

Ideas, opinions

EYE FOR AN EYE

There are societal consequences for actions

BY JOEL F. SHULTS

Sgt. Eric Autabee was serving as a Colorado correctional officer when he was beaten to death by an inmate. The poignant and painful story of Eric's father, Robert Autabee, coming to a point of forgiveness of alleged killer Edward Montour through a personal journey of faith is touching, inspiring and a great model for individuals. It is not a good social policy.

Autabee's loved ones can forgive Montour for the tragic upheaval of their lives by a violent murder. They cannot forgive what he did to me or you. What is my relationship to Sgt. Autabee? I am a citizen, and he was my protector and yours.

The justice system certainly provides for mercy as well as punishment in those cases where mercy is more just. Forgiveness, however, is the job of individuals, not governments. Compassion will not make other corrections employees safe from murderous plots by inmates who face nothing more than more prison time for taking a life or two or three. Sympathy for an apologetic killer will not make our communities safer. Blaming a flawed system for one man's crime denies his culpability.

There are two principles at work in this case. One is legal, the other is theological.

The legal principle is that it is always "the people" who are the adversaries of the accused. On a visceral level, individuals are crime victims, but when the charges are read in court, it is not John Doe vs. Jack Smith when Smith is accused of assaulting Doe. It is State of Colorado vs. Smith. Smith has offended the peace and dignity of the people of Colorado by attacking one of its citizens. We, collectively, demand law and order for the public good and, collectively, enforce that demand through our justice system. We all know this and agree by social contract to accept the consequences of breaking that contract. If we kill, we know the cost.

Certainly the death penalty is controversial and should remain so — never to be taken lightly. Bringing theological arguments to the debate is also controversial, but in dealing with issue of life, death, justice and forgiveness the religious implications are important to many among us.

Since Sgt. Autabee's father came to his decision through earnest reading of the Bible, it is worthwhile to examine this issue through the lens of Christian faith, which I share with Mr. Autabee. The dual perspectives of forgiveness taught in the New Testament and the vengeful attitude perceived in the Old Testament seem in conflict.

However, one is about individual conduct and the other about a nation. The often referenced "eye for an eye" of the Old Testament is known as the *lex talionis* — the law of revenge. More accurately it should be called the law of proportionality. Before the ancient decree of an eye for an eye, the punishment for the theft of a cow could be all-out clan warfare, complete with plunder and pillage. The civility of only an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth was a giant leap forward in creating a more just and survivable society. This law came with a requirement for witnesses, oaths and areas of refuge for those accused of crimes — major improvements in civil law and order against the barbarity of the day.

The call for forgiving enemies was Jesus' call on our personal, not corporate, conduct. Not to say there aren't social applications — clearly personal conduct should be reflected in public conduct and public policy.

But the rules are different when it is not our cheek to be turned. The New Testament's requirement for discipline and ac-

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AMERICAN VETERAN

A compass to character

The following is the eighth in a series of profiles entitled "American Veteran," which will feature selected military heroes, focusing on their diverse backgrounds and revealing what being a veteran in America means to each of them personally. The series is made possible by the Center for American Values in Pueblo.

BY DOUG STERNER
HOME OF HEROES

SUE SMITH
CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES

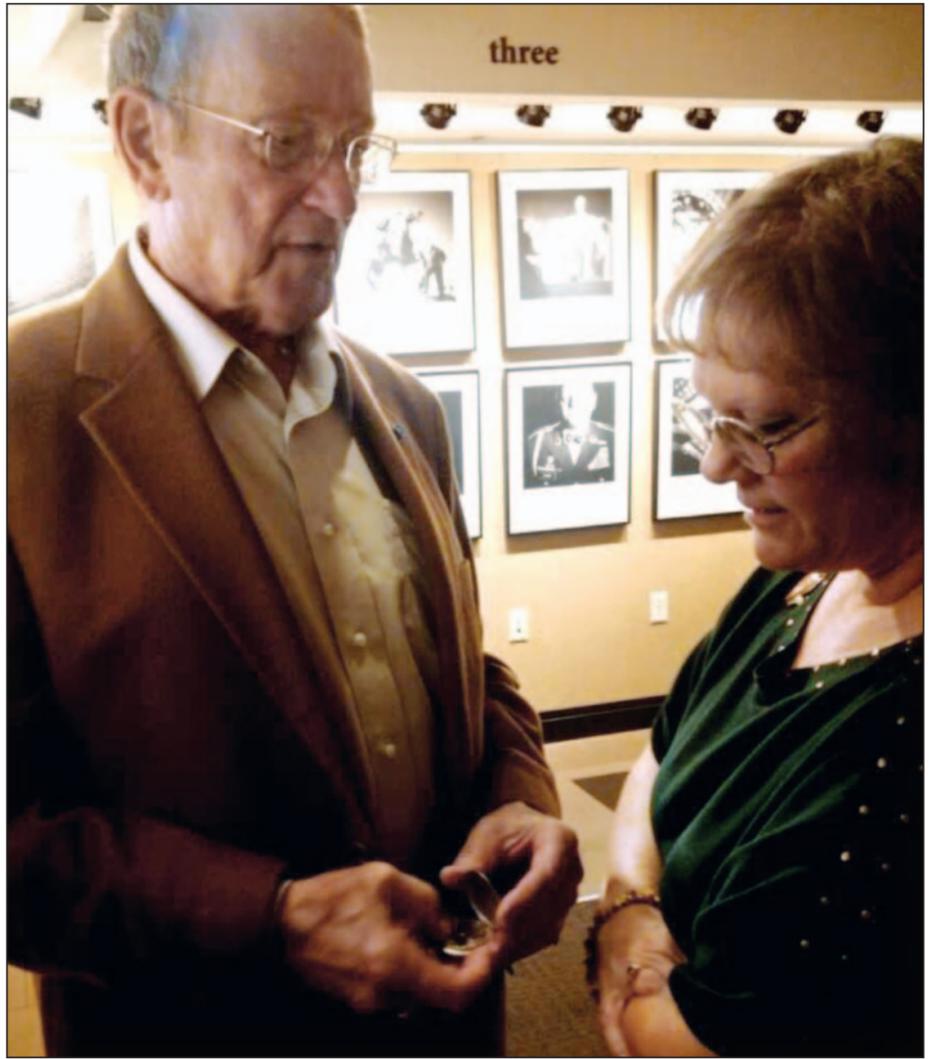
Roger Donlon admits that his hands are not as steady these days, but when he holds out a small weathered compass, they do not tremble or waiver. His father gave him the compass when he was just a boy, with a reminder that if he always acted with honor and integrity, he would never lose his way.

Donlon grew up in Saugerties, N.Y., the eighth of Paul and Marion Donlon's 10 children. In his family, he learned the important values of honesty, integrity, hard work and personal commitment.

As a Boy Scout, he learned about patriotism and leadership and treasures the Tenderfoot certificate signed by his father, who entrusted it and his young son to the role models he selected for Donlon before passing away. As a growing young man, he tried to live his life by the principles his father taught him, his faith and the Scout Oath.

Military service was almost a tradition in the Donlon family, where the patriarch was a World War I veteran. Roger's brothers all served, one of them wounded in action. In this atmosphere, young Roger developed inner character and leadership qualities that would guide him during his military career and sustain him and his soldiers on one horrible night in Vietnam.

President of his high school junior class and a stand-out athlete, Donlon joined the Air Force in 1953, then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point



COURTESY PHOTO

Roger Donlon (left) shows his father's compass to local Scout leader Judy Dorland during Donlon's recent visit to Pueblo and the Center for American Values.

for nearly two years. In 1959, he was commissioned as a U.S. Army infantry lieutenant after graduating from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

From there, he attended airborne training, followed by the U.S. Army Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg. After rugged training, the young officer became one of America's elite, a Special Forces officer of the Green Berets.

By 1964, Roger Donlon, now a Special Forces captain responsible for a 12-man A-Team, was stationed in

SEE VETERAN, 4G



COURTESY PHOTO

President Lyndon Johnson (at podium) presented Roger Donlon (standing at attention) with a Medal of Honor in 1964.

EILERS NEIGHBORHOOD

Lead contamination source may not be smelter

BY MERRIL COOMES

It is my opinion that children's blood lead levels are a critical health issue. When blood lead levels are unacceptable, action must be taken. In order for actions to be effective, the actual source or sources of lead in the child's environment must be identified in order to take effective action. Taking action

is the responsibility of the health department.

The following discussion questions EPA's assumption that the historic smelter at Eilers is a primary source of lead in soil.

EPA's model for Eilers lead contamination is that the smelter released, or "rained," lead particulate on the Eilers neighborhood. This model assumes that the smelter

"rained" (or uniformly deposited) lead on the soil. EPA assumed that the smelter was the primary, or only, source of lead contamination. EPA sampled residences, vacant lots and background area soils to determine the amount of lead (or "smelter rain") in Eilers soil.

The "rain" (lead) fall should have been quite evenly distributed over the

Eilers area (like an actual rainfall). However, EPA's study results do not support an even distribution of "rain" fall (lead).

For example, Eilers vacant lots received average "rain" fall of only 53 percent the average "rain" (lead) received by residential lots. How could the lead fall be so

SEE LEAD, 4G

ETHANOL DEBATE

Federal mandate makes little sense

BY JERRY ABOUD, JOHN LANE and DON RIGGLE

Recently, a diverse group of industry representatives and stakeholders took to the nation's capital to testify before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) against an energy policy that is threatening our environment, our vehicles — on and off-road — as well as Americans' bottom line.

Rethinking our nation's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is critical to protect consumers as this federal mandate continues to cause irreparable damage to energy large and small while generating higher costs for Americans at the pump and grocery. Enacted in 2005 and ag-

gressively expanded in 2007, the RFS was deemed a solution to our rising gasoline demand and growing dependence on foreign oil. Things have changed. Due to fuel efficiency improvements and slow economic recovery, U.S. gasoline demand has unexpectedly fallen, hitting a 12-year low in June 2013.

In addition, increased North American energy production has diminished our reliance on imports and completely transformed America's energy landscape. Recognizing this change and biofuel blending issues more broadly, the EPA has finally used its authority to propose lower biofuel blending requirements in 2014 for the first time since the policy's inception.

Most cars, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, small engine equipment and retail infrastructure are incapable of handling fuel containing more than 10 percent ethanol.

The EPA's proposed rule could provide much-needed respite in the short term as our nation's fuel market cannot tolerate higher levels of ethanol-blended gasoline. Most cars, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, small engine equipment and retail infrastructure are incapable of handling fuel containing

SEE MANDATE, 4G



McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE ILLUSTRATION

PEOPLE SPEAK

Now that it's legal, do you plan to buy marijuana? Why or why not?



Joyce Markusfeld
Nurse
Pueblo
“No. I just don't think its a good idea. The affects of marijuana are long-lasting. People are getting high one day and the next day they are driving your kids' bus.”



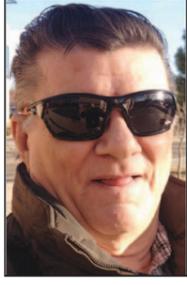
MJ Mauro
Artist
Pueblo
“Yes because I can.”



Patty Pueblo
“Yes. If I had the money. I think this is history making. I am so happy there is an alternative to liquor.”



Jesus Disabled Pueblo
“Yes. It helps my eyes.”



Rodney Baird
Retired
Pueblo
“No. I grew up in a generation where it was so illegal and the penalties were so steep that you had to make a decision. I chose not to use marijuana.”



Joel Lopez
Warehouse worker
Pueblo
“No. I won't be buying it but I think it's cool that people can buy it.”



Jaqi Vigil
Graphic artist
Brooklyn, N.Y.
“No. I would like to, but I probably will not. The option that it is recreational is a good thing. It's going in the right direction.”



Jim Caldwell
Self employed
Pueblo
“No. I won't buy it because I don't use it.”

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN

Toxin protection?

Many businesses are fueled by our fears. I know that radon gas, lead and asbestos are not good for us. However, my grandparents, parents and myself have been exposed to these. Plus, I've exposed to radiation from sources.

I am approaching 70 and my parents and grandparents lived into their 80s and 90s. How many dollars are spent to protect us from these toxins but nothing is done about tobacco, alcohol, GMO crops and chemtrails? Poten-

tial brain damage? Except for me, my parents didn't raise any mentally challenged children.

Tom Carpenter
Pueblo

Solar power

I was dismayed to read of Black Hills' plan to spend \$70 million to stay stuck in the past.

Spending so much on a gargantuan power plant project, especially after withdrawing support for rooftop solar, makes no sense. It's the 21st century in

one of the sunniest states in the nation.

What's more, the turbine only would be needed for peak demand hours, which is when solar works best.

People want cleaner air and lower bills and rooftop solar is the way to get there. What would \$70 million worth of solar look like?

Margaret McCall
Environment Colorado, Denver

Time to pray

It seems more people this past Christmas season were feeling heavy of

heart — some say depressed.

Perhaps we all are being given a small portion, a need to pray as we have never prayed before for our pastors, priests, rabbis (protection around them), for our churches to fill (for lost souls), for mercy for this nation and most of all for God's beloved nation, Israel (surrounded by enemies).

Let's all encourage each other to pray as our hearts are led.

Roberta H. Avalos
Pueblo

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countability within the larger church, for example, included separating the offender from fellowship. Biblical references to public order give due honor to civil government and its authority to render consequences for the public good. Therefore the virtuous forgiveness of a killer by friends and family of the murder victim while we, the people, hold the killer accountable at law are not ethi-

cally inconsistent.

A killer may repent, be forgiven, and go to the death chamber with his soul cleansed. But go he must, or we give license for the death of more of our protectors by those who fear no consequence.

Joel F. Shults is chief of the Adams State University Police, Alamosa, Colo.

LEAD/from page 1G

uneven or spotty?

Five individual soil samples (think “rain gauges”) were located for each sampled area. Generally, two areas for each residential yard were sampled, the front and back yards. Based on EPA's model, the amount of smelter lead (“rain fall”) should be uniform over all of Eilers, and very uniform within these small sample areas. EPA states the “rain” (lead) came from the smelter and “rained” (deposited) on the Eilers area.

In order to analyze data, EPA combined the five individual samples to estimate the average for the sampled area. This would be similar to measuring the five individual amounts of collected rain water, pouring them into a larger container and measuring the total amount of water. The total would be divided by five to represent average rain. The “rain” (average lead) from the average of the combined samples contained 19 percent more lead (rain) than the average of the individual samples. EPA has not explained how this bias was introduced, but places the quality of the data in question.

Since the sample areas in yards are small, the amount of lead rained in the individual sample areas where five separate samples were collected, should be very similar, based on the EPA model. However, there are large differences between the smallest and largest measured rain (lead) in each small sample area of five individual samples.

Background samples, which measure lead in areas not affected by smelter “rain” or residential structures, had a maximum difference of 41ppm and vacant lots (without structures) have a maximum difference of 51 ppm. However, there were only eight residential yard sample areas with a maximum difference of 51 or less. There were 33 residential

sample areas with a maximum difference in the 51 to 200 range, 18 residential sample areas in the 200 to 300 range, and 16 residential sample areas with a difference greater than 300.

One residential sample area had a 1,287 ppm lead concentration difference in samples from the same small area of the same yard (CO-SO-18-4). These large concentration differences in such small areas are inconsistent with EPA's assumption the smelter emissions is the major soil lead contamination source in Eilers.

My conclusion, based on analysis of the EPA data, is that another source of lead (lead-based paint) is contributing greater amounts of lead to the soil than historic smelter emissions. It is clear that, regardless of the source, this is an important health issue that affects all Pueblo children and must be dealt with by our health department.

Please ask your elected representatives who support having a Superfund Site how they explain the inconsistencies between EPA's assumed lead source and the EPA-collected data. Personally, I believe the data.

Merril Coomes holds a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry from Colorado State University. He has had a long career in environmental contaminant releases and health risk evaluation. He taught organic chemistry at the University of Virginia and did research. He also worked for the petroleum industry where he managed toxicological testing. He has played a part on many Superfund sites, including contracting with the Army Environmental Center to review work performed by consultants at several “base closure” sites and assist in negotiating with the state and federal agencies to resolve issues.

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more than 10 percent ethanol.

Despite the fact, the administration recently permitted the sale of 15 percent ethanol (E15) in gasoline despite the serious risk to vehicles manufactured before 2001, marine engines, as well as smaller engines, like those in snowmobiles and ATVs. Condensation created by E15 can damage engines and result in corrosion, rust, clogging and deterioration of fuel system components.

Newer vehicles manufactured since 2001 aren't immune either. Both automakers and the AAA have warned against E15 use due to safety concerns and potential engine damage. According to a recent Coordinating Research Council analysis, 5 million cars on the road may be at risk while 25 percent of E15-approved cars experience engine damage and/or engine failure during testing. In fact, many automakers have said they will not honor any fuel-related warranty claims on cars that have been fueled with E15 gasoline due to the fuel's detrimental effects.

To make matters worse, higher ethanol fuel blends (like E15) have less energy content than regular gasoline, deliver lower fuel economy and cost consumers more money at the pump. Ethanol contains 33 percent less energy per gallon than gaso-

line and forces Americans to return to the pump more frequently as the level of ethanol in our gasoline supply increases.

And the harm doesn't stop at our engines.

Because corn is a key ingredient in many supermarket items and the derivative of the most commonly-used domestic biofuel — corn-ethanol — the RFS has contributed to rising food prices and, thus, more painful trips to the grocery store for consumers. Since the mandate's expansion in 2007, costs for cereals, grains, meat, dairy and poultry have spiked nearly 18 percent — raising food costs for a family of four by between \$1,344 and \$2,658 a year. Increasing ethanol demand has forced corn prices to surge, which has, in turn, impacted the price of other crops forced to compete with corn for land at the expense of consumers' bottom line.

What's more, since the corn ethanol mandate was expanded seven years ago, more than 23 million acres of grasslands and wetlands — an area the size of Indiana — has largely been converted to cornfields. Natural landscapes and critical wildlife habitats are being plowed to make room for producing this “green” fuel. Growing corn requires more farm chemicals and causes more water pollution than any

other crop, jeopardizing the health of our nation's rivers, lakes, bays and shorelines while intensifying floating chemical “dead zones” lethal to aquatic life. And a new study reported in Science Daily shows that across multiple ecological indicators, US corn ethanol is worse than Canadian tar sands.

Thankfully, momentum to reform the RFS is steadily increasing on Capitol Hill as witnessed by the EPA's recent proposed rule as well as a forthcoming congressional hearing on the biofuels debate. A number of diverse organizations, including engine and auto manufacturers, car enthusiasts, off road enthusiasts, dairy, livestock and poultry farmers, as well as environmental groups are concerned with the high costs and dangerous impacts of the RFS and pressing Congress to address this broken policy. Coloradoans would be wise to encourage our federal delegation in Washington to join them and bring a stop to this harmful and costly mandate.

Jerry Abboud is executive director of the Powersports dealers Association of Colorado. John Lane is president and chairman of the board, Colorado Off-highway Vehicle Coalition. Don Riggle is operations manager, Trails Preservation Alliance

VETERAN/from page 1G

Vietnam. At the small Camp Nam Dong, deep in the dark jungles, his team served as advisors to 311 South Vietnamese soldiers. In the darkness of the early morning hours of July 6, more than 900 Viet Cong soldiers attacked Nam Dong with mortars, grenades, rifles and other small arms. Two members of Team A-726 died. Captain Donlon himself was wounded four times.

Less than six months after the attack, still recovering from his wounds, Donlon was invited to the White House. Sitting on the front row was his mother, his sisters and his four brothers, who had each likewise served their nation in uniform. As they watched the scene unfold, President Lyndon Johnson said:

“No one who has seen military service will fail to appreciate and understand the magnitude of Captain Donlon's heroic performance under enemy fire in the darkness.”

Then the president of the

United States leaned forward to fasten the blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor around Donlon's neck, making him the first Green Beret in history, and the first American soldier of the Vietnam War, to receive his nation's highest honor.

“You have every right to be proud of your boy,” Johnson later remarked to Mrs. Donlon.

The lady who had seen her husband and all five sons serve in uniform smiled and said, “I am proud. And his father would be proud, too, if he were here today.”

Donlon is the kind of American who would have been a role model and hero, even without his heroic actions in Vietnam. To reporters calling the family after the announcement of his award, his mother often replied, “Roger has always worn my Medal of Honor.

Donlon's story is not only one of courage on the fields of battle, but one of dedication

and a lifetime of service. It is the story of a man who gave 32 years of his life to serve his nation in uniform.

It is a touching love story of the young hero who fell in love with the Vietnam widow, married her, and with her raised a wonderful family. It is the story of a remarkable man who refuses to forget the men who served with him that night and particularly reminds others of the sacrifices of the two who died.

It is also the story of healing and reconciliation ... a return to Vietnam to meet former adversaries and restore what war had taken away. And it is the story of a man who, today, spends much of his time traveling the nation to speak to our youth, inspire our veterans and encourage others to find their own compass. Until they do, this honorable man can certainly show us the way

Source: Doug Sterner, Home of Heroes; Sue Smith, Center for American Values