



# DEMOGRAM

## *It's Auction Time Again!*

*The 2007 Rita Cleary Annual All-American Auction is Saturday, March 24th at the Centralia Eagles.*

*The cost is only \$15 per person, or \$35 per family. We're going back to our roots with hamburgers and family fun.*

*The Auction is the main fundraising event for the Lewis County Democrats' and pays for operating expenses such as this newsletter, mailings, the web site and the office.*

*Tickets are available by phone (360-330-5006) or on-line at [www.lewiscountymocrats.net](http://www.lewiscountymocrats.net)*



## Chronicle Editorials Go Beyond Opinions

By Mike Rechner, Chair, 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Everyone is entitled to their opinion and everyone has one, regardless of the subject. Newspapers are full of editorial pages with editorial boards printing their opinions of topics that are of interest to the readers they serve. Editorials are good to read because it usually makes people think about an issue in a way they hadn't. But when an editorial offers more than an opinion and crosses the line into making judgments on the supporters of one side or the other, the editorial does the readers a disservice by forming a conclusion for the reader.

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines editorial as "a newspaper or magazine article that gives the opinions of the editors or publishers." Recent editorials in the Chronicle have been stepping over this line.

A recent editorial, *Power Abuse Seems to Have Killed Bill on More Budget Review* (March 8, 2007) stepped over the line by drawing a conclusion and making a judgment on Democratic legislators. The

article talks about a bill proposed by 20<sup>th</sup> District Representative Gary Alexander, HB 1834, which would require a budget bill, capital, operating or transportation, be available for five days before a vote may be taken on the floor of the House or Senate. I don't think anyone would say that this is a bad idea. Honest, open, and accountable government is something the Democratic Party has sought for years, especially on a national level.

The editorial stated, "The steam rolling of the budget last year by House Democrats is an example of why Alexander's legislation is needed. They fast-tracked their budget proposal from a press conference to unveil it through the budget committee and out of the House in less than four days."

The Washington legislature web site shows a different timeline. It shows that the budget bill was introduced January 11<sup>th</sup>, heard in Ways and Means February 15<sup>th</sup>, passed out of the Ways and Means

*(Continued on page 2, bottom)*

# The Case For Impeachment

By Bob Poteat, PCO, Alpha

After listening to numerous people with credentials speak on the subject, such as Marjorie Cohn, Executive Vice President National Lawyers Guild, Benjamin Davis, legal scholar at Toledo University, Richard Falk, Professor of International Law at Princeton, Denis Halliday, former Assistant Secretary General of UN, Ann Wright, retired Lt. Col. who taught the rules of land warfare, veteran JAG officers, Iraq veterans, Antonia Juhasz, author of the "The Bush Agenda: Invading One Economy at a time", Elizabeth de la Vega, former prosecutor in the US Justice Department, author of *US vs. Bush, et al*, who make their cases on treaties such as the United Nations Charter, The Nuremburg Principles, The Geneva Conventions, United States criminal law, the Uniform Military Code of Justice, and the US Constitution, I am convinced that the current administration of the United States is a cabal of war criminals.

I have consulted the treaties, statute law, and the Constitution, too. Article VI, US Constitution: (in part) This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The clear language of above treaties, international law, is that aggressive warfare is the supreme crime. Using weasel words like "preemptive" does not legalize the crime.

The case George Bush made for war in Iraq, weapons of mass destruction, connection to Al Queda, and association to September 11, 2001, and purchase of uranium from Niger were false. All appearances indicate that these were knowing fabrications.

Torture, "extraordinary rendition", denial of human and legal rights to suspects now proven innocent and swept up for nothing other than being in the wrong place at the time are criminal acts. Others were merely bought.

To borrow an abused phrase, the case for war

crimes is a "slam dunk."

There are the domestic crimes of illegal spying. The (deliberate?) bungling of the New Orleans disaster goes to criminal negligence.

We cannot depend on the moral hypocrisy of Republicans to clean their own house. It is a job for Democrats.

We have the opportunity to seize the high road to moral integrity.

What the hell is our leadership waiting for? What are you waiting for?

## Chronicle Editorials, cont.

Committee February 16<sup>th</sup>, and passed by the Senate on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The timeline in the House was very similar, being introduced February 20<sup>th</sup> with final passage on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It's not likely that these timelines constitute steamrolling. In fact, the last time the Republicans controlled both the House and Senate, 1997, the Senate budget bill was passed by Ways and Means, Rules and the Senate all in a single day. The House that year did something similar, only it took them two days.

The fact that this is not mentioned by the Chronicle is not what is troubling, however. The most troubling part of their editorial is that they lead the reader to make conclusions regarding why Alexander's bill never even received a hearing. They offer two conclusions, first that "Alexander is in effect a victim of majority party abuse of power." Second they propose that, "Perhaps the Democrats didn't want a Republican, Alexander, to receive credit for such obviously warranted legislation." So, according to the Chronicle, Democrats are either abusing their power or are jealous of Alexander to the point of sacrificing good legislation just to keep a Republican from getting credit for it.

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# Chronicle Editorials, concluded

continued from page 1

Both conclusions offered by the Chronicle are pure speculation and do not take into consideration any of the normal politics that take place behind the scenes for weeks before a budget bill is even heard in committee. It's typical for the Chronicle to jump right to the most divisive, least likely conclusion.

In another editorial, *In Public Behalf, Any Efforts To Undermine Prosecutor Must Stop*, while posed as a question, the editorial board again leads its readers to a conclusion, "Are some in local law enforcement coordinating, in preparation for the next election, an improper relationship with their favorite, but losing, candidate for prosecutor to make the winner, Golden, look bad?"

Are you kidding me?

They suggest that the Lewis County Sheriff's office was slow to provide information and actually subverted a case against two individuals accused of vicious crimes in Packwood just to make the current County Prosecutor look bad. One line in the editorial offers that the Prosecutor does shoulder some responsibility for the case being dropped, but the editorial is just one continuous conspiracy theory.

Why the spin? Why does the Chronicle editorial board feel the need to make conclusions for their readers? Why not stop with an opinion on an issue?

In the case of the legislation requiring the five-day waiting period on budget bills, a more appropriate point for the editorial board to make is that to promote honest, open government, the legislature should pass a mandatory waiting period before taking action on budget bills. But this is not far enough for the Chronicle. They feel some need to drive the wedge deeper any time they can. On this issue, they do that by calling it an abuse of power on the part of the Democrats. They haven't even made the case that Alexander's bill is necessary and they don't talk about how Republican controlled legislatures have forced budget bills through with very little notice. It is always about trying to make Democrats look bad.

In the editorial on the prosecutor issue, the responsible point to make is that the prosecutor,

the Sheriff's office and defense attorneys need to do their jobs in order to prevent violent criminals from escaping prosecution. Suggesting that the Sheriff's office and defense attorneys are conspiring together to make the County Prosecutor look bad is inflammatory at best and libelous at worst.

To the Chronicle's editorial board: you have every right to your opinion, feel free to print that on your pages, but keep your misguided conclusions and conspiracy theories to yourself. These kinds of editorials do little to inform your readers – they only serve to perpetuate divisiveness through misinformation. Why do you keep printing them?

One of the more popular features of the Lewis County Democrats almost-nightly Headlines is the "Chronicle Watch." If you're not signed up, here's one example of what you've been missing:

## **Congress Obligated to Renew Makeup for Lost Timber Sales**

"Congress has an obligation to renew and continue the funding to replace lost timber revenue because it is Congress, with the environmental laws it passed in the past decade and longer, that caused the problem."

*Congress OBLIGATED? We'd normally say "Bovine Scat!" But, since this is the Chronicle, we'll call it like we see it: Elephant Dung! Besides, we thought trees a renewal resource. You mean someone hasn't been replanting what they cut? Gosh...you told us they would!*

"As for the schools who lose the funding, they're apparently on their own to figure out how to make up the loss now, or when it actually occurs."

*Whoa! Maybe the people in those school districts ought to bear a little more responsibility...like VOTING FOR THEIR LEVIES! Or, gosh...maybe the county's elected officials might take an interest and get involved. Any maybe the local press could actually support levies. But, here's the Chronicle, believing the federal government ought to bail out Lewis County. Maybe they think this could be our new county slogan: "Gimme Gimme!"*

[www.lewiscountymocrats.net/headlines.htm](http://www.lewiscountymocrats.net/headlines.htm)

# Calendar of Events

## MARCH

- March 17th Pacific County Crabfeed
- March 19th: 20th Leg. Democrats meet at the Tumwater Valley Bar and Grill starting at 6:30
- March 22nd Lewis County Democrats Monthly Meeting - Azteca Restaurant North Tower Centralia
- March 24th 2007 All-American Auction – Centralia Eagles. Back to our roots with Demoburgers, salads and a great time for folks of all ages

## APRIL

- April 26th Lewis County Democrats – Monthly Meeting – Matrix, Prindle Street Chehalis

## MAY

- May 24th Lewis County Democrats – Monthly Meeting – Carpenters Hall Centralia
- Vader Mayday parade

## JUNE

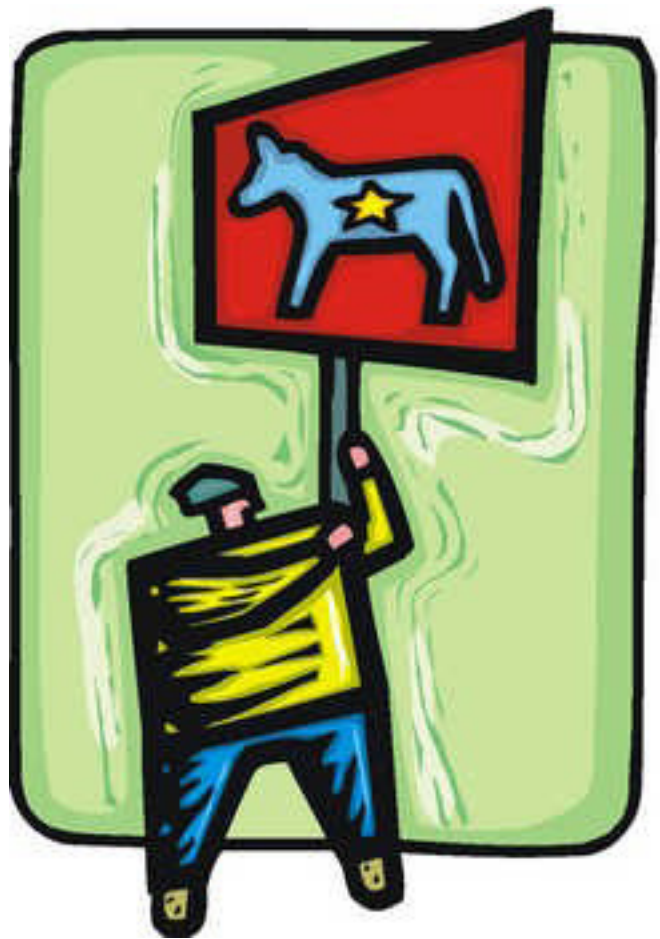
- June 2nd 2007 Demo-gathering! Potluck picnic with the family. Lets get ready for the summer parades and get a float built!
- June 21st Lewis County Democrats – Monthly Meeting – Toledo TBA

## JULY

- July 4th Summerfest – Centralia, Parades: Chehalis and Mossyrock
- Toledo Cheese Days Parade
- Napavine Funtime Festival Parade
- July 26th Lewis County Democrats – Monthly Meeting – Evey's Café Pe Ell
- July 27-28 Centralia Antiques and Art Walk

## AUGUST

- August 13-19 Lewis County Fair (clean up and spruce up August 9-12)
- August 23rd Lewis County Democrats – Monthly Meeting – Adams Family Restaurant, Randle



## SEPTEMBER

- September 5th Deadline for Fall Demogram
- September 9th Salmon BBQ – 3:00 p.m. – Place TBA
- September 27th Lewis County Democrats Monthly Meeting – Carpenters Hall Centralia

## OCTOBER

- October 25th Lewis County Democrats Monthly meeting – TBA

## NOVEMBER

- November 17th 2007 JJ Dinner – Place TBA

**As events are added, this calendar is updated on both our web site and the almost-nightly Headlines. Can't remember the web address? Not a problem! Just google "Lewis County Democrats" and we'll pop right up!**

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**State Senator Dan Swecker (R)**  
103a Newhouse Building  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Phone: (360)786-7638

**State Rep. Gary Alexander(R)**  
423 O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360)786-7990

**State Rep. Richard DeBolt (R)**  
424 O'Brien Bldg.  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Phone: (360)786-7896

**Congressman Brian Baird (D)**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1421 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3536  
Fax: (202) 225-3478

**Senator Patty Murray (D)**  
Washington, D.C. Office  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2621  
Fax: (202) 224-0238

**Senator Maria Cantwell (D)**  
Washington, D.C. Office  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3441  
Fax: 202-228-0514

**Governor Christine Gregoire (D)**  
PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002  
Phone: (360) 902-4111 Fax (360) 753-4110

## What's It Worth to You?

**What's it worth to you to have an organization trying to get the Democratic message out in Lewis County?**

As you've read in the earlier pages of this newsletter, the local newspaper certainly won't help do it. The local radio stations won't do it. King Chuck doesn't do it (even though he has the misguided opinion that he does).

It's our job. And although we sometimes feel like salmon swimming against the current, we keep plugging along with our newsletters, web site, Headlines and other activities designed to reach and inform our fellow Democrats. Plus, we have an office in downtown Centralia where people can drop in, or call for information.

But it costs money. That's where you come in.

Stop groaning. If supporting 'the cause' isn't enough for you, here's a way to get a tangible bang for your buck: come to the March 24th Auction.

We've got stuff! Cool stuff. You can bid on horseback rides, cabin stays, computer instruction, gardening supplies, plants, gift baskets, professional services, and a whole slew of other good stuff.

Just remember--it ain't a garage sale; it's a fund raiser. So come with your checkbook in hand, bid on some cool stuff, and support the Lewis County Democrats. "It's a GOOD thing!"

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE  
THE DEMOGRAM VIA E-MAIL

Mail to: Lewis County Democrats  
417 N. Pearl #9  
Centralia, WA 98531

Add me to the Headlines List, too!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2007 Executive Board

**Chair:** Jan Nontell

**1st Vice Chair:** Bob Guenther

**2nd Vice Chair:** Ken Norberg

**Secretary:** Don Reinseth

**Treasurer:** Carol Draper

**State Committeeman:** Craig Sullivan

**State Committeewoman:** Judy Guenther

# JOIN THE LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATS

**Yes--I want to support the Lewis County Democrats! Here are my \$10.00 Annual Dues for 2007 .**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Required by the Public Disclosure Commission*

**Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (We will gratefully accept a larger amount)**

Your contribution helps support the Demogram, our web site and other party-building expenses.

## VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE DEMOCRATS

**Yes--I believe in winning instead of whining and I'm ready to help! Here's what I'm willing to do:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Help with mailings                 | <input type="radio"/> Help on campaigns--doorbelling    |
| <input type="radio"/> Work in the office, answer phones  | <input type="radio"/> Help on campaigns--sign placement |
| <input type="radio"/> Work in the office, make calls     | <input type="radio"/> Help on campaigns--sign monitor   |
| <input type="radio"/> Work in the office, database entry | <input type="radio"/> Help on campaigns--sign retrieval |
| <input type="radio"/> Help with events                   |   |

I'm available to help:  Evenings  Weekends  Weekdays

**Please clip and then mail this form, along with your dues check, to:**

**Lewis County Democrats  
417 N. Pearl St. #9  
Centralia, WA 98531**



**Lewis County Democrats  
417 N Pearl #9  
Centralia WA 98531**

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