

West Michigan News Company

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- National Clean Election Lawsuit Filings
- Video and lab report on arsenic poisoning
- Cynthia McKinney speech at Benton Harbor
- Election videos showing election officials breaking the law and hiding the ballots
- Religion Section
- Business Section
- Links to local & national internet news, local group, & religious websites
- Register for local news and email updates

Happy New Year by Pat Foster

During the last year, this publication has reported on a large number of injustices and threats to our democratic way of life. I would now like to report on some of the accomplishments.

In 2006, we had come face to face with major election crimes on the part of local election officials. While we filed criminal complaints against those involved with the U.S. Justice Department, the state police, and Fred Anderson, the Allegan County Prosecutor, we have no action from any of them. However, the National Clean Election Lawsuit may end bringing these very issues to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michigan is certainly not alone in using these election ma-

chines to flip the vote from the will of the people to the will of the powerful. All 50 states are being sued in federal court, and not one of them has answered by saying that we are wrong. All request that it be dropped because they consider this is a state, not a federal issue.

The development of the Denison property at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River by Aubrey McClendon is linked to the same sort of buying local officials and judges in Benton Harbor. Mr. McClendon has used his fortune to buy anything he wants, no matter how it affects the environment or the Local citizens. In this case, we have been successful in not only



Saugatuck Township Board of Trustees meeting to hear comments on the R4 zoning of Denison.

comparing the two, but we hope to put pressure both on the Governor and the Legislature to not allow any building at all on the Critical Dunes. Local citizens are putting together a Recall Petition on Bill Wester, Saugatuck Township Supervisor because of his vote to give in to McClendon. If we work together, nothing can stop us.

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Muslim helps Jews from AP & Ynetnews of Jewish World Submitted by Ira Deemar

A suspected bias attack on four Jewish subway riders has resulted in a friendship between the Jewish victims and the Muslim college student who came to their aid. Walter Adler is calling Hassan Askari a hero for intervening when Adler and three friends were assaulted on a subway train in lower Manhattan on Friday night. The altercation erupted when Adler

and his friends said "Happy Hanukkah" to a group yelling "Merry Christmas" on the Brooklyn-bound train.

Adler told the New York Post that one of his attackers rolled up his sleeve to display a tattoo of Jesus Christ.

"Happy Chanukah. That's when the Jews killed Jesus," the attacker told



Adler.

January 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	31		

Schedule of Events

- Date —Briefly describe the event here, including time and place.
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Arsenic Poisoning by Pat Foster

At the end of November, I went out to take samples of the wells of the citizens surrounding the containment site where the Lower Scott Lake Association placed their dredgings. I noticed that there were no signs saying to "keep out" around the containment site, so I went in and

took some samples. The wells I tested had been tested just before the dredging started and did not even have trace amounts of arsenic. I got the results back from E-labs, and they are published on my website. All of the house wells

tested now show levels of arsenic above trace amounts. The test well next to the containment site tested 10x's over the drinking water maximum limit and 2x's over the state mandated level for a cleanup. This information was obtained from an Environmental Firm.

Since 2000, the residents of both Clyde and Lee Townships had fought tooth and nail to get them to put these dredgings into an approved, sealed containment area. This Lake Board Association with the help of county officials like Mary Jones, and the state official from the DEQ, Kameron Jordan were able to get a permit to allow them to place these dredgings in a non sealed containment

pond. They were told they could keep people, who wished to test it. If this site had been covered up and nobody had checked it, people would have started dying from arsenic poisoning and cancer. It is mobile and will spread through Lee and Casco Townships not only making the water unfit to drink, but to even bathe in.

A county commissioner contacted me immediately after publishing this news on my website and said they would be out there to take tests. That has been 3 weeks, and I have heard nothing. Peoples' health and lives are risk. This is no time to be slow.



Levels of Arsenic in the containment pond exceed the maximum limit by almost 13x's

Lawyers Stepping Up by Katrina Vanden Heuvel Nation Magazine Article submitted by Ira Deemar

We are lawyers in the United States of America. As such, we have all taken an oath obligating us to defend the Constitution and the rule of law.... We believe the Bush administration has committed numerous offenses against the Constitution and may have violated federal laws.... Moreover, the administration has blatantly defied congressional subpoenas, obstructing constitutional oversight Thus, we call on House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers and Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy to launch hearings into the possibility that crimes have been committed by this administration in violation of the Constitution.... We call for the in-

vestigations to go where they must, including into the offices of the President and the Vice President. -- American Lawyers Defending the Constitution.

Over one thousand lawyers – including former Governor Mario Cuomo and former Reagan administration official Bruce Fein – have signed onto the above statement demanding wide-ranging investigative hearings into unconstitutional and potentially criminal activity by the Bush administration.

In a conference call with reporters yesterday, Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights and winner of the 2007 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship, said: "The majority of lawyers

in this country understand that the Bush administration has really gone off the page of constitutional rights and off the page of fundamental rights, and is willing to push the Congress to restore those rights." Ratner said he was "dismayed" that a Democratic majority has failed "to push on key illegalities... the torture program, and now the destruction of the tapes involving the torture program; the warrantless wiretapping, the denial of habeas corpus, the secret sites/rendition program, special trials, and of course what we now know is the firing of US Attorneys scandal.... The minimal that absolutely is needed to get us back on the page of law is to have serious investigative hearings that



Michael Ratner in front of the US Supreme Court

go up the chain of command and figure out who is responsible for what."

Muslim Helps Jews (continued)

The 20-year-old Askari, who suffered two black eyes, said he tried to fight off the 10 attackers, giving Adler a chance to summon police by pulling an emergency brake.

"I did what I thought was right," said Askari, a student at Berkeley College in Manhattan, who was allegedly punched and beaten. "I did the best that I could to help."

Eight men and two women have pleaded not guilty to assault, menacing and other charges in the

case. Prosecutors have said the charges could be upgraded to hate crimes.

The Post said two of the suspects had been charged with hate crimes in the past.

"That a random Muslim kid helped some Jewish kids, that's what's positive about New York," said Adler, 23, who suffered a broken nose and a lip wound.



"Happy Chanukah. That's when the Jews killed Jesus," the attacker told Adler.

Truth about the Benton Harbor Riots by Pat Foster

A young black man by the name of Terrance Shurn was trying to outrun the police on his motorcycle and was killed.

A misconception by many is that this was the cause for the riot. Just the opposite, the blacks of Benton Harbor have suffered these types of demeaning actions for years, and have always held back from over reacting.

They did a candle light vigil as a

funeral ceremony and prepared a religious offering in honor of this young man, and the police chief sent his officers in to break it up. In doing so, they denigrated this religious offering, and at that point they started to object.

The police chief then gave the order: "shoot to kill." Since the police officers were related to many of the people they were supposed to kill, they said "no way." These were old

men, women, and children that he wanted them to shoot.

I am familiar with the plight of the people of Lee Township with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, and it becomes very frustrating trying to earn a living and fight the police at the same time. It is a crime in our country to be poor, and our prisons are the proof of that. I was told that young black men run from the police all the time, be-

cause if they don't, they just may end up dead or beaten severely if they are caught.



Frustration turned to anger



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Without light, there is no Democracy

WMNC.BIZ

“For those of us who don't want a few big companies deciding what we see, hear, and read in the news, it's a bad day.

The Bush-appointed FCC just voted to loosen media ownership rules so media titans like Rupert Murdoch can swallow up more local news outlets. They did this despite a huge public outcry--when the FCC asked for public comments, 99% opposed media consolidation! “ Editor's note: Yeah! We really live in a democracy where the people control.

The Holland Lawfirm of Cunningham Dalman, Inc. sent out a Garnishment Notice on Christmas Eve. Ho, Ho, Ho, it is all money in my pocket!

The Reverend Pinkney, a political prisoner of the Berrien County legal system is in jail for criticizing the justice system. So much for the First Amendment. It all started with the Reverend wanting to recall the white city commissioner in Benton Harbor who wanted to sell their greatest asset, Jean Klock Park to a group from Whirlpool and the Uptons including Aubrey McClendon. It appears the Judge Alfred Butzbaugh's old lawfirm that still has his name shares the same address as the Realty Company that is developing Jean Klock Park. Isn't a judge supposed to recuse themselves if there is even an appearance of a conflict of interest? Southwestern Michigan Justice.

Warrior turned Pacifist by Pat Foster

Mike was born and raised in Detroit. At the early age of 17, Mike joined the Army for the adventure of seeing the world. He was stationed here in the US, Germany, and Amsterdam. Back in the early 80's, the movie *Ghandi* had made a special impact on him. He changed his religion becoming a Hindu, and became a man of peace.

After 15 years in the Army, he was able to take an early retirement with a disability. He lived in Knoxville, Tennessee for 12 years and was adopted by a lesbian now in her 70's. They were like mother and son. Since moving here several years ago, he still talks very reverently of his relationship with her.

Mike now lives over in the outskirts of Pullman, and has worked for several years in cleaning up the area around 60th Street and 107th. On Sundays you can find him playing flute at Mothers Trust on 62nd Street. He is a follower of Rama Krishna and Sarada Devi, the Mother of India in the Vendata tradition of Hinduism.

On the Sunday before Christmas, there was a ceremony planned at the Interfaith Institute, but all power was knocked out, so the temple was both without power and heat. A group of very determined devotees showed up to hear

a Muslim nun tell stories of people both actual and fictional that are made famous by that day. Mike played flute, and we all sang the first hymn in North America, which was written by a missionary to the Huron. Go to WMNC.biz to see and hear it.



Mike Redmon shares Christmas with the Nativity Scene and Sri Sarada Devi