

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Letters to the Publisher:
Reader takes on DA Bruce Brown!
District Attorney Brown responds!

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Property taxes doubling and tripling in the county, before any new tax increases pass!

Our \$22,000.00 a month school Superintendent pleads poverty!

Debates, Forums and Endorsements!

- The 3 District Attorney candidates ARE ALL CRIMINALS!
- Liberal Forum Moderators Censor Questions/Comments!
- Avon Mayor Pro Tem doesn't trust Avon manager!
- Local Tax Increases - Just vote no on all of them!
- Amendments and Propositions -
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Election Opinions

• **Ye Olde Publisher** has been swamped with the election and taking care of family out of state. We regret that we were only able to produce 8 pages for this issue.

• **Our 3 District Attorney candidates are all former criminals, according to Vail Daily reports.**

The current District Attorney, Democrat **Bruce Brown**, was allegedly convicted of petty theft when he was

21 years old.

The Republican challenger, **Bruce Carey**, a personal friend of the *Business Briefs* publisher, was allegedly convicted of a misdemeanor regarding contact with a witness, when he was younger.

The unaffiliated candidate, **Sanam Mehrnia**, was allegedly convicted of DUI at age 21, but supposedly had her record expunged.

If you are looking for perfect people, only Ye Olde Publisher qualifies, as he has told his mother

that he was a "perfect child!" She replied sarcastically, "Yeah, you were perfect, all right!"

Business Briefs likes all the District Attorney candidates. However, Eagle County hasn't had a District Attorney from Eagle County in many, many years. We support **Bruce Carey** for District Attorney.

• **Business Briefs has been opposed to dumb-down and censored candidate forums, instead of real debates in elections.** We believe

Continued on Page 2



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Business Briefs 2016 - 2017 Publication Schedule

Begin Volume 11 - 12 total issues

Thursday, November 17th, 2016

Thursday, December 15th, 2016

Thursday, January 19th, 2017

Thursday, February 16th, 2017

Thursday, March 16th, 2017

Thursday, April 6th, 2017

Thursday, June 1st, 2017

Thursday, June 29th, 2017

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Thursday, August 31st, 2017

Thursday, September 28th, 2017

Thursday, October 26, 2017

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Opinion

Our \$22,000.00 per month school Superintendent, Jason Glass, is still pleading poverty for our school district. Nothing could be further from the truth!

His \$253,500.00 plus salary package is almost double the average of superintendents' salaries across the state.

His two \$13,000.00 monthly Assistant Superintendents, averaging over \$151,000.00 per year each, make the district top-heavy.

However, his \$13,000.00 Chief Strategy Officer, averaging over

\$151,000.00 per year, is doing a heckuva job convincing some sucker taxpayers that the district is poor.

The taxpayers already spend about \$16,000.00 per student, ranking them second to the state of Connecticut, according to *Business Briefs'* last report, but the district tells us we are only spending \$7,500.00 per student.

The district retains teachers better than the rest of the state, according to their report to the Colorado Department of Education website, with a turnover rate of only 12%, versus the state average of 17%. But, they tell us they

can't retain teachers.

Teacher salaries are in the top 12% of the state, according to their report to the Colorado Department of Education website, which means our teachers are paid better than 88% of the rest of the teachers in the state. But again, they tell us they can't retain teachers.

The student teacher ratio is the lowest in the state at 15-1, but they tell us differently. CDE says the state average is 17.5-1.

P. T. Barnum said there is a sucker born every minute. Don't be one!

Just Vote No to the largest tax increases in Eagle County history!

Debates, Forums and Endorsements!

From Page 1

that the candidates or their political parties should have moderators

selected by each political party, and return to allowing the audience to ask their own questions without the censorship of biased moderators.

Examples of bias are the refusal of hard Democrat moderator Rohn Robbins not allowing Tim O'Brien, a Bruce

Continued on Page 4

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Property taxes doubling and tripling in Eagle County, before any new tax increases pass!

Staff Report

Basalt & El Jebel - Huge tax hikes are taking effect, even before Eagle County and the RE-50J school district's largest tax increases in Eagle County history could add to them in the November 8th election, according to sources who property taxes have risen substantially due to increased county assessor valuations.

Sunny Stutsman Kittle of Basalt showed some of her commercial properties have risen from \$4,306.43 yearly taxes to \$13,229.84 yearly taxes, about triple the tax of two years ago.

Another commercial property of hers went from \$841.06 to \$2,654.28,

another tripling from two years ago.

Kittle owns many storage rental space and mixed use apartments. Her paperworks shows that she paid about \$93,437.78 in taxes in 2016 for 2015 taxes.

At this rate, she may have to increase rents to tenants needing affordable housing, *Business Briefs* speculates.

Robert Hubbell of Crawford Properties, LLC, who runs the El Jebel Mobile Home Park, told *Business Briefs* that they have had a 36% increase in assessed value.

Hubbell said that he doesn't want to substantially raise rents and wants to create sustainability for tenants, so



Sunny Stutsman Kittle

they will eat some of the tax increase. However, his rents are going up 3%.

"It's difficult," Hubbell said. "Prices are pushing people out, down to Silt an Rifle."

Dennise York, who works in Basalt but lives at the El Jebel Mobile Home Park, said that lot

rents over the years have gone up from \$350.00 monthly to around \$700.00 monthly.

She says that takes a huge portion of her social security check.

Investor Richard Bowell told *Business Briefs* that he was going to buy some commercial buildings in Basalt, but "due to high tax issues, our investments are currently on hold until taxes are more realistic, because the income generated from the buildings per month is applied to taxes, insurance, utilities and debt service, and with the current tax rate, it will take two full months or more to pay it, if we are full. If we have vacancies, it could take even longer.

Opinion:
Property owners who rent to commercial and residential tenants will have to substantially raise rents!
Business Briefs suggests voters think long and hard about raising more taxes.

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Opinion: Debates, Forums and Endorsements!

From Page 2

Carey supporter, to ask a tough question of incumbent District Attorney Bruce Brown.

Another example was when liberal Brian Sipes tried to stop Avon Council candidate Trevor Spinks from

directing a tough question to Avon Mayor Pro Tem Jake Wolf.

Wolf replied to Sipes that he did not feel targeted by Spinks.

Yet another example of bias was when liberal moderators Chris Romer and Mike Brumbaugh of the Vail Valley partnership would not allow a candidate who refused to appear at their dumb-ed-down forum to read a statement into the record, yet allowed Democrat Joy Harrison to speak for Democrat District Attorney Bruce Brown, who also did not appear, to have their statement read into the record.

These are just a few examples of bias when biased forums want complete control.

The local Democratic Party approves of these biased forums and will not name a moderator and allow the Republican Party to name a moderator.

The local Republican Party is stupid for continuing to allow this to happen, thus enabling it.

• Avon Mayor Pro Tem Jake Wolf, always passionate, stated at a recent voter forum that he did not trust Avon Town Manager Virginia Egger.

It got worse at the October 25th Avon Council meeting where

Wolf and Councilman Matt Gennett blasted Egger for allegedly allowing two town employees to go public with an alleged negative letter about Wolf, who is up for re-election.

The original criticism of Egger by Wolf had to do with losing the Winter Wondergrass February festival to Steamboat. Wolf also claimed that Egger was not being transparent.

Business Briefs gave Egger an opportunity to respond to the criticism.

Egger wrote: "Without hesitation, I believe I work for a Town Council and with a staff committed to openness and transparency.

"The Town Council has unanimously adopted the annual Strategic Plan and budget, which implements the Strategic Plan and daily operations of the Town, since I began working here.

"These are two of the most important actions by the Council, to direct the annual staff work programs, and to let the public know the direction of the Town.

"Meeting agendas are reviewed by the Mayor

Pro Tem and Mayor, with the Mayor approving the agenda. Town Council thorough meeting materials are prepared and presented by our exceptional staff.

"Meetings are well publicized and all Council materials are available for the public online. A majority of Council must approve any action item and provide work session direction.

"Under Council direction, civic engagement has been greatly expanded over the past two years with more public work sessions, stakeholder participation, citizen committees, and press releases – all targeted at an informed public.

"All Executive Session matters are fully reviewed by the Town Attorney. Executive Sessions may be contested by any Councilperson, either before approving the agenda, entering into a session or during the session. While no action may be taken in Executive Session, Council is requested by staff to provide direction in negotiations.

"The request by Winter WonderGrass for a fourth year of funding and in-kind services is an example of the Council meeting in Executive Session, and

providing detailed and specific funding terms, in response to the producer's funding request.

"It is the Council who negotiates the deal, not the Town Manager or the Town Attorney.

"Action, if any, must

Continued on Page 5

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Debates, Forums and Endorsements!

From Page 2

be placed on a publicized agenda and acted on in an open meeting.

"Sun & Ski is an example of Executive Session negotiations, with all Council present, a well-publicized action item, public comment and Council action based upon citizen and business comment.

"Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what the Town of Avon is doing. I believe we meet a high bar in this regard.

Ballot Questions:

- President
Anyone but the criminal Hillary Clinton, who didn't come to serve, but to cash in!
- US Senate
Darryl Glenn.
- Congress District 2
Nicholas Morse.
- CU Regent
Heidi Ganahl.
- District Attorney
Bruce Carey.

- County Commissioner **Dunkelman**
Vote Yes.
- County Commissioner **Michael Dunahay.**
- County Commissioner **Rick Beveridge.**
- County Treasurer **Mari Renzelman.**
- Avon Town Council
Jennie Fancher
Jake Wolf
Peter Buckley
- Supreme Court Justices
Vote No.
- Colorado Court of Appeals
Vote No on all!
- Judge **Paul**
- Judge **Katherine Sullivan**
Vote Absolutely No!
- Amendment T
Vote Yes.
- Amendment U
Vote Yes.
- Amendment 69
Vote Absolutely No!
- Amendment 70
Vote No.
- Amendment 71
Vote No.
- Amendment 72
Vote No.
- Proposition 106
Vote No.
- Proposition 107
Vote No.
- Propositional 108
Vote No.
- Eagle County 1A
Vote No.
- Eagle County 1B
Vote No.
- Eagle County 3A
Vote Absolutely No!
- Eagle County 3B
Vote Absolutely No!

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Letters to the Publisher - Opinion

O'Brien goes after DA Brown - DA Brown responds - O'Brien responds!

Reader criticized the censorship from "Hard Democrat"

moderator, Rohn Robbins, at District Attorney forum!

Dear Publisher,

On October 10th, I attended the public forum/Q and A, sponsored by the Continental Divide Bar Association, featuring the incumbent and candidates for the District Attorney seat, for the 5th Judicial District, encompassing Eagle, Lake, Summit, and Clear Creek counties, moderated by Rohn Robbins at the Sonnenalp Hotel in Vail.

My question to the incumbent, Bruce Brown, was simple: "Mr. Brown, in the interest of transparency, can you expand on the incident that resulted in the destruction of a county car in Dowd Junction in December of 2015, and explain how you escaped any and all scrutiny by the press, including, most

notably, the *Vail Daily* (and *Business Briefs*), until it was clear that you had challengers for your office?"

I was immediately stopped by the moderator, Rohn Robbins, citing the lame excuse for his need to stay on policy topics.

In case Robbins missed my earlier mention of it, the policy topic in mind at the time is probably the most important one in the District Attorney's office, transparency!

Had I been allowed to go on, I would also have asked Mr. Brown why he left the scene of the accident, had the car towed immediately, yet waited several hours to report it?

Sadly, I am talking about the head "Legal Eagle" in four counties, that clearly knows better.

So, Mr. Brown, will you answer my questions without the aid of your defense attorney, for the benefit of all, and so that we can see

Write a Letter to the Publisher. All opinions **MUST** be emailed, and may be edited for space, etc. Email to info@BusinessBriefs.net

transparency at work - or not?

Bruce Carey for DA.

Tim O'Brien, Eagle

District Attorney Brown responds about Mr. O'Brien!

Dear Publisher,

"Mr. O'Brien talks of "transparency," but really clouds the basis of his beef with me, your District Attorney.

On May 18, 2016, Mr. O'Brien was prosecuted by me and convicted of felony assault for the 2014 stabbing in the stomach, of an unarmed man. He was also convicted, again by my office, of violation of a protective order. He is now under court supervision for the next four years and probably knows well that under terms that could result in a re-sentence should he violate, wants any prosecutor other than me charged with enforcing the laws that he has repeatedly violated.

The facts of my car accident are pretty simple. On my way to work in 2015, I spun out on icy I-70 at Dowd Junction, a notoriously bad spot for icy roads, resulting in damage to the office car I was driving, and damage to nothing else.

The law requires persons in that situation to give notice to the police of the accident. I made contact

with Vail Police Department and State Patrol, and was directed to file an online accident report. The report filed that day is public record. I'm very careful about following the law and did exactly what any citizen can do under such circumstances. It is unfortunate that my opponent doesn't have a good record to stand on and is trying to make hay out of an accident.

I know that voters will see the most important quality in a District Attorney is one who stands tall for victims of crime and views their primary role as public safety.

My accomplishments as your District include being lead counsel and securing a first degree murder conviction for a former nun who was left for dead up Gypsum Creek road, riddled with gunshots, and spearheading legislation that requires every sex

Continued on Page 8

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David Sondheimer**

In American life today, as it has been through history, we, as a society or people, don't seem to live without getting into disputes.

Contrary to public opinion though, disputes aren't always bad. Properly handled, they can have positive effect.

Conditions change, and things just happen. Many are just handled poorly.

With that as a given, the question, as always, is, how do we resolve our disputes.

Is there an effective way to find the silver lining in a dark grey cloud?

Or, make lemonade out of a lemon. Do we just have to go to war, or have trials by ordeal?

In early days on the American frontier, there was always the duel, as

Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr would attest, or the proverbial gunfight /shoot-out at the OK Corral. Short of that, you can hire an attorney to file a lawsuit. Or?

Anyone can file a lawsuit!

There are always more applicants to law school than there are places, and there are way more lawyers graduating than there are jobs (and thus, practical training) available for them, so there is no shortage of lawyers who, for enough money, or even without it, will help almost anybody file a lawsuit about almost anything.

But, are there enough court rooms?

Also, however, there are not enough courtrooms, or judges, or even people willing and able to serve as



**Mediating Attorney
David Sondheimer**

jurors, to allow more than a small fraction of lawsuits that are filed to actually go to trial.

The question then becomes, when two or more people or businesses, or organizations or families find themselves in serious disagreement, how do they resolve them?

Can they do so in such a way as to leave the parties in better shape than when they got started?

As law students, we studied Civil Procedure and Trial Tactics. The premise is that, as lawyers, we file a lawsuit and let the adversary system determine who wins and who loses.

On the other hand, 150 years ago, Abraham Lincoln said, "Discourage litigation."

A lawsuit then, is a modern day equivalent to war.

Sometimes that is necessary. But, as they teach at Harvard Law School's advanced training for attorney's, there are numerous options for resolving a dispute, from sitting down at "ye olde Starbucks," to plea bargaining with the prosecutor, to having the husband sleep on the sofa, or in extreme cases, asking the United States Supreme Court to overturn a deci-

sion from a lower court that we, whoever we may be, don't like.

How then does mediation work?

That will be the subject of upcoming articles in this series.

Do you want to try a less stressful way to resolve a dispute?

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David Sondheimer is a Colorado licensed attorney, working out of Denver and Avon. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist Law School, with post-graduate work at the Harvard Law School.

He has practiced law for over 25 years.

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Letters to the Publisher - Opinion

O'Brien goes after DA Brown - DA Brown responds - O'Brien responds!

From Page 6

offender to be subject to the imposition of bond conditions, before they can be released back into the community awaiting trial.

If given the opportunity to lead this office for the next four years, I will continue a singular mission for appropriate and measured justice." Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Bruce Brown,
District Attorney

O'Brien responds about District Attorney Brown!

Dear Publisher,

My admission of guilt for my crimes, sentencing, time served, and subsequent probation, is also public record for anyone interested. My admitted offenses are old news, which, in fact, did see the light of the press.

That life is behind me for good now. Those that actually know me, know that.

The question at hand to Mr. Brown is, still the same.

How, after destroying county property (a totaled car), was he able to escape any and all scrutiny by this or any other publication?

Only after it became clear that he would have challengers for his seat did he come forward with the most minimal of details.

Would you or I get away with that without the privilege of office that Mr. Brown enjoys? Not likely!

When someone very close to one of his oppo-

nent's campaign tried to access the incident report, he was met with mound upon mound of red tape. Is it supposed to be that difficult?

I agree with Mr. Carey that Mr. Brown's approach to sentencing has much to do with score keeping than with restorative justice, and that he sees the office that he holds, as little more than a stepping stone on to bigger and higher office.

Mr. Brown's now famous quote, "I am not a

public slave" comes to mind."

No, Mr. Brown, you are not a public slave. But, we do expect you to work toward what is best for your community, instead of what's best for your political future.

A vote for Bruce Carey will nip this blind ambition and the glaring double standard in the bud.

Very sincerely,
Tim O'Brien, Eagle

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BONNIE MARLETTE MORE THAN 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN EAGLE VALLEY!
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Dotsero, Colorado

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Hanging Baskets
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