (a) his time at the helm of the NCBM wasn’t marked by allegations of abuse of his position to

support his wife’s business and career, and (b) if he hadn’t previously admitted — on record — that he had destroyed documents subject to public records requests.”

Another more high profile government official caught using a private email account was Hillary Clinton. The House Judiciary Committee sent a subpoena for the emails, she claims she never received it, and now all of her emails are being released in batches. I have no desire to read any of her emails, or most government records, however I find it interesting that many government officials make it difficult to obtain the public records I do want to read. When one government agency hinders or denies access to public records, you go to another government agency (the courts) to ask for relief. It should not be difficult to request, find, or obtain government records especially in the “information age.”

The people who have done the most to provide public records and information on government activity (eg. Private Manning, Julian Assange, Edward Snowden) have been attacked and punished for doing so, yet people like Hillary Clinton do not see the irony of saying “So the government knows who you phone, email and tweet. So what, as long as you’re not doing anything wrong why should you care?”

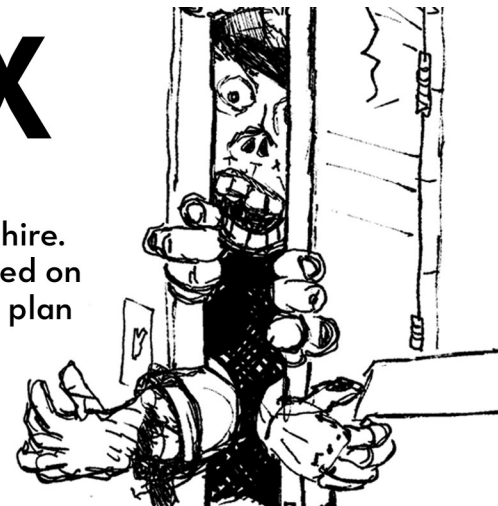


SURVIVOR MAX

by Davi Barker

11-year-old Max is surviving an undead plague alone in New Hampshire. Slow-moving and non-thinking, the "lamebrains" hunt the living to feed on their flesh. He must apply his Porcupine Freedom Scouts training to plan his escape, but first he must prove that he's too smart to die.

SurvivorMax.com



by: Jeffrey Tucker

The major contribution that American politics makes to American life is purely consumptive entertainment. After all, we only elect fewer than 1% of those who rule us, and once they get in power, they do what they want to anyway. Mostly that amounts to paying back with grants and favors those who funded their campaigns. Otherwise they have little power to change anything.

The value proposition of elections for the rest of us is to be delighted by the horse race itself. We like to follow polls the way we follow sports teams. And there is the major benefit of the debates. They still get high ratings. People still gather with popcorn and beer to watch. We yell at the screen, the fact checkers get to work, we wait in hope for gaffes, we thrill to defining moments, and so on. This is easily the most fun any of us get from elections.

Let's pay attention to the market signals here. Why limit these contests to verbal debates only? We need more variety in these matchups. We need more ways for these people to compete, and surely we can come up with other ideas. These people are otherwise extracting vast private resources, and, if they get elected, will continue to benefit from unconscionable amounts of public largesse. The least they can do is provide us with greater entertainment during election season itself.

I propose a whole series of events, scheduled perhaps once a week for a full year. These are things most all Americans do, in one form or another. Why shouldn't we insist that they do them too?

Spelling Bee. This would be so interesting, a real challenge that we test the depth of their understanding of the English language.

Rubix Cube. Many see this as a proxy for IQ. I'm not sure

We need more ways to judge the candidates

that is right, but it would be fascinating to see how well someone like Hillary Clinton does on this.

World of Warcraft. Give them all a character and see who they do in a battle.

Mario Kart. Donald Trump as Bowser. Rand Paul as Mario.

Chess. Surely they all know the rules, but can they think more than one move in advance?

Hot-Dog Eating Contest. It's a national tradition. Go!

Lipsynching. This art is newly fashionable, and driving all ratings on late-night television.

Beer Pong. Here we have a universal bonding experience among college kids.

Go Fish. A look back at childhood. It's unfailingly fun!

Google Pony Game. A simple and yet elegant game, easy to learn but hard to master.

Solo Dancing. This happens at every wedding party. Why not during elections?

Limbo. How low can you go?

New York Times Crossword. Another national tradition, the ultimate test of verbal intelligence.

Hackathon. Ok, it's true. They would all be lost. None would be able to get beyond a static page.

Rock Climbing. This will test discipline, planning, and physical prowess.

What's the Difference Game. Two similar pictures with subtle differences. Popular in every dive bar in America.

Croquet and/or Putt-Putt. Here we see mental discipline at work, and sportsmanship.

We need another 30 or so to fill up all the time.

Imagine if this wish came true.

Wouldn't you feel like a much more informed voter?

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Responses to SCOTUS ruling on marriage rights

continued from page 1

two person restriction. Nathan Collier applied for a marriage license for his polygamous relationship with his two wives. Collier says the dissenting opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, which states that the legal argument used to justify same-sex marriage could be used by polygamist couples, inspired him to apply for his marriage license to his second wife. USA Today reports, "County clerk officials took Collier's application and are consulting with the county's attorney's office." Collier says "We don't know if we're going to have a wedding, a civil lawsuit or a criminal defense."

With all of the litigation surrounding who is and who is not allowed to exercise a fundamental right, which had limited governmental involvement until approximately 160 years ago, I'm hoping it's only a matter of time before governments are once again not involved in personal relationships. Though I'm not going to hold my breath.

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...that all coercive forms of taxation should be eliminated, and government programs should be funded voluntarily.

...that people should be allowed to travel freely without government interference. This includes the right of individuals to choose where they decide to live.


...in the right of self-determination; that is the right of "determination by the people of a territorial unit of their own future political status."

...that every person and/or group of people should be allowed to decide for themselves if and/or how they will be governed.

...that men do not need leaders, we are all capable of leading ourselves. Governments only get in the way of allowing this to happen.


...that the United States government, as it exists today, should be abolished!

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Darryl W. Perry
President 2016

Darryl has spent most of his adult life as an advocate & activist for peace and liberty. Darryl is an award winning author, publisher & radio/TV host. Darryl is the Owner/Managing Editor of **Free Press Publications**. Darryl is also the **first** Presidential candidate to accept **Bitcoin** for a Presidential campaign!



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