



Baird renews bid for 3rd District seat

By Brian Baird

My Friends. As you know, I have once again decided to run for Congress to represent you in the U. S. House of Representatives.

Two years ago, I ran for Congress because like you I was frustrated and dismayed by a Congress lead by an extremist agenda that tried to lower the standard of living for hard working families, let corporations raid pension funds and eliminate, among other things, the Department of Education.

Even though I was a newcomer to the political scene, your help along with other friends across southwestern Washington proved that we can stand up to the right wing extremists and fight for family wage jobs, education and the benefits that our parents and grandparents have so rightly earned. And we came very close.

We did not win the battle, but we can still win the war. Linda Smith's decision to run for the U.S. Senate has put our party in a position to reclaim our congressional district.

Over the next 17 months, I will outline a positive agenda of ways we can improve our quality of life. For instance, the Centralia Steam Plant which may have been forced to shut down because of air pollution violations got a boost from Governor Gary Locke and will keep their doors open. As your congressman, I want to help the Centralia Steam Plant while protecting the family wage jobs that so many people depend on.

While protecting jobs, I also want to maintain the low cost of power we here in the Northwest pay. Unfortunately, there is an increasing number of politicians who are exploring the idea of deregulating the power industry, and even privatizing Bonneville (BPA) power. This must not happen.

We need a representative who will fight to maintain low energy rates and to protect the jobs those power rates help maintain. As your Congressman, along with other members of the Washington and Oregon Democratic Delegation, I will provide a strong voice to protect the BPA.

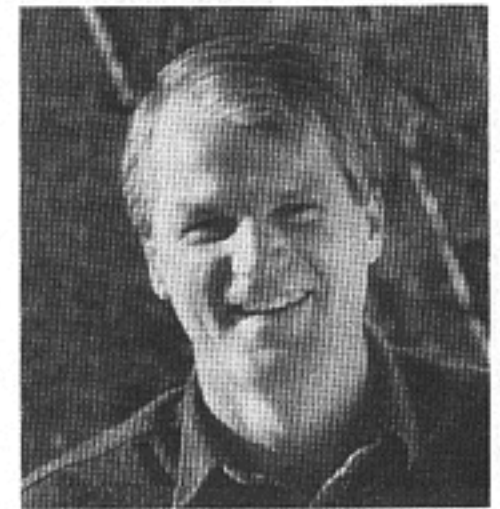
In addition to these pocket book issues, I want to help our children succeed by making higher education affordable for all.

A student's decision to continue his or her education after high school should not be based on their family's income. It should be based on their interests and goals in life. We need to give them every opportunity, and that's why

I will support a tax relief package to help families meet the growing expenses of a college or vocational training school.

These are a few of the issues I will focus on if I am elected next November. I look forward to working with you to inform the voters of our district. We need to expand growth and increase the standard of living for all families.

Thanks again for all your help last year, and let's get back to work to finish the job.



Brian Baird

Red Cross needs funds

By Chris Bailey

Recent fires have seriously depleted Lewis County Red Cross Funds. Since January, our local chapter has paid out over \$7,400 assisting 32 victims of 11 fires. The chapter provided food, clothing and shelter to the victims.

Unfortunately, this level of need has its price. And unless donations increase, the chapter will be unable to meet the needs of future disasters. Many people think that the Red Cross gets government funding. That simply is not true. The bulk of our chapter's funding is from the United Way allocation and from direct donations from the community.

Red Cross services are gifts from the American public to other Americans in need. Please give what you can today because in times of need, when a child needs food, clothing or shelter...HELP CAN'T WAIT!

Donations can be mailed to: Lewis County Chapter, American Red Cross, P.O. Box 787, Chehalis, WA 98532.

Lewis H. Zieske, Jr.

Attorney at Law

Deanna M. Zieske

Paralegal • Guardian ad Litem

75 N.W. Whitworth Way
Chehalis, WA 98532

106 Combs Road, Suite 2
Packwood, WA

(360) 740-9729

(360) 494-5150

Chairs Corner

By Bob Guenther, Lewis County Chair

Have you had your break from the 1996 election cycle? I hope so because for the last several months the executive committee and myself have been working on gearing up for the 1998 general elections.

I have met with the publisher of the Daily Chronicle and received a commitment that they were going to cover our annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. I assured Mr. Denny Waller that we were making every effort to help them live up to their mission statement. Please write the paper and let them know what you are thinking.

I feel that if we Democrats continue to make the effort to communicate with those folks their mission statement will be adhered to. Please read the Chronicle editorial mission statement:

"We will strive to be the voice of reason for peaceful settlement of conflict and contention on key local issues. We will work to be fair at all times and to provide a balance of opinions. We will make our opinion pages available for public discussion of vital issues and events impacting the quality of life in Lewis County and adjoining regions. When necessary, we will be willing to take a tough, definitive stance on controversial issues."

I have assured Dennis Waller that we, the Democratic Central Committee, will do what we can to help the Chronicle meet the intent of the statement.

However, without your help, the executive committee and myself cannot do it alone. We have our office set up and running and thanks to some help from the state party and the Washington

State Labor Council, we are purchasing a new state-of-the-art computer.

We are seeking the help of other organizations to help us purchase a laser printer. All in all, with our equipment, the central committee will be in closer touch with all Democrats in the area.

We are very lucky to have Brian Baird step up and run for the U.S. House in the 1998 election. I can say he is one of the finest candidates I have met. There is no doubt he will do a great job for us in Congress.

As you know, 1998 is going to be another very busy election cycle. I feel that we will be better prepared than ever for the challenge. Several people have indicated an interest in running for public office. As we already know, Patty Murray is going to be challenged by Linda Smith for the U.S. Senate.

Also, most county offices are up for election this year. These offices include one county commission seat, sheriff, treasurer, auditor, clerk, prosecutor and assessor.

If you're interested in serving the people of Lewis County, let us know. We can help you.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to thank Dennis Auvil for all his hard work. He has chosen to take a breather from the executive committee duties as second vice chair.

I welcome Ed Smethers as the new second vice chair. We all know that Ed will continue the work that Dennis has done. Please remember: if you want to make a difference in Lewis County's political future, you need to participate.

3rd Congressional District League up and running with new officers

By Michaelle Fries

The Third Congressional District League is up and running again.

Officers were elected at the Raymond Crab Feed in March. The new officers are: Chair, Michaelle Fries, Winlock; Vice Chair, Mike Carnahan, Battle Ground; Secretary, Joyce Gillie, Olympia; and Treasurer, Bob Johnson, Raymond.

The Third Congressional District consists of Cowlitz, Clark, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties, along with parts of Grays Harbor, Klickitat and Thurston counties.

The goal of the league is to coordinate the activities throughout the Third Congressional District, and to help elect and support a Democratic Congressman.

Each of the counties listed which do not have an elected board member are entitled to be represented on the executive board.

The board has met twice and has a committee working to review and propose updates to the current by-laws.

The next meeting of the league will be on May 31, 3 p.m., at the Monticello Hotel in Longview, just prior to the "Give 'em Hell, Harry" auction.

Each quarter the meeting will be attached to a major fundraiser of one of the counties. Lewis County will host the meeting in September at the annual salmon barbecue.

If you need tickets to the "Give 'em Hell, Harry" auction, please call headquarters at 360-330-5006. We still have a few tickets left.

Enbody & Dugaw

Attorneys at Law

107 S. Tower • Centralia
(360) 736-8269

"Card-Carrying Democrat"

You will find a "Membership Drive" form in the Demogram again this quarter. Now is the time to support your party. We are coming upon another campaign cycle and need to have the resources our candidates will need.

If you read the Chair's Corner, you will see that Bob has listed all but two commissioners being up for re-election. We are working diligently to have an office that will be an asset to all Democrats, as well as all candidates.

If you have not already sent in your donation with the form, please do so now. This is an easy way to give support. I hope to see you at the upcoming meetings and events.

Fair days coming August 12-17

August 12-17 is fair time. The theme this year is "Bunnies, Buckles, and Blue Jeans."

Here is the list of needs for the Fair:

- Fair booth workers: Shifts are 2 hours long, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. This means 12 people each day or 2 per shift. We are limited in the number of gate passes by contract. We will try to accommodate as many persons as possible, but will not be able to give a pass to each person for more than one day. If you have passes from another organization, please let

us know.

- In light of the theme, we need stuffed bunnies (not live) and buckles that you would be willing to loan for this week.
- Someone willing to attend meetings and make phone calls to schedule workers for daily booth shifts. We will start the sign up at this month's meeting in Morton.

If you have questions, call headquarters at 360-330-5006. The Secretary is there on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Campaign reform lacks meaningful debate

By Ed Smethers

The issue of campaign reform has been discussed within the Washington, D.C., beltway and by the media, but citizens have had little opportunity for any meaningful debate about the subject.

To that end, the Thurston County League of Women Voters facilitated a series of three non-partisan meetings at Centralia College to weigh the choices and tradeoffs of campaign reform.

We had broad discussions on the inequities of campaign financing as it now exists and some of the solutions that might be possible.

Space will not allow a discourse of all our discussions but I would like to comment on one aspect and that is Political Action Committees generally referred to as PACs. As you are probably aware, there is now pending legislation in Congress that would outlaw PACs (the McCain-Finegold bill in the Senate and a companion bill in the House co-sponsored by Linda Smith).

PACs were set up under previous reform legislation to level the playing field. It was envisioned that groups of people could form PACs and by pooling small donations could compete with the large corporations in electing people to office who were more representative of their particular philosophical views. That, however, never really materialized.

The big corporations and special interest groups soon took advantage and set up PACs of their own. The Federal Election Commission, who now attempts to enforce our present campaign laws, now lists 4,000 registered PACs.

Because of the exorbitant cost of running for office and because substantial contributions tend to buy access to federal office holders, the big corporate and special interest PACs have proliferated in Washington, D.C.

These PACs are staffed by well paid, full time attorneys and lobbyists. These are the people who not only dispense large sums of money to candidates at election time but also dispense money to opposing candidates, to candidates with no opposition, to candidates with token opposition, to key committee chairs, and to congressional persons when key votes are pending, especially on legislation effecting subsidies and military contracts. These are the inequities that have triggered an outcry for campaign finance reform.

There are many other PACs who lend legitimate support to candidates and office holders that are sympathetic to their philosophical point of view.

These include PACs like Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Emily's List (a PAC instrumental in electing more women to congress) and, of course, the Union of PACs (who's major crime is the advocacy of a safe work place, reasonable hours, medical benefits and family wage jobs).

Make no mistake. The virtual elimination of any Union influence in the election process is the object of the present pending legislation. You have heard all the rhetoric. Wages and prices should be determined by the marketplace. Thus wages should be determined by what employers are willing to pay.

There should be some meaningful campaign reform, but the present pending legislation should be adamantly opposed.

STICKLIN FUNERAL CHAPEL
Gary M. Odgaard
 Family Service Representative
 1437 S. Gold • Centralia, WA 98531
 (360) 736-1388 • FAX 330-0382
 CELL Ph: 520-6633

Cowitz Bend Ranch
Cattle, Hogs & Sheep
 A.D. Lyons • Toledo, WA
 864-6279

Martin Sand & Gravel, Inc.
 6500 - 196th Ave. SW
 Rochester, WA 98579
360-736-2851
Gravel, rock, bark, top soil

The Lewis County
 Democratic Central Committee
 P.O. Box 511 • Chehalis, WA 98532
 Address Correction Request

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #56
 Chehalis, WA

Coming Events

June 7 - 18th Legislative District, Chair: Mike Carnahan; Meets the first Saturday each month at Kessler's in Kelso.

June 10 - 20th Legislative District, Chair: Cody Arledge; Meets the second Tuesday each month at King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia.

June 26 - Lewis County Democratic Central Committee meeting, King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia; social hour, 6 p.m., business meeting, 7 p.m.

July 24 - Lewis County Democratic Central Committee meeting, King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia; social hour, 6 p.m., business meeting, 7 p.m.

August 12 - 17 - Demo Booth, Southwest Washington Fair

August 28 - Lewis County Democratic Central Committee meeting, King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia; social hour, 6 p.m., business meeting, 7 p.m.

September 12 - Annual Lewis County DCC "Salmon Barbeque"

September 25 - Red Rogers Run to Randle, Mt. Adams/St. Helens Restaurant, dinner and business meeting, 7 p.m.

October 23 - Annual Lewis County Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, American Legion Hall, Centralia.

Saturday Nite Bath

Pressure Washing of
 Just about everything!
 Bill Mason - Owner • 736-9164

Petra & Dean Realty

Joan Dean, Broker
 1570 National Ave., Suite 3
 Chehalis, WA 98532
 360-740-1890

Harold R. Holm, DDS

*Restorative, Implant, and
 Family Dentistry*
 1415 Harrison Ave. N.W.
 Olympia, WA • 943-9262

King Solomon Restaurant

Banquet Facilities Available
 1225 Mellen, Centralia 736-3331

Membership Drive

Now is your opportunity to join and support the Lewis County Democratic Central Committee by becoming a dues paying member. Please complete this membership application and return it to headquarters at 417 N. Pearl St., Centralia 98531, or bring it, along with your contribution, to the next meeting.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Precinct _____

Contribution:
 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25

_____ \$10 _____ Other

Benefits of being a dues-paying member:
 Quarterly newsletter, The Demogram;
 continuing to have a permanent
 headquarters; honored guest speakers;
 enable party to continue to promote
 Democratic philosophy.