

# Tell it to the Chieftain

## GOLF ETIQUETTE

### Golfers should do their part to improve courses

This is one of those “for what it’s worth” letters.

I’ve played the great game of golf for 55 years; grew up on Patty Jewett Golf Course in Colorado Springs.

As a kid, I worked at and/or played at everything from exclusive private clubs to putting on “sand” greens.

I recently just moved to Pueblo, partly because of the great deal the city offers at Elmwood (I knew it as City Park) and Walking Stick courses — one great golf membership package.

Here are some observations. I’ve received a very friendly, welcoming attitude from the staff at both courses and both courses are well maintained

except the sand traps/bunkers. The sand is compacted.

This is what bothers me: Divots are not replaced, traps are not raked, and ball marks are not repaired.

I played 18 holes at Walking Stick last week and lost count over 60 the number of ball marks I repaired that day. That’s just not right.

The city is offering the golfers of Pueblo (and surrounding areas) the opportunity to play two fun, enjoyable courses at rock-bottom prices in today’s world.

I feel very strongly the city has both the right and responsibility to expect — even demand — that golfers need

to take better care of these courses.

From the pro shop to the starter to the grounds crew, golfers should hear the constant, every-day message, “Take care of the courses you play.” That is not too much of an expectation considering the prices being paid to enjoy this great game.

I encourage the powers that be, within the city’s supervision of these courses, that the care of the courses by employees is matched by the care of the golfers playing these courses. Make 2014 the year of pride in these assets to the community.

For example, the first thing I do when I walk on a green is find my ball mark.

That should be every golfer’s responsibility. The ball marks that are being left this time of year do not repair themselves; they’ll be there all winter. Put out brief, to-the-point reminders. A lot of people who play golf haven’t been educated about their responsibilities, not only regarding the courses they are playing but also their responsibilities to other players as well.

Courses should hand out free ball mark repair tools, and put out a sign by every green that reads “find your ball mark” and “repair” your ball mark.

Food for thought/action.

Robert Lynn  
Pueblo

## EILERS NEIGHBORHOOD

### Superfund would hamper residents

It appears that the Pueblo City Council and the Pueblo County commissioners are ready to emphatically ask that the governor recommend to the Environmental Protection Agency that it names the Eilers neighborhood a Superfund Site.

The Pueblo City-County Health Department and the EPA did a wonderful job of scaring everyone that the sky is falling, and then rode in on their white horses to save the day, spending millions of taxpayers’ dollars and promising residents a brand-new, pretty yard.

Forget the fact that it will take over 15 years to complete the clean-up. By the time the EPA finishes its work in the neighborhood, the first yard that has been cleaned will be celebrating its 10th anniversary of its weed-fest.

Let us look at a fact that no one seems to be mentioning.

Anyone living within the Superfund boundaries, and anyone living around the site, will not be able to sell their property to a buyer using an FHA-insured loan. Per HUD regulations, and most likely VA regulations, no buyer may use a FHA-insured loan to buy a residential property in a Superfund Site or

within 3,000 feet of a Superfund Site. This is over a half-mile buffer that will reach into the heart of Bessemer, the Grove neighborhood and into the Central High School neighborhood.

If the EPA decides to expand the boundaries of the cleanup site, watch out, Mesa Junction and State Fair neighborhoods; you might be in the no-FHA zone too. Are you ready to be able to sell your home to a buyer who must use a conventional loan or cash only?

In reality, what this means is that home values will continue to drop drastically as long as the Eilers and Bessemer neighborhoods are listed on the Superfund Site list. This will be a minimum of 15 years based on the EPA’s own success stories.

Now, for all of those who are encouraging that Eilers be listed as a Superfund Site, don’t you think that we should have all of the facts, not just the numbers the health department and the EPA want to use to scare its citizens, before City Council asks the governor to support a Superfund Site?

David Webb  
Pueblo

## STATE OF THE UNION

### Third-world tendencies

A few weeks ago, I sent *The Pueblo Chieftain* a letter titled, “It’s Payday!”

It was about the consequences of electing a president without knowing what he is all about.

In the letter, I stated that I believe we are becoming a “third-world country” as a result of his policies.

The editor in charge of the *Tell it to The Chieftain* saw fit to change the title to, “Seeks change” and the other to becoming a “developing country.”

From my standpoint, this effectively neutered the theme of the letter.

Well, I have had more change from Washington, D.C., than I can stomach and when a third-world nation becomes a developing nation, it is probably a positive change. But when a once well-developed nation like ours becomes a third-world nation, that’s a heinous crime.

I don’t necessarily fault the editor; this is probably a product of our wacked-out education system in which sensitivity and political correctness is stressed instead of common sense, common-decency and common courtesy.

Anyway, I wrote a letter to the Pueblo West View two or three years ago wherein I expressed my view that educators are among the poorest thinkers — a view that I stand by today.

I recognize that most teachers work hard and are sincere in their efforts to turn out students who are educated. Writing, spelling and math scores seem to show satisfactory results, but every day

experiences with young people make one wonder.

Educators, on the other hand, are more interested in creating persons who are sensitive and have self-image to the degree that they have no sense of other people’s needs.

The students are not taught that their actions have consequences and that there must be a sense of responsibility in their everyday world, that when children bring children into this world or children with weapons take people out of this world, that’s a bad thing.

The only consequence school children suffer is if they kiss another child or point a finger or cookie at another child, they get their little behinds kicked out.

I don’t believe that schools should have to raise our kids nor do I believe that they should have to put up with bad behavior.

Maybe if parents had to miss work just to baby-sit their kids because the school won’t, they might start disciplining the little brats. And if parents wouldn’t let the kids run things, they wouldn’t have a problem at all.

Well, I’ve had it with the media and political correctness, the softball treatment of the lying and manipulation from Washington, D.C., and the rewarding of crappy behavior.

This was once a great nation until the Liberal Progressive movement took over like so much insidious mold, making us sick and tired.

If I’ve offended anyone then the right people have read this.

Bud Butler  
Pueblo West

## GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE

### A changing political system in U.S.

The problem is all of us know tyranny and loss of freedom when we see and experience it. We do not know what to call the metamorphosis taking place as we live and experience it. We need to study and label it for future generations to have a clear understanding what happened to us.

We are no longer sovereign individuals because we are now subjects of the government. The government is not responsive to us any longer as our founders intended, but we are required to be responsive to them.

We now have a blend of multiple totalitarianism systems.

It is not clear cut what to call what we have. It is not Marxist communism, yet it is some of that. It is not Hitler Nazism, yet we do borrow from that. It is not Mussolini fascism, but we do have the blend of statism and corporatism. We don’t have the Roman emperor, yet we have the makings of an emperor. We don’t have a monarchy, but presidents place themselves above the rule of law and practice what monarchical kings do.

We don’t have capitalism in its purest form, but some of it still exists. We don’t have constitutional Republicism, but do have threads of it still in our system.

What do we have? We do have a loss of freedom. We do have an emerging unelected (and unresponsive to citizens) bureaucratic fourth branch of government not in the Con-

stitution, organized government employees at various levels and endowed with the power, authority and control who are applying intimidation and force against us from the highest levels in the federal system down to the lowest federal, state, city and county clerks with whom we must interact and cannot escape.

We do have dictates in the form of presidential directives and executive orders. We do have a type of elitist ruling class in Congress. We do have a pliable and bendable group of nine judges who choose to reinterpret the Constitution, legislate from the Supreme Court and change the rule of law to suit the way the political wind is blowing and various administrative and judicial court systems exercising power to no longer protect citizens with the rule of law but to actually punish us.

I believe someone will coin a brand new word for the type of blended tyranny we are now just beginning. We need to brainstorm this, step back and take a hard look at the different colors and textures, define them and then come up with a brand new “-ism” word for what we are now and which we will finally morph.

Anyone have any ideas what we should call our new emerging “-ism”?

Julian Van Dyke  
Rye

## VETERAN BENEFITS

### Writer questions Tipton vote

I’m writing this letter to let U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Colo. and the voters in Colorado’s Congressional District 3 know why, after years of voting for Tipton and actively supporting him, I can no longer do either.

As a retired military man, I take great exception to Tipton’s vote, yea, on the latest budget bill and what that bill does to current military retirees, both medical and nonmedical. A 1 percent per year reduction in their cost of living raise doesn’t sound like a big deal but think about what it will mean to the young man I saw in town last week and it should give everyone reason to question the way we treat our military retirees.

The young man lost both of his legs, just above the knees, from an IED. He looked just about old enough to shave, so I would guess he was still in his 20s. When he is in his 50s, his retirement checks will be more than 30 percent less than they should be and when he is in his 60s, they will be about 50 percent of what they should be.

Scott Tipton, you’ve broken your faith to that young hero and the thousands like him.

Seeing as I’m past the age of 62, the bill has no impact on my retirement, but this isn’t the

first time our government has reneged on its promises to the members of the military.

When I joined the military some 50 odd years ago and lived on wages well below the poverty level, part of the deal was that if and when we retired, we would be provided free lifetime medical care.

When we served, went to war and lived on poverty wages, we never expected the government would renege on its promises, but it did. Now we pay for our Medicare and our supplemental insurance just like those who chose not to sacrifice.

I belong to an extremely large fraternity of veterans and retired military personnel whose only dues is to have served their country.

I know I don’t speak for all of my fellow veterans and retired retirees, but for me personally, I found Tipton’s and his fellow representatives and senators votes on this bill reprehensible.

What part of service and sacrifice do you not understand?

Sheldon B. Bloedorn  
Pueblo West

## RETAIL MARIJUANA

### Society will regret law

I agree with Sheriff Taylor and his comment in a recent *Pueblo Chieftain* article that the state will regret this pot law.

I don’t understand how anyone in state government could even allow this kind of an issue to even be on a ballot, much less be allowed to vote on such an issue.

Apparently, people in state government and the judiciary have not kept up with the Constitution. The Constitution clearly states that the “people cannot legislate.” Now, what part of that do you people not understand? This is exactly the reason why the founders included that in the Constitution.

People cannot put on a ballot

and vote on something that circumvents federal law or is against the law just so they can have their way with an issue they want.

Marijuana use is damaging to young people under 19. The frontal lobe of their brain is not completely developed until after age 18. Medical fact, look it up. It can and will cause mental and memory problems for them later in life.

This whole issue and so-called law is totally unconstitutional. Where in the world are the common sense intelligent people at in this state to allow such a farce?

Monte Miller  
Pueblo

## PUEBLO COUNTY BUDGET

### Road maintenance too high

I have found some help for the Pueblo County commissioners to finance a couple of jobs at the new judicial building.

In 1953, a county road was dedicated — that means that Pueblo County has to maintain that road forever, until it is dedicated off the county rolls.

Your taxpaying dollars have paid to maintain that road to the tune of \$120,000 in just 10 years. What about the first 60 years? \$720,000?

The road in question is Galbreth Road, also known as No. 208.

The road is 3 ½ miles long and it washes out every time it rains, causing the county road crews to repair it up to maybe three or four times a year or more. At the end of the road is a “Road Closed” sign.

Only one taxpayer lives on that road. I have contacted the commissioner for District 3 and I guess she is not interested or just too busy.

Let’s abandon that road and pay a couple of people at the new judicial building.

Don Dever  
Pueblo