Crichton stepping down from ACLU

By ED KEMMICK
LastBestNews.com

MISSOULA — In a few months, Scott Crichton is going to be playing a lot more guitar.

Twenty-eight years after becoming the first full-time executive director of the Montana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, he plans to leave his job in August. That will give him more time for his music, taking him back to the beginning of his long career as an activist and organizer, when he sang labor songs, civil rights songs and songs of struggle. At 67, he figures he’s earned some time off.

“I’m not walking away because I’ve won all the fights,” he said. “Far from it. Crichton is as apt to talk about his regrets — Montana still has the death penalty, still criminalizes marijuana possession — as he is to talk about the ACLU’s accomplishments in Montana — voting rights reform, improved jail conditions and marriage equality. His associates like to point out that Crichton, for all his passion about free speech and civil rights, is known for his willingness to work with anyone, to push for change without alienating his enemies. It’s a philosophy that has driven his career, from labor organizing to the ACLU to the national movement against the war in Iraq.

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‘Killer’ offers lots of fun

By STEPHEN DOW
For The Outpost

Reading Tracy Webber’s new book “A Killer Retreat” is an experience similar to watching a summer popcorn flick: It’s a lot of fun while you read it, but it isn’t likely to linger in your memory long after you finish it.

This is not a putdown of Mrs. Webber’s work by any means – I don’t imagine she was trying to write the next classic of American literature when she started to compose this second novel in her “Downward Dog Mysteries” series. Instead, she was trying to create a novel that would lead to a few hours of entertainment – and as such “A Killer Retreat” succeeds spectacularly.

Picking up where her previous book

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