



The Compass

Harrison County Democracy for America Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 1 Spring 2008

It's Primary Election Time in Harrison County!



As we go to press, it seems that for the first time in many years, the primary election here in West Virginia will be important once again. Perhaps our election will not be the deciding factor, but a factor none the less, in the head to head battle between the competing presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

On the local scene, Susan Thomas, Harrison County Clerk, has informed us of her office's readiness for the possibly record breaking numbers of voters that will show up at the polls for the May 13th Election. The closeness of the race at the top of the ticket, combined with several contested local races, is expected to attract even the most apathetic Harrison County citizens to exercise their rights at the voting booth this year.

Some of the more interesting political battles on the state and local level include the races for Secretary of State, Harrison County Circuit Judge, the Twelfth District State Senate seat vacated by long term Senator William Sharpe, Harrison County Assessor, and the non-partisan Harrison County Board of Education, with thirteen candidates vying for the two vacant seats created by the retirements of Wilson Currey and Doug Gray.

Natalie Tennant, who has roots and many friends in Harrison County, has been traveling all over the state building support for her candidacy for Secretary of State. Her opponent, Joe DeLong, may be a more familiar name to some for his service as a long time member of the WV House of Delegates from Hancock County who currently holds the position of Majority Leader of the House. Either of these qualified candidates would serve our state and its citizens well if elected to this high office.

What many had thought would be an easy and uncontested race for Judge Thomas Bedell of the Harrison County Circuit Court, became one of those receiving more attention when local attorney, Andy McMunn, challenged the respected Bedell for his seat at the bench.

The Twelfth Senatorial District which includes Braxton, Harrison, Gilmer and Lewis Counties will soon be seating a new WV State Senator. This race involves current House of Delegates Member from Lewis County, Doug Stalnaker and Lewis County businessman, Doug Facemire. Facemire would be a newcomer to the State Legislature, but is currently serving as the Democratic Party County Co-Chairman of Lewis County. He is in business with his brothers who own and operate a number of Foodland stores in the district.

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Upcoming Events:

Harrison County Democrats Ramp Dinner

Saturday, April 19, 2008
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

4-H Center, Route 19 South

\$10.00 per plate

*Tickets may be purchased at the
Democratic Headquarters on
Main Street in Clarksburg or at
the door until sold out.*

More details on page 6

Harrison County DFA Board of Education Candidate Forum

Wednesday, April 30, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Caperton Center
Clarksburg

*Free and open to the public.
Take this opportunity to meet
the candidates and ask
questions.*

See page 2 for more information

Board of Education Candidate Forum



A Candidate Forum featuring the candidates running for the Harrison County Board of Education will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 30, 2008 at the Caperton Center in Clarksburg. The event is open to the public and is being sponsored by Harrison County

Democracy for America in accordance with their mission to promote the open discussion of issues of concern to the citizens of the county.

All of the board candidates have been invited to this forum that will involve a brief self – introduction by each of the participants followed by a question and answer session moderated by West Virginia House of Delegates Speaker Pro Tempore, Ron Fragale. The candidates for the two empty seats are Dustin Vincent, Charles Reider, Helen Pritchard, Don Miles, Simon McClure, Richard

Laughlin, James Lachapelle, Louis Iquinto, Paul Howe, Gary Fain, Judy Dolan, William Brown and Howard Bailey.

Questions and educational concerns may be submitted to the moderator in writing immediately before the forum. In order to cover as many topics as possible and due to the large number of candidates participating, these submissions will then be asked of one of the candidates in turn, with an opportunity for a rebuttal comment from up to two other candidates before moving on to a new topic or question.

Harrison County Democracy for America has sponsored a number of public forums in recent years in the interest of encouraging open discussion of community and government issues. The group has sponsored or assisted with events featuring Clarksburg City Council Candidates, the Harrison County School Bond Election, County Commission Candidates and House of Delegates Candidates.

DFA Members Meet Candidates

With the apparent importance of the West Virginia Primary Election in the selection of the Democratic Presidential Candidate, both Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama have already kicked off their campaigns in our state with personal visits. At least two members of Harrison County DFA have had their pictures taken with these nationally known candidates when they recently campaigned in West Virginia.

Scott Kinard, a student at the University of Charleston, had the opportunity to see Senator Clinton and is seen here with her during her recent campaign trip to Charleston. Betty Cottrill, an active member for the last four years and an Obama supporter, had the opportunity to be photographed by the press as she shook his hand after his speech on Iraq at the University of Charleston. Her picture with Obama appeared in the Charleston Gazette and in the Clarksburg Exponent.



Primary Election Time continued from page 1

Delegate Stalnaker was elected to the House of Delegates in 1994 and is currently a member of the Finance Committee, Roads and Transportation Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee. Stalnaker is also a businessman in Lewis County, owning and operating a Memorial Monument business.

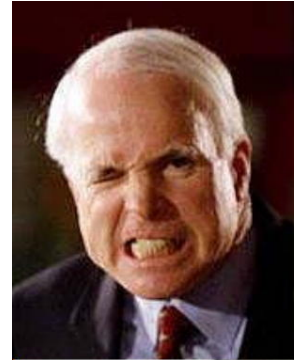
Incumbent Harrison County Assessor Cheryl Romano is facing a challenge from local realtor, Tim Gentilozzi, who is pursuing the position as a result of his involvement with and interest in recent Board of Education Bond Proposals. In studying these proposals and becoming aware of the procedures of the Assessor's office, Gentilozzi came to the decision to run for this office. Both candidates have pursued a vigorous campaign since filing for the office.

Registration for new voters ends on April 22 and early voting begins on April 23. Those wishing to vote early may do so at the Harrison County Clerks Office during regular business days at the Court House. Those who wish to cast their ballots at their usual local precincts may do so on Election Day, Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

Harrison County Democrats Ramp Dinner – Saturday, April 19, 2008 – Get your tickets now!

In case you're thinking of voting for McCain . . .

Judging by the current pledged delegate count and popular vote totals, it appears likely that Barack Obama will be the Democratic Party's nominee in the 2008 presidential election. Recent polls indicate that nearly 1 in 5 (20% of) Democrats will vote for John McCain if their candidate loses the nomination. Before destroying the chance to rectify the disastrous policies of the Bush administration you need to consider the record of John McCain. Far from being the 'maverick' the media portrays him to be, John McCain consistently votes with the Republicans. He endorses and advocates for Bush's Iraq war and saber rattles with the best of them for war with Iran.



He has promised that there will be more wars.

- During a town hall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told a crowd of roughly two hundred people that it "would be fine with" him if the U.S. military stayed in Iraq for "[a hundred years](#)"
- Bush has endorsed McCain as "someone who will continue my foreign policy".

Hanoi didn't break McCain, but Washington did.

- McCain endured years of torture in a Vietnamese prison camp, but refused to vote to ban waterboarding.
- Voted NO on limiting soldiers' deployments to 12 months.
- Voted NO on preserving habeas corpus for Guantanamo detainees. (2006)
- McCain is hot-tempered, frequently hurling obscenities at fellow senators.
- John McCain has more lobbyists on his campaign than any 2008 candidate (there are 11 current or former lobbyists working for or advising McCain)
- Voted against greater transparency in the legislative process (increased regulation of lobbyists)

McCain doesn't support the 4th Amendment Rights of Americans

- Voted for telecom immunity for companies who spied on American citizens without a court order
- Voted YES on reauthorizing the Patriot Act.
- Voted YES on extending the Patriot Act's wiretap provision.

McCain doesn't care about the environment

- Although he addresses climate change, McCain's lifetime environmental voting record is a meager 24% and he has a 0% score for 2007 according to the League of Conservation Voters.

McCain is not a champion of human rights or civil rights

- Voted against hate crimes legislation
- Voted against adequate sex education for Global HIV/AIDs prevention
- Voted against including sexual orientation in federal protections provided under the Civil Rights Act
- Voted against the holiday commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King

For all of his 'straight talk' about campaign finance reform, McCain now violates the very law (McCain-Feingold) he co-sponsored.

- According to the latest [Federal Election Commission report](#), John McCain has now spent \$58.4 million dollars. McCain applied for public financing, and according to FEC chairman David Mason (in a [letter to McCain](#)), he can't withdraw without permission of the FEC. So he is now legally in violation of campaign finance law.

These highlights only scratch the surface of who John McCain really is and what a McCain administration would bring to our country. What kind of justices will McCain appoint to the Supreme Court? Think Lieberman as Secretary of Defense! War with Iran. Further erosion of our Constitutional Rights. The United States cannot survive the equivalent of another Bush term. And in all seriousness, how could you even consider voting for someone who sang "Bomb, bomb, bomb. Bomb, bomb Iran?"

Read more online at <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/politics/mccain.cfm>

It's a Number by William Rivers Pitt - Reprinted with permission from truthout.org

You can always hear the people who are willing to sacrifice somebody else's life. They're plenty loud and they talk all the time. You can find them in churches and schools and newspapers and legislatures and congress. That's their business. They sound wonderful. Death before dishonor. This ground sanctified by blood. These men who died so gloriously. They shall not have died in vain. Our noble dead. Hmmm. But what do the dead say?

- Dalton Trumbo, "Johnny Got His Gun"

White House press secretary Tony Snow, the third man to hold that post in the Bush administration since 2001, began the June 15, 2006, noon press briefing with a few prepared remarks before opening the floor to questions from the assembled crowd of reporters. The first to speak noted, "American deaths in Iraq have reached 2,500," before asking, "Is there any response or reaction from the president on that?"

"It's a number," replied Snow, "and every time there's one of these 500 benchmarks people want something."

As of that June day in 2006, the number of American soldiers killed in Iraq had reached "one of these 500 benchmarks" for a fifth time since the 2003 invasion. Snow's unabashed dismissal of the grim reality that number represented was as vile as it was predictable, a perfect illustration of the administration's cold indifference and demented priorities. It's a number. It's a benchmark. People want something. Next question.

On Monday, that benchmark was reached for an eighth time. Four US soldiers were killed late Sunday when their vehicle was bombed in south Baghdad, bringing the total number of American troops lost in Iraq to 4,000. It's a number. It's a benchmark. People want something. Next question.

Last year's military escalation in Iraq was touted by the Bush administration as a can't-fail solution to the carnage and chaos of a ferocious sectarian civil war they refused to acknowledge even existed. It was a tough sell from the beginning, or so it seemed back then, as every poll of public opinion on Iraq and all things Bush said a large majority of Americans believed attacking Iraq was a comprehensively bad idea, and the occupation of Iraq needed to end soon so the troops may come home. Those same polls, when crunched in the proper fashion, also had an even larger majority of Americans coming to the conclusion George W. Bush was more popular than contracting shingles while drowning in a vat of lemon juice, but just barely.

Clearly, there was branding to be done if Bush's legacy and signature foreign policy program were to be salvaged. Thus, those same linguistic wizards from the White House who came up with the "Clear Skies Initiative" label to disguise both the comprehensive deregulation of environmental

protections and the carnival of unbridled pollution it produced; those same wizards who duped everyone including Teddy Kennedy into believing "No Child Left Behind" was anything other than a bonfire lit beneath public education standards; those same wizards who deployed comments like "plastic sheeting and duct tape" and "Islamofascist" and "Bring 'em on" to make sure everyone was afraid, aggressive and ignorant in equal measure; those same wizards who convinced Americans things like privacy and liberty and rights and the Constitution were quaint and dangerous anachronisms we need to abandon before the terrorists use them to destroy America; those same wizards were also able to gloss over the escalation of a hopeless war with another vacant, vapid and now-ubiquitous euphemism known as "The Surge."

"The Surge" was going to lead us out of Iraq, at first, kinda, until "The Surge" became the main argument for why we had to stay in Iraq for now, until a date to be determined later, or maybe not for another hundred years, give or take, according to a war hero who survived unimaginable torture so he could become the GOP's presidential standard-bearer and be for the torture of anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances and in the name of America, before he was against it, as far as anyone knows, or something.

"The Surge" was keeping American soldiers safe, sort of, except for those four American soldiers who died on Monday, except for those 600 American soldiers who died during "The Surge," and even though "The Surge" was supposed to make it harder for American soldiers to die, even though "The Surge" began as a finite thing but became an indefinite action that smells like another reason to stay in Iraq forever, none of that matters because the consensus seems to be "The Surge" is good and so America is winning and all is right with the world. Leave off the fact that a married couple and their three sons died when either a rocket or a mortar hit their central Baghdad home, that two people died and seven were wounded by mortars in central Baghdad,



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2008 Foolies - Fossil Fools Awards

Governor Joe Manchin was recently awarded a 2008 Foolie, Fossil Fuel Award, for supporting the construction of at least five coal-to-liquid power plants in West Virginia, which will increase mountaintop removal coal mining that is already destroying the land and people of the state's coal-producing areas. Manchin has also left more than 100 positions at West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection unfilled with no apparent intention of filling them.

Sadly, Don "Blank-Check" Blankenship who has spent \$5 million getting his coal cronies into the WV Supreme courts and state legislature, or at least trying to, only came in 3rd. Blankenship's company Massey has a history of union busting, safety violations and violating water pollution standards more than 4500 times over six years. Blankenship also received runner up status for "Biggest Human Toll" for the company's decimation of communities throughout the Appalachian region of the U.S. in its greedy quest to spread the destructive practice of mountaintop removal coal mining.

The 2008 Fossil Fool awards were sponsored by the Energy Action Coalition, Co-op America and Rainforest Action Network in recognition of the world's biggest contributors to our global addiction to fossil fuels. Read more at <http://energyactioncoalition.org/foolies/>

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22, 2008

For events and information visit <http://www.wvecouncil.org/calendar/index.html>

Lawsuit Abuse: Group Sues to Avoid Disclosure

The Arlington, Virginia based Center for Individual Freedom is suing Secretary of State Betty Ireland to challenge West Virginia laws that would force the group to disclose their donors and spending before they could run political ads relating to the State Supreme Court race. Three of the four candidates running for the WV State Supreme Court seat - Bob Bastress, Menis Ketchum, and Margaret Workman - have filed an injunction to throw out the lawsuit. Incumbent Spike Maynard, "friend" of Don Blankenship, has not joined the injunction stating that he may have to rule on the case. Read more at www.wvgazette.com

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Leave off the fact that a married couple and their three sons died when either a rocket or a mortar hit their central Baghdad home, that two people died and seven were wounded by mortars in central Baghdad, that six dead bodies were discovered all across Baghdad, that four Iraqi soldiers were killed while on patrol near Kirkuk, that gunmen killed a police lieutenant and wounded two other police officers in central Baquba, that a suicide car bomber killed six or more people and wounded ten in northwestern Baghdad, that a suicide truck bomber attacked an Iraqi army base and killed 13 soldiers while wounding 42 others in Mosul, that a suicide car bomber killed one soldier and wounded eight others in Mosul, that gunmen killed seven people and wounded 16 others in southern Baghdad, that a roadside bomb wounded two people in central Baghdad, that a Katyusha rocket was fired into the Green Zone, killed five people and wounded eight in eastern Baghdad, that gunmen murdered Colonel Akram Awad al-Omairi, commander of a rapid reaction unit outside his home in the town of Abu Saida, and that a suicide car bomb killed five people and wounded 11 north of Baghdad.

That was Sunday.

Four more American soldiers were killed in Iraq. Four thousand Americans have died in Iraq since that first bright idea for invasion and occupation was realized in 2003. The press won't touch the subject, because they are just as much to blame as anyone, and there are actually still a few who try to argue it was a bully idea to butcher 4,000 American volunteers and nobody knows how many others in the process, but that's only on Fox News. The politicians of both parties won't touch this, except to give speeches from a distance, because most of them have blood on their hands. The Bush administration just wants us to hear their rosy "any-day-now" balderdash and nothing else, because they have a job to do that has nothing to do with how you feel or where you stand or who you love.

It's a number. It's a benchmark. People want something. Next question.

Harrison County Democrats Ramp Dinner

Saturday, April 19, 2008 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Harrison County 4-H Recreational Center, Rt. 19 South of Clarksburg



Meal Includes:

Ramp Salad

Fried Ramps

Soup Beans and

Ham

Home Fried Potatoes

Fresh Corn Bread

Homemade Desserts

Coffee and Iced Tea



*Tickets are \$10.00 per plate and may be purchased at the Democratic HQ
Main Street, Clarksburg. Tickets will be sold at the door until sold out.
State and local Democratic candidates will be on hand.*

*Sponsored by **Harrison County Democracy** for America and the Harrison County Democratic
Executive Committee, Democratic Men's Club, and Democratic Women's Club*

**Harrison County Democracy for America
PO Box 964 · Clarksburg WV 26301**

Officers:

Chairman, Jerry McKeen · Vice Chairman, Denise Binion · Secretary, Sally Egan · Treasurer, Julie McKeen

Our Mission:

The mission of Harrison County Democracy for America shall be to uphold and promote the democratic principles and ideals that are established by the Constitution of the United States of America.

In so doing, the organization will work toward more responsive local, state and national government by encouraging and promoting the accountability of all elected officials; by insisting that all elections be truly democratic, open and fair; and to work toward keeping the public informed about the issues and concerns that are being decided by our elected officials and legislative bodies.

In the pursuit of this Mission, Harrison County Democracy for America shall make every effort to inform and educate the electorate about but not limited to the following issues and concerns: Human rights and conditions; Environmental protection and conservation; Social justice and responsibility; Foreign Relations and world citizenship; and Democracy and transparency in our government.

www.hcdfa.com

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