

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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**EDITORIALS**

## Justice delivered

**I**T TOOK just 14 hours of deliberation for a federal jury to reach an agreement on Friday: Dzhokhar Tsarnaev will die.

Tsarnaev, the convicted Boston Marathon bomber, was sentenced to death for the horrific April 15, 2013, terrorist attack that killed three people and maimed or injured more than 260. He was convicted last month on all 30 charges against him; 17 of the charges carried the death sentence.

Jurors imposed the ultimate penalty on six of those charges.

To be sure, a human death is never something to celebrate. But it's reassuring to know that — in this case — justice will be served. We can only hope it will be served quickly and with as little delay as possible.

The average death row inmate spends more than a decade awaiting execution as his or her case is appealed, according to the nonprofit Death Policy Information Center. During that time, the center reflects, inmates "are generally isolated from other

prisoners, excluded from prison educational and employment programs, and sharply restricted in terms of visitation and exercise, spending as much as 23 hours a day alone in their cells."

Good.

Tsarnaev, 21, performed barbaric acts that debase the most animalistic instincts when he placed a pressure-cooker bomb on the marathon route and then again when he engaged in a murderous getaway that killed an MIT police officer. In doing so, he forfeited his right to a happy, healthy life.

We are hopeful justice will come on swift wings for Tsarnaev; not for his sake but for those of the victims and their survivors whose lives were indelibly altered.

As Karen Brassard, who was injured with her family in the bombing, told The Associated Press after the verdict was read: "Today feels different only because it feels more complete. Right now, it feels like we can take a breath. We can breathe again."

## Tests at the speed of government

**T**HIS IS exactly what we didn't want to see happen.

Soil testing began in earnest late last week in the so-called Superfund zone surrounding the old Colorado Smelter site. The Environmental Protection Agency pulled 32 small soil samples from the lawn of long-time Eilers resident Albert Galich last week, just one of 12 yards that are being tested as part of an initial study.

In typical bureaucratic style, samples from the first dozen yards will be used to show the EPA, get this, what *kind* of soil samples it should take in the future from the mile-wide Superfund area. Specifically, what kind of soil tests are most effective for detecting lead and arsenic contamination, and are 30 samples from a yard sufficient or could the EPA get by with fewer.

It will take about a month for Mr. Galich and the other 11 volunteer owners to get

their results.

Letters have been sent to 1,900 property owners asking for permission to test the soil. If it is found to be contaminated, the EPA has said, remediation shouldn't cost the homeowners a dime.

All of this begs a question: If it takes a month just to get the results of one single property, how long will it take the EPA to canvass the entire Superfund site? Other Superfunds, including one near the Cotter Uranium Mill in Canon City, have been on the list for decades.

No one in Pueblo wants the cleanup to be dragged out. If the EPA truly wants to help the neighborhoods in the designated zone, the best thing it can do is come in, perform the necessary tests, clean up that which requires remediation and get out. As quickly as possible.

## Let the sun shine

**R**ECENT WEATHER notwithstanding, if there's one thing we generally have in spades here in Southern Colorado, it's sun. Which is why we were so pleased to see that the Pueblo Board of County Commissioners gave its blessing to a second major solar power complex last week.

The newly permitted Boone Solar Photovoltaic Project will cover 620 acres just north of Boone and harness enough solar power to generate 60 megawatts of electricity. That's the equivalent of 5,500 homes.

What has yet to be seen is who — whether Xcel Energy or Black Hills Energy — will buy that energy. And because of that unanswered question, construction will be delayed until at least 2016. The building phase is expected to take about eight months and employ roughly 350 skilled workers.

"We're well located for solar energy but I also believe we have quite a bit of potential

for wind energy," Commissioner Terry Hart said during last week's meeting. "These are good projects."

It's the second solar farm the county has permitted in the past year. Last August, commissioners gave the blessing to a 900-acre solar facility near the Comanche Generating Station that, once completed, is expected to harness enough sunshine to generate 120 megawatts worth of energy in its first year — enough to light about 31,000 homes. Construction on the Comanche complex could start as early as August.

Granted, these solar farms don't necessarily mean major long-term job growth or lower rates for utility customers. But it still reinforces our area's welcoming attitude toward responsible energy production; and any opportunity to brand the community as friendly toward new business is a great step.

So we say let the sun shine. New revenues and new opportunities to show off how open the region is to responsible ener-

**ECONOMICS**

## Rhetoric of redistribution



**THOMAS SOWELL**  
*Opinion*

In a recent panel discussion on poverty at Georgetown University, President Barack Obama gave another demonstration of his mastery of rhetoric — and disregard of reality.

One of the ways of fighting poverty, he proposed, was to "ask from society's lottery winners" that they make a "modest investment" in government programs to help the poor.

The federal government does not ask for money. It seizes what it wants by force. If you don't pay up, it can take not only your paycheck, it can seize your bank account, put a lien on your home and/or put you in federal prison.

So please don't insult our intelligence by talking piously about "asking."

Then there are those who produced the wealth that politicians want to grab. In Obama's rhetoric, these producers are called "society's lottery winners."

Was Bill Gates a lottery winner? Or did he produce and sell an operating system that allows billions of people around the world to use computers without knowing anything about the inner workings of this complex technology?

Most people who want to redistribute wealth don't want to talk about how that wealth was produced in the first place. They just want the rich to pay their undefined fair share of taxes. This fair share must remain undefined because all it really means is more.

Once you have defined it — whether at 30 percent, 60 percent or 90 percent — you wouldn't be able to come back for more.

Obama goes further than other income redistributionists. "You didn't build that!" he declared to those who did. Why? Because those who created additions to the world's wealth used government-built roads or other government-provided services to market their products.

And who paid for those roads and other government-provided services if not the taxpayers? Since all other taxpayers, as well as nontaxpayers, also use government facilities, why are those who created private wealth not to use them? Are they not taxpayers as well?

The fact that most of the rhetorical ploys used by Obama and other redistributionists will not stand up under scrutiny means very little politically. After all, how many people who come out of our schools and colleges today are capable of critical scrutiny?

When all else fails, redistributionists can say, as Obama did at Georgetown University, that "cold-hearted, free-market capitalist types" are people who "pretty much have more than you'll ever be able to use and your family will ever be able to use." So they should let the government take that extra money to help the poor.

Slippery use of the word "use" seems to confine it to personal consumption. The real question is whether the investment of wealth is likely to be done better by those who created that wealth in the first place or by politicians.

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**WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING**

**The Chicago Tribune on Iran:**

If the U.S. and its allies sign a deal with Tehran on nuclear weapons, economic sanctions will be eased.

What if, months later, Iran cheats on the accord's terms? The Obama administration says not to worry, the economic sanctions that crippled Tehran's economy and forced it to the bargaining table would be quickly and automatically reimposed.

"If Iran violates the deal, sanctions can be snapped back into place," Obama has said.

A snap-back would be triggered by a finding that Iran is cheating. But if the nuclear accord does not empower international inspectors to go anywhere in Iran, including military installations, at any time, the chances of sniffing out Iranian violations are substantially diminished.

Even if inspectors found evidence of cheating, it could take weeks, months, even years for such evidence to be corroborated and widely accepted.

The U.S. may be able to reimpose its sanctions quickly, but what about similar, and just as vital, economic pres-

sure from the European Union and the U.N.? The EU usually requires the political cover of a Security Council resolution before it imposes sanctions. But Russia and China would likely veto any move to reimpose sanctions. And as it made clear this week, Russia will oppose any U.N. sanctions snapback.

Bottom line: Many countries, especially America's European allies, have been chafing for years to get back into business with Tehran. These banks and companies won't easily be shoved to the exits again. Once sanctions are lifted, once Iran is free to move about the world's financial system, the threat of a snapback fades.

Iran came to the bargaining table because international economic sanctions stifled its economy. Those sanctions gathered momentum over years. Dismantling those sanctions too fast would reward Iran for signing a deal rather than complying with a deal.

Better to drive a tougher bargain now that cuts off Iran's path to the bomb than rely on a shaky snapback strategy if Iran cheats.

**TELL IT TO THE CHIEFTAIN**

**RESPONSE: COLUMN**

## A photo with a story

Sorry to hear about your half-sister, Mr. Henson ("The story behind the photograph," May 10). Yes, life puts us in many strange situations where we do what was right, and yet, later regret for not doing a lot more.

A meeting of a blood relation for a few days soon gets lost in the distance and time. A blur that life has become to all.

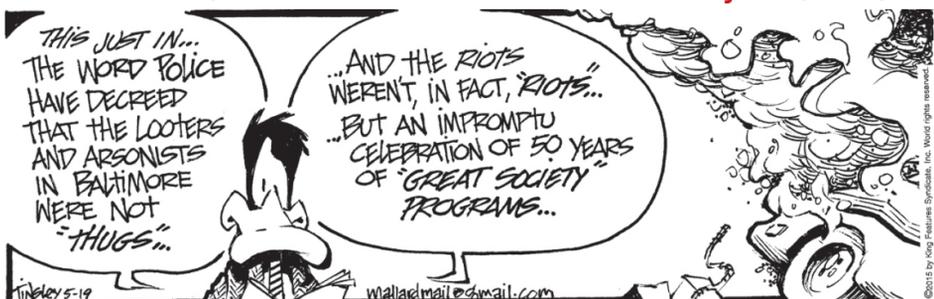
I too, have a picture. This one is of a 2-year-old boy, who I have never met. He will be 14 on Oct. 20.

He also has a half-sister, who once thought that "heaven had called for him." Yes, life is strange.

Closed adoption is our humanity with consequence. David Archuletta Pueblo

**MALLARD FILLMORE**

By **BRUCE TINSLEY**



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