

Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

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N.C. press release: “Outrageous” to ban state’s registered citizens from state fair

Source NARSOL



Raleigh, North Carolina . . . It’s time for the North Carolina State Fair, but thousands of North Carolina’s citizens are prohibited from attending it. Free citizens!

Some of these citizens are fathers and mothers with children who will likely miss out on the opportunity to visit livestock and poultry exhibitions with their parents—serving as a painful reminder that their dad or mom is still treated as second-class citizens even years after serving time in prison and/or being removed from probation.

After suffering a setback to its first effort at regulating where registered sex offenders are permitted to go (*Does v. Cooper*, 2016), the North Carolina General Assembly revised and enacted a new premises statute in 2017 that goes even further by resurrecting portions of the previous statute declared unconstitutional and adding a statewide ban on sex offenders attending agricultural fairs.

Consequently, registered people who have completed their criminal sentences and fulfilled all their probation or post-release supervision obligations—individuals whose civil rights are otherwise restored—are banned from being “on the State Fairgrounds during the period of time each year that the State Fair is conducted.” (N.C.G.S. § 14-208.18(a)(4)).

“The premises law simply goes too far. It’s egregious and outrageous. It’s overkill,” said Robin Vander Wall, president of North Carolina RSOL. “This is a matter of fundamental fairness and equal protection under both the state and federal constitutions.”

“And we’re not asking for anything crazy or out-of-the-ordinary. There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of North Carolinians with violent felony records who have been welcomed to attend the state fair for decades. They have a right to be there because they are citizens of North Carolina who have completely satisfied their criminal sentences,” said Vander Wall.

“Registered sex offenders (with lower repeat offense rates than any category of offender except murderers) who are no longer under any form of supervision and who have been released from probation should have the same right to attend the state fair as anybody else,” Vander Wall concluded.



Federal Court Says Illinois Statute Barring More Than One Sex Offender per Address Is Unconstitutional Source Legal News

On July 11, 2022, the federal court for the Northern District of Illinois enjoined the state Department of Corrections (DOC) from keeping 25 sex offenders imprisoned who were eligible for mandatory supervision release (MSR) but whose new housing violated a state law that bars more than one sex offender from living at an address.

“Sex-offender-civil-commitment,” AKA shadow prisons, take a blow Source NARSOL

By Sandy . . . In 2018 and again in 2019, we wrote about the Commonwealth of Virginia’s second attempt to have a man declared a “sexually violent predator” in order to remand him to the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation. This is what Virginia calls their “sex offender civil commitment” program, a prison in all but name.

The target of their efforts had served a prison sentence as a result of a conviction in 2003 when he was twenty for sexual offenses committed when he was a teenager. The behavior that led to the conviction was not violent or forced. Prior to his release date in 2009, after a six and a half years’ term of punishment, the state sought to have him committed and failed; he was found by a jury not to meet the criteria for this special and very cruel form of confinement. This would be the first of two attempts the Commonwealth would make to imprison him not for what he had done but for what he might do in the future.

He exited prison on supervised release and became an advocate for educating the public and lawmakers with facts about these prisons masquerading as treatment facilities.

In 2018 he was arrested and charged with a violation of the conditions of his supervised release, i.e., exchanging “several non-sexual text messages with a 16-year-old.” The terms of his supervision required no contact whatsoever with anyone under 18. He was sentenced to a year in prison and would not see freedom for closer to three.

To quote Yogi Berra, it was *deja vu* all over again.

Virginia started its second attempt to commit Galen Baughman to its shadow prison in 2018. With no new criminal offense and the earlier attempt resulting in a finding of him not meeting the criteria for such commitment, they had to fight long and hard, and so they did, but Galen and his family fought back. The subsequent trial found that he was a sexually violent predator and therefore subject to forced commitment in their behavioral rehabilitation facility. The Baughman family appealed to Virginia’s highest court.

It ended, finally, a month ago when the Virginia Supreme Court, on September 15, 2022, handed down their decision: “[T]he trial court’s decision finding probable cause to believe that Baughman was a sexually violent predator is reversed and vacated, and pursuant to Code § 37.2- 906(F), the Commonwealth’s petition seeking to have Baughman declared a sexually violent predator is dismissed” (page 8).

Virginia is one of twenty states whose legislators have placed into their statutes the ability to establish a Sexually Violent Predators Act (SVPA). Under such an act “[P]eople who have completed their criminal sentences under any of a large number of sex-related offenses can be indefinitely detained in a high-security facility until the state determines that they no longer present a risk, typically never.”

As shadow prisons go, the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation has a better release record, especially when compared with some that we have written about over the past several years, such as Moose Lake, Minnesota; Rushville, Illinois; and Littlefield, Texas.

Regardless of the level of care and treatment, when it comes to “sex offender civil commitment,” NARSOL strongly opposes the use of these post-sentence shadow prisons as they are nothing but an end run around the constitution, extending incarceration periods beyond court-imposed sentences.

Please remember Titus House Ministries this year in your prayers and with their financial needs. We are need of funding and stamps to carry on this ministry. Your help is greatly appreciated.

There are many ways to destroy a person, but one of the simplest and most devastating is through prolonged solitary confinement. Deprived of meaningful human interaction, otherwise healthy prisoners become unhinged. . . . Not only psychological or social identity but the most basic sense of identity is threatened by prolonged solitary confinement.

— Lisa Guenther, *Solitary Confinement, Social Death and Its Afterlives* (University of Minnesota Press 2013)



FL: Sheriff posts large red metal signs on Halloween in front of registrants' residences

Source msn.com for WXLTV.com



UT: TRICK OR RETREAT: WHY DOESN'T UTAH HAVE SEX OFFENDER LAWS FOR HALLOWEEN? SOURCE ABC4.COM

SALT LAKE CITY (ABC4) – Several states across the country have different laws limiting what sex offenders can do around children on Halloween. This includes not being allowed to pass out candy, display decorations, dress up in a costume or answer the door to trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

However, Utah does not have any of those laws. ...

ABC4 News asked multiple police agencies in Utah how often they see registered sex offenders creating problems on Halloween. Both the West Jordan Police Department a Unified Police department said **they do not get reports of this happening** often but said it's very likely to be underreported.

PA: APPEALS COURT RULES PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BAR SEX OFFENDERS Source: The Neighbor

A state appellate court ruled a private housing development does not have the right to entirely ban registered sex offenders from living within their community.

Ruling in a Monroe County case,

the state Commonwealth Court said a 2016 restrictive covenant in the Lake Naomi housing community in Tobyhanna Twp. runs afoul of a state regulations that control where registered sex offenders can reside.

The case has statewide implications because it marks the first time a state appellate court has addressed whether private homeowner communities must abide by state regulations that govern municipalities relating to sex offender residency.

Christmas Hope—by Stephanie Raquel



Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen



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Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005
AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

“He Tabernacled with Us” By Don R.

Those of us who pay attention to or even celebrate the biblical festivals are well acquainted with the last of the seven, the Feast of Tabernacles. It involves a week of celebrating the harvest, usually in October, and many Jewish people build

shelters—makeshift rooms of branches and leaves—or even use tents to help them recall the forty years wandering in the wilderness. But the largest shelter was called the tabernacle, the special shelter or tent for the ark and other sacred objects. The use of the word “shelter” is rich in meaning, conveying God’s protection wherever we may go.

The words shelter, tent and tabernacle are actually the same word in both Hebrew and Greek. And it is stunning that Jesus is said to tabernacle with us. True, many modern translations do not use that word—“tabernacle” is not a common term—but it is actually the same word in the original languages. There are dozens of verses that allude to this, but it is most clear in John 1:14, Revelation 13:6 and 21:3. Again these verses do not say “tabernacle” or “tent” but rather “shelter.”

Jesus chose to “shelter” with us, to come and live among us, ministering and drawing followers or disciples to

his ministry. He still is. At Christmas we celebrate his coming to this world to tabernacle with us. He did not come to live in a palace and be extravagant. He lived so plain that he said the animals had homes but he had none (Matt. 8:20, Luke 9:58). We may long for the mansion over the hilltop, as the old gospel song says, but actually the verse from which that song is taken refers to a shelter, not a mansion.

Some speculate that the use of “tabernacle” may hint at the actual birthday of Jesus. Was he born during the feast of tabernacles? It is possible, and it actually fits the climate and activities of shepherds depicted in the account of Jesus’ birth.

And what American holiday is modeled after the Feast of Tabernacles? Thanksgiving is also a celebration of the harvest, and some believe that the Pilgrims celebrated the feast day a month or so late because the harvest was on a different schedule in America. So happy Thanksgiving, and happy Feast of Tabernacles, and merry Christmas! Jesus has come to us, and tabernacles with us. Welcome, Lord Jesus!



Circle of Concern has gone ZOOM

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on **December 18, 2022** at 3 pm—4 p.m. MST. We will meet on Zoom. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940.. He will send you the link to join by computer or phone. You can contact him at the number above or email him at

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