

West Michigan News Company

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- Iraq Winter Soldier audio testimony on the blog
- Video of Benton Harbor City Council public comments
- Surveys
- Audio testimony showing Joyce Watts, Allegan County Clerk using modems to control elections— Listen to this damning testimony See blog

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30 Days by Pat Foster

There will be 30 days for public comment on whether or not Benton Harbor will lease Jean Klock Park on Lake Michigan to Harbor Shores, the developer set up by Whirlpool. I attended the city council meeting when they brought up this issue and watched a former councilman be escorted from the microphone before he could tell them that this property was deeded to Benton Harbor for the people of Benton Harbor, not Whirlpool.

This issue is not unlike the Saugatuck Denison property that is being developed by Aubrey McClendon. In fact there is a connection. Whirlpool was started by the Uptons and Mr. McClendon is married to an Upton. There is one basic difference. In Saugatuck, they are trying to use their purchase of politicians to steal something

from some very wealthy people, while in Benton Harbor, they are stealing it from the very poorest of Michigan's residents. Theft is still theft no matter who you steal it from.

As long as the people of Michigan do not have the right to audit election results, we will have a government that sells out to the highest bidder. When push comes to shove, Saugatuck stands a chance. The only chance Benton Harbor has is the good name of the Upton family.

Whirlpool controls Benton Harbor through their non-profit, Cornerstone Alliance. They decide who will be a city councilman and who will not. As long as we have Diebold election machines, they can be changed to make anyone you want the

winner.

The Berrien County Justice system is easily controlled by giving ownership in Ship Street Realty to judges, prosecutors, and attorneys.

Do you think making a buck or two on this deal just might change they way they look at it?

The only chance the residents of Benton Harbor have is that the Upton family uses the same ethics that Louis, Frederick, and Emory had when they started the original company. Listen to the people of Benton Harbor and honor their wishes. Honor your family name. Do what is right.



Fred Upton
Congressman

The Spitzer Connection recapped from Mark Glen, American Free Press

Story can be viewed under G. Matthews on the website.

Mark Michael Brenner, an Israeli national and owner of the now-infamous *Emperor's VIP Club* when arrested was in possession of two Israeli passports and loads of cash. Prosti-

tution, which is legal in Israel has been used by the Israeli Mossad (secret police) to gain advantage over politicians throughout the world. The arrest of Spitzer was timed to happen just hours before the announced resignation of Admiral Fallon, commander of Cent-Com

overseeing our Middle East military operations. He made it clear that an attack on Iran would not happen on his 'watch'. How convenient that a person's sex life scandal may well have clouded the story that allowed Cheney to start WWII by attacking Iran.

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Schedule of Events

- **Apr 3rd**—Allegan County Democratic Party is having their Kennedy Reception at the Fenn Valley Winery. \$35 includes hors d'oeuvres—Cash bar Eric Baerren of MichiganLiberal.com will be the guest speaker. 7-9 pm
- **Apr 8th**—Ottawa County Democratic Party meeting—Administration Bldg Main Conference Rm Filmore St near 120th 7-9 pm
- **Apr 12th**—Berrien County Republican Party 10 to 11:30—Nroth Lincoln Senior Center 3271 Lincoln Ave, St. Joseph
- **Apr 14th**—South County Democratic Club 7-9 pm Moose Lodge 101 S. Red Bud Trail Buchanan “Great cash bar and sandwiches”
- **Apr 22nd**—Cass County Democratic Party 6–8 pm 804 E State St Cassopolis
- **Apr 19th**—Michigan Democratic Party Congressional District voting for Convention delegates

Have your group events listed on our calendar. Send details to news@wmnc.biz



Two wells that cannot be trusted

Arsenic Poisoning in Lee Township by Pat Foster

Last month I hit hard on several people: Bill Hinz, the Allegan County Health official, Tom Jessup—County Commissioner, and Becky Rininger—Drain Commissioner. I may was too hard on them.

Mr. Hinz, an Allegan County Health official opened his remarks with the statement: I'm here to answer questions about arsenic and the potential health affects". You said nothing about the possible "health affects" of arsenic. The reason the standard was reduced from 50 ppb to 10 ppb was the high levels of cancer they found at the higher levels. Scientists really wanted the level reduced to 5 ppb because of the in-

crease in cancer levels between 5 and 10 ppb, but they were dealing with the Bush Administration. The "health risks" to the residents of Allegan must be your primary objective.

Lee Township is not really used to having any public official give a damn about them, so when Tom and Becky actually called for competitive bidding on the dredging project, this was a huge move in the right direction and they should be praised for doing it.

I have been an accountant most of my life subject to Agency Law, which states that I owe the "highest level of loyalty" to my clients. As public servants, all of you are subject

to that law, and the citizens of this county are your clients. After knowing that there is a possible chance that the people living next to this containment site might be drinking water that could result in their getting cancer, then your obligation is to them, and I do not see that being done.

It was February when you met. If drilling a new test well instead of testing the drinking water of the residents is your solution, then I take it that with the spring thaw, you have drilled this well, tested it, and opened it to audit. Let me know, I will publish the results to inform the residents.

Political Power by Pat Foster

You are an environmentalist, and want that to become a major issue on our political system. How do you do it? We have a two party system in this country. The Republican Party is controlled largely by major corporations and the Democratic Party is controlled by Big Labor. Neither of these two groups really want to give you any help on your issue, because they have their own issues

How do you bring political power to rest on your issue? You need to get involved in the

political system, and that means registering and running as a Precinct Delegate in your district. Often, you can win this post strictly by putting your name on the ballot. You then have a right to vote for delegates to your state central committee, which controls your party. This is the only way your issue can really be heard and acted upon.

Unless your head has been buried in the sand somewhere, you are aware that the election process in our country is sorely

in need of an overhaul. In order to have the semblance of a fair election, we need to be able to audit the ballots after an election. Under current law, election challengers should be able to see and count the ballots on election night. That is not being allowed by a partisan Secretary of State that we already showed has been the recipient of manipulated ballots.

If you want to help, go to my website and you can download forms and sign up to protect our election process. Get involved!



Terri Lynn Land
Michigan's Secretary of State

The Dedication Speech for Jean Klock Park by Mr. Klock

"In taking an inventory of life, we all take stock of the circumstances surrounding the happiest moments. The giving of this park to the city of Benton Harbor has been to Mrs. Klock and myself, the happiest moment of our lives. The deed of this park in the courthouse of St. Joseph will live forever. Perhaps some of you do not own a foot of ground, remember then, that this is

your park, it belongs to you. Perhaps some of you have no piano or phonograph, the roll of the water murmuring in calm, roaring in storm, is your music, your piano and music box." In closing Mr. Klock stated, "The beach is yours, the drive is yours, the dunes are yours, all yours. It is not so much a gift from my wife and myself, it's a gift from a little child. See to it, that

the park is the children's."

Editor's Comment: The Harbor Shores Development Corporation put together by Whirlpool will use \$120,000,000 of taxpayer funds on this development which will fall far short of the 3,429 jobs it is supposed to create. How about less than a 100 jobs for the residents of Benton Harbor. It will just be another resort for the billionaire robber barons. "Let me steal your land, build a golf course on Critical Dunes against the law, and you can be my caddy." Such a deal.

"It is not so much a gift from my wife and myself, it's a gift from a little child."

Mr. Klock after his young daughter died.

Michigan's Land of Riches by Pat Foster

The State of Michigan is sitting on 35% of the world's fresh water supply. Check the price of water in the grocery store. It is fast competing with oil as the most sought after commodity. It does not take much investigating to find a number of robber barons in our state trying to control this very valuable commodity.

During the early part of the

last century, people from Chicago traveled to Benton Harbor for their natural spring water. Do you think that just maybe this is the reason young black males are being run down, beat up, and arrested by the St. Joe police department? Do the wealthy people of St. Joseph want the blacks out of there, so they can control this valuable natural resource they sit on?

This has been the history of our country since we took African's here to build wealth for white people against their free will. In order to justify slavery, we needed to view black people as less than white people in order to use them. There is a name for it. It is called "racism". I call it greed.



Sheriff
L. Paul Bailey

Sheriff of Berrien County



West Michigan News Company

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Without light, there is no Democracy

WMNC.BIZ

News bits:

Michigan Democrats are supposed to have 156 delegates to the national convention. Of that total, 83 are to be elected at congressional district conventions. Another 45 are picked at the State Party Central Committee meeting on May 17. The other 28 are uncommitted super delegates, including elected officials and state and national party officials.

What does Ron Wiser have to do with the theft of Michigan's fresh water? Who is Ron Wiser? Stay tuned.

How does Cornerstone Alliance take taxpayer money earmarked for Benton Harbor and give it to their cronies? Stay tuned.

Where does Governor Granholm fit in this mess? Stay tuned.

Leaf and Bean by Pat Foster

If your in Holland and want to catch a bite to eat, sit and talk, or just read the newspaper, Leaf and Bean at 451 Columbia Avenue is the place to do it. This warm, wonderful place on the south side of Holland was the brainchild of Linda Blaukamp.

She was raised in Jenison, and attended Jenison Christian High School. She was head of the cheerleader squad, played women's basketball, and co-edited the year book. At 17, she was married and pregnant with the first of six children. By the time she was 30, she was divorced and left with the responsibility of taking care of those 6 children on her own. At

31, she went back to school at Hope College and received her degree in psychology with minors in philosophy and religion.

Her philosophy of life is what has made this small, vegetarian coffee shop the meeting place for groups like the Holland Peace Makers. "What does it mean to have an abundant life" is the question she presents to you. So many people in our society would answer it by looking at your material wealth, and not be happy once they acquired it. Linda finds happiness and an abundant life in the simple things including the food you eat. "Raw food makes you feel better" is her answer to a diet. It is simple and healthy for you.

"We spend our lives trying to fit into a box our society creates for us, and none of us really fit in it." Linda has been able to take herself out of that box and find something far greater than material rewards. She finds love, while her customers find peace.

Leaf and Bean is not only the home of Holland's progressive community, it had attracted famous people like Jeremy Scahill, author of Blackwater on the end of his book tour in Erik Prince's home city of Holland. It brought out members of the Prince family to hear him speak.



Jeremy Scahill at Leaf & Bean



Linda Blaukamp