

Before Nov. 15, arrests meant transporting a prisoner to jail in one of the other counties, said police Chief Tom Deland. They are resting officer was off the street for hours.

Now the county has its own 80-bed jail.

Under a unique system, prisoners are booked at the arrest scene via computer hook-up. The prisoner is taken to jail in a van, while the arresting officer goes back on patrol, Deland said.

Never a high-crime area, the daily jail population at the new jail has not broken the low 20s, Deland said.

The number will increase in coming months—probably to the 50s—as more people begin serving sentences imposed by Broomfield County court. Most Broomfield crimes now before courts were committed before Nov. 15, and so they are being heard in the previous counties.

So far, the most serious crime committed in the city or county of Broomfield was assault on a police officer with a knife, Deland said. No murders or sexual assault reports have occurred.

Yengich, the motor vehicle clerk who helped Young register his Subaru, said she would have gone out of her way to help a customer at the Jefferson County motor vehicle office, where she previously worked.

But, she said, the Broomfield office “is smaller and not quite as busy as the Jefferson County office. . . . It seems like everybody is closer knit here.”

Yengich said she's in the process of selling her house in Lakewood. She plans to move to Broomfield.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO J.W. WILDER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay tribute today to senior Colorado State Parks ranger J.W. Wilder, whose courageous act of capturing two dangerous fugitives went above and beyond the call of duty, and displayed a measure of heroism worthy of being brought before this body of Congress. It takes a truly special person to put himself in harm's way, not out of duty or obligation, but out of simple benevolence and civic responsibility. I, along with the citizens of Colorado, am both grateful and proud of J.W.'s extraordinary act of valor, and believe it appropriate to pay tribute to him for his courage and bravery.

Though not typically in the job description, J.W.'s extraordinary efforts to apprehend two armed killers near Salida, Colorado on September 29, 2001 are a testament to his relentless dedication to his job, to his community and to his state. After checking on a colleague who was manning a roadblock, J.W. became involved in the search for the two killers. When the two fugitives were finally flushed from hiding, it was J.W., along with other state wildlife employees, who apprehended the two suspects, and ultimately brought them into custody. Because of his incredible bravery, these criminals are now in the hands of law enforcement officials, and of no threat to anyone else in the area. His courage in the face of both fear and adversity is truly remarkable, and for his efforts, J.W. was named the outstanding ranger of the year by the Colorado State Parks.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to a man whose actions are the

very essence of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring them to the attention of this body of Congress. It is in times of great need that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say J.W. Wilder is a hero not only to me, but to his family, his friends and to this country. It is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today, and wish him at the best in his future endeavors.

HEALTH INFORMATION INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2002

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Information Independence Act of 2002. This act takes a major step toward restoring the right of consumers to purchase the dietary supplements of their choice and receive accurate information about the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The Health Information Independence Act repeals the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authority to approve health claims of foods and dietary supplements. Instead, that authority is vested in an independent review board. The board is comprised of independent scientific experts randomly chosen by the FDA. However, anyone who is, or has ever been, on the FDA's payroll is disqualified from serving on the commission. The FDA is forbidden from exercising any influence over the review board. If the board recommends approval of a health claim then the FDA must approve the claim.

The board also must consider whether any claims can be rendered non-misleading by adopting a disclaimer before rejecting a claim out of hand. For example, if the board finds that the scientific evidence does not conclusively support a claim, but the claim could be rendered non-misleading if accompanied with a disclaimer then the board must approve the claim provided the claim is always accompanied by an appropriate disclaimer. The disclaimer would be a simple statement to the effect that “scientific studies on these claims are inconclusive” and/or “these claims are not approved by the FDA.” Thus, the bill tilts the balance of federal law in favor of allowing consumers access to information regarding the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements, which is proper in a free society.

The procedures established by the Health Information Independence Act are a fair and balanced way to ensure consumers have access to truthful information about dietary supplements. Over the past decade, the American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA continues to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict access to dietary supplements.

In 1994, Congress responded to the American people's desire for greater access to information about the benefits of dietary supplements by passing the Dietary Supplements and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA), which liberalized rules regarding the regulation of dietary supplements. Congressional offices received a record number of comments in favor of DSHEA.

Despite DSHEA, FDA officials continued to attempt to enforce regulations aimed at keeping the American public in the dark about the benefits of dietary supplements. Finally, in the case of *Pearson v. Shalala*, 154 F.3d 650 (DC Cir. 1999), reh'g denied en banc, 172 F.3d 72 (DC Cir. 1999), the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit Court reaffirmed consumers' First Amendment right to learn about dietary supplements without unnecessary interference from the FDA. The Pearson court anticipated my legislation by suggesting the FDA adopt disclaimers in order to render some health claims non-misleading.

In the more than two years since the Pearson decision, members of Congress have had to continually intervene with the FDA to ensure it followed the court order. The FDA continues to deny consumers access to truthful health information. Clearly, the FDA is determined to continue to (as the Pearson court pointed out) act as though liberalizing regulations regarding health claims is the equivalent of “asking consumers to buy something while hypnotized and therefore they are bound to be misled.” Therefore, if Congress is serious about respecting the First Amendment rights of the people, we must remove FDA authority to censor non-misleading health claims, and those claims which can be rendered non-misleading by the simple device of adopting a disclaimer, by passing my Health Information Independence Act.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to help establish an objective process that respects consumers' First Amendment rights to non-misleading information regarding the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements by cosponsoring the Health Information Independence Act.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE EXPANSION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would expand the Family and Medical Leave Act so that individuals can take time off when disaster strikes.

Each year, disasters such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and other tragedies strike thousands of families and businesses throughout the United States. In the last year alone, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responded to forty-five declared disasters and ten emergencies in thirty-two states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. More than 49,500 affected families and businesses sought assistance after the September 11th attacks.

Following a disaster, families often have no home, belongings, clothing, or transportation. They struggle to deal with insurance companies, government officials, the Red Cross, and other organizations so that they can get the assistance they need to get back to normal. For many individuals this process can take several weeks, if not months.

While most employers are sympathetic and compassionate people, they sometimes will not allow employees to take the time they need to manage a disaster and get their lives