



THE DEMOCRAT

Clark County Democratic Party Newsletter

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Serving Democrats with News and Opinion

August 2009

Fair booth big deal for Democrats

Summer activities scheduled for August include a picnic for Democrats at Hazel Dell Park, a ball game for all political persuasions near the library and activist participation at the Clark County Democratic Central Committee's booth at the Clark County Fair.

The fair booth in the big, newer building called the Events Center is in the same spot as it was in 2007 and 2008. The building is also familiar to Democrats as it was the site of the recent Jefferson Jackson Dinner and Auction last month. The booth will be set up by a crew of volunteers on August 5 and 6. To help, contact Jeremy Zegas at jezegas@hotmail.com or Stephanie Lieberman at sglieberman@gmail.com. Several four-hour stints in the booth are usually available right up to the time the fair shuts down on August 16 as plans and social obligations change. To reserve a slot, contact Zegas or Lieberman.

Compensation for spending time in the booth is a free day at the fair including parking.

Also on tap to keep the political juices flowing through

the summer months are a Democrat and labor family picnic at Hazel Dell Park on August 16 and a political softball game on August 23.

The picnic is for just about anyone who is interested in progressive ideas and ideals. People whose names begin with the first third of the alphabet should bring salads. People in the middle should bring dessert. People on the end should bring beverages. Items to be barbequed will be provided. The picnic will begin at 2 p.m.

The softball game will begin around 2 p.m. on one of the several fields east of the Vancouver Community Library on Fort Vancouver Way in Central Park. Players, both Democrats and Republicans, are being asked to kick in \$25 each for costs and charity. Spectators will be asked to contribute \$20 each. The organizers, Zegas for our side and Ryan Hart for the other party, reportedly are still negotiating and recruiting for officiating.

The teams are pretty well set, but ringers probably will be slipped in by both sides.

Demographic shuffle adds 16 new precincts to county

To compensate for population growth patterns in Clark County, the County Elections Department has shuffled census tracts to make way for 16 new precincts.

The action in late June or early July was not announced to Democratic Party leaders and only became public as some of the Democratic Precinct Committee Officers were informed by mail of their changed status.

Party leaders have scrambled since to determine what was changed for whom and how to accommodate the new situation. The kerfuffle serves as notice that we'll do it all again in a couple of years, following the 2010

census, when legislative district boundaries are almost certain to move.

Two of the new precincts are in the 49th Legislative District. Ten are in the 18th Legislative District. Four are in the 17th Legislative District.

The two new precincts in the 49th illustrate the problematic situation for party leaders. In both cases, the elected PCO lives in the new precinct, so the former precincts are now without committee officers. Ron Morrison's Precinct 425 near Sara Anderson Elementary School was cut in half to create a new Precinct 423, where Morrison lives. Rich Rodriguez's Precinct 675, along the river west of In-

terstate 205, lost the portion along Ellsworth Road north of Highway 14. Rodriguez lives in the new Precinct 673. On July 13 the Clark County Democratic Central Committee voted to appoint both as PCOs for their new district. A couple days later, the state party opined that such action would not be necessary for elected PCOs residing in new precincts.

Their status won't matter much unless there is some occasion for central committee action in which only elected PCOs are authorized to participate. Such include nomination of candidates to replace departed Democratic elected officials.

Meetings scheduled for August 2009 by the Clark County Democratic Central Committee and other Democratic organizations. (Check for updates at the county party's website: www.bluedonkeys.com).

Saturday, August 1	18th Legislative District Democrats meet at 9 a.m. in the Clubhouse at Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield.
Monday, August 3	Executive board of Clark County Democratic Central Committee, 7 p.m. meeting at the Carpenters' Hall, 610 E. McLoughlin Boulevard.
Friday, August 7	Clark County Fair, including Democratic Party booth in Events Center, daily through August 16.
Saturday, August 8	49th Legislative District Democrats meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet.
Monday, August 10	Clark County Democratic Central Committee meets at 7 p.m. at the Longshore Hall.
Sunday, August 16	Democratic and family picnic at Hazel Dell Park from 2 p.m. until dusk.
Tuesday, August 18	Clark County section of 15th Legislative District Democrats meets at 6:30 p.m. upstairs at the Parker House in Camas.
Tuesday, August 18	Primary election day for non-partisan offices where primary elections will decide November ballot. Ballots due at Elections Department by 8 p.m.
Sunday, August 23	Softball game, Democrats vs. Republicans, 2 p.m. at one of the softball fields east of the Fort Vancouver Community Library on Fort Vancouver Way in Central Park.
Monday, August 24	17th Legislative District Democrats meet at 7 p.m. in the Forum Room at the Waterford. Use the main entrance on Village Loop Drive.

Talk about health!

By Dena Horton, Clark County Democratic Chair

On July 1 I attended the health care panel discussion convened by Sen. Maria Cantwell at the Southwest Washington Medical Center (SWWMC) moderated by Joe Kortum, president and CEO of SWWMC.



Kortum called on each panelist representing a variety of interests in the health care field to comment.

Each panelist discussed the issues from his or her vantage point — doctors, union nurses, medical facilities, insurers and so forth. Several panelists stated that they did not favor one alternative over the other so long as issues such as access, affordability, transparency, streamlining/electronic recordkeeping, providing a range of choices, etc. were adequately addressed as part of the solution.

One doctor who spoke up stated she treats patients who make too much money to receive Medicaid but their employers do not provide health insurance and she gave a passionate plea to provide coverage to all so no one falls through the cracks. No one argued against health care reform or doubted that it is desperately needed. But what should it look like and how will it be implemented? Several alternatives are being offered to reform the system. I strongly encourage you to learn as much as you can in order to make an informed decision about which alternative to support. This is an ongoing conversation and I hope you will attend the CCDCC meeting in August when State Rep. Jim Moeller will be our special guest speaker. As a member of the Health Care and Wellness Committee and Kaiser Permanente employee, he is a local leading authority on health care and the potential impacts to Washington State.

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Clark County, Washington

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Recipients are encouraged to help defray the cost of the newsletter by sending at least \$15 a year to the Clark County Democratic Central Committee at the above address.

Non-partisan primary will sort candidates

Although the Clark County Democratic Party organization does not get involved in non-partisan municipal elections, organized Democrats who comprise most of this newsletter's readership are nonetheless interested in the activity.

The ballots for the primary should be arriving in the mail any day now. Those returned in due time will be counted starting at 8 p.m. on August 18. As has been the case in Clark County for a couple of years, all balloting will be by mail. Completed ballots may be turned in at several locations on or before counting day.

(There is one partisan race on the ballots of voters in the southeastern corner of Clark County. When Gov. Christine Gregoire appointed Republican Rep. Dan Newhouse as her agriculture director last February, the commissioners of the four counties with pieces of the 15th Legislative District appointed David R. Taylor to replace him until the next general election. Democrats Donicio Marichalar and John (Jobs) Gotts are seeking to oppose Taylor in the general election. Under the state's novel top-two primary system, it is possible although highly unlikely that the two obscure Democrats could face off in November.)

The non-partisan ballots will ask voter choices in three municipal primaries in Vancouver, one municipal

race in Washougal, one slot on the Hockinson School Board, one seat on the Fire District 5 board, one seat on the East County Fire and Rescue board and one seat on the Camas-Washougal Port Commission.

The liveliest race has been for mayor of Vancouver. Incumbent Mayor Royce Pollard faces two challengers, Tim Leavitt and Charlie Stemper. Pollard and Leavitt have solicited support from Democrats including appearances at the Clark County Democratic Central Committee. Marsha Manning, CCDCC treasurer, is Pollard's campaign manager.

Almost as heated has been the primary for Vancouver City Council Position 1. Jack Burkman is one of four hoping to stay on the ballot for the November general election. He has been active in the party, including as a candidate for the Legislature, for several years and has won endorsement by a number of active party members and progressive organizations.

Three candidates are running for Position 3. Incumbent Jeanne Harris has been an active Democrat including as a candidate for the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 2008. Of the other two on the ballot, Anne McEnerny-Ogle has been most active in seeking support among active Democrats as well as union groups.

Watch for a new Blue Donkey on the web

The Clark County Democratic Central Committee's long-standing website, bluedonkeys.com, has been limping along in bad order for several months now.

That sad state is at an end — or at least nearly so. The new bluedonkeys.com has been built and reorganized by Jake Lawlor and Peter Aller to be a lot quicker and more user-friendly for visitors as well as party officials.

They asked visitors to email the webmaster at the address on the new site with some feedback on how readers like the new model and what other features and attributes would make it more useful.

Ellis Dunn remembered

Ellis Dunn of Ridgefield, a solid Democrat and educator, died July 4 while visiting a daughter in Trout Lake. He was 77 and had been fighting lung cancer for several years.

Dunn spent a large part of his career teaching sociology at Clark College. He moved into administration and served briefly as acting college president.

He spent many of his days in retirement at his Pioneer

Street Café where he became known for his wonderful conversations and terrific deserts.

At his behest, no funeral was held. However, the community had an opportunity to memorialize him on July 13 at Ridgefield's restored Liberty Theater. He can be honored by contributions to the Ellis Dunn Scholarship Fund at Clark College.

Where are the banners?

The Clark County Democratic Central Committee has lost its banners. Two of them. One is blue letters on white material; the other is blue material with white and red letters and graphics.

The white one disappeared from the 2004 campaign office in Hazel Dell. The blue one went missing after the 2008 Clark County Democratic Convention at Hudson's Bay High School.

A new banner is on order, but the party could really make good use of the old ones if they somehow show up. (Questions may be asked, but prosecution of the souvenir takers is not anticipated.)

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Brian Willoughby reaching out for Cantwell

This is the fifty-fourth in a series of introductions to some local Democrats. Send suggestions for subjects of future columns to mikewrit@hotmail.com.

Journalists Brian and Deborah Willoughby came to Vancouver to work at The Columbian in 1990 after several career-ladder steps in their native California.

He was a 1982 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and had already put together a string of writing and reporting awards. He received more recognition while at The Columbian, including a Knight fellowship at Stanford. Deborah was meanwhile building a reputation as a cracker-jack copy editor for the local daily paper. They seemed solid prospects to climb high on the career ladder.

As have others, they got hooked on the community and settled down for a dozen years before moving on — with mixed emotions — in a lateral shift away from newspapering.

Brian went to work as editor of the magazine *Teaching Tolerance* published by the Southern Poverty Law Center based in Montgomery, Ala., where he was able to give freer reign to the progressive sensibilities that must remain damped down in a straight reporting position. He continued to win awards and honors for his writing and editing. Four years of southern culture was sufficient to drive the Willoughby fam-

ily back to the Pacific Northwest and Vancouver's Carter Park neighborhood. Brian got a job as communications director for the American Civil Liberties Union in Portland, and the couple resumed community activity including his leadership at the Michael Servetus Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship.

After a couple of years with the ACLU, Brian won a position as the Southwest Washington outreach director for Democratic U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell. He fills that situation most ably according to all interested observers. He has made the rounds of Legislative District meetings and regularly attends other sessions where voters in general and Democrats in particular may have messages to convey to his senator.

(Willoughby is often in the same places as Theresa Wagner, who fills a similar role for Democratic U.S. Sen. Patty Murray. Wagner is slated to be profiled in this space in the September issue.)

Although he is known to have held strong views and well-reasoned political positions in previous time, Willoughby is constrained by the rules and traditions of the U.S. Senate from sharing his opinions and attitudes in public print. Still, rumor has it that he enjoys his job as a conduit between the senator and her constituents.